

ULLENS NEWS

Volume I, Year 6, April - June, 2011

Message from the Principal

"Children naturally want to succeed. Why do so many teachers treat them as if they wanted to fail?"

~ Anonymous

Dear parents and guardians,

A vibrant first term has come to an end and since this is the first newsletter you have received this year, I would like to once again extend a warm welcome to all of you who have joined the Ullens School community for the first time as parents. I look forward to working with you to make learning meaningful for your children in the years to come.

I would like to congratulate the Class of 2011 SLC and the Class of 2011 IB Diploma Programme students for their grand success in this year's SLC exams and final IB Board exams, respectively. The group of 24 students achieved a hundred percent passage with 11 of them obtaining distinctions in SLC examination. The IB students excelled equally (see IB Update). I wish all the students the very best in their future endeavors.

His Excellency Ambassador of Switzerland to Nepal Mr. Thomas Gass kindly accepted our invitation to be the chief guest of IBDP's Graduation Ceremony in May 2011. I would like to thank His Excellency for kindly accepting our invitation. We were also honored to have Mr. Peter Dalglis, founder of Street Kids International, as the keynote speaker in IBDP's Graduation Ceremony.

On 12 August 2011 Ullens School will be organizing the Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2011, SLC. Mrs. Chandani Joshi, former Regional Director for UNIFEM South Asia, will deliver the keynote speech.

Once again, thank you for being so involved in your child's life! I assure you that when we work together like this, remarkable things are sure to happen.

I wish each of you a safe and enjoyable rainy season.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any queries or concerns. My email address is: medin@ullens.edu.np and contact phone number is 5570724.

Thank you
Medin Lamichhane
Principal

Welcome and Thank You Note

Welcome!

Ullens School would like to welcome new members of the school teaching faculty - **Renu Tuladhar** (Lower Secondary Science Teacher), **Bin Shila Thapa** (Grade 2 Teacher), **Arati C. P. Kunwar** (Grade 2 Teacher), **Maya Ram Kandel** (Nepali Language Teacher), and **Qian Dan Dan 'Cindy'** (Chinese Language Volunteer) to the school community. We would also like to welcome new faculty members of Ullens IBDP - **Ruth Herrin** (Social and Cultural Anthropology Teacher), **Suvash Dhakal** (Economics Teacher), and **Anup KC** (Assistant Environment Teacher) to our community.

We look forward to working with you in enriching the learning experience here at Ullens.

Thank You!

All the faculty and staff at Ullens would like to thank and acknowledge the contributions of **Rupak Koirala** (Nepali Language Teacher) for helping to enrich the level of Nepali language and literature at Ullens. Besides teaching regular classes to lower-secondary and secondary level grades, he was also an active member of the Nepali Department in organizing various events like "the Nepali Week."

We would also like to thank **Dr. Ek Raj Ojha** (IBDP Economics Teacher) who has been an integral part of the IBDP faculty since its inception in 2009. His contributions have been immense in

teaching Economics, advising the students as the coordinator for their Extended Essays (EE), and contributing in administrative planning of the Ullens IBDP.

We are also immensely grateful to the unparalleled teaching service and contributions of **Bhusan Tuladhar** (IBDP Environment Systems and Societies). As a nationally acclaimed leader in environmental activism and scholarship, Bhusan Sir helped Ullens IBDP students to initiate various programs both within and outside Ullens School. Through his leadership, students have initiated internal assessment of environmental standards inside Ullens School through the "Environmental Audit," making Ullens the first institution in Nepal to do so. As a result, the establishments of the Eco Club and paper recycling plant under his supervision have helped to make Ullens School more environmentally friendly. He has also been one of the key figures in starting the annual Project Week, which takes IBDP students out to rural locations for cultural immersion, experiential learning and social service.

We would also like to thank **Banita Thapa** (IB Program Assistant) for her contributions in ensuring a smooth running of the IBDP program at Ullens. She has been of great help to both students and the faculty.

We wish them well in their future endeavors.



Ullens Class of 2011 - IBDP Graduation

26 students who make up the first group of students in Nepal to be a part of the globally acclaimed International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) at Ullens School graduated Friday, 24 June 2011 amidst a special ceremony at the school auditorium.

In his Keynote Speech, Mr. Peter Dalgligh, founder of Street Kids International, and a leading authority on working children, street children, and war-affected children

around the world congratulated Nepal's first batch of IB graduates and urged them to foster their passions and lead Nepal's future.

