

JUNE/JULY 2021



CIS HERALD

Monthly e-magazine published by Junior School Vol. 1

News & Features

Welcoming the new students

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July Events

9.07.21 - 12.07.21 - Text books and exercise books distribution for the Academic Session 2021-22 from school for Grades 1-5.

29.07.21 - Jolly Phonics Orientation for Pre Nursery Parents.

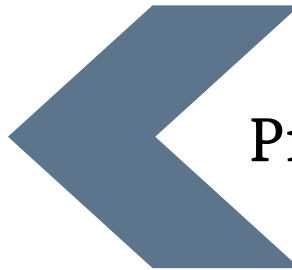
30.07.21 - Grades 3, 4 and 5 will celebrate the French National day along with Grade 6.



Congratulations to the students of the Senior School for the excellent, outstanding IB results this year making the school proud !

Welcome!

CIS wholeheartedly welcomes the new batch of 36 promising young learners in Pre-Nursery A and B. Together we strive to build a joyous and caring community with the common goals of nurturing responsible, caring students and promoting high-level learning.



Pre Nursery A



Pre Nursery B

CIS also warmly welcomes the new pupils this Academic Session to the CIS family and wishes them all the best for their growth and progress in the school.

Grade Nursery, Section B - Ahaan Sanghvi

Grade 4, Section A - Ronit Basu

Grade 4, Section B - Adhrit Sengupta

Grade 5, Section A - Riyansh Sanghvi



BACK TO SCHOOL

The new batch of Nursery 2021-22 marks its uniqueness in being the first batch of CIS to have not stepped into the physical environment of the CIS classroom. They started their schooling virtually right from Pre - Nursery.



Happiness is seeing the smile on a child's face as they learn - Grade Nursery A welcomes 19 bright smiling stars this year.



Grade Nursery B welcomes a well - adapted, settled and a dynamic batch who are always eager to learn and keen to share their experiences online. They are ever ready for Show and Tell and they exhibit interesting objects and share facts confidently. They love to express themselves creatively.



The Upper Nursery A batch of 2021-22 are a promising batch of eager learners who are super excited to be in their new class. They are well versed on the online platform and ready to learn. A responsible group, they take pride in their handwork and think out of the box! It is certainly going to be a year of revelation, growth and progress. Good Luck in the Upper Nursery!



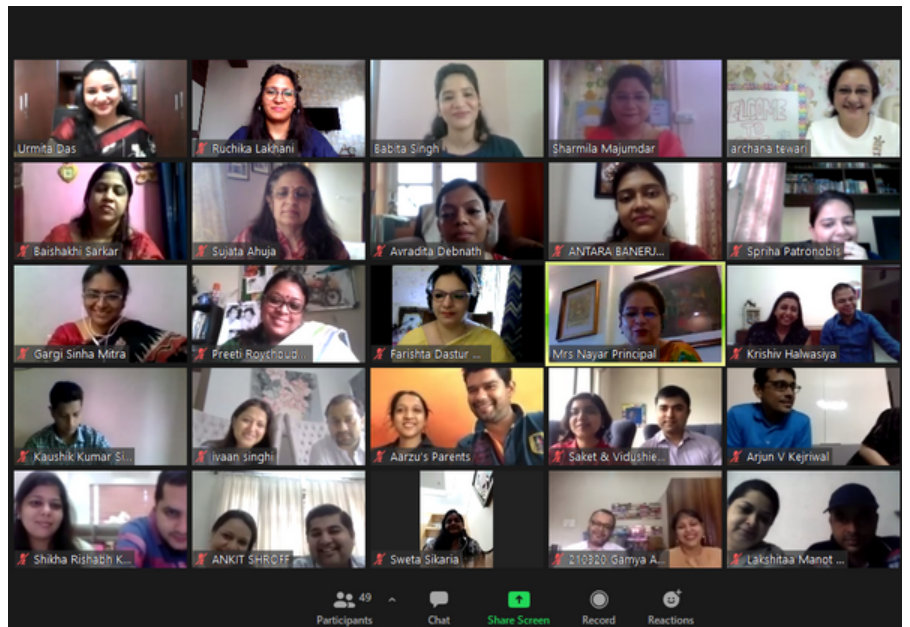
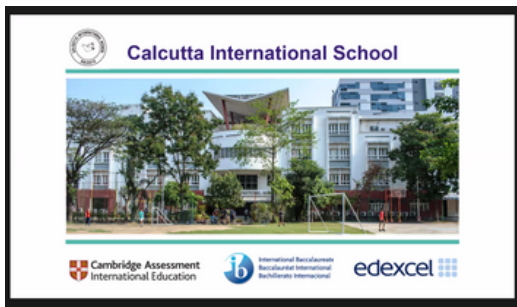


