



# Clavis International Primary School

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## The Clavis Chronicle

### BOOK WEEK & LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Dear Clavis Community,

Congratulations to all of our community members who celebrated Eid this past week. We hope you had a wonderful time spending the joyous occasion with family and friends.

Learning occurs through a multitude of ways and opportunities with our students throughout their day at school. For our youngest ones, learning is often integrated and facilitated through different forms of play. Whenever we can develop skills and understandings through a child's natural tendencies to socialise and interact with others, while exploring and engaging with the world through hands-on manipulatives, then learning becomes more meaningful and effective. Find out more about play-based learning on pages 5 and 6 .

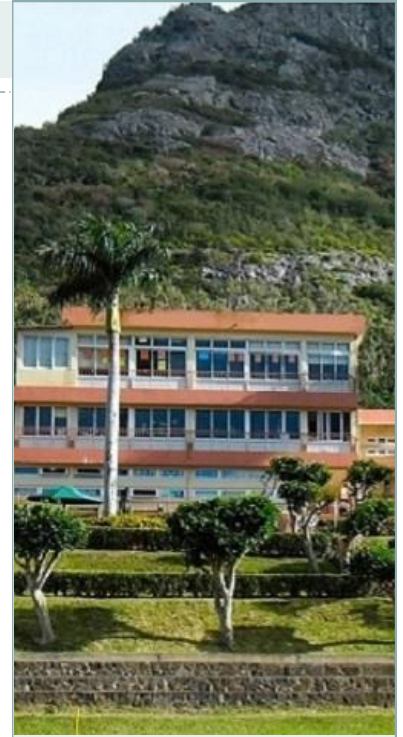
Next week is Book Week at Clavis! Our committee and librarians have been very busy planning an exciting week to celebrate reading and books. This includes special dress days, meeting visiting authors and illustrators, and, most importantly, reading! Learn more about the week and see the schedule for our students, as well as for parents who can come to visit the book fair when their children attend (p. 3).

Learning happens regularly with our students and our staff, but also our parents. We had a fantastic parent workshop last week, with many of you joining through Zoom. These important sessions will continue and Clavis will help with subsidizing these if parents show an interest. Find out how you can be involved on page 2.

Our students, staff, and parents who ventured out this past Saturday for our community hike to Malenga Viewpoint had a wonderful time. Congratulations to all those who made the long and beautiful trek (p. 7). Thank you to our PE department for all their work to make these events possible. Get ready for information about future events coming soon.

Happy reading,  
Jeff

R. Jeffery Hart  
Head of School  
[jeff.hart@cips.me](mailto:jeff.hart@cips.me)



#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Family Handbook.....	2
Book Donations .....	2
Parent Information Sessions...	2
Book Week Schedule .....	3
Year 5 Field Trip .....	4
Learning Through Play.....	5
Learning Through Play.....	6
Clavis Keep Fit.....	7

#### WHAT'S COMING UP?

- **9-13 May:** Clavis Book Week (see events on p. 3)
- **3 June (Fri) to 7 June (Tues):** Mid-Term Break
- **22 July (Fri):** Term 2 Parent-Teacher Conferences (face-to-face or Zoom). No school for students. More information to come.
- **25 July to 19 August:** Term 2 Holidays

## WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED TO KNOW AT CLAVIS?



### CIPS

#### Family Handbook

A guide to accessing and understanding the procedures, policies, and learning programme at Clavis International Primary School  
Mukha, Macarthur

**www.clavis.mu and the Family Handbook:** Please note that our school website is updated from time to time. Each month you can find the menu for the canteen, you can read about the learning targets in each year level, and download the latest version of our Family Handbook. Our handbook tries to document all of the information that families might need to know about the school, our policies, and our procedures. All parents should be familiar with it and if you have not seen the updates for this year you can [download a copy from here](#).



