

25th November 2022

The Pelican Brief

The Codrington School - PYP Newsletter



Dear PYP Parents,

I'd like to take a moment this week to touch base regarding student attendance. We've experienced a relatively high number of absences recently and I would like to clarify our school's policy and expectations toward this issue.

As a school, we have an obligation to maintain continuity with every child's learning and to ensure their academic progress is not compromised by unnecessary absence from the classroom. This is particularly important at present due to the online learning situation we experienced over the past three years due to Covid.

We're fully aware and acknowledge that students become ill, have family emergencies, and unexpected things arise that impact a student attending school. We also appreciate parents keeping their child home if they are sick or unwell, as illness can spread swiftly through a classroom and a school community. It is however, the unnecessary or voluntary student absences that can create frustration with teachers. For example, students not attending school due to friends visiting the island, early departure for vacation, transport issues, birthday celebrations, or tiredness from a busy weekend.

There's a wide body of educational research outlining how absence can reduce students enthusiasm for school, social engagement with classmates and self-discipline in their learning habits. Moreover, the consequences of absence is exacerbated by the trans-disciplinary nature of the IB's Primary Years Programme where every lesson, every day, is linked in some way. The sequence of learning is meticulously planned by teachers to ensure continuity and connectivity across the day and throughout the week.

The other consequence, somewhat exclusive to PYP schools like Codrington with small class sizes, is that a student's voluntary absence can have a significant knock-on effect for class projects, student collaborations, group presentations, assessments etc. and potentially hold up the class. A teacher may have to reschedule a hands-on learning experience until a full class is present.

From a school expectation and policy standpoint, the minimum requirement at Codrington for a student to successfully complete the academic year is 85% attendance. Failure to meet this attendance standard may impact your child's promotion to the next year level in June.

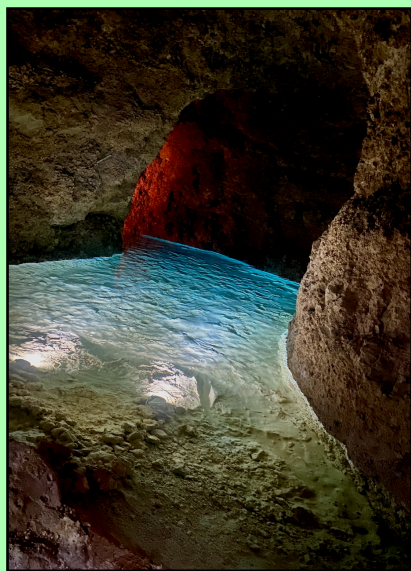
We appreciate your support and cooperation with this important matter going forward in Term 2.

All the best for the weekend.

Regards,
Rob Fuller
Head of Primary

PYP 6 at Harrison's Cave

Ms. Liz's PYP 6 students traveled to Harrison's Cave on Tuesday for a practical, hands-on connection to their Unit of Inquiry on the natural features of earth. They've been studying how the earth was formed, different landforms and the composition of rocks and soil. Harrison's Cave was the perfect natural resource for them to apply their knowledge and further extend their learning experience.



PYP 2's Guest Author

Ms. Judy's PYP 2 students had a very special visitor to their classroom on Thursday morning. Renowned local artist, author and illustrator of children's books Sue Trew dropped in to talk to the students about story writing and the illustration process for making a book. She spoke about her popular books *Turtle Tracks*, *Gecko Getaway*, *Monkey Mischief*, and *Loggerhead Life* and the environmental issues addressed in those stories. It was a wonderful connection for the PYP 2 students to their current Unit of Inquiry on 'Stories'. Coincidentally, Sue is a former Codrington student so she thoroughly enjoyed returning to her former school!



Sawing to new heights

Ms. Suzie's PYP 7 class have put the final touches on the bespoke display unit they've been building for presenting information. The display has been a collaborative effort from the students as part of their current Unit of Inquiry on 'Ideas and information can be expressed in different ways and used for a variety of purposes'. It's now all set to go for their presentation at the next 'Celebration of Learning' on December 7.



Caribbean celebration

**Travel around the Caribbean with us in
a celebratory night of song & dance**



Friday 2nd December
Concert commences at 6.30pm sharp

PYP Assembly

The PYP 1 and PYP 3 students took centre stage this afternoon in our PYP assembly. Ms. Carla's PYP 1s spoke about their Unit of Inquiry on 'Feelings' and sang a song about expressing their own feelings. Ms. Peggy's students presented their knowledge on local animals and also shared their thoughts on the debate of whether animals should be kept in captivity or not.



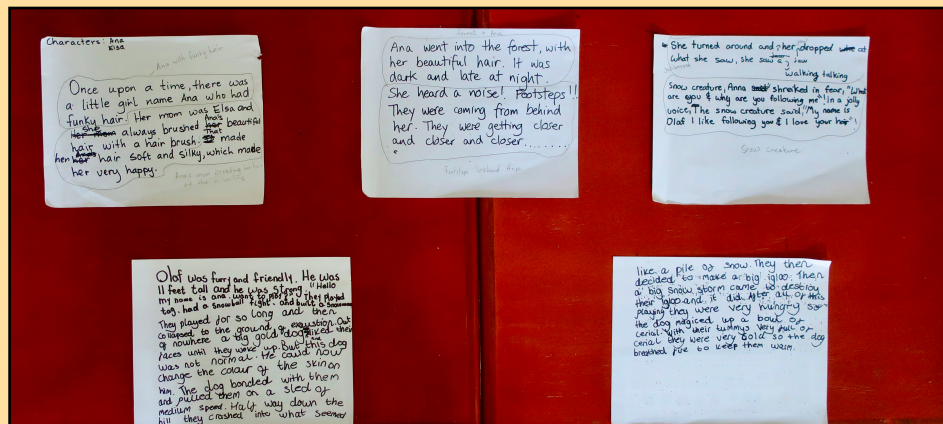
Learner Profile Awards

Congratulations to Lola Rutherford (PYP 2) and Charlotte Young (PYP 7) for winning Learner Profile awards this week.