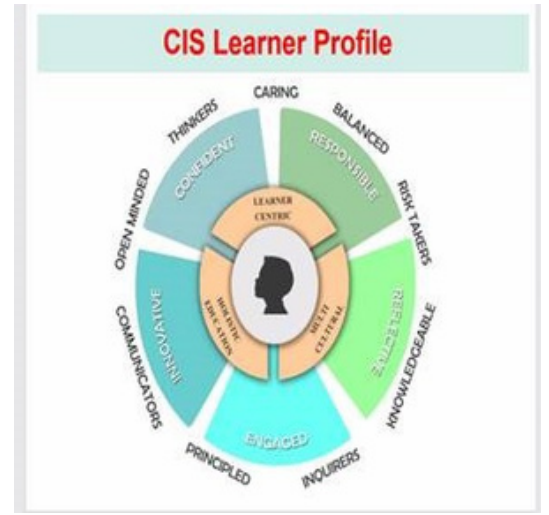
Eighteen smiling flowers
 At all hours!!!!
 Swaying, giggling and having fun
 All ready to begin the run.
 Welcome to Grade Upper Nursery B



PARENT ORIENTATIONS

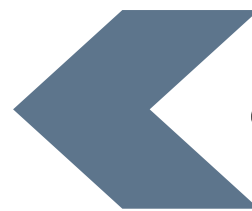
A Virtual Junior School Parents' Orientation for Grades Pre Nursery to 5 was successfully conducted from 22nd-24th June, 2021. The parents were welcomed by Mrs. Pratima Nayar, Junior School Principal, Primary Section Head - Mrs. Sharmila Majumdar and Junior Section Head - Mrs. Neelam Choudhary. The HODs, Subject Coordinators, SEN and Counselling department, class teachers and subject teachers were introduced to the parents. This was followed by a PPT presentation, shared by the class teachers, explaining the rules and guidelines for classes in the upcoming academic year. At the end of the session, parents interacted with the teachers and clarified doubts. We look forward to a great year ahead.



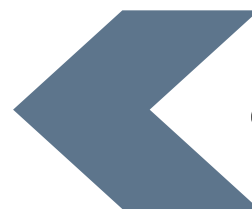


STUDENT ORIENTATIONS

The Online Junior School Students' Orientation was held from 22nd-25th June 2021, under the able guidance of the class teachers and subject teachers. It began with the previous class teachers first introducing the current class teachers to the batch and then handing over the session to them. The students were very excited to see each other, after a long summer break, and had a lot to share. Each teacher introduced themselves and updated the students about their respective subjects. It was a very interactive session, enjoyed by all.



