

NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Greetings from Hill Spring International School!

With celebrations galore, the end of 2024 saw a plethora of festivities regale the school. The bright lights of Diwali; its mythology and significance found their way into the curriculum and activities in each classroom.

Our youngest cohort put up an entertaining and heartwarming show at their annual event 'Celebrations'.

From Celebrations, the mood changed, as nervous anticipation and excitement to test one's learnings came in with the Half Yearly Examinations. Self-discipline, time management and the passion to work towards one's potential were on display across the higher grades.

The Primary and Early years learners delved deeper into their Units of Inquiry and engaged in hands-on learning with several field trips. The Primary School children showcased, coordination and the power of play at their Sports Day. Energy levels were felt across the stands as the young ones participated in athletic events.

We bid adieu to the old year 2024 and the new year 2025 was welcomed with fresh ideas and a renewed spirit to learn and grow. Goal setting activities that gave the children a plan for the new year were penned down in earnest.

The High School Elocution Competition witnessed the children exhibit their presence of mind and wonderful sense of humour.

The patriotic fervour resounded as the Republic Day Celebrations highlighted the significance of the Constitution in an assembly organised by the Grade 8 students.

Dive into the details and nuances of all the buzz at the school.

My warmest wishes to each family.

Wilhelmina Athaide



Awards & Accolades



AMIRA JHAVERI WINS GOLD Maharashtra State Table Tennis Championship 2024

We are thrilled to share that Amira, one of our dedicated students from grade 12 IBDP section, has won Gold in the Women's Team event at the Maharashtra State Table Tennis Championship 2024 held in Pune! Her relentless dedication, sportsmanship, and pursuit of excellence continue to inspire us all.

This incredible achievement highlights Amira's hard work, resilience, and passion for the sport. We are immensely proud to have such talent in our school community and look forward to cheering on her future successes.



INAARA LUTHRIA National Equestrian Championships 2024

Inaara Luthria of Grade 8, recently participated in the National Equestrian Championships 2024 held at the Army Equestrian Centre, New Delhi on December (dates)

In the mentioned competition, Inaara, along with 3 riders from the Chennai Equestrian Centre(CEC), clinched the team gold(sub-junior category). Adding to this incredible achievement, Inaara secured the highest in her category.

Many congratulations to Inaara, for the remarkable achievement!

ARYAN SHAH Taekwondo Fiesta Competition



Aryan Shah of Junior Kg. came 2nd in Taekwondo Fiesta Competition 2025

RUARK JAIN Phonics Olympiad



Ruark Jain from Junior.kg secured National Bank 3rd in Phonics Olympiad.

AMAN BHAYANI Under-6 Chess Tournament



Aman participated in the Under-6 Chess Tournament, winning 3 out of his games, despite being the youngest competitor in his first tournament!

Awards & Accolades

SPRING MUN 2025

Cultivating Cooperation through Diplomacy

Spring MUN 2025 brought together over 230 young delegates from 17 schools on 24th and 25th January to deliberate on global issues under the theme Ek Prayaas: From Conflict to Cooperation. With spirited debates and collaborative resolutions, the event upheld the legacy of diplomacy. We were honored to welcome alumna Salwa Mansuri as Chief Guest, whose inspiring presence elevated the event. Congratulations to the MUN Club Office Bearers—Pramit Goel, Aarav Parekh, Aryaveer Jain—and the Secretariat for curating this impactful experience. Hill Spring International School proudly awaits the next chapter at Spring MUN 2026!



Awards & Accolades



U-17 BOYS ISSO FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT Indore

We are thrilled to share the highlights of our recent participation in the ISSO Under-17 Boys Football Tournament held in Indore. Our team showcased remarkable talent and determination, making it all the way to the pre-quarterfinals before being edged out in a tense tie-breaker.

The tournament featured competitive teams from across the country, creating an electrifying atmosphere. Our boys displayed exceptional skills and teamwork, representing our school with pride and enthusiasm throughout the event.

