



E-News Links

Dear Parents,

There is no doubt that Term Two is busy!

Though a small school, LINKS seeks to provide multiple opportunities for students to shine, developing not only their academic abilities but their character, sense of purpose, confidence, awareness of others, interpersonal skills and spiritual values.

Our concern for the individual student is seen in the practical measures taken to ensure that parents have access to teachers at regular intervals through our Parent Teacher Meetings, and more informally through home time conversations. In this way parents are able to discuss freely the specific progress of their children.

Our focus on team work and building a sense of community is seen clearly in the production of the annual school concerts: this year – “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” and “My Fair Lady.” It may take a strong Director or Producer to give the project thrust and momentum; but there is no doubt that success lies in the effective orchestration of multiple skills and talents - from the stage designer to the sound engineer, the lead character to the cue master, the choreographer to the props assistant. We are really proud of the fact that both our concerts offer opportunity for all students to participate in something significantly bigger than themselves – and how amazing it is that they pulled off such wonderful performances in a climate so unpredictable and, at times, adverse!

Links Management

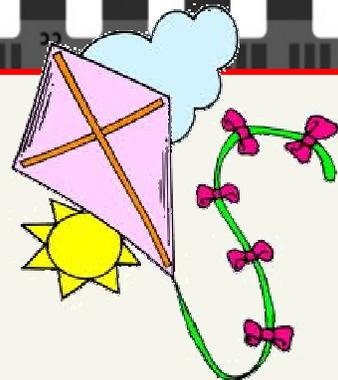
FROM PRE-SCHOOL

FLOWER AND BASANT FESTIVAL

A rainbow of colours is an apt way to describe our flower festival at the Pre-school. We welcomed spring & its bounties, (however short-lived, they may be in our city) with a day full of flowers and fun. The children tried their hands at flower arrangements, decorated kites and adorned their hair with beautiful and fragrant flowers. They also got a chance to show off their wonderful artistic endeavors that ranged from creepy crawlies like ants & grass hoppers to exotic tulips and vibrant sunflowers.

To put a sweet end to the day, they tasted delicious 'sherbets' made from rose and jasmine flowers and filled their bellies with yummy treats.

A fitting tribute to everyone's favourite season!



WORLD BOOK DAY

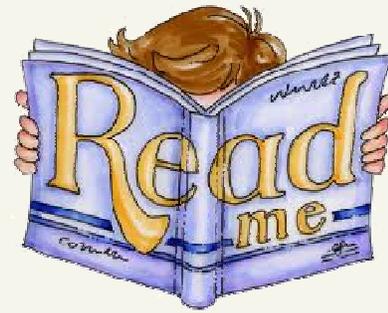
There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island.

~ Walt Disney ~

At Links, we want all our children to treasure books and discover the joys of reading. With the aim of making reading a joy, we celebrated "World Book Day" on Friday, 1st March 2013.

The children had special story-telling sessions, some made book marks & designed book covers and some helped restore our library books. To show their community spirit, ALL the children at Links donated books to share with those less fortunate than themselves.

We ended our book day celebrations with "Fairy Tale Friday" when all were dressed up as their favourite story character.



GREETINGS ON



WITH WARM WISHES

Literally means 'A New Day' and marks the first day of day of spring as well as the beginning of the year according to the Persian/Iranian Calendar. It is celebrated on 21st March, the day of the Spring equinox.

At Links, we set up the traditional Nauroz Table to enlighten our students (as well as parents) about some of the traditions of Nauroz.



FROM LOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL

JASHN-E-BAHARAN

Basant, or Jashn-i-Baharan still one of the seasonal festivals celebrated across almost all the cities in Pakistan. The 'Kite Festival' is indeed a festival replete with hues and colours, so the students at Links also chose to wear bright yellow and vibrant green colors to be a part of the colors of spring on the 15th of March 19, 2013. At Links too Basant is no more a mere kite flying event, but a fully fledged festival now, where our students brought snacks to share, got together and enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

Everyone participated in kite flying; the nail art, pottery/kite decorating, garland/bracelet making and even the girls with the help of the teachers enjoyed flying kites on Basant. The activities made the whole experience even more memorable and fun.