Grade 1 A



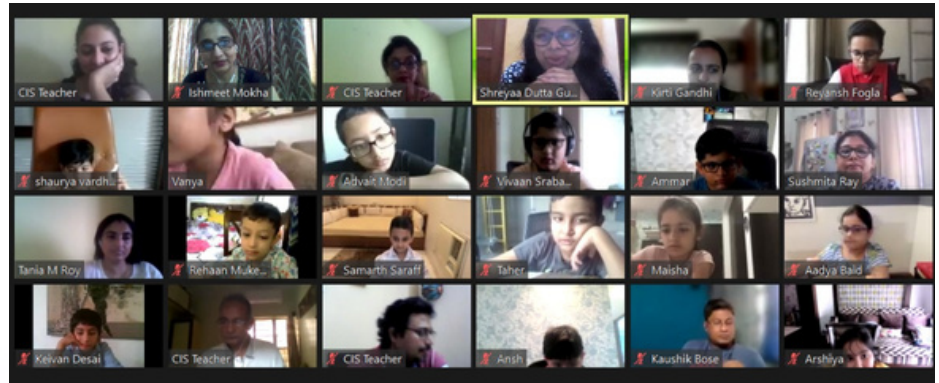
Grade 1 B



Grade 2A



Grade 2B

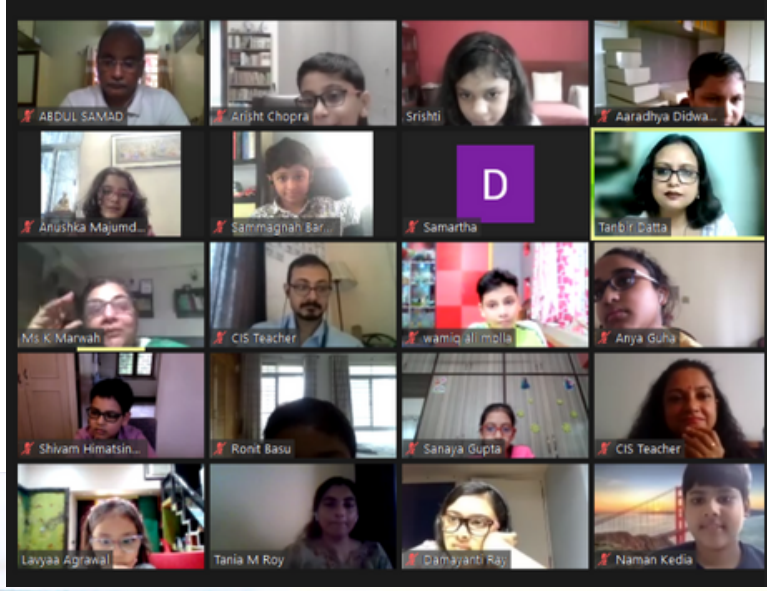


Grade 3A



Grade 3B





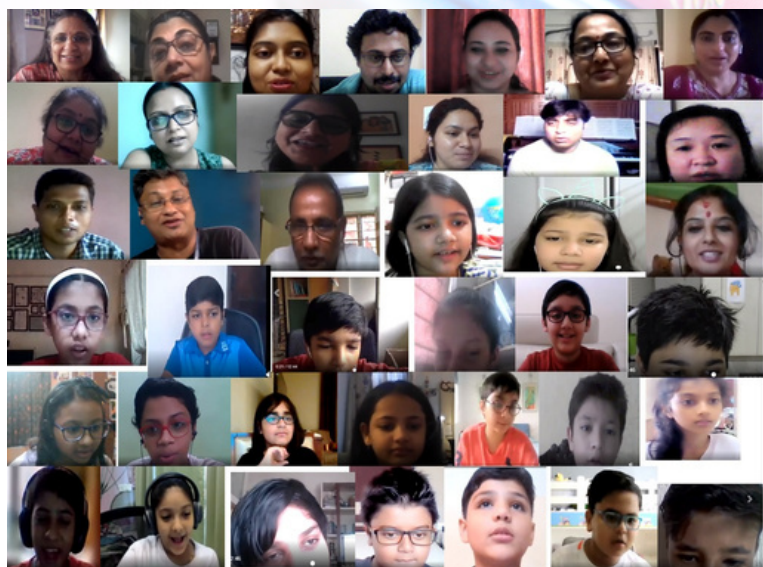
Grade 4A

Grade 4B



Grade 5A

Grade 5B





On 28th June 2021, a whole school meeting was conducted by the Management team of CIS. Junior School Principal, Mrs. Pratima Nayar, and our CEO, Mr. Ayan Pal, welcomed the entire faculty to the new academic session and wished them luck for the upcoming year. The new teacher joiners were introduced to the entire team. This was followed by the heads of the administration reiterating the protocols for their respective departments. We wish everyone a successful year ahead.