HMMUN DUBAI Hill Spring Wins Again



Hill Spring International School started off its MUN calendar year with the HMUN Dubai 2025 conference from 10th to 13th January. Congratulations to Amaerah Dodhia and Kabir Gupta for clinching the Outstanding Delegate awards. Also worthy of applause are Avika Lohia

and Nysha Nahar for bagging the Honorable Mention awards. A big bow to all the 25 delegates for their spectacular and enthusiastic participation in the conference! Well done delegates with the diplomatic efforts and the new associations made across 30 schools from all over the world!

CELEBRATIONS

2024-25

Junior KG Annual Concert

Earlier this year, for the Junior KG Annual Class Concert - "Celebrations", we brought Samita Aiyar's quirky story, 'Chooheram's Bargain', to life by reimagining it as a vibrant Punjabi village tale. The whimsical protagonist was transformed into Sunny Singh, a clever young boy whose series of smart trades led to success and imparted a meaningful lesson about wit and negotiation.

To portray Sunny Singh's journey, we turned the story into a lively musical, enriched with folk music, dance, and even Punjab's beloved sport—wrestling. Learners performed 'tappe' (Punjabi folk songs) to narrate each trade, infusing the performance with the rich spirit of Punjab.

The concert proved to be an incredible learning experience for our learners, helping them refine their bilingual communication skills, foster teamwork, and embrace individual responsibility in crafting a cohesive performance.

We were delighted to present 'Sunny Singh da Sauda' to all of you!



School Events



SPORTS DAY EARLY YEARS & PYP

The much-anticipated Hill Spring International School's Sports Day at PDP (Priyadarshini Park) for Early Years and PYP students was a vibrant celebration of energy, skill, and team spirit.

The Early Years events showcased age-appropriate physical skills such as balance, coordination, and spatial awareness. The Senior Kg Learners captivated the audience with their coordinated Yoga asanas demonstrating flexibility and confidence through creative formations. This was followed by partner races, where they exhibited emerging teamwork and collaboration, and flat races that encouraged the development of stamina and agility.

For PYP, the event began on an inspiring note with the Grade 2 students as torchbearers, symbolizing unity and determination. Adding to the grandeur, Grades 3, 4, and 5 students formed the impressive march-past squad, displaying discipline and pride. The partner races brought joy and excitement to the field, warming up for the much-awaited flat races and the challenging 200-meter races, which tested the students' stamina and determination. The highlight of the PYP segment was the thrilling relay race, where students from Grades 1 to 5 participated enthusiastically, cheered on by the entire PYP community.

This action-packed day concluded with cheerful applause, leaving everyone with unforgettable memories and a renewed sense of camaraderie.



School Events

REPUBLIC DAY

Flag Hoisting Ceremony

Sunday, January 26, 2025 – Republic Day was celebrated with great pride and honor at Hill Spring School. It commenced with the arrival of the esteemed Governing Committee member of Nagrik Shikshan Sanstha & Project Director of Hill Spring International School, Mr. Sushrut Jaydeep Mirashi. As Mr. Mirashi hoisted the National Flag, our PYP singers beautifully presented the National Anthem of India. Their rendition was followed by Vishwa Vijay Tiranga Pyara, highlighting the pride and reverence for our tricolour flag. The ceremony continued with a serene and solemn instrumental performance of Vande Mataram, delivered with exceptional skill and harmony by our talented musicians.