THE FESTIVALS ARE LIKE A MAP CHARTING OUR SPIRITUAL
PROGRESS IN GOD,

~ **Anonymous**

NAVROZ @ LPS

Navroz is one of the three major festivals celebrated in the Parsi calendar as New Year. The term Navroz has been derived from two Persian words, 'nav' meaning 'new' and 'roz' meaning 'day'. Hence, Navroz signifies 'new day'. We would like to wish all our Zoroastrian, Agha Khanians, Iranians and Shiaite friends at Links Navroz Mubarak.

It is a custom to lay down a table and place a lit lamp or candle, a shallow ceramic plate with sprouted wheat or beans, small bowl with a silver coin, flowers, painted eggs, sweets and rosewater, and a bowl of water containing goldfish in it. They all signify prosperity, wealth, colour, productivity, sweetness and happiness. All of these were displayed at the reception to give the students a feel of the festivity.



MATH DAY

Throughout the academic year mental math is practiced with the students at Links from Preps- Class 4 and what better way to battle between houses than to have a Math off. World Math Day is originally celebrated on the 7th of March but we at Links celebrated this event on the 20th of March when the four house teams Mars, Neptune, Venus and Jupiter competed to win Super Star titles. A series of three vigorous rounds determined Neptune as the winning team. The Super Stars were Azlaan Sultan Prep, Maria Jatoi Class 1, Rayaan Aly Khan Class 2, Raahim Mansoob Class 3 and Zoha Baseer Class 4. The consolidated points scored were as follows:

Neptune-145 Mars -110 Jupiter- 105 Venus-100



FROM UPPER PRIMARY & SECONDARY

MY FAIR LADY

The highlight of the evening lingers on ... “The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain ...” Words articulated in perfect English by a common flower girl – in our case, the extraordinary Kainaat Jah. Not only did Kainaat master the vowel sounds of Oxford English – but also managed to produce a very fine cockney accent too! None other than the venerable Professor Higgins – played in inimitable style by Head Boy, Ali Askari - could have engineered such a linguistic transformation. Congratulations to the whole cast and crew on a wonderful performance, so ably directed by Ms Uzma!



MOCK EXAMINATIONS

During the next two weeks our Class 10 and 11 'O' Level students will be sitting Mock Examinations: an opportunity to practice their examination skills and strategies, and to demonstrate what they know. Hopefully, initial nervousness will give way to quiet confidence as they seek to give a good account of themselves in this final assessment before "the real thing." We wish them all success!

Quiet!

EXAM IN PROGRESS



SOCIAL NETWORKS

Whether we like it or not, social networks like Facebook are here to stay, and our children feel at home in the virtual environment of connectivity that such networks provide. Indeed, such sites offer the opportunity for families and friends to share their experiences, interests, news, ideas, photos and video clips quickly and easily. That's great! The development of Smart Phones has increased the speed at which this happens, with instant upload from anywhere of photos, messages or comments, and the possibility of immediate feedback or response. However, we all know that there is a dark side too. I cannot stress too strongly how important it is for parents to ensure that their children are using the internet responsibly, and that social networks do not become a channel through which others can prey on their vulnerability. Equally, such networks should not become a place where students can say whatever they like – no matter how negative, hurtful or damaging – with impunity because they are able to post onymously. Often it is the actions of a very small number which can ruin an experience for everyone. We must not let that happen.



Parents and school need to work together to ensure that:

- **Students know how to use the internet safely and responsibly**
- **Students understand the impact in the real world of what they do in the virtual world**
- **Students are held accountable for their postings, comments and messages ... with parents frequently checking mobile phone and computer use**
- **Students know that stalking, hacking, bullying, abusing, and humiliating others; flirting and rumour-mongering are unacceptable internet behaviours. Posting comments, messages, photos which may damage the reputation of the school is also unacceptable. The school will take action against any student found to be involved.**

This week I have asked all responsible students to help us keep the internet a safe and positive place for our community. I am sure that they will respond well. I am sure that parents too will add their voices and give their full support.



MATH DAY @ UPS

Wednesday 20th March was a festive day at Links UPS as students cheered their teams with fervor in the World Maths Day Competition. Competitors from Classes 5 to 9 tried their luck at mind-boggling questions. Everyone present enjoyed the event and whole-heartedly encouraged the Links Young Mathematicians who answered some very tricky questions with ease. As the competition came to an end all participants received certificates and the proud winning team of Yellow House Neptune: Amina Mukaty, Anum Zahra, Laiba Shahid, Hamza Siddiqui and Aiman Asim received prizes from Mr Phil.