SHARING SESSIONS

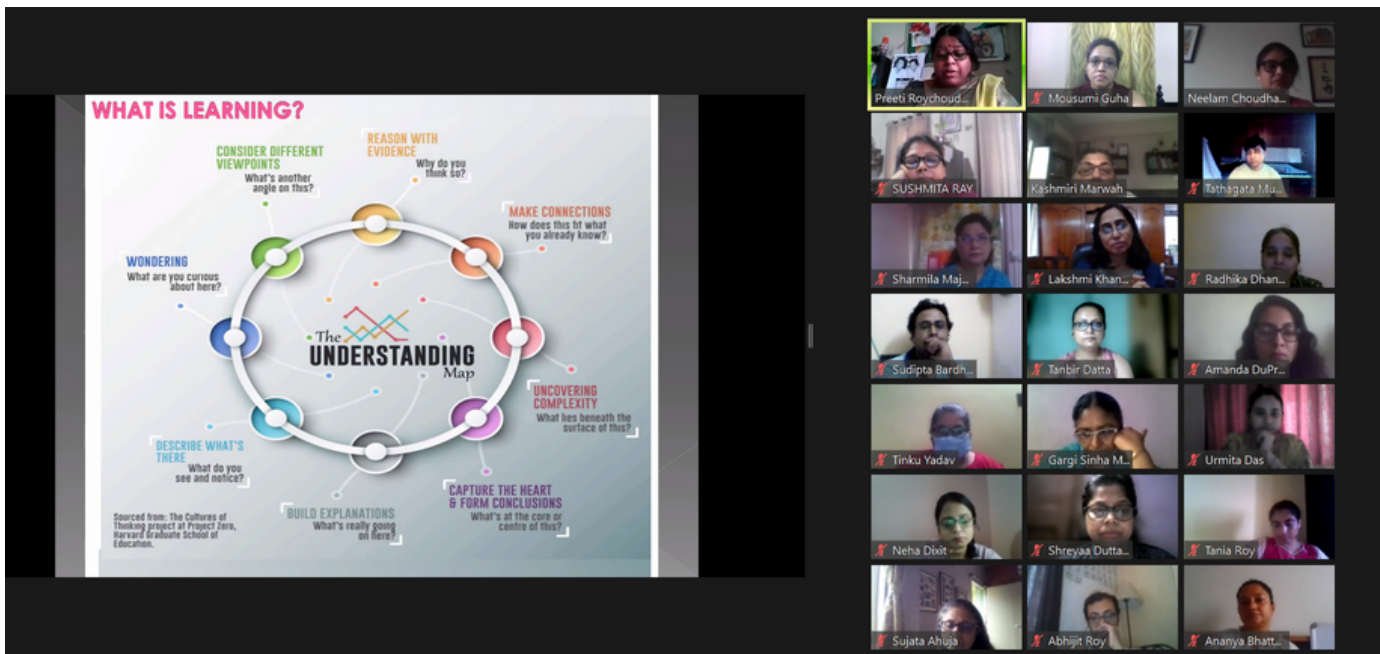
Workshop on Visible Thinking and Project Based Learning

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On 15th June 2021, a special three hour workshop was organised for the entire faculty of the Primary and Junior Sections by Mrs. Preeti Roychoudhury, Head of Department - English. There were 3 main focal areas of the session including discussion on concepts like What entails Learning, Why is Critical Thinking important, How can Visible Thinking Routines be used in class to track learning curves of the pupils in real time, and also a detailed presentation on the main tenets of Project Based Learning.

Critical Thinking is one of the main 21st century skills required to make the students future ready. Sowing the seeds of independent thinking as well as encouraging students to think analytically from a young age has been one of the fundamental approaches to the teaching and learning process. At the workshop, the teachers were encouraged to use several visible thinking routines developed by Project Zero, an initiative of the Harvard School of Graduate Studies.

The teachers were also introduced to the latest pedagogy under PBL or Project Based Learning. It comprised understanding of how project based learning is not a copy-paste activity, how it can be episodic and each episode can focus upon specific skills that the teacher wishes the students to use.