**Supporting a School in Need With Books:** As mentioned in previous communications, action and taking action is a key component and connection to the PYP and learning. We have a relationship with a government ZEP primary school, R. Seeneevassen G.S in Port Louis, that we have been supporting in different ways. We recently did professional development training with their teachers over the last holidays to help introduce a new phonics programme for their students. Additionally, we are working with them to renovate and grow their disused library. The donations we raised during our last Civvies Day will all go towards supporting this (Rs21,000! Thank you!); however, we are also doing a book drive to collect any books that can be donated to their library during our Book Week. There will be a donation box in the pavilion building beside the field or students and students can bring their donation books to their classrooms. We will also set up a donation box during the Book Fair if anyone wants to buy a book to be donated. Any books we collect will be gratefully appreciated and put towards a fantastic cause.

For those unfamiliar with ZEP schools, these are schools that have typically had a pass rate of less than 40% over five years. They receive special funding and support by the government to support improvements; however, if extra funding or resources are put into the wrong areas then there is little or no impact on student learning results. This is one of the reasons why Clavis decided to get involved with this deserving, nearby school in Port Louis. We truly hope to make a positive difference with their students.

### PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

**Better Parenting Sessions:** After the success of the parenting session last week, Ms Nancy Veerayen will continue to offer more if there is an interest. We have a number of keen parents but we need to confirm dates and interest. The continued sessions are at a small cost but Clavis will subsidize this to help promote more parents to attend. Nancy is an amazing professional who will provide useful and relevant information to all parents through these sessions. If you are interested or have any questions please contact her at [nancy\\_veerayen@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nancy_veerayen@yahoo.co.uk).

# CLAVIS BOOK WEEK: 9 MAY TO 13 MAY



This coming week is all about celebrating books and reading. Developing good reading habits and enjoying reading is critically important to a student's learning and overall development. We want students to love reading and they need to see the adults in their lives model this as well.

Besides the events listed below, we also have visits from local authors and illustrators each day. Different year levels have a schedule for visiting some of our special guests. We are very excited to be able to welcome Iloe (illustrator), Amarnath Hosany (author), Pascale Siew (author), Katrin Caine (author) and Henry Coombes (illustrator) to Clavis!

We are also welcoming two book sellers on campus throughout the week who we have arranged for a discount for our students. Parents are welcome to join their child's class during their visit to the book fair which will take place on the assembly terrace. Please be ready to show your vaccination record or PCR test when doing your temperature check upon entering the campus during your child's scheduled time.

Finally, please take note below of the special dress days on Tuesday and Friday. Students do not have to participate and we are not collecting any funds; however, **if students are not participating in either event they must wear their regular school uniform.**

	Events	What to bring	Book Fair (Assembly Terrace)
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Opening Assembly with each year level</b> (3 – 6 in staffroom, PR – 2 in classrooms)</li> <li><b>D.E.A.R. Time</b></li> <li><b>Daily Book Quiz</b></li> </ol>	<p>Students should bring a book of their choice for the assembly and D.E.A.R. times</p> <p>Book donations to support R. Seeneevassen ZEP school</p>	<p><b>Parents Welcome</b></p> <p><b>Year 4DC</b> 09:00 – 10:00</p> <p><b>Year 5CF</b> 10:10 – 11:10</p> <p><b>Pre-Reception</b> 12:30 – 13:30</p>
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Pyjama Day: "Get into (or out of) bed to read!"</b> Students and teachers come dressed ready for bedtime reading</li> <li><b>Buddy Reading</b></li> <li><b>D.E.A.R. Time</b></li> <li><b>Daily Book Quiz</b></li> </ol>	<p>Students should bring a book of their choice for D.E.A.R. times and to share with their Buddy Readers</p> <p>Appropriate bedtime clothing, but, if students wear slippers, please ensure they have appropriate shoes for outdoors</p>	<p><b>Parents Welcome</b></p> <p><b>Year 4MO/YK</b> 09:00 – 10:00</p> <p><b>Year 5KB/DP</b> 10:10 – 11:10</p> <p><b>Reception</b> 12:30 – 13:30</p>
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Book Tasting:</b> Students will visit the library to "taste" (explore) new books</li> <li><b>D.E.A.R. Time</b></li> <li><b>Daily Book Quiz</b></li> </ol>	<p>Students should bring a book of their choice for D.E.A.R. times</p> <p>Book donations to support R. Seeneevassen ZEP school</p>	<p><b>Parents Welcome</b></p> <p><b>Year 3</b> 09:00 – 10:00</p> <p><b>Year 6AB/CB</b> 10:10 – 11:10</p> <p><b>Year 1</b> 12:30 – 13:30</p>
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Book Scavenger Hunt:</b> Students will look for clues around the school connected to books</li> <li><b>D.E.A.R. Time</b></li> <li><b>Daily Book Quiz</b></li> </ol>	<p>Students should bring a book of their choice for D.E.A.R. times</p> <p>Book donations to support R. Seeneevassen ZEP school</p>	<p><b>Parents Welcome</b></p> <p><b>Year 2</b> 09:00 – 10:00</p> <p><b>Year 6MS</b> 10:10 – 11:10</p> <p><b>Open</b> 12:30 – 13:30</p>
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Book Character Day: "Come as a character!"</b> Students and teachers come dressed in a favourite book character (not superhero)</li> <li><b>D.E.A.R. Time</b></li> <li><b>Daily Book Quiz</b></li> </ol>	<p>Students should bring a book of their choice for D.E.A.R. times but if they have the book for their character they can bring that too</p> <p>Book donations to support R. Seeneevassen ZEP school</p>	<p><b>Open to staff and year levels to return</b> 09:00 – 12:00</p>

