

4th March 2022

The Pelican Brief

The Goddington School ~ PYP Newsletter



Dear PYP Parents and Codrington Community,

The euphoria of last week's return to campus seemed to gather more momentum this week as we steamrolled our way through Week 2. The place is buzzing on a wave of perpetual energy! Most importantly however, the students have settled into their daily schedules and class routines with a minimum of fuss and have fully embraced being back together on campus.

This afternoon we're proudly launching our new PYP Community Blog site. Each classroom teacher has created an eye-catching and informative class blog to keep parents up-to-speed with what transpires in our classrooms throughout the week. We believe the blogs are another useful platform to straighten communication between teachers and parents.

Teachers will send a link to parents later today once their site goes 'live'. The blogs will be updated every Friday and we encourage parents to share them with family and friends.

Please note there are also regular postings of news and classroom photos on the Codrington Facebook page throughout the week:

<https://www.facebook.com/TCSBarbados/>

So, we're just about at full stride now. The student's 'academic stamina' is building by the day and we look forward to further developing their endurance over the ensuing weeks.

Have a great weekend.

Regards,
Rob Fuller
Head of Primary



New(ish) Faculty

This week we're continuing with our focus on the new teachers that joined our faculty in September. Today we introduce Ms. Liz to the greater Codrington community.



Name: Liz Fursseidonn-Wood

Role: Cover Teacher for PYP 7; Assistant teacher for PYP 8;

Place of birth: Middlesbrough, UK

Most recent school: Ashmead Combined School, Aylesbury, UK

Why did you become a teacher: My dad was a teacher - but I never thought I would be! I changed my mind when I volunteered in a school in India; I love the energy of working with young people, and the challenge of inspiring students to be the best they can be.

Likes: Hanging out with my kids; dinner with friends; getting an early night.

Dislikes: Big parties

Favourite ice cream flavour: Anything with chocolate. The chocolatier, the better!

Favourite vacation spot: Kauai, Hawaii

What do you like most about Barbados: The turtles. I could watch them for hours.

What do you like most about Codrington so far: The amazing setting, and how friendly everyone is - both students and teachers.

Teaching philosophy: There's no limit to what you can achieve, if you set your mind to it.

We also extend a very warm PYP welcome to our new Primary School cleaner, Ms. Nicole Haynes. Nicole is doing a wonderful job keeping our classrooms and surrounding areas spotlessly clean throughout the school day.

Nicole's role in these COVID times takes on additional importance of course. She is re-visiting each classroom 2-3 times per day while students are at breaks or at specialist classes to ensure all surfaces are thoroughly sanitised. She has an amazing work ethic.

Welcome aboard, Nicole!



Primary Years Programme Overview

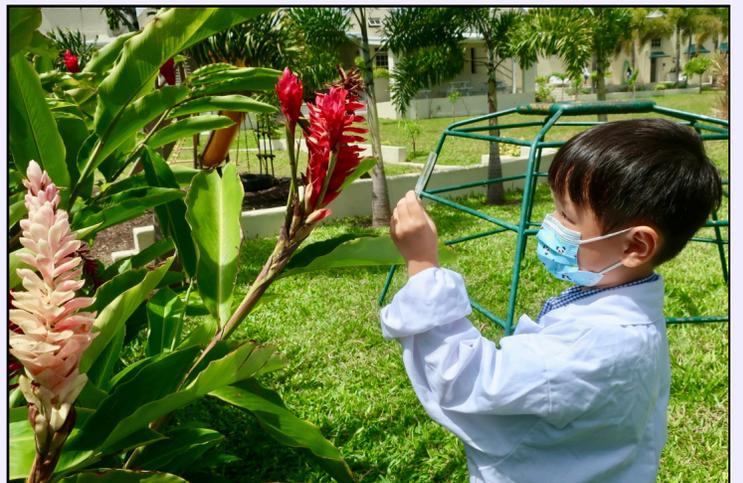
As teachers and administrators we're often asked about the point of difference between the PYP and a more traditional approach to education. There are numerous differences, but the most notable contrast is that PYP provides a balanced, student-centred approach to teaching and learning. The table below highlights some of the additional features of a PYP education.