Honouring the Maharashtra State Government's initiative, our IGCSE students passionately led the Maharashtra Geet, the state anthem in Marathi, fostering a deeper connection with the cultural identity of Maharashtra. The audience couldn't resist tapping their feet to a lively mashup of Yeh Jo Des Hai Mera, and Des Mere. The amazing harmonies showcased the remarkable talent and calibre of our singers. The ceremony concluded on an adorable note with the Junior and Senior KG students confidently performing Nanha Munna Rahi Hoon. Their sweet and heartwarming performance portrayed their dreams and hopes for India's future, leaving everyone inspired. Two students from grade 9 conducted the event seamlessly in Marathi while another delivered a poignant speech in Marathi, emphasizing the significance of Republic Day and the unparalleled contributions of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. He underlined the importance of upholding the Constitution's values in the contemporary world.



Field Trips



RATANSHI PLANT NURSERY

Senior KG

The Senior KG learners had the opportunity to visit Ratanshi Nursery, where they interacted with horticulturist Mrs. Shah to explore how external conditions influence plant growth. They observed a range of indoor and outdoor plants, learned about organic and chemical fertilizers, and discovered various tools and implements used in planting, including a greenhouse.

MAHARASHTRA NATURE PARK

Senior KG

As part of their ongoing unit, Senior KG learners visited Maharashtra Nature Park (Mahim), where they explored the significance of bees and birds in pollination. They observed fungus on plants and learned about decomposers (fungus) and their role in the food chain. The students also gained insights into the importance of mangroves and the process of rainwater harvesting.



MAHINDRA PARK

Nursery

The field trip aimed to give our young learners the chance to connect with the natural environment and actively participate in outdoor play.



CROWN VET CLINIC

Nursery

Learners visited the Crown Vet Clinic to gain insights into what it takes to care for a pet. Dr. Ria engaged with the learners, explaining essential aspects of animal medical care, including treatments for various health issues, from routine check-ups to emergency services.

Field Trips

SHANKARACHARYA PARK

Junior KG

UOI-SEAWORLD (Spreading the Message to Save Our Planet Earth)

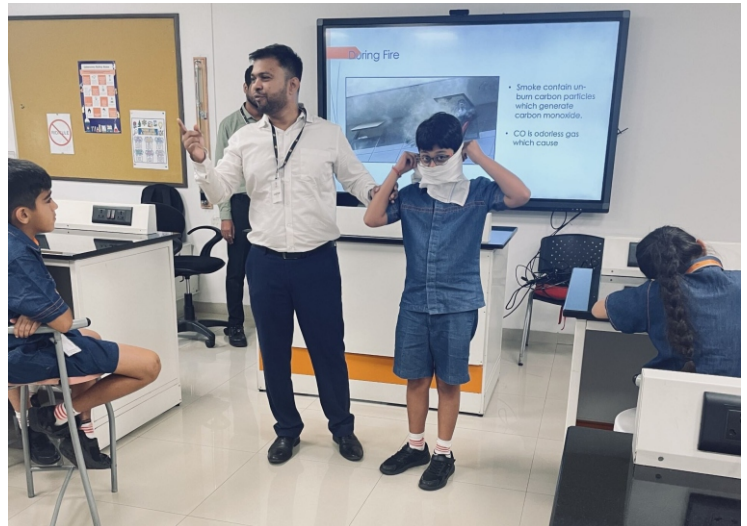
The Junior KG learners played an important role in raising awareness about the importance of saving the environment, becoming passionate advocates for a greener future. Through their actions and voices, they reminded us that protecting our planet is a collective responsibility. Together, we can create a sustainable world for generations to come.

Their message reached beyond the school community during a field trip to Shankaracharya Park, Worli, on Tuesday, 21st January 2024. They spread the word through various forms of expression, including dance, music, art, Hindi poetry, and drama.



VISIT to GAMDEVI FIRE STATION & DISASTER MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Grade 5



As part of our second line of inquiry, Role of Disaster Managers under the unit title Natural Disasters, Grade 5 students visited the Gamdevi Fire Station to learn about the actions to take in the event of a fire. A Fire Safety Workshop was also conducted at school, reinforcing similar learning goals.