# Y5 TRIP TO THE CRADLE OF MAURITIAN HISTORY

On Thursday the 28th April, as a provocation activity to their new unit of inquiry, Year 5 went on a field trip to the south of the island. They first explored the first Dutch landing station at Ferney, where a monument was built to commemorate the arrival of the Dutch as well as the first human settlement on the island. It is a must see historical landmark which is unfortunately not well maintained despite its beautiful scenery with the view of Lion mountain.

Next, Year 5 visited the Old Grand Port Heritage Site where the ruins of the fort built by the Dutch as a defense from any sea invaders are found. They continued their inquiry by visiting The Frederik Hendrik Museum, which houses memorabilia found during archaeological excavations. The children also saw artefacts in the display room such as Old maps, military objects, potteries, cooking utensils, beads, coins, pigs and fish bones, food remains which were dug out to show that the Dutch ate meat from introduced mammals amongst others. A replica of a Dodo is also on display in the museum. During the visit, the children took down notes on the explanation given by the teachers as well as the information available on big boards.



Their last visit was a step into Mahebourg Historical Naval Museum which embarked the children on a journey to the 18th century. This museum took them on a trip to the French colonial period and traces the history of Mauritius through naval artefacts and representations of shipwrecks.

The children have now had a taste of how some explorers felt whilst on their journeys. As we continue through the inquiry process, the children will develop their research skills and knowledge in our Unit of Inquiry focussed on exploration.

- Kim Burns  
Year 5 teacher and Team Leader



# LEARNING THROUGH PLAY!

After returning home from school, this is a common interaction between parents and their children, particularly those in the Early Years. And it is exactly what we want to hear...

**Parent: “What did you do today?”**

**Student: “I played all day long... J’ai joué!”**

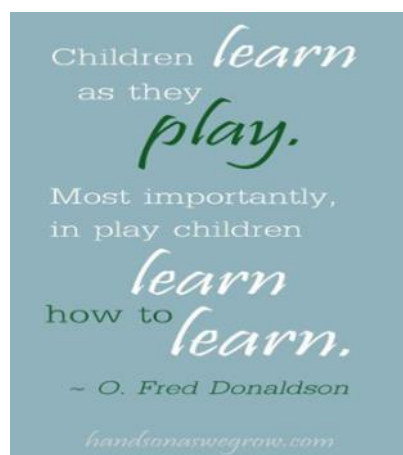
Through play, children organize and make sense of the world. Play also helps children work through tensions in their lives. Play brings out children’s creativity and so much more. Think of the importance of play in your own life. As a child, you probably engaged in active play like riding bikes, climbing trees, or jumping rope. You probably also engaged in quieter play like drawing pictures, playing board games, and constructing elaborate structures. You learned much from these experiences, including building your strength and imagination, taking turns, and following rules. Many of us can appreciate the value of play for children in the Early Years, but it might still be a stretch to appreciate play for older students. While play continues to be important in the lives of young children as they enter school, it continues to be important for all students and even all adults.

