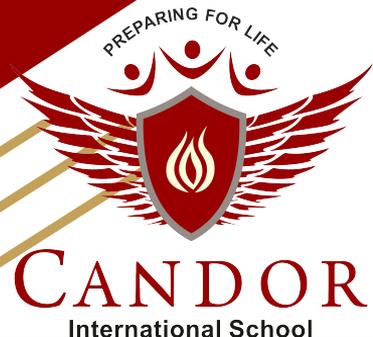


# THE CANDOR CONNECTION

Volume 3

December 10, 2025



## Updates from the Head of School

As we approach the end of this semester, this newsletter highlights some of the wonderful learning that has been happening in the school. In this issue, we have also added some updates on facilities and school operations. We continue to work on improving all aspects of the school and it is pleasing to see so much progress over the past four months.

### School Facilities

#### Bathrooms

Due to the extensive wear and tear of the bathrooms planning has begun to refurbish and modernise the facilities matching the expectations of current times.

#### Classrooms

- All classrooms for Grade 6 to 12 installed with Interactive Panels.
- New blinds to be installed making rooms brighter and more stimulating for learning.
- All classrooms are under CCTV surveillance.

## Pool

- The old swimming pool was completely demolished making way for a new upgraded swimming pool.
- The new facility consists of a modern water filtration system for improved efficiency in the filtration process.
- New refurbished bathrooms for boys and girls

## Secondary School Music Room

- The Music room department has been refurbished for an exclusive Piano and keyboard room with new musical equipments added to the inventory of the department.
- Shortly the Music department will be equipped with Sound proof acoustic cubicles for multi disciplinary music instruments usage.

## Design Technology

- The school has been purchasing resources so more practical more has been possible in these classes.
- An Exclusive Design Technology lab is being set up in the school block to enhance the learning activities for students.

## Track and Field

- Athletic track and field resurfacing and enhancement for better performance
- Proper cricket pitch set up for more interactive and engaging games
- A new Pickleball court is being planned in front of the swimming pool building.

## Cafeteria

### Hygiene updates

- The store room shifted to another building outside the cafeteria zone to take care of pest nuisance during the delivery of items in cardboard boxes, plastic etc.
- Upgraded the underground service lines like drainage facilities to stop entry of rats, rodents, cockroaches.
- The entire kitchen area has been declared a plastic-free zone to enhance hygiene and sustainability.
- A chlorine wash with hot water is carried out across the entire kitchen area, including drains, after the closure of all activities each day.
- All soiled dishes are cleaned using a dish-wash machine with hot water spray above 60°C after every meal.
- Air curtains installed at all the three entrances to the dining hall to stop entry of flies.

- Hand dryers installed near wash basins for better hygiene.
- Plans are underway to upgrade kitchen facilities by installing walk-in coolers and walk-in freezers.
- There is strict and consistent adherence to the Cafeteria Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

### Menu improvements

- All the food counters in the dining hall have labelling displayed prominently with the allergen warning.
- Previously we had pasta 5 times a week which was scaled down to 2 times a week.
- Maida usage has been significantly reduced across all areas of food preparation. All breads are now prepared using whole-wheat or multigrain flour with zero maida content. Previously, bakery items were made with 100% maida; this has now been drastically brought down to less than 25%.
- 20 more healthier options added in the snacks and meals Menu.
- Live counters for Eggs and Dosa introduced for boarders over the weekend meals.

### School Buses

#### Safety

- CCTV cameras in all buses have been upgraded with live IP cameras for more robust monitoring.

- First safety precautionary measures checked in all the buses in compliance with the Fire Safety regulations.
- Daily checking of each bus for safety belts and regular monitoring of all repairs and maintenance of the buses carried out everyday.
- Students attendance marking RFID devices installed in all buses.

### Timing

- Three new buses have been added to the fleet of existing 32 buses.
- The planning for this academic year routing of buses has been with one fundamental idea is to reduce travel time for students.

### Teaching and Learning

In Grades 6-12 we have been working with teachers to provide more opportunities to collaborate and be actively involved in their learning. We have requested that teachers move desks and chairs to support achievement of the desired learning objectives which should always be displayed during each lesson.

Teachers have also been using Visible Thinking Routines to deepen student thinking. A thinking routine is a set of questions or a brief sequence of steps used to scaffold and support student thinking. Harvard Project Zero researchers designed thinking routines to deepen students' thinking and to help make that thinking "visible." Thinking routines help to reveal students' thinking to the teacher and also help students themselves to notice and name particular "thinking moves," making those moves more available and useful to them in other contexts.

Students will receive the opportunity to provide feedback on their learning experiences in all of their classes. This will be done by an anonymous form which will be shared in the final week of the semester. The aim of these forms is to provide constructive feedback on what is working well and what students would like to see change.

## Experiential Trips - January 21-24, 2026

We have organised four separate experiential learning trips for January. These trips are built on the pillars of community engagement, service learning, activity and creativity.