Through these diverse experiences, students gained valuable insights into the various organizations involved in disaster management during a fire and how to contact them in emergencies. They learned about different types of fires and how to mitigate their impact using fire

extinguishers. At the fire station, students observed the protocols followed by the fire department when responding to incidents and explored the equipment used by firefighters.

The workshop further built on this knowledge, teaching students about fire prevention precautions and the proper steps to take during an emergency.

Overall, these hands-on learning experiences helped students understand the importance of staying calm and taking the right actions in emergency situations.

Workshops

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY at Hill Spring International School

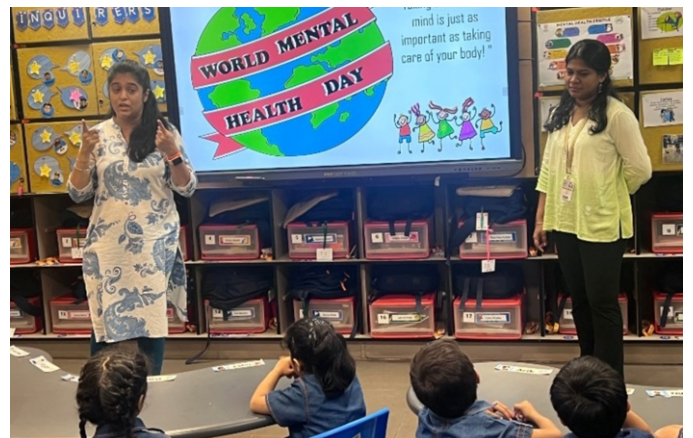
Each year The World Mental Health Day is celebrated worldwide on the 10th of October. The Hill Spring International School community too are cognizant of commemorating this day by unitedly coming together and involving all stake holders be it the faculty, staff, parents and students.

This year, the HSI Enrichment Centre team initiated, conceptualised and executed the campaign in school from 9th October to 14th October 2024 across students of Early Years to Grade 12.

The aim being to raise awareness about the importance of mental health wellbeing, understanding emotions for self and others, healthy ways of coping with stressors, daily challenges and much more. The teachers sported a dress code of "Green" on the commemorative day symbolising 'new beginnings' and 'new growth' which are essential elements for mental well-being.

The students were taken through presentations, discussions, videos and activities based on consciously created and customised grade appropriate themes like Components of Self Compassion, Importance of Self Care, Power of not reacting, Creating 'ME TIME'. This was followed with class discussions and reflection worksheets reinforcing the theme.

In addition as a take home a 'well-being action tool' was created for them to actively indulge in these to maintain a MENTAL HEALTH EQUILIBRIUM.



Workshops



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT A Level Staff

The 2024-25 academic year marks the inaugural year for A-level teachers, who began with great enthusiasm. In alignment with the school's commitment to fostering an effective teaching and learning environment, the staff is continuously supported through training to address diverse student needs. On December 2, 2024, the school counselor, Ms. Reetu Seth, conducted a workshop for A-level teachers titled "Embracing Neurodiversity by Demystifying Learning Difficulties." The session focused on identifying signs and symptoms of neurodiverse learners, such as those with Specific Learning Difficulties and ADHD. It concluded with an interactive discussion on strategies to support both neurotypical and neurodiverse students, reinforcing the school's inclusive approach.



STUDY SKILLS WORKSHOP Grade 6

For Grade 6 students, this year marks both the foundation of their IGCSE journey and the transition from PYP. As they step into a more structured academic environment, they face formal assessments for the first time. To support their transition, an interactive workshop titled 'From Study to Success: Essential Examination Skills' was conducted across two sessions on November 11th and 26th, 2024. Led by Ms. Reetu Seth (School Counsellor & Clinical Psychologist) and her team, the workshop introduced effective learning strategies and study techniques to help students succeed in Grade 6 and prepare for assessments. The students explored their individual learning styles—Visual, Auditory, and Kinesthetic—and learned strategies to make their learning more effective. Additionally, they were educated on the do's and don'ts of assessments and the importance of healthy habits like eating well, staying hydrated, and getting enough sleep. The workshop was well-received, with students actively applying the strategies in group tasks.