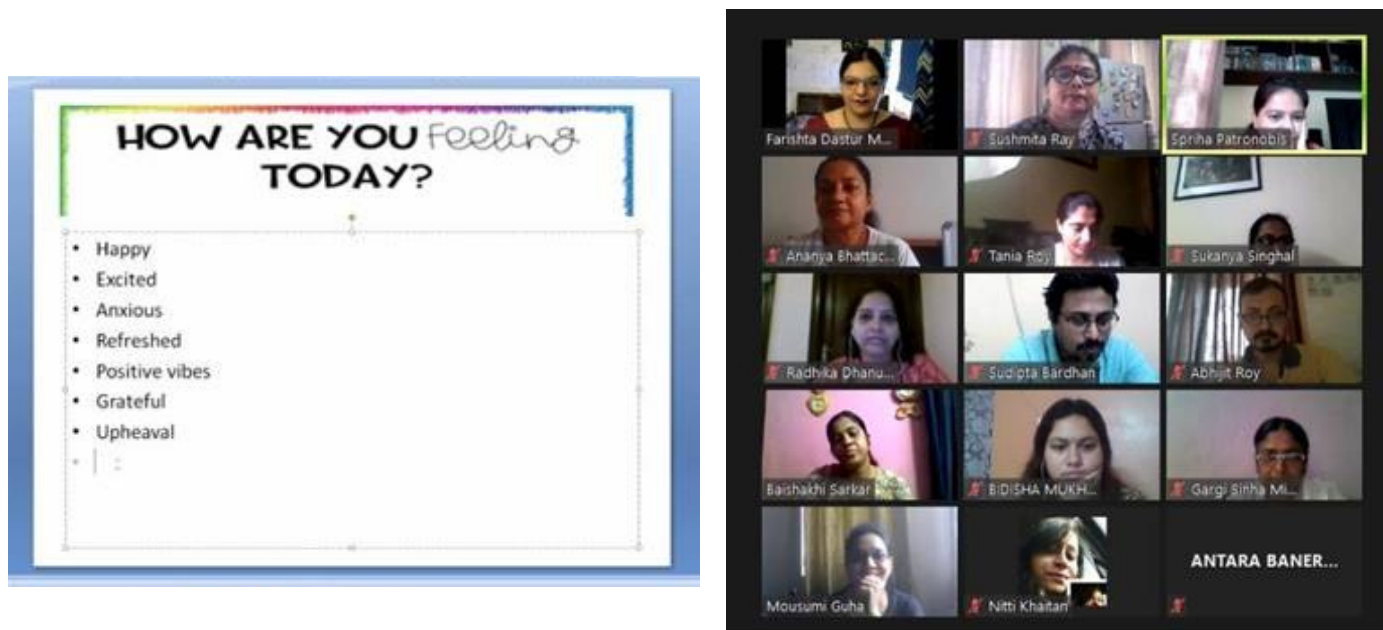
The teachers were provided with useful handouts and they also collaborated in group activities.

To have such a session at the beginning of a new academic year is a sure way to sharpen the teaching tools of the educators as they embark on a new learning journey in 2021-2022.

Personal growth and Positivity Session



The School Counsellors, Mrs. Farishta Dastur Mukerji and Mrs. Spriha Patronobis, conducted an interactive group session with the teachers of Junior School on 21st June, 2021, focussing on 'Positivity and Personal Growth'. The session gave the teachers an opportunity to share and interact with one another. Teachers expressed that the session made them feel 'refreshed' and rejuvenated to begin the new academic session.



Thinking and Working Mathematically



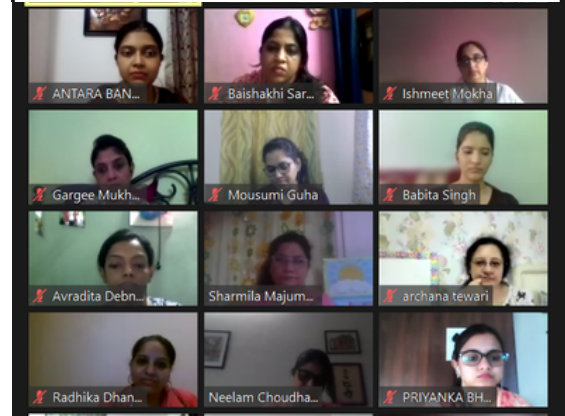
On 22nd June and 23rd June, 2021, teachers of the Math and ICT department, Junior School, participated in a two day workshop on 'Thinking and Working Mathematically' conducted by Ms. Alison Borthwick - an international education adviser. She has worked in the field of Mathematics education for over 20 years, and has worked closely with the Cambridge International team, offering advice and consultancy on the new Primary and Lower Secondary Mathematics curriculum.