## What Is Play?

It may sound a little silly to describe *play* - after all, we were all children once, and it is almost impossible to find a child who has never played; however, defining play is crucial to understanding why it matters so much in early childhood. Briefly, play is defined here as activities children engage in for having fun and not always for a specific purpose. Generally, the play that children engage in is not guided by an adult and is more self-directed. Children may play independently or in a group, but the key is that they decide the rules and focus. We have to let children be with children. Children learn a lot from each other, and adults learn from children being with children. Children love to learn among themselves, and they learn things that it would not be possible to learn just from interactions with an adult. The interaction between children is a very fertile and a very rich relationship. If it is left to ferment without adult interference and without excessive assistance that we sometimes give, then it is more advantageous to the child. It is important to protect that interactive freedom that children should be afforded.

Each of us needs to be able to play with the things that are coming out of the world of children. Each one of us needs to have curiosity and we need to be able to try something new based on the ideas that we collect from the children as they go along. Life has to be somewhat agitated and unsettled a bit, restless, and somewhat unknown. As life flows with the thoughts of the children, we need to be open, we need to change our ideas - we need to be comfortable with the restless and unpredictable nature of life.

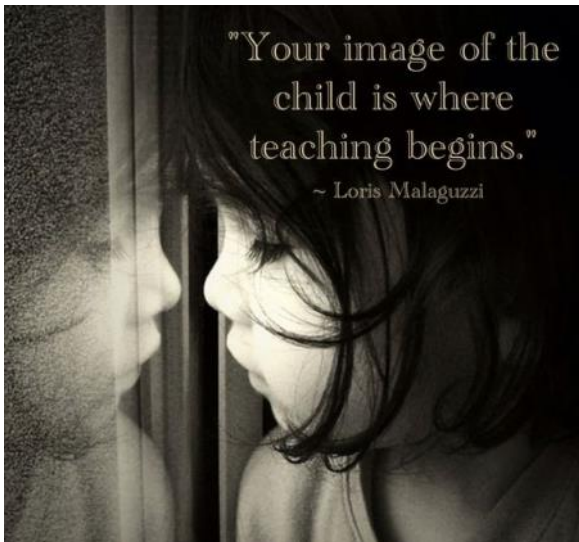
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*the 100*  
**Languages**

No Way. The Hundred is there. The Child Is made of one hundred. The child has A hundred languages A hundred hands A hundred thoughts A hundred ways of thinking Of playing, of speaking. A hundred always a hundred Ways of listening Of marveling, of loving A hundred joys For singing and understanding A hundred worlds To discover A hundred worlds To invent A hundred worlds To dream. The child has A hundred languages (and a hundred hundred hundred more) But they steal ninety-nine. The school and the culture Separate the head from the body. They tell the child: To think without hands	To do without head To listen and not to speak To understand without joy To love and to marvel. They tell the child: To discover the world already there And of the hundred They steal ninety-nine. They tell the child: That work and play Reality and fantasy Science and imagination Sky and earth Reason and dream Are things That do not belong together. And thus they tell the child That the hundred is not there. The child says: No way. The hundred is there.
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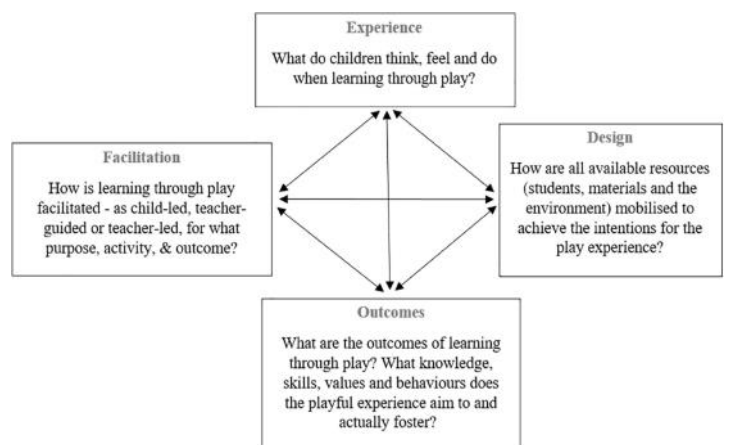
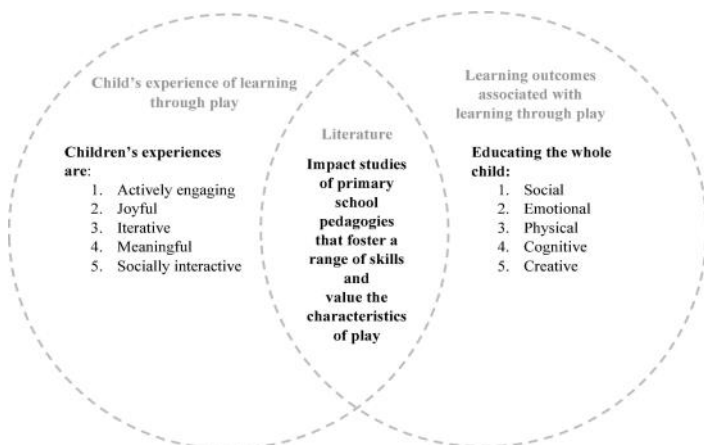
*Loris Malaguzzi, Founder  
of the Reggio Emilia  
Approach*



