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PAL BUDDHIST SCHOOL
Enlightenment through Wisdom, Morality and Diligence

Newsletter 2017 | Term 4 | Week 3

School Calendar

November

HSC Written Examinations conclude — Tue 7 Nov

Stage 5 Examinations — Mon 6 to Thu 9 Nov

Pal Buddhist School Open Day — Sat 11 Nov

Monks' Kathina Day — Sun 12 Nov

HSC Compressed Curriculum Delivery begins — Mon 13 Nov

Stage 4 Examinations — Mon 20 to Wed 22 Nov

December

2018 Scholarship Examination Day — Mon 4 Dec

Annual Awards Night Ceremony and Reports Released — Tue 5 Dec

Induction Day for 2018 New Students — Wed 6 Dec

End of Term 4 (last day of teaching period) — Fri 8 Dec

Staff Development Week — Mon 11 to Fri 15 Dec



Executive Report

MIN-ZHAO LEE
EXECUTIVE CONSULTANT

The last 2 weeks have been relatively quiet in terms of school events, giving us a much-needed opportunity to regroup and prepare for the weeks to come. Stage 5 examinations, our Open Day, Kathina Day and the start of Compressed Curriculum Delivery will follow in quick succession, and we have but a short time to be ready.

Meanwhile our thoughts are with Year 12 who are completing their HSC examinations over the next 2 weeks. Good luck — or more importantly, good work! Thank you to all the teachers continuing to support our students through this time.

Painting has now transformed our building interior into a brighter, livelier learning environment, with vibrant colours leaping off every door. As part of the renovations, our administrative team (Kelly, Freddy and Colin) will move into their new office on the first (above ground) floor, while the new Front Desk opening hours will be from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Term 4 Staff Development

The Term 4 teaching period this year will be 9 weeks long, extending to Friday 8 December and allowing for a staff development week to complete the school year. **This final week (11 December to 15 December) will be non-teaching time** and will enable our teachers to prepare and plan ahead for all the changes the new year will bring: major changes to the HSC Curriculum, a full transitional year of Compressed Curriculum Delivery, and the arrival of a fresh cohort of younger students.



Public Speaking Competition

Alongside our reading and writing programmes, we will be holding an in-school public speaking competition for students, who will represent their mentorship groups in successive rounds over the remaining weeks of the term. Planning is in



the final stages and we anticipate the competition will begin in the next week. Watch this space!

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PARENTS

After-School Activities and Responsibilities

HELEN LAM
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

This is an important reminder to all parents, to ensure that you monitor your children's after school activities. The School does not endorse regular social activities that involve meeting or gathering with friends after school.

Please note that once students leave the school grounds after school, responsibility for the child's safety reverts back to the parent, and thus, please ensure that you carefully monitor your child's whereabouts after 3:30 pm.

The following weekly extra-curricular activities that occur at school:

Tuesday

Teach4Peace (Dr Lee) 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Wednesday

Teach4Peace (Dr Lee) 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Thursday

Choir Practice 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Coding Club 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Teach4Peace (Mr Pal) 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Friday

Stage Band 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Coding Club 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm

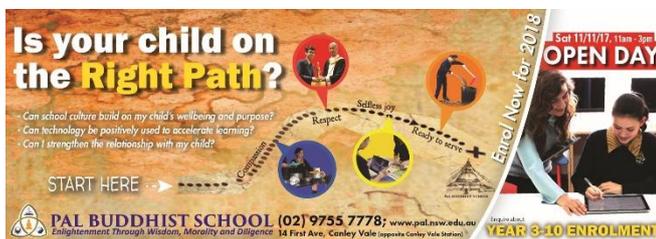
If you are unsure whether your child is enrolled and attending any of the above, please feel free to phone the school to confirm.



Invitation — Open Day

GALEN NEUBRONNER
TEACHER

On Saturday 11th November we will be holding an Open Day starting from 11:00 am and going to 3:00 pm. The event will start with a short Remembrance Day Ceremony followed by demonstrations of 4D learning, current learning happening in the classrooms, Dhamma talks by students and other great and inspiring activities including plans for the school for next year. Lunch will be a smorgasbord of various delights generously provided by parents. Please spread the word about this fabulous Open Day and bring family and friends to celebrate the amazing community at Pal.



Success Through Reading

EVA MOUXOURIS
TEACHER

To achieve a year's growth in reading, a student needs to be engaged in two hours of reading each day.

This is the emphatic prescription of International Reading Association President Richard Allington. Allington's mantra is unequivocal: if students are to continue to develop as readers, they need to be readers.

What constitutes two hours of reading? Clearly it needs to be more than completing worksheets or answering questions. The two-hour daily guideline includes time spent in reading outside of school, as well as during the school day, and may include leisure reading in magazines, newspapers, or on Internet sites as well as the reading mandated for homework. The bulk of a day's reading must be within a student's comfort zone; time struggling with texts beyond a student's current reading ability does not translate to effective practice for reading achievement. These two hours will need

to be disseminated throughout a school day, as well as integrated into students' home routines.

