

CULTIVATING GLOBAL CITIZENS WITH LOCAL ROOTS

As the corridors of Fishtail Academy echo with the laughter of learners and the quiet focus of inquiry, it is clear that education here is not confined to textbooks or walls—it is a vibrant, lived experience. The past few months have been a testimony to the school’s vision of nurturing young minds who are rooted in tradition but ready to engage with the world.

From the earliest grades to high school, students have journeyed through inquiry-based learning, critical debates, artistic performances, sports, and social activism. The IB PYP’s transdisciplinary themes have guided children through introspection, health, relationships, and responsibility. Whether through fruit salad preparation, visits to inclusive centers, or cross-border cultural exchanges, learning has been as experiential as it has been intellectual.

In the middle and high school levels, the pace has only intensified—eloquence competitions, environmental rallies, theatre visits, skits on child labour, and leadership investitures have turned students from passive recipients into active contributors. These events have not just fostered skills but shaped character, empathy, and critical thinking—the very attributes we want in tomorrow’s citizens. One cannot overlook the role of the faculty and community here. Teachers have gone beyond content delivery, becoming facilitators, mentors, and co-learners. Parents have walked alongside us in curriculum evenings and reflections. And our students, empowered with voice and choice, have taken initiative—whether leading debates, performing music, or raising environmental awareness.

What stands out most in all these endeavors is a philosophy of balance. While global issues are passionately discussed, local traditions like paddy planting are joyfully celebrated. In a time when education systems often swing between extremes—either too tradition-bound or overly globalized—Fishtail Academy has modeled how to integrate both, crafting a generation that is not only internationally minded but also deeply connected to their community and culture.

None of this would be possible without the collective efforts of our school family. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the School Management for their visionary guidance, to our parents for their unwavering trust and support, to our teachers and staff for their passion and dedication, and to our incredible students who bring energy and meaning to everything we do. We also thank all stakeholders and well-wishers whose unseen contributions continue to strengthen our mission. Together, we are building not just a school—but a compassionate, empowered, and future-ready community.

— Editor, Fishtail Chronicle

IB PYP EVENTS

From Inquiry to Experience: Who We Are

At the beginning of the academic year, our students commenced their learning journey by exploring the transdisciplinary theme "Who We Are." They asked meaningful questions such as: Who am I? What makes me healthy? How do I relate to others? This first Unit of Inquiry helped students develop a deeper understanding of themselves and others by examining different perspectives related to identity, health, relationships, and values. Each grade explored these concepts in ways that helped them connect deeply with the ideas, sparking their curiosity and laying a strong foundation for the year ahead.

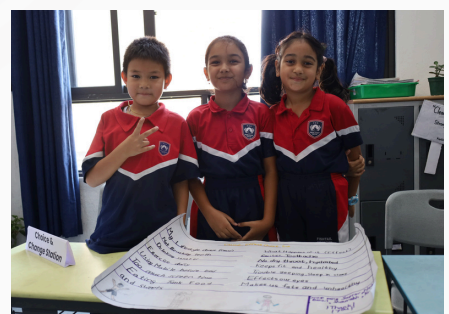
Grade 1 explored daily habits and routines that promote health and happiness.



Grade 2 discovered how relationships grow through communication and empathy.



Grade 3 discovered how healthy lifestyle choices contribute to overall well-being



Grade 4 explored diverse beliefs and values, fostering respect, open-mindedness, and a deeper sense of international-mindedness.



Grade 5 reflected on identity, rights, and responsibilities by creating and performing a song about being unique.



Through these activities, students demonstrated Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills such as communication, social skills, and self-management, while embodying IB learner profile attributes including being caring, knowledgeable, and open-minded.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

To bring their learning to life, students stepped beyond the classroom walls through meaningful, real-world experiences:

- On 20th May, Grade 5 visited Sathi Sansar, a center for children with cerebral palsy. This eye-opening experience helped students develop empathy and a deeper understanding of inclusivity.
- On 27th May, Grade 4 connected virtually with peers from New Crescent Model Higher Secondary School in Pakistan. They engaged in a cultural exchange and took a pledge to promote kindness and inclusion.
- On 28th May, Grades 1 and 3 participated in an interactive session with Dr. Hari Bikram Adhikari, a valued parent and eye specialist. Students learned practical tips for taking care of their eyes and understanding the importance of eye health.



These real-world experiences fostered students' international mindedness and social skills, reinforcing their growth as caring and reflective learners.

Student Agency: Taking Action

Our learners are not just observers—they are active doers! They took meaningful action inspired by their inquiries:

- Grade 1 made hygiene kits to care for themselves and their communities.
- Grade 2 participated in a quiz to deepen their understanding of relationships.
- Grade 3's fruit salad project showed how healthy choices support well-being.
- Grade 4 and their Pakistani peers pledged to promote kindness and respect everywhere.
- Grade 5 expressed their unique voices through music, celebrating individuality and self-worth.



Through these actions, students practiced ATL skills like self-management, research, and collaboration while developing attributes such as being principled, balanced, and communicators.