SENSORY PLAY SESSION Junior KG

The Enrichment Centre hosted a fun and engaging Sensory Play session for Junior KG learners, designed to stimulate all five senses. The session featured interactive stations such as the Mystery Box, where children guessed objects by touch; a Texture Walk, allowing them to explore different surfaces barefoot; and "What's That Smell and Taste?", where they identified various scents and flavors. Creative activities included Clay Fish Making, while "Save the Ocean" introduced water play and raised environmental awareness, and "Treat the Fishes" encouraged empathy for sea animals. This well-curated event sparked curiosity, sensory exploration, and joyful learning in a playful, enriching environment.



Workshops

SHAPING CREATIVITY A Hands-On Clay Workshop

On 14th December 2024, art students embarked on a creative journey during a clay workshop led by renowned sculptor Ms. Jaymala Joshi. Known for her expertise in traditional techniques, Ms. Joshi introduced participants to the art of coiling, slab making, pinching, and kneading clay. Under her guidance, students crafted intricate decorative tiles and miniature sculptures in grey and terracotta clay, discovering the joy of transforming ideas into tangible art and practical considerations like removing air bubbles to achieve consistency and ensure structurally sound creations. The session was a refreshing blend of learning and fun, leaving everyone with newfound skills and a deeper appreciation for clay sculpting. This unforgettable experience inspired participants to continue exploring their artistic potential. The significance of every member's contribution to team success. The team-building session was a resounding success, offering students a hands-on experience in group dynamics. The event not only



strengthened their ability to collaborate effectively but also encouraged the application of these skills in both academic and extracurricular contexts.

CYBER SAFETY Ms. Nirali Bhatia- Cyber Psychologist



On 15th January 2025, a "Cyber Safety" workshop was held for Hill Spring students by Ms Nirali Bhatia, a trained Cyber Psychologist. The session began with a netiquette quiz, allowing students to understand whether their online behaviour is appropriate or not. The workshop focused on the impact of digital footprints, explaining active and passive footprints, and how online behaviour affects one's reputation. In continuation, strategies for protecting digital footprints were discussed, including privacy settings and mindful sharing. Students gained valuable insights into responsible online behaviour and communication, the significance of digital footprints, and practical strategies to protect their online presence.

Anahi Reddy, Grade 11

SEAWORLD SUMMATIVE Junior KG



The Junior KG learners play a crucial role in raising awareness about the importance of saving the environment, becoming strong advocates for a greener future. Through their actions and voices, they remind us that protecting the planet is a collective responsibility. Together, we can build a sustainable world for future generations.

They took their message beyond the classroom, sharing it with the school community—across spaces like the IGCSE Staff Room, IBDP Staff Room, PYP floor, and Green Patch. They expressed their message through various creative forms, including dance, music, art, Hindi poetry, and drama.

Workshops

TEAM BUILDING

Grade 9



On November 12th, 2024, Grade 9 students participated in a series of team-building activities, organized by the IGCSE PE teachers, GP teacher, and PYP Rock-Climbing instructors, under the leadership of Mr. Rajesh Dhamanse. The goal was to enhance teamwork, collaboration, and communication through interactive challenges.

1. ****Defusing the Bomb****: This task focused on strategic planning, requiring teams to complete it in the shortest time. One team excelled, finishing in just 16 seconds, showcasing the power of coordination and collective effort.

2. ****Blindfold Challenge****: Students were tasked with completing an activity while blindfolded, relying on verbal communication from teammates. Initial confusion gave way to clearer communication when the blindfolds were removed, highlighting the importance of strategy and collaboration.

The session emphasized key insights, such as the value of planning, effective communication, adaptability, and the importance of each team member's contribution. This hands-on experience greatly enhanced students' ability to work together in both academic and extracurricular settings.