Pal Buddhist School is making wide reading and literacy a priority by improving access through library facilities and promoting wide reading during NAPLAN periods through lessons designed to stimulate students' interest in reading quality literature. English and NAPLAN classes however, will not be sufficient for satisfying the school-day segment of daily reading. As students move through the grades, they will need increasing practice with reading texts from a variety of academic disciplines if they are to become effective readers of materials from across the curriculum. They also need to improve their knowledge of current affairs by reading newspapers.

Allington's message is an urgent one. Students who read less than two hours a day lose ground each year and fall farther behind in achieving their potential as readers.

Parents can do a great deal to encourage and foster wide reading by showing enthusiasm and conversing with their children about their reading, but also showing excitement about one's own personal reading. Reading can be a pleasurable shared experience and essential to learning.

We hope that students and parents will join us in this endeavour by participating in afterschool reading classes. Subject to interest, scheduled times will be announced soon. Please indicate your interest by contacting Ms Mouxouris.

Stage 4 Blackout Poetry

TERENCE CHONG
TEACHER

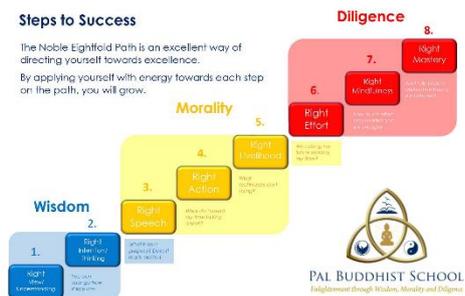
In the first week this term, Year 7 and 8 students created their own versions of Blackout Poetry. Using the pages of an existing text, our budding blackout poets isolated then pieced together single words or short phrases from these texts to create lyrical masterpieces. Their poems included colourful visuals to symbolise key features of their new poems. A fun and practical exercise in reading, adapting and poetry writing! We will look to include a selection of the best student creative work in future newsletters.



Eight Steps to Success

MAYNARD HUYNH
TEACHER

Every person on this earth is different in their own way. Therefore, how we perceive success will be different to one another. Success can come in the form of achieving 90% in a test, being rich and wealthy, getting a gold medal in the Olympics or even being a better person. To achieve success, it starts from within. Therefore, using ‘the Eightfold Path’ to assist on your journey to success can be extremely applicable.



Success evades many; and it is due to lack of wisdom. This includes lack of understanding and using the information we have gained to apply to suit our situations, relationships and circumstances. In summary having the right view and intention are the key fundamentals to developing wisdom and ultimately success. An example we could use is setting out to achieve a ‘band 6’ which means you must understand content such as formulas and concepts. This could also include understanding the level of expectations involved, the types of questions being asked etc. These are samples of ‘Right View’. But you will only achieve that ‘band 6’ if you really want to and have a passion for doing well. This is Right Intention. The ‘band 6’ we want to achieve can represent our journey through life.

Therefore, wisdom should not be mistaken for intelligence. Having the right view or understanding of subject content is not enough if our intent or thinking is not in the same spectrum of wanting to be successful. In other words, we must have the ‘desire’ to be successful. I will finish off with a very famous quote from Bruce Lee which is “Knowing is not enough, we must apply. Willing is not enough, we must do”. Thus, the most important questions we ask to reflect on are “Do I have the right view and understanding of what is necessary to be successful?” and “Do I really want to be successful?”

Editor’s Challenge

MIN-ZHAO LEE
EXECUTIVE CONSULTANT

Previous Challenges

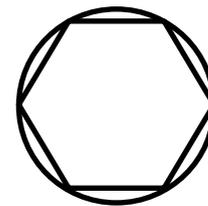
Some readers asked for a hint to help them identify the images in our last newsletter. Both of the images are on a macroscopic scale: the patterns are visible to the naked eye.

Literacy

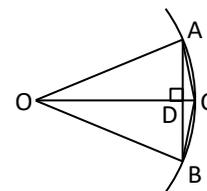
The reward stands, for students who help us to edit and improve our Newsletter by finding our mistakes. Be the first to report any confirmed error, and score 1 point per error for your house!

“Yet Another Round”

Determining π the ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle, has been a favourite pastime for mathematicians for millennia. Here we look at one of the ways that it has been done.



First we begin with a regular hexagon inscribed in a circle with a radius of 1 unit. That gives a diameter of 2 units, while the perimeter of the hexagon is 6 units. Taking the ratio, $\pi \approx 3$.



Example: OC bisects AB at right angles. If we know the lengths of $OA = OB$ and $AB = 2AD = 2BD$, we can calculate the lengths of $AC = BC$.

The sides of the hexagon form chords of the circle. If we bisect these, we form several right triangles, enabling us to calculate the side lengths of a new regular polygon with 12 sides — the dodecagon. This first step gives us the approximate value of $\pi \approx 6\sqrt{2 - \sqrt{3}} \approx 3.1058$.

What is the approximate value we obtain for π , after two more bisection steps? Express your answer as a surd as well as in decimal form.