Spotlight on Debate: Voices of Reason and Respect

On 19th June, Grades 4 and 5 showcased their growing critical thinking and communication skills in a lively and respectful debate competition. Students thoughtfully engaged with meaningful topics such as:

- “Helping others is more important than winning.”
- “Children with different abilities should have the same rights and responsibilities.”

Through this experience, students nurtured empathy, deepened their reasoning skills, and embraced collaboration—laying the foundation for compassionate and responsible global citizenship.

Celebrating Learning: Unit Showcases

The unit ended with joyful celebrations as students across grades confidently presented their learning through student-led conferences, dramatic performances, original songs, and reflective discussions. These events beautifully showcased their growth in knowledge, inquiry skills, and the attributes of the IB Learner Profile—particularly being reflective and confident. The Unit of Inquiry culminations were held on different dates: Grades 1, 3, and 5 on 5th June, Grade 2 on 6th June, and Grade 4 on 8th June, each highlighting the students' enthusiasm and ownership of their learning journey.

Early Years Programme Unit Culmination: “Who We Are: A Celebration of Self, Togetherness & Belonging”

On June 13th, Fishtail Academy’s Early Years Programme celebrated the culmination of its first Unit of Inquiry with an engaging event showcasing Nursery to UKG learners’ exploration of identity, relationships, and community. Through lively dances, cultural ramp walks, dramas, and videos, the children demonstrated creativity, confidence, and curiosity. The celebration also honoured each child with IB Learner Profile awards, recognising the attributes they portrayed throughout the term. It was a joyful gathering of parents, teachers, and students celebrating the remarkable growth of our youngest learners.

PYP Units in Action

Following the successful completion of their first Unit of Inquiry, our PYP students are now engaging with new transdisciplinary themes that continue to broaden their understanding of the world.

- Grade 1 is exploring Needs and Wants, discovering the difference between essentials and desires.
- Grade 2 is investigating Ways of Expression, learning how people communicate thoughts and feelings.
- Grade 3 is diving into the Units of Measurement, understanding how we quantify and compare the world around us.
- Grade 4 is studying Civilization, exploring the development of societies and cultures.
- Grade 5 is examining Equal Opportunity, reflecting on fairness, rights, and responsibilities.

We encourage parents to actively participate in their child’s learning journey by extending these inquiries at home, fostering curiosity and deeper exploration beyond the classroom.

Stage Champ: A Platform for Creativity

Our monthly Stage Champ events continue to be a lively space for students to showcase talents in music, dance, storytelling, and more—building confidence and community spirit across grades.



Literacy Highlights: Building Readers and Writers

Literacy is at the heart of our program:

- Handwriting Practice: Students refined monoline and cursive writing for fluency, legibility, and presentation.
- DEAR Program: Daily reading time fostered a love for books and independent learning.
- Literary Week: A celebration filled with storytelling, phonics quizzes, book discussions, and writing workshops inspired creativity and confidence.

Middle School Events

1. Curriculum Evening:

Strengthening the Home-School Partnership Held on 20th Baisakh 2081 (2 May 2025), the Curriculum Evening at Fishtail Academy's Middle School brought together teachers and parents to collaboratively shape the academic vision for the year. Designed to enhance transparency and build a robust learning ecosystem, the event allowed subject teachers to present teaching methodologies and annual plans to parents from Grades IV to VIII. The enthusiastic presence of parents and their active engagement in discussions underlined a shared commitment to student success. The evening concluded with warm conversations and a unified sense of purpose between educators and families.



2. Eloquence Competitions:

A Celebration of Student Voice On 24th and 25th Baisakh 2081 (6 & 7 May 2025), students of Grades IV to VIII participated in the English and Nepali Eloquence Competitions. The objective was to foster confidence in public speaking and provide a platform for students to express their thoughts on contemporary and age-appropriate themes. Students delivered thoughtful and articulate speeches in front of peers, teachers, and the judging panel. The contests not only nurtured linguistic and oratory skills but also built self-esteem among participants, leaving the audience inspired.



3. Literary Week:

A Festival of Imagination and Expression From 31st Baisakh to 4th Jestha 2081 (13-17 May 2025), Middle School students immersed themselves in the joy of literature during Literary Week. Designed to enhance creativity, reading habits, and literary expression, the week featured short story writing, monologue presentations, character enactments, and heartfelt letter writing in both English and Nepali. All students from Grades IV to VIII actively participated in various activities guided by their language teachers. The week concluded with a literary showcase and reflections that emphasized the importance of imagination in education.

4. Investiture Ceremony:

Empowering Student Leadership The Investiture Ceremony held on 8th Jestha 2081 (21 May 2025) was a proud moment for Middle School as newly elected student leaders took the oath of office. The event aimed to inculcate leadership qualities, responsibility, and democratic values among students. Parents, teachers, and school leaders were present as Head Boy, Head Girl, House Captains, and Prefects were formally adorned with badges and entrusted with duties. The ceremony concluded with a motivational address and the symbolic handing over of responsibilities.