CORAL BLEACHING

Ms. Pooja Vengsarkar



As part of our ongoing unit on SeaWorld, Ms. Pooja Vengsarkar from the Biology department (IBDP section) conducted an experiment on coral bleaching with the Junior KG learners to deepen their understanding and knowledge of the topic.

SEL SESSION

Ms. Elveena



Ms. Elveena led a session on emotional wellness, emphasizing the significance of empathy. Using a Christmas video, she encouraged students to put themselves in others' shoes, helping them understand how to respond in a supportive and non-judgmental manner.

Guest Speakers



Mr. ARKIN ISHARANI
Aeroponics

Mr. Arkin Isharani, an expert in farming technology, led an engaging session with the Senior KG learners, introducing them to modern farming practices such as 'Aeroponics,' 'Hydroponics,' and 'Aquaponics.' The learners gained a detailed understanding of these methods and had the opportunity to plant seeds in a glass with cotton and mist, experiencing firsthand how 'Aeroponics' works.



Ms. DHARMITA
Welfare of Stray Dogs

Nursery students engaged with Ms. Dharmita from WSD as they explored how human actions impact living beings. She shared stories of how WSD rescued injured stray dogs, offering them medical care and rehabilitation. Ms. Dharmita also discussed the emotional effects of loud fireworks on animals, helping the students understand the importance of being mindful of their well-being.



Mr. GAURAV SHIRODKAR
'The Last Wilderness Foundation'

Mr. Gaurav Shirodkar from 'The Last Wilderness Foundation' engaged with the learners, explaining how forests serve as homes for numerous creatures. He discussed the effects of human behavior on forest ecosystems and emphasized the importance of reducing waste and planting more trees to help preserve these vital environments.



Mr. CHINTAN & Ms. HIYA
Caring for Living Animals

The learners had the opportunity to interact with Mr. Chintan and Ms. Hiya to learn how they can care for the animals and birds around them. Mr. Chintan, who dedicates much of his time to rescuing injured animals and birds, shared practical advice with the learners, such as calling the fire department if a bird or animal is stuck high in a tree. In light of the upcoming Makar Sankranti festival, he also encouraged the learners to avoid using glass thread for flying kites, as it can harm birds in flight.

Guest Speaker/ Assembly



Mr. RUSHABH SHAH Sports & Well-being

As part of the GP-PE collaboration, a guest speaker session was organized for Grade 9 students on the topic of "Sports and Well-being". The session featured Mr. Rushabh Shah, an alumnus of the school and an avid sports enthusiast pursuing football and cricket as his passions.

The session emphasized the vital role sports play in fostering both physical and mental well-being. Students actively participated, posing thoughtful questions on various topics, including:

- The importance of sports in everyday life.
- Balancing academics with a passion for sports.
- The role of proper nutrition for athletes.
- Using sports to manage mental and physical stress.

Mr. Shah shared his personal journey, providing valuable insights and practical advice. He encouraged students to follow their interests while maintaining a balanced and healthy lifestyle.

VISIT to BYCULLA ZOO Grade 8



REPUBLIC DAY ASSEMBLY Maharashtra State Table

The Grade 8 students presented an inspiring Republic Day Assembly, celebrating India's 75 years of being a republic. Through skit, song and dance performances, they emphasized the core values enshrined in the Constitution—justice, equality, and liberty. Thought-provoking performances reflected a strong sense of nationalism and the importance of upholding unity in diversity. The event instilled pride in India's democratic legacy and motivated everyone to contribute actively toward the nation's progress. The students' efforts truly showcased responsibility and love for the country.

On 24th October 2024, Grade 8 students visited Byculla Zoo in Mumbai for an exciting and educational excursion. During the visit, students explored the zoo, observing a variety of animals, including tigers, elephants, bears, penguins, crocodiles, and many birds. Informative boards at each section provided insights into the species, their habitats, and wildlife conservation efforts.