Traditional Approach to Education	Primary Years Programme at Codrington
1. Over-reliance on a single style of instruction by the teacher	1. The teacher uses a wide variety and balance of teaching strategies and methodologies to accommodate different learning styles
2. Static curriculum with inflexible framework of outdated standards and practices.	2. Inquiry-based, trans-disciplinary curriculum with a framework that encourages flexibility and innovation in it's delivery.
3. Over-reliance on one teaching resource from one origin/culture <i>eg. a single textbook from Australia.</i>	3. Use of multiple resources representing a variety of perspectives <i>eg. textbooks; online resources; field trips; manipulatives; story books; case studies experiments; guest speakers etc.</i>
4. Teacher is viewed as the sole authority in the learning process.	4. Students are viewed as thinkers with the capacity to build their own knowledge and understanding
5. Students memorize facts on a specific topic to regurgitate in a test or exam <i>eg. ROTE learning the names of dinosaurs</i>	5. Students develop deeper knowledge and understanding of concepts <i>eg. understanding why dinosaurs became extinct</i>
6. Focusing on what students do not know	6. Building on what students do know
7. A teacher-directed focus on rigid objectives	7. Students pursue open-ended inquiry and real-life investigations
8. Over-reliance on one assessment strategy <i>eg. end of unit test or exam</i>	8. Use of a range and balance of assessment strategies and tools <i>eg. quiz; oral presentation; poster; model; written response; group project; observations; self-reflection; peer assessment; etc.</i>
9. One size fits all	9. Students learn in different ways and at different speeds. Content & instruction is differentiated to fit individual student needs.

PYP 4 Botanists

Ms. Peggy led her class of PYP 4 botanists through our beautiful gardens this week as part of their Unit of Inquiry on plants. The students explored, identified and drew sketches of a range of different plants as part of their research on the role plants play in our lives. Not content with their initial observations, they followed up two days later looking for more specific details with their magnifying glasses and taking additional field notes.





The Paz Award

To commemorate last week's launch of our new Primary School mascot, Paz the Pelican, we've created a weekly award. It will be presented to the PYP class that sustains a level of excellence throughout the course of the week.

The Paz Award will reside in the winner's classroom for one week before it's handed over to the next deserving class.

We're very pleased to announce that our inaugural winner of The Paz is Ms. Suzie's PYP 5 class. Congratulations! You will go into the Codrington history books as the first ever recipients of the award!



Around the Primary School





100 Days of School

It's difficult to believe that we've already reached the '100 days of school' milestone for this academic year. Ms. Peggy's and Ms. Allie's classes seized the moment on Thursday to celebrate the occasion with some special activities, including a treasure hunt for 100 items hidden around the campus. Teams had to search, collect, sort and count what they found. They also participated in a fun STEM challenge to celebrate the day.



Zumba Under the Mahoganies

Ms. Allie's Zumba sessions were such a popular feature of our online learning programme that we just had to keep it going. This morning we decided to take it to a new level with every student from PYP 1 to PYP 8 taking part in what we believe might be the largest Zumba class in the history of the world! Well...perhaps the biggest ever in Barbados? The Parish of St. John's biggest ever?



House Team Points Totals - 4th March 2022



PYP 8 students Ethan, Zachary and Karl certainly found a unique way to display the House Team point totals to the Primary School students today.

The big news is that Anstey is on the move, passing Elliot Sealy this week and now has Gooding-Emtage in their sights!



Important Dates

- 23rd March:** International Maths Day
- 28th March:** Spring Break commences
- 11th April:** School resumes
- 15-18th April:** Easter break
- 28th April:** Heroes Day National Holiday
- 2nd May:** Labour Day National Holiday
- 27th May:** Parent Teacher Conferences
- 6th June:** Whit Monday National Holiday