- Grade 11 - Jaipur (over 60 students)
- Grade 9 and 10 - Pondicherry (Nearly 60 students)
- Grade 6-8 students - Chikkamagalaru (nearly 80 students)
- Grades 4 and 5 - Wayanad and Kabini (nearly 50 students)

Please remember that there will be no school on these days for students in these grades who are not signed up for the trips.

## Transition Planning

### Grade 10 → 11

We will hold a Grade 10 Pathways Expo on Friday, January 9, 2026 from 1.00-3.00pm for all Grade 10 students and parents. This will be an interactive event where students and parents can ask questions and receive answers. We will have stations set up for each subject group and programme that we offer in Grade 11. Teachers, Counsellors, Coordinators and Heads of Department will be on-hand to discuss the nature of the subjects and the suitability for individual students. At the end of this Expo, parents and students will take away the subject selection forms to establish their program for 2026/27.

### Grade 8 → 9

We will hold an introduction to IGCSE and a subject information session for Grade 8 students and parents on Friday, February 20, 2026 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm. This session will introduce students and parents to what is coming up in Grades 9 and 10. Students and parents will be able to ask questions to Heads of Department and teachers about the nature of the different subjects and the suitability of subject choices for each student. Students and parents will take away the subject selection form to establish their program for 2026-28.

## Grade 5 → 6

We have begun planning all aspects of transition for Grades 5 to 6. In Semester 2 we will be aligning curriculum to ensure Grade 5 teachers are aware of what is coming next and that grade 6 teachers fully understand the learning environment where the students are coming from. Grade 6 teachers will be visiting Grade 5 lessons to get a better understanding of how PYP students learn. We will be running some Step-Up days in Semester 2 for Grade 5 students to participate in some Grade 6 lessons. There will be opportunities for students and parents to attend information sessions and forums will be open for question and answer. We will be doing professional development sessions for Middle School teachers with the Grade 5 teachers to focus on making teaching and learning more student-centred to make student transition more seamless.

## Wellbeing Focus

Our school continues to strengthen its Positive Education curriculum, ensuring that wellbeing and character development remain central to every child's learning experience. The program has focused on building core skills such as emotional regulation, resilience, empathy, and strengths-based thinking. Through structured classroom sessions, reflection activities, and age-appropriate discussions, students are learning to understand their emotions, communicate effectively, and approach challenges with a growth mindset.



In addition to classroom learning, we would like to introduce whole-school initiatives that promote a positive, inclusive culture. In the coming months teachers will integrate wellbeing language and practices—like gratitude journaling and mindful pauses into daily routines to reinforce these skills consistently. Assemblies, circle-time conversations will be initiated to strengthen social relationships and create a safe environment where every student feels valued.

Parents too will be engaged through articles to help reinforce positive habits at home. Together, these efforts will ensure that our Positive Education programme not only enhances academic engagement but also nurtures confident, compassionate, and well-balanced individuals.

## EY and PYP Highlights: Learning, Leading, and Growing Together

The PYP corridors have been alive with curiosity, creativity, and celebration. Our learners took part in a rich variety of learning experiences—each thoughtfully designed to strengthen their academic understanding while nurturing the whole child. Assemblies became platforms for confident expression, hands-on engagements turned classrooms into laboratories of discovery, and field trips helped learners connect their inquiries to the real world. Socio-emotional learning continued to anchor our practices as students built skills in empathy, reflection, and responsible decision-making. The Activity Open House and learner profile awards highlighted the values we uphold, celebrating students who modelled integrity, courage, and a love for learning. With Science Week investigations and spirited sporting events, learners explored, experimented, collaborated, and challenged themselves, embracing both intellectual and physical growth. Altogether, these experiences embody our PYP belief: holistic education shapes confident, caring, and engaged young learners who are ready to make a positive impact on their world.

## Good Vibes, Great Values: Primary Wing Shines in Dussehra Celebration

The spirit of festivity and joy filled the air as the Primary Wing of our school celebrated Dussehra with great enthusiasm and excitement. The school premises were adorned with colorful artwork, reflecting the students' creativity and excitement. Adding to the festive spirit, the little ones presented a dance performance celebrating the triumph of good. The rhythmic music, graceful movements, and cheerful energy created a vibrant atmosphere in the auditorium. The Head of the Primary Section Ms. Sreeja appreciated the efforts of the students and teachers, reminding everyone that Dussehra teaches us to overcome our inner evils and to spread positivity, truth, and goodness in our lives.



## PYP Activity Open House: A Celebration of Learning and Inquiry

The PYP Open House was a vibrant showcase of creativity, curiosity, and learning as students from the Primary Years Programme (PYP) proudly presented their work to parents, teachers, and peers. The event aimed to provide an insight into the inquiry-based learning approach that lies at the heart of the PYP, highlighting how students explore, question, and construct knowledge in meaningful ways. The Open House was not just an exhibition, but a celebration of growth — a reminder that learning is a continuous journey shaped by curiosity and reflection. Parents appreciated the efforts of both teachers and students for putting together such a meaningful and engaging presentation.

