



# NEWSLETTER

## DOLPHIN MAGIC SCHOOL



*March 2021*

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## Introduction

The outbreak of the Coronavirus was so unpredictable that it reminded people of the Spanish Flu back in the 20th century which infected an estimated one-third of the world's population at that time. The availability of easy access to media nowadays helped to instill the fear of the virus even more. The virus has caused a lot of damage that it will take many years to recover.



Nepal went into lockdown twice within 7 months disrupting all kinds of lifestyle. People had no idea about what was going on but they still adapted to what was available to them.

People who work every day for a living were affected the most and there were a few humanitarian organizations such as Food Bank Pharping, Friends for Nepal- Himalayan Development Aid for stepping up towards the challenges and helping the people in need.

Finally, everything in Nepal is getting back to normal and all regular activities are happening in Dolphin Magic School. The School feels alive again with students, teachers, and staffs as if nothing ever happened.

However, we have tried to mention some of the positive and negative impacts caused by the pandemic below.





## **Negatives**



There are too many negative impacts associated with the pandemic. All kinds of educational institutions, businesses, and regular ways of life were disrupted by the virus. Students all over the country were deprived of regular education for months and some stopped going to schools even after everything was resumed.

Citizens who were trying to get back to Nepal went through tough times when they were stopped at borders. The farmers also suffered as they couldn't bring their produce to the marketplace. Many people lost their businesses, their jobs, and normal life.



Overall it was a tragic moment for all the people who suffered. These bitter moments will leave a mark throughout their life. But for now, everyone must move on and try to rebuild what was lost with whatever we have now.

## **Positives**

There are a few positive things about the pandemic too. Students learned the importance of technology. For most children, the phone and the internet are the means of entertainment only. However, the lockdown had forced most students to use the same devices and the internet for studies, online classes, and even online examinations. DMS and many schools all over Nepal have opted for these methods due to the pandemic.





Online studies have been a regular thing in western countries for a while now but Nepal was lagging in such methods. The pandemic may have boosted the potential of online studies in Nepal and it will not come as a surprise if many schools and universities bring this method into practice more often.

Another great deal that everyone learned was to understand how easily viruses can spread and what preventive measures are needed according to the nature of disease. People also learned proper sanitation habits can help a lot to avoid germs and other diseases.



## **Second Terminal Examination Held**

Dolphin Magic School has successfully held the Second Terminal Exam for the year 2021. All the students from Playgroup to Grade 8 participated in the exams. The examination was held through the 10th, 11th, and 12th of January this year.







Unlike the First Terminal Exam, the second one was held in the school like the normal examination in the history of DMS. The first terminal had to be done online due to the pandemic where limited students were able to participate.

The result of the second terminal examination was published on January 31st. According to the Principal of DMS, “The result was satisfactory considering the time when students were deprived of the regular education. We have noticed that the students need revising on few important topics and I’m sure we will be back to normal like nothing ever happened.”

After the troublesome year of 2020, this year’s academic timeline has shifted more than 7 months. However, DMS has been putting all efforts into rebuilding what was damaged in the difficult times of the pandemic.

### **Winter Vacation**

Right after the Second Terminal Examination students were provided 2 weeks of winter vacation from 11th January-23rd January 2021. Every year the school has provided winter vacation during the coldest months of the year which happened to be in January this year.





Although this year's winter was comparatively less cold, the winters in Nepal can be very harsh and unpredictable. The school and all regular activities resumed to normal from 24 January 2021.

### **Construction Work: Wall construction**

A wall that was being constructed next to the playground has been completed. The construction work was provided to the regular Contractor Kanchha Tamang and he has done a fantastic job. The 30 ft. high and 80 ft. long wall is built on the west side of the new playground.



The main purpose of the wall is to prevent landslide from above the playground which can be costly after the completion of other construction works in DMS. Last year we had a similar situation where plenty of debris from the landslide ended up in the playground. Luckily, no one was in the vicinity and the playground was still under construction, so the clearing up did not cost much.



The area of Pharping is prone to landslides during monsoon. Therefore, it is better to ensure the safety of everyone around the area and the school property.