His Excellency Ambassador of Switzerland to Nepal Mr. Thomas Gass also congratulated the graduates and encouraged them to excel in their future academic and professional pursuits and use their learning to lead their communities.

Chairperson of School Management Committee Dr. Arzu Deuba praised the

achievements of both students and the school for the historic milestone.

As members of the first batch of the IBDP graduates in the country, these students have been pioneers in successfully completing one of the most rigorous and exciting high school programmes in the world today. With strong focuses on both meaningful engagements with the local communities as well as fostering international-mindedness in learning, the students have contributed immensely to the overall learning environment at Ullens.

Congratulations to the Ullens SLC batch of 2011!



All of Ullens School would like to congratulate the class of 2011 for their outstanding results in this year's SLC examinations. The batch with 24 students achieved a cent percent passage with 11 of them obtaining distinctions.

News and Event Updates

International Human Rights Film Festival at Ullens

As a part of the Nepal International Human Rights Film Festival (NIHFF), Ullens School hosted the traveling series "Shaking the Tree" from Monday, 30 May to Thursday, 2 June 2011 in the school auditorium.

The film series, targeting the senior students from grades 8 to 12 from Ullens and some invited students from neighboring schools, included screenings of 8 documentary films showcasing various aspects of human rights violations in Nepal and elsewhere in the world. Four of the selected films were from Nepal while the remaining 4 films represented places as far as Uganda, Palestine, Central America, and the United States.

Students engaged in various discussions relating to some of the most pressing issues in human rights - both nationally and globally - before and after the screenings. The discussions were facilitated by Ullens faculty members along with Bev Hoffman of NIHRRF and other experts.

Both students and teachers found the experience very informative and useful and expected to continue discussing the issues raised during the festival in their classrooms.



Ullens Celebrates World Environment Day

Students, faculty, and staff members at Ullens came together and put up a special celebratory program to mark the World Environment Day on Sunday, 5 June 2011.

The half-day long program showcased various student initiatives to raise awareness within and outside the Ullens



School campus and assessed the school's standing in fostering eco-friendly approaches in day-to-day activities.

Students and some faculty members made multi-media presentations about the new paper-recycling plant, initiatives to collect the waste water from different facilities at school, and environmental audit on school's uses and handling of

resources. Introduced by environmentalist and Ullens IB faculty Bhusan Tuladhar, Ullens is the first educational institution to implement the idea of an environmental audit.

The program also included musical and poetry performances from students to convey various messages about the consequences of degrading environment and the ways to engage in conservation practices.

Students also conducted fund-raising programs for environmental charities by selling recycled paper products and cloth bags.

A waste water collection drive initiated by Service Learning/Counseling Coordinator, Lauren Yu well in advance of World Environment Day, led to a profound realization about the wastage of drinking water caused by the repeated rinsing of glasses made available at every floor for drinking purposes. The results of this evaluation was shared during the WED program. This has led to a policy change at Ullens School whereby children are now expected to bring their own water bottles to fill and drink from, along the course of the day, in order to reduce wastage through unnecessary rinsing of glasses.

Physical Education Interaction with Indian Expert

On 1 July 2011, **Mr. Tenzing** from Laxmibai National University of Physical Education, Gwalior, India held an interaction program with primary level and the Physical Education teachers from Ullens School. The day-long interaction focused on appropriate amounts of exercises to the primary level students and suitable methods of instructions. Everyone participated enthusiastically in sample demonstrations and role-plays.

Ullens School in ICIMOD's Herbal Garden Project

After being awarded the Second Prize in inter-school Herbal Garden Project organized by ICIMOD last December, the Ullens School team is currently participating in "Herbal Garden Video Making" - ICIMOD's follow-up project.

Ullens students who are actively involved in the project - **Sreyendra Purush Dhakal** (Grade 10), **Bishesh Shrestha** (Grade 7), and **Akriti Devkota** (Grade 7) were interviewed to share their herbal garden making experiences for the video while **Sneha Gyawali** (Grade 9) participated in the video-shooting session in ICIMOD headquarters in Godavari.

The video also features views of Vice-Principal **Him Lal Ghimire** and Environment Science teacher **Poonam Hamal** regarding the expansion of herbal garden projects in schools.