Story Time

Our PYP 2 students have been visiting other classrooms enlisting students to help them write a fictional story. The goal of the activity is to have the entire Primary School collaborate on the storyline. Ms. Judy's students commenced the story in their own class and then visited other classrooms throughout the week. So far it's an exciting one with many twists and turns. The next step for the PYP 2 students is to finish the storyline and then illustrate the story. We look forward to seeing the final product next week.



Around School



The Paz Award

The coveted Paz the Pelican award was presented to one of the most popular, unheralded and hardworking members of our faculty Ms. Renee.

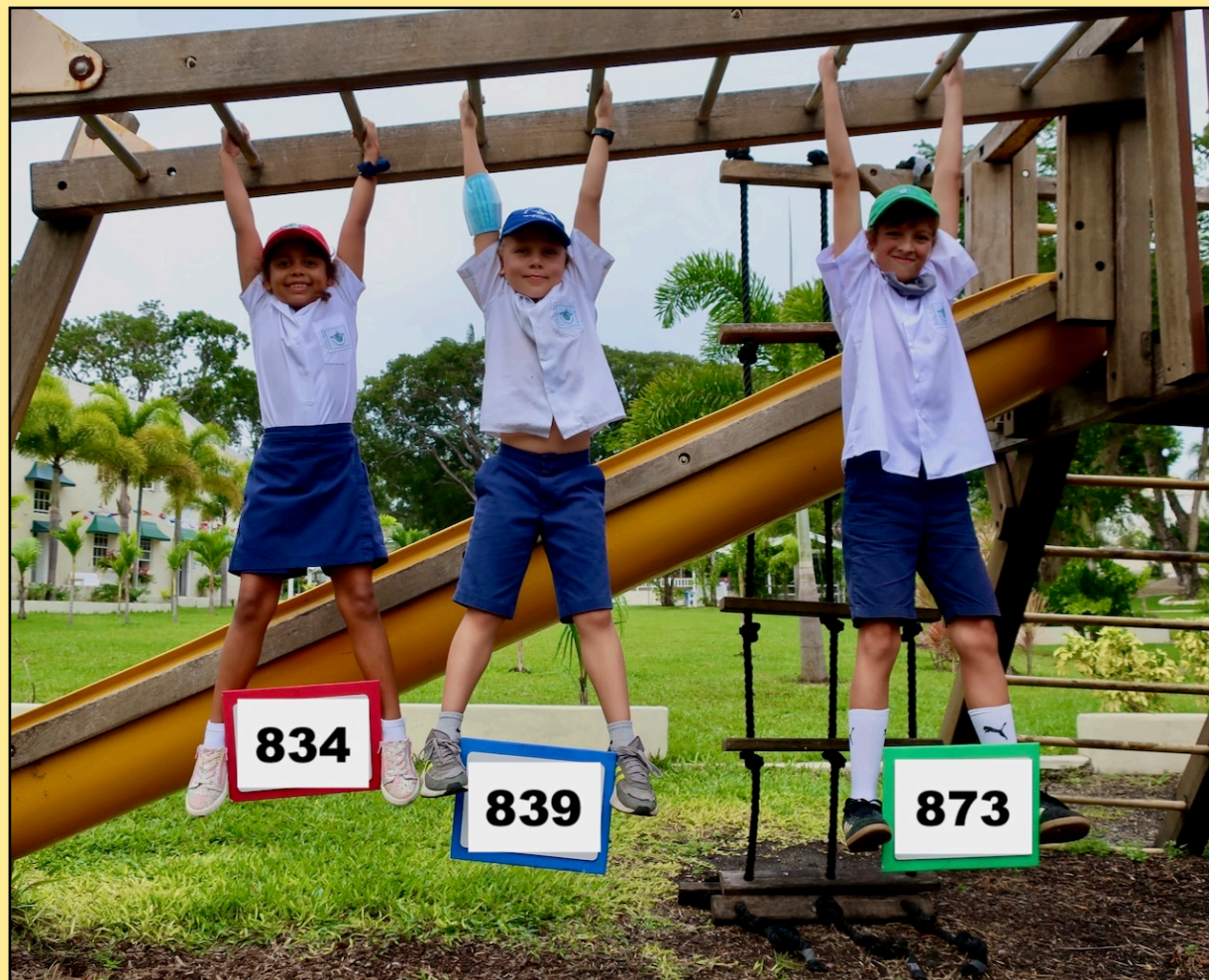
Ms. Renee provides an enormous amount of support each week in our PYP 1 and PYP 2 classrooms, but she had a particularly busy week this week. She organised a famous guest speaker, chaperoned a field trip to Harrison's Cave, covered a class for an absent teacher for the day, taught library lessons and began planning and setting-up some activities for next week's Barbados Independence.

There was a huge cheer from the PYP students and faculty when she was presented with the trophy in assembly this afternoon. Congratulations Ms. Renee!



House Team Points Progressive Scores

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Gigi (Anstey), Conor D. (Gooding Emtage) and Conor P. (Elliot-Sealy) hanging in there with the progressive scores for the House Team competition.

Important Dates

30th November: Barbados Independence - National holiday

2nd December: Winter concert (6.00-8.00pm)

7th December: Celebration of Learning (1.00-2.45pm)

9th December: Final day of school before Winter break (12.00noon departure);
Swim programme in hiatus until March 7

3rd January: Professional Development Day for teachers

4th January: Classes recommence for PYP students