The two day interactive workshop focussed on the understanding and exploring of thinking, teaching and working mathematically. The teachers had the opportunity to understand the eight characteristics of thinking and working mathematically and learnt how to implement it in the new curriculum. This was followed by enriching discussions in break out rooms, during which the facilitator made her rounds and suggested ideas.



TWM characteristics

- Specialising and Generalising
- Conjecturing and Convincing
- Characterising and Classifying
- Critiquing and Improving



CAIE Primary Art and Design (0067)



The importance of Visuals in today's world is widely accepted. Art and Design play an important role in this aspect. A sharing session on CAIE Primary Art and Design workshop (3rd June to 12th July 2020) was conducted by Mr. Sudipta Bardhan on 24th June, 2021. The main focus of the session was to reiterate Art as a tool to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills in learners.

W1: Introduce yourself to your colleagues. W1: Identify your personal aims.

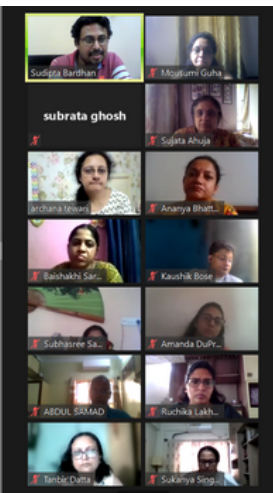
W2: Revisit success criteria in learner-friendly language and review your colleagues' definitions.

W3: Write a list of the underpinning knowledge and skills required for use of the units.

W4: Evaluate differentiation techniques with your colleagues.

W4: Adapt the teaching activities in the scheme of work to be relevant to your learners.





It was discussed that integration of Art and Design, in various subjects, will also help in addressing the needs of different learning styles. The session was attended by the Junior school teachers, Mrs. Pratima Nayar (Junior School Principal), Mrs. Neelam Choudhary (Junior Section Head), Mrs. Sharmila Majumdar (Primary Section Head) and Mr. Subrata Ghosh (HOD Visual and Performing Art dept).

Cambridge Primary Science Extension Training

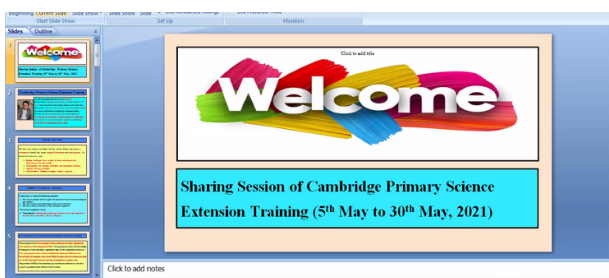


On 25th June, 2021, Ms. Sujata Ahuja conducted a sharing session on the Cambridge Primary Science Extension Training, which she had undertaken in the month of May 2021. It was attended by Mrs. Pratima Nayar - Junior School Principal, Mrs. Neelam Choudhary - Junior Section Head, Mrs. Sharmila Majumdar - Primary Section Head and the teachers teaching Science and EVS in the Junior School.

