

The Swaminarayan

EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme of the Week: Diwali

Regulatory Compliance Inspection (RCI) Report is attached

Everyone is aware that the school went through a Regulatory Compliance Inspection on Wednesday, 26th and Thursday, 27th September 2018. We were visited by two highly experienced inspectors from the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI). Every aspect of the school was scrutinised, pupils, staff and governors were interviewed; pupils, staff and parents also completed an online questionnaire. As promised in The Swaminarayan of 4th October 2018, we are happy to share the report with you. We will publish it on the website in the next few days. Everyone should be aware that this was a regulatory compliance inspection when eight different aspects of the school are examined. The report can only state whether we MET or NOT MET the standards. As you will read, **we fully MET all eight regulatory compliance standards**. It is a pleasing report and our sincere thanks must go to all the staff, pupils and parents.

Internal/Mock Examination Timetable Autumn Term 2018

Pupils and parents are reminded about the End of Term Internal/Mock Examinations which will take place for all Seniors 1-5 between Wednesday, 14 to Tuesday, 20 November 2018. The timetable for the examinations will be issued as soon as it is ready. These are important examinations and pupils should use some of the two weeks half term break to revise.

Half Term, Diwali and Annakut Holiday

The week beginning Monday, 29th October 2018 will be the start of a two weeks half-term holiday for all pupils and teaching staff. Pupils and staff return to school as normal on Monday, 12th November 2018. The office will be open between 9am to 4pm during the week. Diwali will be celebrated at the Mandir on Wednesday, 7th November 2018 which is of course followed by Annakut at Mandir on Thursday, 8th November 2018.

GCSE, Oxbridge and Maths Challenge Examinations during half-term holiday

Several pupils are writing examinations during the second week of the half-term holiday; one of the examination falls on Diwali Day. All pupils writing the examinations are reminded that they should report to the school office at 08.30am on the days of the examinations. While the school is closed, I will be there. Please make sure you are on time. Mr Stewart-Brown will supervise the Maths Challenge examination.

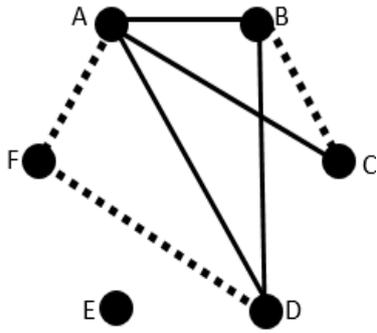
Tickets for Diwali celebrations & Senior Citizens Party 2018

This year the much anticipated Senior Citizens Diwali Party will be held on Friday, 26th October 2018. Tickets are available from the reception for the senior citizens. If there are any grandparents of the students who would like to attend, please contact the office to collect the tickets. We will also be serving a delicious Diwali lunch prepared by our diligent kitchen staff at lunch time. We thank you in advance for your support.

Saturday Mathematics Masterclasses - By Vishal Rao

Ramsey Games

Saturday 29th September, I headed to Westminster University, just opposite Baker Street for a mathematics masterclass in Graph Theory, I came across something most interesting, a game involving six nodes (dots) in the shape of a regular hexagon. You and another player must take it in turns to draw a line from one vertex to another (preferably in different colours in order to distinguish between players), the first player to connect three lines to form a triangle of their colour wins. (Where the three vertices of the triangle are any three dots of the hexagon).



In this case, the person playing as solid lines wins as they formed triangle ABD with three solid lines. Is it possible to draw this game, where no triangles of a single colour would have been made? If so, find an example of a draw. If not, prove that draws are impossible.

WRITER'S CORNER

This is the third instalment on, "How Children Learn Social Skills" by Naomi Aldort.

Peer groups: Who are they good for?

If grouping children of the same age is not natural or desirable, why do we form them? The answer is, for the sake of adults. It allows one adult to replace many parents, teaching many kids at once. And it allows parents to work, care for a baby, or have a much needed break from parenting. Mothers are often under pressure to work either for a financial need or because they believe that only earning money makes them valuable and equal to men. To convince mothers to go against their bonding instincts, we have developed a belief in the benefits of day-care or other peer experiences. Yet if we listen to children's authentic needs, we would value parenting and prioritize parent-child connection and not substitute care.

These dogmas about grouping children have gone so deep that some stay-at-home mothers believe that group activities are somehow useful and helpful for the child. Even though they are at home, they may take their child part time to a preschool or playgroup.

What if my child must be in day care?

Looking for children's optimal social development is not intended to discount the amazing power of the human spirit to grow up under many different conditions, even when not optimal. Indeed, much can be endured, especially when we speak honestly and encourage the child's self-expression. Therefore, if you must put your child in the care of others it is best to find ways to empower yourself and your child. If possible, I suggest you find a caring adult to be with her so she has a relationship with one adult who immerses her in love and social competence (and taking her into the community.) If a group setting is the only option, empower her to make peace with it but don't pretend it is best for her or what she wants (unless she authentically does.) Stay with the child each day until she is comfortable and validate her feelings without drama, so she can express and free herself of emotional conflict.

If you are lucky enough to have a group setup where a few children miraculously do get along as a group, then by all means, let them enjoy. But don't get attached to it; it may change over time. Likewise, democratic schools provide a tribe-like "family," for ages four to nineteen, which for a social child who has learned social skills at home, can be wonderful.

Social skills unfold naturally:

We need not teach social skills any more than we need to teach a baby to walk. Relating to socially competent people, the child acquires these skills in the process of living and loving, authentically and in her own time. Learning through such intimate and deep connections with those who love her, she will most likely create similar lasting friendships and behave with social grace. In being the author of her social connections she becomes self-confident, which is perhaps the greatest asset for relating and contributing to society.

Yours sincerely,

Nilesh Manani