ATP Update

The Action Team for Partnership (ATP), a joint team of school and parent representatives, held its monthly meetings on 20 May and 17 June to overview the annual activities at the school. The meetings focused on strengthening school-parents networks to capitalize the expertise that Ullens School's rich parent body possesses. A communication plan whereby the teachers and parents would be better connected through school's website, teachers-parents e-mailing, and a school SMS system was discussed. The school has already started implementing the communication plan through a more robust e-mailing system and regularly updated website while working on the logistics for implementing the SMS system.

असार पन्ध्र-२०६८

असार पन्ध्र अर्थात "मानो रोपेर मुरी फलाउने दिन"। आजभोली यस दिनलाई "धान दिवश" का रूपमा पनि मनाउन थालिएको छ। परम्परागत रूपमा यो दिनलाई किसानहरूले रमाइलो पर्व मानेर मनाउँदै आएका छन्। यस दिन "हिलोमा पसे गति परिन्छ" भन्ने मान्यतालाई अँगालेर धेरै जसो नेपालीहरू खेतमा धान रोप्न जाने परम्परा रहेको पाइन्छ। यही परम्परालाई अधि बढाउँदै युलेन्स स्कूलमा सधैंका वर्ष भै यो वर्ष पनि असार पन्ध्र मनाइयो।

सम्पूर्ण विद्यालय परिवारले पञ्चे बाजा सहित खेतमा गएर धान रोप्दै एक आपसमा हिलो खेलेर रमाइलोका साथ यो पर्व सम्पन्न गरे। यस कार्यक्रमको मुख्य उद्देश्य: विद्यार्थीहरूलाई प्रकृतिसँग नजिक गराउनुका साथै प्रत्यक्ष रूपमा खेतमा सहभागी गराई रोपाईका प्रक्रियाहरूबारे जानकारी दिनु नै हो। नेपाली परम्परा अनुसार रोपाई सम्पन्न गरेपछि दही, चिउरा, अचार आदि खाने चलनलाई पनि विद्यालयमा निरन्तरता दिइएको थियो। विद्यार्थीहरू उक्त खानेकुराहरू सालको पातबाट बनेको टपरीमा खादाँ अभै रमाइरहेका थिए।



भानुजयन्ती कार्यक्रम

युलेन्स स्कूलमा हरेक वर्ष मनाउँदै आइएको भानुजयन्ती कार्यक्रम यस वर्ष पनि रमाइला र सिर्जनात्मक रचनाहरू प्रस्तुत गरी मनाइयो। १९७ औं भानुजयन्ती समारोहको शुरुवात विद्यालयका नेपाली भाषाका शिक्षक-शिक्षिका तिर्थ कार्की र मिना लुइटेलद्वारा भानुभक्तको तस्वीरमा पुष्पगुच्छा अर्पण गरी गरियो। सोही अवसरमा विद्यालयका प्राचार्य मेदिन लामिछानेज्यूले भानुजयन्तीको महत्वमाथि प्रकाश पार्नुभयो। उक्त कार्यक्रममा विद्यार्थीहरूले छन्दका कविता वाचन गर्नुका साथै आफ्नै रमाइला-रमाइला मौलिक कविताहरू पनि प्रस्तुत गरेका थिए भने नयन पोखरेलज्यूले समय सापेक्ष कविता वाचन गरेर सुनमा सुगन्ध थप्नुभएको थियो। उक्त कार्यक्रमका उद्घोषक विद्यार्थीहरू सुवासना दाहाल, पूजा बानियाँ र अंकित रावलको रोचक प्रस्तुतिले कार्यक्रमलाई अझ उल्लाससमय बनाएको थियो। कार्यक्रमको अन्त सह-प्राचार्य हिमलाल घिमिरेज्यूको धन्यवाद ज्ञापनका साथै सुमधर कविता वाचनसँगै गरियो।

Ullens Teachers in Bank Street, New York

Ekta Rana, Ullens senior school and IBDP English Teacher who has been recently promoted to the position of Senior School Coordinator is back at Bank Street, New York for a summer session for the whole month of July. The courses she is taking are on Processes of Supervision and Professional Development Leadership in Curriculum Development and Instruction: Teacher-made materials for reading and writing. The first two courses will help Ekta with the new position that she holds while the third one is always useful to share with colleagues for better classroom instruction and to engage students in the learning process. This is the second time Ekta has been sent by the school for professional development training at Bank Street. Ekta's credits are building up towards an M.Ed from the Bank Street College of Education. We look forward to her contribution in the teaching and learning environment at Ullens School.

