

MASCA NEWS

SPECIAL EDITION

LA NEWSLETTER DU LYCÉE DES MASCAREIGNES

04 DECEMBRE 2021 #20

Le mot du Proviseur



Dear all,

What a great time we had during our first American Week by LDM. And what a great platform it created to celebrate the multi-faceted talents of our students!!! Indeed, it is with much pride that we welcome some personalities during this week's program - some from the American Embassy who all participated in the various activities with our pupils from the International Section. For having been a witness and a close observer of all the activities, I can testify of our guests' amazement following the expert mastery of skills by our students. I think, dear students, you deserve a round of applause here!!

Literature, History, Culture: so many fields which were under our focus during this week and I may even be tempted to say that perhaps this is the beginning and design of a new American dream for our students.

What was really telling was this amazing bond and close relationship that our students established with our various guests be it from the University of Mauritius, the English Speaking Union and the US Embassy. The rich and passionate debates on literature, culture and geopolitics still resonate in our mind. One common denominator during this week was the overall appreciation from our guests of our students' talents and abilities in the mastery of the English language, general knowledge and communication skills.

The key element of this week was the exhibition on the life of Dr Martin Luther King and the fantastic illustration, drawings and artworks prepared by our students. However, the moment filled with emotion during this exciting week remains the patriotic singing of the National Anthems of France, the USA and Mauritius masterly interpreted by the Music Club of LDM. The representative of the US Embassy was so moved by this interpretation that he wished that very soon the LDM Music Club could perform at the residence of the US Ambassador in Floréal! What an achievement!

For all this, I warmly express my gratitude to all the staff who made this event possible; I warmly put on the record the involvement of our students who worked very hard on all aspects of this success.

And I make the wish that every year from now on, we shall open the doors of American universities for all interested LDM students and I'm pretty sure that the next edition will again shed light on the huge work accomplished by our International Section.

My deepest respect and gratitude to the project manager, Mr. Vencatapillay, who has done a great job into gearing this first edition with such success.

Well done guys, american guys ;)

And my congrats for all.

Le Proviseur

Philippe DARIEL

Enriching our students' training with « active learning »



I believe that we do a job which has the capability of bringing joy and changes in a student's life. This year, as I celebrate 24 years of teaching, I feel more than ever the importance of enriching our students' training with "active learning" or experiential learning which has become the cornerstone of modern education.

Learning and acquisition have changed considerably and teachers have to be proactive and creative in the training of young minds of tomorrow. The American Week, in this sense, was an activity which witnessed the « savoir-faire » and the « savoir-être » of our students - these being, of course, the pillars of the French education philosophy. From what we have seen during this week, I will continue to have faith in this bunch of students, the future backbone of our society. Keep shining young men and women!!!

Last, but not the least, a profound respect and sincere appreciation to all those who have helped in making this event a success. I won't name anyone but, they will surely receive the blessing of the students.

Once again, the Lycée des Mascareignes has proved its worth and can proudly adopt the tag of one of the best schools in the island.

Sivananda VENCATAPILLAY

English teacher

American Week by LDM

On the week of the 18th to the 22th October, the SI and SE students have been more than grateful to have been able to take part in a cultural time capsule that brought them to America. With this experience, they were able to attend multiple events such as lectures on current books that are being studied as well as very helpful talks concerning future studies in the USA.

To start off this week, a heartwarming opening ceremony was held where short presentations were given by the students to introduce some of the issues that were to be discussed throughout the occurrence which were later on summed-up by the guests of this event. As music played and excitement sizzled everywhere the American Week by LDM had finally started.



On the next day, a talk was given by Mr Iqbal Maherally, a USA education adviser who geared students in the right direction on their university application in America. Not only was this very resourceful but, it also encouraged some to switch their perspective on studying there and give it a chance.

Moreover, there were two discussions that caught people's attention, one on "Death of a Salesman" by Arthur Miller held by Mr Kevin Pater and one on the "The Reluctant Fundamentalist" by Mohsin Hamid held by Dr. Aumerally. Both speakers explained their theories and point of view on the books and later on there was an interactive conversation about these two novels. Students shared their knowledge on the latter as well as their opinions on it and so this led on to a very dynamic exchange.



AN ARTISTIC AMERICAN WEEK



The week of October 18 was a unique experience for all students and teachers of the LDM, since it marked the opening of the very first, long awaited, American Week by LDM. More than an academic oriented event for the students of the British section, it was above all a cultural and artistic experience and a time of sharing that bonded all the sections of the LDM.



Presentations prepared for the occasion



A few students of 1^{ère} at work

Thanks to the active involvement of the student body, the week was a phenomenal success. Among the many responsibilities given to the talented lycéens, the school's decoration was the best accomplishment. The lycée was gleaming in American colours, from gigantic flags and stunning ornaments to the clever disguises representing the western world, perfectly setting a lively atmosphere that prevailed until Friday evening.

Many activities were organised for one and all throughout the week. We had a spectacular and deeply moving cinematic experience that featured award-winning films, which vividly portrayed American history. The favourite movie was "Selma", about Martin Luther King. The personality inspired a grand exhibition to commemorate the greatest human rights activists of the USA. Another greatly appreciated project was, of course, the selling of American delicacies that attracted all the fine gourmets of LDM.



Students in salle polyvalente



Film show "Selma"



Hallways adorned in American colours



Martin Luther King exhibition



The **highlight** of this successful week remains the Barbecue night eagerly awaited for months. This evening of dancing, exciting live music and eating to one's content was the well-deserved fruits of labour; hard work students and teachers of OIB have found especially gratifying.