Her sharing with the department teachers were on -

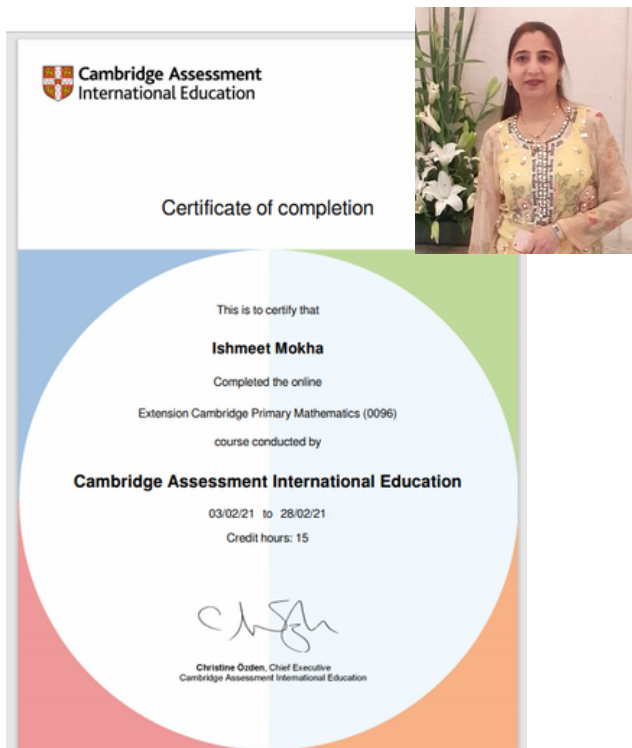
1. Summary of the curriculum changes for Cambridge Primary Science
2. How to use the end of series report to adjust your planning
3. Assessing learner progress
4. How formative feedback can support learner progress
5. Sharing reflections and resources

It was an enriching experience and Ms. Ahuja looks forward to implementing the learning in the day to day teaching learning process.



COMPLETION OF CAIE EXTENSION MATHEMATICS TRAINING

Mrs. Ishmeet Mokha and Mrs. Antara Banerjee, teachers of the Junior Section, successfully completed their CAIE Extension Training on Primary Mathematics (0096) in the month of February 2021. It was an interactive session and through the month-long training, teachers were exposed to the new curriculum. The process of giving feedback, marking and planning assessments were dealt with in great detail.



Congratulations!

We congratulate Mrs. Tanbir Datta and Mrs. Subhasree Sarkhel on completing 5 years of dedicated service in CIS. May their contributions continue to inspire us.



A Rendezvous with Mrs Sharmila Majumdar



Miss L. Khanna and Ms K. Marwah were in conversation with Mrs Sharmila Majumdar on 16th July 2021. Mrs Majumdar is the 'oldest' and one of the most valued Faculty members of CIS. This interaction took place in the school premises to mark the occasion of her completing 30 significant years of dedicated service to the school. Her loyalty, commitment and hardwork are a source of inspiration for all of us and shine through at every step.

Mrs Majumdar joined CIS as a Nursery teacher in 1991 in 18, Lee Road and from then onwards has not looked back. She first initiated the Pre-Nursery section in 2005. She took the school forward in leaps and bounds when she was given charge as head of the Primary Department in 2007 in the new school premises at Anandapur. **She received the I.I.H.M Teachers' Day award in 2018. In the year 2020, Mrs Majumdar was proudly presented with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from The Telegraph School Awards.**

In an illuminating dialogue, Mrs Majumdar, shared her experiences and happy memories at CIS. While sharing her thoughts about the school, she expressed her deep gratitude to all her mentors, and especially to Mrs Nayar for being her guide and leader.

The highlights of the interaction have been shared for the readers. It is very evident that for Mrs Majumdar **"work is worship"** and she loves every moment that she spends in school with the children and the teachers. We hope you will enjoy reading this interview. We thank her for her time and contribution in this unique Rendezvous.

When in your life did you realize that you were meant for this vocation?

Soon after I finished my class 10 ICSE from St Joseph's Convent, (Chandannagar) the nuns of my school took me into a classroom to help. This was where it all started and I realized that I was cut out to be a teacher. Even though my father was a doctor and the family wanted me to follow his footsteps, I decided otherwise.

How did you join CIS? Would you like to walk down memory lane?

I was first working at Hyderabad International school for two years from 1989-91, where my husband was posted. On my return to Kolkata in 1991, I first heard about the existence of CIS and was recommended to drop in my resume. I was given the opportunity for a walk-in-interview. At first I was told there was no vacancy. However, in a short while I got a call from the admin office saying that my application was accepted. I remember my mother holding my hand and accompanying me to CIS. That was the beginning of my journey and since then I am grounded in CIS.