Vani Rana (Social Studies Teacher) spent a semester (December 2010 - May 2011) at Bank Street School of Education in New York to continue working on her M.Ed. During the course of the semester, she took up courses like Curriculum Development and Special Education Leadership, completed her field placements and interned in a public school under a principal.

Vani was at Bank Street on her own initiative this time around. Together with Ekta Rana, she has spent one semester at Bank Street last year, with Ullens School's support. Right now, she is working on her thesis titled "Professional Development for Teachers on Progressive Education," while maintaining her teaching job at Ullens School.

We look forward to her contributions in Ullens School's learning environment.

Professional Development Sessions at Ullens School

Ullens School believes in continuing professional development of its faculty and staff to ensure high quality education and management. In addition to sending



members of its faculty for training at international institutes, a series of in-house PD sessions are conducted by the Professional Development and Curriculum Committee. These sessions are designed to help re-orient all of the faculty/staff, and, train new ones in the school's philosophy as well as pedagogical practices. In the last term (May - July), PD sessions were conducted in the following focus areas: Need Assessment, Ullens Philosophy, Traditional vs. Progressive Teaching Approach, Teacher Centered vs. Child Centered Education, Bloom's Taxonomy/ Types of Questions, and Student Assessment / Senior school Report Card.

Creative Writing Program with Gaurav Monga

Gaurav Monga, a certified IB Teacher who has extensive experience teaching middle and high school English Literature, Theatre, Theory of Knowledge in IBDP and the German language in reputed international schools like The British School, New Delhi, Vasant Valley School, New Delhi, International School of Hyderabad and Mahatma Gandhi International School, Ahmedabad is conducting Creative Writing Workshops for grades 8 and 9 at Ullens School since June, 2011.

We are very happy to have Gaurav with us and are looking forward to having our students be engaged in learning about and producing creative outputs under his guidance. Gaurav will be working directly with the English and Theatre Departments in the high school

level (9, 10 and IBDP) at Ullens School. We welcome Gaurav to our school community and look forward to working with him in the next months to come.

Counselling Services at Ullens

After the appointment of **Lauren Yu** as the Counseling Coordinator in March 2011, Ullens students from grade 1 to IB have been taking advantages of both individual and group counseling services. Support groups have been established in 7th and 8th grades where students undergoing physical and emotional changes of teenage years get spaces to address various issues and problems with each other and receive general support. This has helped students to voice their concerns and collectively deal with both existing and potential social and behavioral issues like bullying and groupism.

A strong focus has been given to communication and team building skills. Teachers have been regularly referring students - both individually and in groups - to the counselor. More recently, parents have come on board and been communicating with the counselor when they have felt that their children are in need of counseling on various issues.

With the support of teachers, parents and the school administration, the counseling service at Ullens is now able to provide substantial support to the students.

Sex-Education Workshop

On 6 June 2011, IBDP faculty members together with the school counselor ran an information session for the 1st year IB students about sex. It was a chance to educate the kids about their bodies, relationships, and sexual intercourse and safety measures. The objective of the information session was to provide students correct information about safe sex. One hour was spent with the girls and boys separate, asking and answering more gender specific questions, and the second hour was a chance to answer general questions applicable to all. The kids were given the opportunity to anonymously submit questions. We hope to have a series of information sessions/workshops throughout the school year to address issues particularly relevant to the young adult age group.

Ullens Outreach Training

Since the past two years, Ullens School has been working with a few public

schools within its locality on different capacities, of which teacher's training program has been the highlight. The training program has been continued this year with 14 teachers from Jyotidaya Higher Secondary School, a community-run school in Chapagaon, Lalitpur.

The 10-week long training program - June through August - is conducted by the Ullens Professional Development Committee members. Members of this committee are Ullens School faculty with prior proficiency in training both philosophy and subject-specific pedagogy under a progressive curriculum. This year the trainees are grouped under the categories of Language and Arts, Maths and Sciences, and Early Childhood Development.

Teacher's Day Celebration

Ullens School students of all grades came together to stage a special variety show to pay respect to all teachers on the occasion of Guru Purnima on Friday, 15 July in the school auditorium.

The event showcased student talents in musical performances, dances, skits, and poetry recitals. In between the performances, the students acknowledged and paid respect to

individual teachers with flowers, sweets and also by dedicating their performances.

Outstanding Performance in ASSET 2010



Since 2008, students from grades 3-9 at Ullens School have been participating in the ASSET - Assessment of Scholastic Skills Through Educational Testing administered by Educational Initiatives (EI), which is an effort by a group of IIM (Ahmedabad) alumni with first-hand experience of setting up and running educational institutions. ASSET measures how well a student has understood concepts and gives detailed feedback to the school on the areas of strength and weaknesses and thus help them do even better.