5. Interhouse Quiz: Battle of Wits and Wisdom

On 12th Jestha 2081 (25 May 2025), the Interhouse Quiz Competition brought a wave of excitement to the Middle School. Organized to promote critical thinking, general knowledge, and collaborative spirit, students from all four houses competed enthusiastically. Each house was represented by a team of well-prepared quiz enthusiasts from Grades IV to VIII. Teachers and students cheered on as rounds on science, current affairs, sports, and literature unfolded. The event concluded with loud applause and a sense of intellectual camaraderie.

6. Environmental Awareness Rally:

Voices for the Planet Held on 22nd Jestha 2081 (4 June 2025), the Environmental Awareness Rally marked the observance of World Environment Day. The objective was to sensitize students about environmental challenges and the importance of sustainability. Students marched through the school premises and surrounding areas holding banners and chanting slogans. Teachers, staff, and local community members witnessed the young environmentalists voicing their concern for nature. The rally concluded with a pledge and reflections by students on their role in protecting the environment.



7. Drop Everything and Read (DEAR):

Cultivating a Reading Culture On multiple mornings throughout the term, DEAR sessions were held across Grades IV to VIII, with a major session on 28th Jetha 2081 (10 June 2025). The initiative aimed to foster a lifelong love for reading by setting aside time solely dedicated to reading English and Nepali books. Students, along with their teachers, read in silence, creating a powerful collective experience. The atmosphere was reflective and calm, and students shared their reading experiences afterwards. The session concluded with a renewed appreciation for books and storytelling.



8. Chess and Table Tennis Competitions:

Mind and Motion in Harmony Between 18th and 22nd Jetha 2081 (31 May – 4 June 2025), Middle School hosted the Chess and Table Tennis Competitions to encourage strategic thinking and physical fitness. The sports events witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of Grades IV to VIII. Under the guidance of sports teachers and house mentors, students competed fairly and with great sportsmanship. The presence of house captains and the applause of classmates uplifted the spirit of every player. The events concluded with recognition for winners and a celebration of effort.

High School Events

1. Eloquence and Handwriting Competitions:

Expressions that Matter On 22nd and 23rd Baisakh 2081 (4 & 5 May 2025), High School students from Grades IX and X participated in English and Nepali Eloquence and Handwriting Competitions. These activities were designed to enhance communication skills, handwriting aesthetics, and self-expression. Each competition saw impressive displays of preparation and confidence. With teachers serving as judges and mentors, students felt motivated to share ideas clearly and creatively. The events concluded with feedback and appreciation for both content and delivery.

2. Essay Writing and Literary Exposure:

Power of the Pen Between 28th Baisakh and 4th Jestha 2081 (10-17 May 2025), students participated in Essay Writing Competitions in both English and Nepali, along with a special visit to Pokhara Theatre to witness the staging of "Muna Madan." The objective was to deepen literary appreciation and writing proficiency. Students from Grades IX and X poured their reflections into words, while the theatre experience brought poetry to life. Both events complemented classroom learning and concluded with insightful discussions on language, form, and storytelling.



3. Environmental Campaign and Skit on Child Labour:

Activism through Art On 20th and 28th Jestha 2081 (2 & 10 June 2025), High Schoolers engaged in two socially-driven initiatives: a World Environment Day Awareness Campaign and a skit presentation on World Day Against Child Labour. The objective was to awaken social consciousness and ethical responsibility. Students prepared placards, delivered talks, and enacted the struggles of child labourers through a poignant stage performance. Teachers, students, and administrative staff were moved by their commitment. The events ended with meaningful conversations and promises of action.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Well-wishers,
The Fishtail Chronicle aims to celebrate and communicate the vibrant learning experiences, values, and achievements of our students across all levels. It serves as a window into our classrooms, our culture, and our shared vision for nurturing future-ready individuals.



At Fishtail, our focus has always been to prepare children not just for exams, but for life in the 21st century. This means developing in them a strong foundation of content knowledge, while also cultivating the skills, attitudes, and competencies needed to thrive in a fast-changing world—collaboration, creativity, emotional intelligence, and cultural rootedness. In this context, we recently introduced the DEAR Program (Drop Everything and Read) across all grades. This initiative encourages students and teachers to pause and immerse themselves in uninterrupted silent reading. DEAR fosters not only reading habits and language fluency, but also inner stillness, focus, and a love for lifelong learning. To make this initiative truly impactful, we sincerely seek your support at home. Create screen-free spaces for reading, model it through your own habits, and take interest in what your child is reading. When reading becomes a culture shared between school and home, it leaves a lasting imprint on a child's personality.

We also want to gently remind our community that transformation takes time. The seeds have been planted—whether it's DEAR, cursive handwriting, deeper inquiry, or inclusive activities—but patience and consistency will be key. We are committed to this journey and confident that, together, we will see the growth we envision. Thank you for being part of the Fishtail family and for walking beside us in shaping thoughtful, capable, and compassionate learners.