Our amazing teacher Mr Vencatapillay, without whom this would have been impossible



A magnificent sunset over the school grounds



The music club did an amazing job!



Most importantly, the final speech from the Proviseur and the US Ambassador have puffed up the heart of the SI students with pride and have us enthusiastic for another edition next year.

Special thanks to Mr. Vencatapillay who supervised the events and invited our distinguished guests and to all those who have helped in the organisation of the American Week : Waheda Toorubally, Lovyna Gungadeen, Delphine Desvaux, Delphine Tyack, the whole of SI Academic Team, Joëlle Guiot, Sandesh and Bruno, the admin team of LDM.

**Ziya, Suhana, Seemeen, Simrun, Judith & Aditi
The Press Team**

American Week by LDM

Interview Corner

On the week of the 18th to the 22nd of October, we welcomed at our school the Public Affairs Officer of the U.S Embassy, Nicholas Von Mertens, the Educational Advisor from the US Embassy, Mr Iqbal Maherally and University lecturers such as Mr. Pater and Mrs. Aumerally. After their enriching, wonderful panel discussions and speeches, the press team quizzed with them with questions.

How do you feel about the American week?

Mr Pater: I feel so many things. I am more than pleased to see you, so many young people, learning so many things apart from gaining bookish knowledge, by organising this American Week. So congratulations because you learn a lot, it is for your education, it is not only about knowledge but about skills.

Mr. Von Mertens: It's a fantastic week and I'm extremely impressed that it's a student led initiative.



*Mr Von Mertens,
Educational Advisor from the
US Embassy*

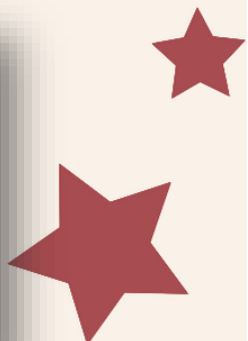


Why is it important to know more about America and the American Culture?

Mr Pater: In the 21st century, it is America leading the word. And if you want to understand the world right now, you cannot afford not to know about American history and culture. And the world now is a different world. What is happening in America concerns us today. So, for us to understand the world better, we have no choice but to understand America as it is the leading country.

Mr. Von Mertens: Students have taken it upon themselves to do research on the American dream and artworks that trace the American dream. They've done research on civil rights movement and Martin Luther King. And I think these are incredibly vital moments in U.S. history, but they can connect much more broadly as well. They can connect with themes, to current events around the world and even to events taking place in Mauritius, so having that kind of awareness is incredibly valuable.

Mrs. Aumerally: Yeah sure, I think it's important in educating yourself about other parts of the world.



American Week by LDM

Interview Corner

How can we, students, benefit from it?

Mr. Pater: It is great to see that even if your school is French based, you are opening up to the English language. English language is what is going to allow you to see the world as your platform. [...] whenever you organise something like this, you will never forget it. That is why you have to learn by experience, by doing. Through this American week, you will be more curious about America, you will try to learn more about it, you will try to explore the possibilities of studying there, and even if you don't, there are so many things that we can learn of Americans [...] Diversity is not a weakness, it is a strength.

Mr. Von Mertens: I think that it is a great opportunity for students to practice their English, to practice their analytical skills and to think more broadly about the world.

Mrs. Aumerally: If you're at a French school in particular, the American week opens up different doors for you, more different horizons



Studying in the United States:

In our Lycée, "orientation" is very important.

Therefore, we asked members of the US Embassy some questions about studying in the U.S.

"For me the equation is very simple, the United States equals research. Because they do research in everything that you might think, in every single aspect of life. And when we talk about research, we talk about funding"

- Iqbal Maherally

"There are far more really, really good schools that you have never heard about that really want to have Mauritians as part of their student body. And they would offer financial aid to those students and are really looking to increase the diversity of their campuses. So, my advice would be, take a moment and do a bit of additional research. Look beyond the biggest brand names of universities, and out of those 4000 schools, you're going to find the school that has the perfect fit for you in terms of the program, the setting, the campus. There is going to be a place for you."

Nicholas Von Mertens



Mr Von Mertens and Mr Dariel, the headmaster of the LDM



American Week by LDM

What the students think about the American Week?

During this week, posters and flags were hanging from every corner of the school and brought life to our campus, it felt like a great event was about to begin. This was the impression of a student who is not part of the International Section, Tatianah VENCATAPILLAY. Indeed, she was right! For the first time since the opening of the school, we had the pleasure of organizing the first American week in its history. Accordingly, during this extraordinary week, our team collected testimonials from students of the English sections and students of the other sections to highlight the key moments. Through our interview we asked a few questions to students and here are a few testimonies.

First and foremost, students really appreciated the program defined by the head of the project, they mostly enjoyed the panel discussion on the American dream because the informative discussions brought a lot of knowledge and material for essays to all students. Moreover, some of them were even able to make choices that would help them in their future studies!

Additionally, other students who did not initially want to study in the US were enlightened to the guidance of Mr Maherally and took the information into consideration. Finally, during the week, students lived strong moments, and one of them wanted to raise her voice and to share with us her significant moments.

Testimony

The activities that I liked the most was the panel discussion about the American dream. During this lecture, I had the possibility to learn important things such as the concept of the American dream, how is the way of life there and the pursuit of happiness.

Tassya (2nd H)

This American week was very successful! I learn so much about the culture, studies in the United-States and about the book that we are studying. This week brought me a lot of knowledge about America that in a near future I potentially see myself studying there.

Simrun NUNDHOOSING