## Learning Through Play Has a Place at School

The connection between play and learning has undergone extensive research and study over the years. When learning through play was defined as joyful, meaningful, iterative, socially interactive and actively engaging experiences, focused on fostering cognitive, social, emotional, creative and physical skills, it was found to be both relevant and widely used in school. Each of the characteristics of play, and the focus on holistic skills development, were explicit in a range of impact studies of active learning, collaborative and cooperative learning, experiential learning, guided discovery learning, inquiry-based learning, problem-based learning, project-based learning, and Montessori education. [Parker and Thomsen \(2019\)](#), for exam-

ple, unpacked ways in which each of these approaches aligned with the definition of learning through play. These involved iterations for exploring new concepts and ideas, or how they involved interactions with peers to foster socio-emotional learning.



## The Early Learner

The PYP acknowledges the unique needs of early learners, aged 3 to 6 years. It is a distinguishing feature of the programme which recognizes that learners in this age range require approaches to learning and to teaching that honour their developmental stage, and the importance of play as the vehicle for inquiry. Since experiences during the early years lay the foundation for all future learning, the PYP framework allows educators to make choices to best enable learners to flourish.

Early learning in the PYP is a holistic learning experience that integrates socio-emotional, physical and cognitive development. In the PYP classroom, it takes place in dynamic environments that promote play, discovery and exploration.

*So, when your child tells you all they did today was play, you know they have also been engaged in important learning and developing in endless ways which they are not even aware of!*

[Challenging the definition of “play” | IB Community Blog \(ibo.org\)](#)

[The Importance of Play in Schools - Waterford.org](#)

[Play and Learn: The Importance of Play for School-Age Children | Bright Horizons®](#)

By Corinne Marco

- Early Years Coordinator and Team Leader for Pre-Rec to Year 2

## CLAVIS KEEP FIT!

Congratulations to the students, parents, and staff who completed the hike last Saturday from Clavis to Malenga Viewpoint. It was a beautiful day and, most importantly, everyone got actively involved in fun exercise. [Click here](#) if you would like to see the animated track of the hike, along with a few pictures.

More information will be available in the coming weeks about the next Keep Fit activity for you and your children to get involved with!



## CLAVIS BOOK WEEK PRESENTATION AND CHARACTER DAY

For anyone interested, below is a link to the opening presentation that our librarians will be doing with the students to introduce Book Week to the students on Monday. You may find some additional information in the slides that was not in the information presented on page 3.

Click on the image below or [here](#) for the slides.

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CIPS  
Book Week  
2022

May 9-13

### Book Character Day Costumes

It needs to be emphasised that Book Character Day does not require anyone to go out and buy a costume or have something tailored. Families are encouraged to get creative with things they can find around their homes. Sometimes a character only needs a few items to represent that individual from a book. There are endless possibilities for how someone can represent a character that does not require a complete transformation. Make the creation a fun exercise that involves their children in the process.