How do you feel in the morning when you get up and start getting ready for school?

I am a very happy person by nature. Till today, I feel happy and excited at the thought of coming to school and meeting my children. Even after 30 years the excitement remains. I enjoy working here because of the positive vibrations which I get from the children, parents and the teachers. They uplift me. Ms Khanna is my soulmate and she shares this feeling with me. CIS is ingrained in me. Though school is virtual now, I am glued to my seat at home and lock myself in a 'classroom.'



The age group you handle is approximately from 3 years upwards. What is the speciality that you notice at this age?

Children are very spontaneous and genuine. I let them be as natural as possible. In my dictionary I do not have the word 'NO.' in the classroom. I let my children be spontaneous and allow them to express themselves freely. Even after a child graduates, the childlike quality remains.

In your Primary Department, what is the one must-have thing without which you cannot function well?

I feel, music and creativity are the must-have things in class. Since the children are spontaneous they must be given a chance to express themselves creatively in their own ways. I always believe in improvising on the spot to encourage their innate creativity. The teacher herself is a very important source for encouraging the children. Even beyond the classroom I can improvise and teach. Without improvisation I cannot function.

What are the most important things you feel the children learn in the primary classes in CIS?

Free Play according to me in the Primary is the most important activity through which learners learn how to build connections. Children in Pre- Nursery first learn from sharing and conversation . Then the focus shifts to developing motor skills through free play, social interaction and further communication. The Pre- reading and Pre-writing skills are introduced followed by structured reading and writing.

What according to you is the best or most significant contribution you have made to develop the Primary Department.

I may be a pillar of the school but a pillar is not the only thing on which a building stands. It is the entire structure on which the primary department is built . I have provided my teachers with a sound framework to build on. It is the years of hardwork of each member that culminated in CIS Primary Department receiving an award for the **“Best School for Innovation in Early Childhood in Education”** in the year 2018. I believe that CIS has the best Primary Department in the city.

How do you best handle the pressure of your job?

I remember the days at 18, Lee Road where school was very easy going. Everything was fun and easy. There was no photocopying and scanning, There was just cyclostyling. When the school shifted to the new premises in Anadapur, everything became more structured. Now we have to do much more as it is the need of the hour. We have adapted and changed our style of teaching and strategies with the times. Children are explorers, discoverers and inventors and we have to match our methodologies with the time. We are following the Cambridge Curriculum. The pressure has increased no doubt, but if I am happy doing my task then I don't feel the pressure. I believe that slow and steady wins the race.



How do you feel about completing 3 decades at CIS?

Everyday is a new day for me at CIS. I feel a great sense of joy each day. Even today after completing 30 years, I have lots of aspirations for teaching in different ways with more new online tools, music, songs and creativity. These years have passed very swiftly. I have enjoyed every minute of my work and still to this day look forward to schoolwork. Work has been more like leisure and pleasure . It does not feel like work. I look forward to more years with CIS.

Thank you - As reported by Ms Lakshmi Khanna and Ms Kashmiri Marwah.

JOURNEY OF MRS. MAJUMDAR AT CIS FROM 18 LEE ROAD TO ANANDAPUR



The Primary Section Team



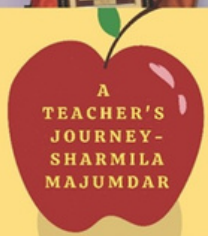
Teachers' Day Award



Graduation Day - Primary Section



Circle Time



A
TEACHER'S
JOURNEY -
SHARMILA
MAJUMDAR



Sports Day



Assembly Time



At the Teacher's Desk



Story Time & Role Play

Media Coverage



We are ready to have a great year!



EDITORIAL TEAM

Ms. Kashmiri Marwah, Ms. Priyanka Bhansali,
Mrs. Neelam Choudhury, Mrs. Sharmila Majumdar,
Ms. Amanda Dupratt, Ms. Lakshmi Khanna,
and Mrs. Mousumi Guha

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