### **Biogas**

It has been more than 5 months that the biogas plant was completed, yet the biogas hasn't been ready for use. The problem with the biogas plant is that it needs enough feeding to get it started at first. Once the required quantity is fed to the plant, a small amount of regular feeding will work.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and the lockdown, the school was shut for months which directly affected the amount of organic matter fed to the biogas plant.



Now that the school is reopened and is already in a full swing, it shouldn't take much longer to start producing the biogas and become independent. Not to mention the plant will save huge expenses for cooking fuel that was being spent every year.

### **Sports Week**

The Sports Week for the year 2021 was organized from 28th February to 5th March. Like every year all students participated in the weeklong event. The senior students participated in sports such as Volleyball, Football, Badminton, and the Tug of War. Participants had to win the Knock out rounds to progress to the next stage of the competition until the Final.





The juniors from P.G. to Grade 2 participated in Musical Chair, Spoon Race, and Balloon Blast. Everyone looked super excited and eager to participate.





Sport is a great source of entertainment and helps to maintain one's physical fitness. To be a good sportsman one needs fitness, tactics and a sense of teamwork and those who won the competition surely demonstrated it.

The prize distribution will be held on School Day which has also been delayed due to several months of lockdown. The prize will be distributed in the presence of the parents and distinguished guests who are related to educational sector. All the winners and the runner-up's will be provided with medals and a "Certificate of Appreciation" from Dolphin Magic School.



### **Students join another school for further studies**

The students who passed the 8th grade in the last academic year have joined another school in Pharping for further studies. Prakash Basnet, Sabina Lama, and Pemba Tamang are now studying in Pharping Secondary School in 9th grade.



Pemba Tamang



Sabina Tamang



Pratikshya Kandel

They are studying Civil Engineering as part of their curriculum. The course is relatively new in the 9th grade but we can only hope it gives the children a bit of a head start if they want to pursue engineering in the future.



Similarly, Pratikshya Kandel has also enrolled in a new school in Basundhara, Kathmandu. Previously she was studying in Tribhuvan Higher Secondary School until 10th grade. Pratikshya is now studying Nursing at Kathmandu Nursing Campus for her Higher Secondary education. She is a talented student and has a lot of potential in the field she is interested in. Hopefully, she will be able to use her knowledge and wisdom in the best manners possible.

Dolphin magic School would like to wish them all the best for their future. Friends for Nepal-Himalayan Development Aid is covering all expenses related to those students' education and will continue to do so for years to come. We only hope all our students can make the most with the opportunity provided to them and be thankful for it.

### **Thomas and Usha arrive in Nepal**

On March 26th, 2021 Thomas and Usha have arrived in Nepal for 3 weeks. Rewant Bhandari, the Operation Manager of Friends for Nepal welcomed them with warm greetings and a long list of things that needed to be done.

Thomas is already busy with planning further development of Dolphin Magic School, the Health Station, and Lamagaon in general.



He has attended meetings about the further development of the Water Project in Lamagaun as well. A much-needed Finance meeting with Hari Kandel and Manisha Basnet has also been done. Another meeting for accessing the situation in the Health station was held and everything looks good with the Health Station.





It was a priority to complete the transfer of the land which was paid for through Crowd Funding. The School's land has been successfully handed over and now belongs to Friends for Nepal- Himalayan Development Aid.

Several plans have also been proposed and look likely to be done in the future such as a construction of a Hostel for the children of Bird's Nest. It was a busy time for Thomas which is always a good thing for the School.



A lot is done and yet many things remain to be completed. By taking baby steps we will surely achieve every goal. Dolphin Magic School family would like to thank Thomas Stuppner for his hard work and dedication towards the School and Lamagaon. Huge thanks to all the members of "Friends for Nepal- Himalayan Development Aid" who have worked tirelessly all year every year.

Big salute to all sponsors and godparents who kept supporting the school even during the hardship of the pandemic. Their endless support has been the lifeline of the entire project.

It feels like we had started everything only a few years ago and yet we have achieved a lot. Soon, the School will mark the 10th Anniversary of its establishment. In these 10 years, hundreds of people have benefitted directly or indirectly. Hundreds of children having poor economic backgrounds are provided with life-changing opportunities for quality education. Hundreds more will continue receiving these opportunities as long as we have such great support, dedication, and great teamwork.





## DMS GALLERY