The students were particularly captivated by the birds and rhinos. A brief session led by teachers focused on biodiversity, rare species, and the importance of zoos in preserving endangered animals. The trip deepened students' understanding of nature, making it a memorable and enriching experience for all.

Celebrations



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Early Years

The festive season came to life as the Early Years children embraced the joy and excitement of Christmas! The day was brimming with laughter and delight as our young learners participated in an array of engaging activities. They enjoyed fun-filled games, sang cheerful Christmas carols, and danced to lively tunes, spreading holiday cheer everywhere.

Adding to the festive charm, the children enjoyed delicious snacks, making the celebration even more delightful. The sparkle in their eyes and their radiant smiles perfectly captured the magic of Christmas, creating cherished memories for everyone involved.

AABHAR DIWAS CELEBRATION

At Hill Spring International School

The Aabhar Diwas celebration at Hill Spring International School on October 19th, 2024, was a heartfelt tribute to the school's dedicated support staff. The day began with a warm welcome, as students greeted the staff with colorful bands to show their appreciation and respect. The festive atmosphere was further enhanced by a lively dance performance from the Grade 9 students during breakfast, spreading joy and gratitude throughout the school.

The highlight of the celebration was the entertainment segment, where the support staff participated in a variety of games, including ring toss, cup ball throw, and a playful "face bindi" game, all of which sparked a spirited sense of competition and camaraderie. The DJ dance floor kept the energy high, with spot prizes and lively dancing, making the event unforgettable.

The day concluded with sincere expressions of gratitude from the management and the principal, who acknowledged the invaluable contributions of the support staff. It was a celebration that truly reflected the strong sense of community and deep appreciation for those who work diligently behind the scenes.



Celebrations



CHILDREN'S DAY ESCAPADES IBDP & A Levels

On November 14, 2024, the IBDP and A-level students were treated to a thrilling experience- an escape room designed and curated by Mathematics faculty Ms Karen Colaco and enthusiastically implemented by teachers. The cohort was divided into 11 groups, each tasked with solving puzzles and clues to "escape" their room. Students collaborated and used their wits to uncover keys, complete jigsaw puzzles, crack secret codes, and solve wordles in their race to finish first- with the first three teams managing it in just 47, 49, and 53 minutes. Overall, it was an afternoon filled with excitement and camaraderie.

IGCSE

This year's Children's Day celebration was a delightful mix of laughter, excitement, and heartfelt performances by the IGCSE teachers. The students played a game where they identified the teachers by looking at their childhood photos. The highlight was a hilarious skit, written and enacted by the faculty, that had the audience in splits with its witty dialogues and relatable humor. Interwoven with energetic dance performances, the play kept everyone entertained and engaged. Enhancing the charm were melodious songs by the teachers, their soulful tunes filling the auditorium with warmth and delight. It was a day that celebrated the bond between students and teachers, making it truly unforgettable.

EARLY YEARS



Children's Day was celebrated with immense joy and energy in the Early Years! The children had a blast watching an exciting bubble show, engaging in fun games, enjoying tattoos and art activities, and savoring tasty snacks. The celebration ended with each child receiving a special memento: a beautifully crafted card to remember the wonderful day.

PYP



We celebrated Children's Day with a lively and joyful event that embraced the spirit of childhood. The day began with a warm welcome, setting the stage for an exciting lineup of surprises.

PYP teachers showcased their talents, performing energetic dance routines that had everyone clapping, followed by beautiful singing that filled the air with melodies. The fun continued with a vibrant ramp walk, where teachers dressed as popular characters, sparking cheers from the crowd. A thrilling game of Tambola added to the excitement, with lucky winners receiving fun prizes.

To wrap up, teachers presented a heartfelt PowerPoint on the importance of Children's Day, reminding us to cherish childhood and celebrate the joy children bring to the world.



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