The event concluded on a joyful note, leaving everyone inspired by the spirit of inquiry and the boundless potential of young learners.



## Early Years: Twinning with a Twist: A Morning of Creativity and Bonding

**“Twinning with a Twist,”** Parent-Child event, was a delightful celebration of imagination, creativity, and togetherness! Parents and children from early years came together in a burst of eco-friendly fun, designing unique matching outfits, accessories, and props using recycled, reused, and biodegradable materials, not only encouraging creativity but also highlighting the joy of sustainable practices and the cherished bond between our young learners and their parents. The classrooms were abuzz with excitement as little hands and big hands collaborated to bring their creative ideas to life. From colorful paper creations to imaginative fabric designs, every team showcased their twinned look with pride during the fun one-minute presentations, which included dances, rhymes, and playful role-plays.



## Young Inquirers at Work: PYP Science Week in Action



Science Week at PYP was an exciting celebration of curiosity, creativity, and discovery! Throughout the week, students became young scientists, observing, experimenting, and asking big questions about the world around them. Science Week reminded everyone that science isn't just a subject, it's a way of thinking, questioning, and exploring our world. Our young inquirers truly embodied the spirit of the PYP by showing curiosity, enthusiasm, and a love for lifelong learning!

## PYP Champions Shine at the International Karate Tournament, UAE

Our young PYP champions of **Grade 4** made the school proud by showcasing their strength, skill, and sportsmanship at the **International Karate Tournament held in the UAE**. The event brought together talented participants from various countries, creating an atmosphere of healthy competition, discipline, and global camaraderie. The students demonstrated exceptional focus, determination, and confidence throughout the tournament. Their powerful performances, precise techniques, and unwavering spirit stood out, earning them multiple medals and accolades across different categories. The tournament was not just a test of physical strength, but also of perseverance, respect, and teamwork — qualities that align perfectly with the IB learner profile attributes. Our young karatekas truly embodied the spirit of being *balanced, courageous, and principled learners*.



## Kicking to Victory again: Winning the Karate Championship in Mysore!

Our school karate team participated in the 30th Shorin Kai National Championship in Mysore and it was an unforgettable experience filled with energy, discipline, and teamwork! The team **won the championship!** Which filled the air with cheers as our team proudly received the trophy and medals.



## Interschool Fest - Victory at SNIS Meraki: A Celebration of Talent

Our talented minds of grade 3 PYP emerged victorious at **SNIS Meraki**. Arinjay Sengar and Gaurika Luthra won the first and second place respectively in the story telling competition. The event brought together talented students from various institutions, competing across a wide range of categories that celebrated creativity, intellect, and collaboration. Our learners showcased outstanding skill, confidence, and dedication throughout the competition. Winning at **SNIS Meraki** was not just about earning trophies—it was a testament to our students' passion for learning and their ability to shine in diverse arenas. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all participants and mentors, who contributed to this achievement. Your perseverance and teamwork have brought immense pride to our school.



To read more updates from PYP click on the [slideshow](#).

## Middle School Grades 6-8

Our well-being focus for Middle School aims to support students in developing healthy habits, positive relationships, and emotional resilience. Through age-appropriate activities and guidance, we strive to create a safe, balanced, and encouraging environment where learners feel confident, connected, and ready to face academic and personal challenges. Our PEEC classes play a vital role in helping us strengthen and sustain this well-being focus for all middle school students. The recent session conducted by the Head of School on cyberbullying was also very fruitful and further reinforced the importance of creating a safe and responsible digital environment for our learners.

## IGCSE - Grades 9 &10

This month, Grades 9 and 10 focused on cultivating a positive and engaging learning environment. Teachers experimented with a variety of student-centred seating arrangements that encouraged collaboration, active learning, and meaningful peer interactions. Students also took pride in showcasing their work through thoughtfully curated soft-board displays.

Grade 9 students prepared enthusiastically for their assemblies, presenting themes such as equality, women empowerment, and Constitution Day. These activities strengthened their teamwork skills and provided a wonderful platform for our Thai students to share their talents.

PEEC sessions offered a diverse range of activities both within and beyond the classroom. Students participated with great enthusiasm, contributing their perspectives as they explored the theme of 'Leadership and Teamwork' under the broader domain of 'Positive Relationships'.

In addition, students dedicated substantial time to preparing for the upcoming December semester exams. An increasing number of learners made effective use of the study hall during free lessons. Teachers supported revision through varied strategies—worksheets, board-style questions, quizzes, and other engaging techniques—to reinforce understanding and strengthen content mastery.

## Grade 11 and 12

There are many examples of student learning and engagement in both the IB Diploma Programme and Cambridge AS/A-Levels [at this link](#).