By tradition, Ullens School tests children of grade 3, 5, 7, 9 in English, grade 4,6,8 in Maths.

By the results of 2010 ASSET, **Tej Dhungana** of grade 3 (now grade 4) obtained the Certificate of Outstanding Performance, which translates to being one of overall top 1% students who participated in these diagnostic exams in India and Nepal.

We congratulate Tej on his outstanding performance and encourage him to keep his interest in his learning!



IB News

Ullens IBDP Updates:

- After its first batch of students successfully completed the IB diploma for the first time in Nepal, Ullens IBDP will start its new academic session 2011 - 2012 on 11 August 2011.
- Noted human rights activist and psychologist from ICRC Nepal, **Mr. Bhava Nath Poudel** delivered a lecture to the IBDP students on 14 June 2011. He engaged the students with discussions about human rights scene in the world and in Nepal.

IB Project Week

All 36 first year students of Ullens IB Diploma Programme participated in a week long activity in three different rural sites as part of Ullens IBDP's 'Project Week', between 21 - 29 March 2011.

The sites chosen for this year were Chhebang village in Dhading district (2 hours walk from Malekhu), Dhusa village in Chitwan district (2 hrs walk from Fishling), and Sota village in Chitwan district (2 hrs walk from Kurintar).



Throughout the Project Week, students immersed into the local traditions of the village, seeking to develop an understanding of the villagers' economic and socio-cultural realities. Besides, the students also conducted surveys and research on their topics of academic interest as part of the formal assignments.

Students worked with the local residents in their respective project sites in different construction and environmental sanitation projects like painting the school walls and cleaning the neighborhood streets.

As a core part of the IB Diploma Program, Project Week is designed to provide students with opportunities to put into practice the knowledge acquired through the formal academic courses and in-school CAS (Creativity, Action, and Service) activities. It is based on the principles of READ (research, education, action, development). ■



College Corner: IB Results and University Placements

NYU Representative Visits Ullens School

On 2 June 2011, Ms. Jyoti Sapru, Regional Program Manager of NYU Abu Dhabi Global Partner Institute of International Education in India visited Ullens to give a talk to the IBDP students on admission process and the programs offered at NYU Abu Dhabi.

IB Board Exam Results

For the first group of students to ever attend IB in Nepal and for Ullens School as the first school to deliver IBDP, the first two years of hard work paid off and the results came out very well.

The average point of the class is 28 points (29 points for who received diploma). The worldwide average IB point was 28.5 last year. The mean

grade for all subjects worldwide was 4.6 last year. Our mean grade is also 4.7.

8 students received above 30 points. 4 students did not receive the diploma, of which, 3 of them missed by 1 point. These students are still eligible for the IB Certificate, which is a valid and well accredited high school degree in view of all universities worldwide. The remaining students achieved the

IB Diploma which is a degree granted upon rigorous assessment not just of the 6 subjects but student's Extended Essay, TOK and Creativity, Action and Service Assessments. The highest score of 36 points was received by Ms. Pragma Malla.

University Admissions

Many of the graduates who are completing the program have received full or partial scholarships at well known universities like Colby Sawyer College (USA), Paris School of Business, Beijing Foreign Studies University, Webster (USA), Westminster College (USA). Others are in the process of applying to universities while some have consciously planned a gap year to work on social service projects in Nepal, on internships of their interest before they set off to university. ■



Ullens IBDP 2011 Topper Pragma Malla

Tips for Parents

Tips for a successful PTC (Parent Teacher Conference)

Parent-teacher conferences present an excellent opportunity to find out how your child is adjusting to the new school year and to get to know her teachers.

Here are some general hints on how to have a successful conference:

- Ask your child if there is anything that s/he would like you to discuss

with the teacher.

- Jot down everything that you want to talk about at the conference.
- Arrive promptly or a few minutes early.
- Begin with positive comments about the teacher or classroom.
- Avoid lengthy discussions of topics that are not related to the purpose of the conference.
- Be open-minded to suggestions from the teacher.

- Keep your emotions under control.
- Take notes about what has been discussed to share with your child.
- Express appreciation for the conference.
- Do not stay beyond your allotted time.

Source:

Peggy Gisler, Ed.S. and Marge Eberts, Ed.S.



A Center of Excellence in Education

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