



SBS CONNECT

JUNE 2025 | ISSUE 05

As the school hallways echo with the hush of summer and classrooms take a well-earned pause, SBS CONNECT brings you the June edition—a special peek into the quieter, yet bustling side of school life!

While students and teachers enjoy their summer break, our non-teaching staff remain hard at work — tending to spaces, updating systems, and preparing the campus with care. Their efforts quietly set the stage for a safe, nurturing environment when school comes alive again. This issue offers a window into that unseen rhythm — steady, essential, and full of purpose.

Stay connected, stay informed!





The Other Side of Summer at SBS!

When the final bell echoed in May, SBS entered its annual pause—outwardly calm, yet humming with activity. The non-teaching teams geared up for one of the busiest stretches of the year, preparing the school for a welcoming July.

From upgrading systems to budgeting for the year ahead, the summer months are anything but quiet for the Administration, Finance, IT, HR, Communications, and Secretarial teams. Their work, often invisible yet indispensable, ensures that the school reopens with precision, readiness, and care.

June illustrates their efforts vividly: new office suites were carved out and existing workspaces revamped; a comfortable senior student lounge was unveiled; and a linking corridor between the first-floor junior wing and senior school was completed, dramatically improving both flow and comfort.

Deep-cleaning crews scoured every corner of campus, while minor structural repairs—from door hinges to roof tiles—were addressed across multiple blocks. *“For safety reasons, structural upgrades can only happen during the school’s break times. Our work extended round the clock, making this period more hectic than the other eleven months of the year,”* explained Shariq Sayeed from the administration team.

Behind the scenes, financial and administrative processes were meticulously reviewed. Statements were reconciled, annual audits completed, and vendor contracts revisited. Simultaneously, workflows were revisited, documentation systems strengthened, and standard operating procedures revised to reflect the best practices.

The school’s digital backbone received equal attention. Connectivity blind spots were identified and eliminated; Wi-Fi strength was mapped and enhanced; and interactive classroom technologies were upgraded. In the words of Diwakar Paliwal, *“This period offered the ideal opportunity to enhance the systems and implement digital upgrades.”*

The changes were immediately felt by returning faculty. *“When we came back to school, the new developments added to the infrastructure. The first-floor space dedicated to Middle School is something that surprised me,”* shared Mamta Rajneesh from the Middle School team. Echoing the collective gratitude, Gokulananda, a Senior school faculty member remarked, *“If the school is a car, teachers are the drivers, the non-teaching teams are the fuel. I am personally indebted to the support these teams provide to keep the institution running.”*

In the Library, a meticulous stock-taking process brought fresh life to reading spaces. Books were dusted, barcodes updated, and worn-out tags replaced. Meanwhile, the Human Resources team used the break to strengthen SBS's people infrastructure. All staff records were audited and completed for compliance; the ERP database was cleansed and corrected.

Importantly, our support staff—the *didis* and *bhaiyas*—also received on-the-job guidance and routine training during this time, reinforcing safety practices, hygiene standards, and respectful student engagement as part of their daily roles.

Although inbox traffic slowed, our voice remained steady. The Communications, Engagements, and Alumni Relations teams curated themes for upcoming blogs, refreshed the website's news feed, and published interesting blogs. A redesigned induction kit—packed with streamlined materials and branded keepsakes—received enthusiastic praise. *“Summer gave us the quiet canvas we needed—so we painted it with ideas and designs,”* Niharika grinned.

Secretarial Support teams tied up every loose end with clockwork precision: student records were updated, schedules finalized. *“Summer is when we orchestrate all the details so that the new academic term launches without a hitch,”* shared Shalini Joshi from the Senior School team.

Junior School teacher Vani Mathur echoed the heartfelt appreciation felt across the teaching community: *“Big thanks to everyone who kept things going over the summer while the rest of us were away. We really appreciate you holding down the fort — your hard work didn't go unnoticed.”*

✨ Up next: “Summer Diaries: Behind the Scenes at SBS”—a visual tribute to the unsung heroes who shaped the return long before students walked through our doors.



SUMMER DIARIES: BEHIND THE SCENES AT SBS

🔧 "Operation: Table Turnaround in Progress!"



"Summer breaks = Skill upgrades for our everyday heroes!"



📊 "Plotting the next big connection— WiFi upgrades, IT-style!"



Framing Forward-Focused Plans



404: Boredom NotFound



🧱 "Laying down the groundwork—literally!"



📈 "Charts, chats, and creative chaos—behind every good post is this squad!"



Policies, Processes & Plenty of Laughs!



Behind Every Bite is This Brilliant Bunch!



Filing Fun in Full Swing!



"Updating numbers, sorting papers, and still flashing smiles!"



"Unplugging problems. Plugging in solutions!"

"Strategizing like it's Shark Tank, but with better coffee and more Excel."



"Forget Netflix. We've got 27 live feeds and a plan to match."



"The only thing sharper than our headlines? Our sense of humour!"



"From onboarding to 'Oh no!' moments—HR's got it covered!"





Splashes That Heal

While the summer sun kept most children indoors, something truly special was making waves in the Junior SEN classrooms this May. The gentle sound of laughter, splashing, and joy echoed from the school's splash pool — not just a play space, but a therapeutic zone brimming with movement, smiles, and meaningful growth.

Recognising the multiple cognitive, physical, and sensory benefits that water offers, the SEN department thoughtfully introduced splash pool sessions for select classes — a decision rooted in empathy, strategy, and a deep understanding of their learners' unique needs.

“We must remember that water is therapeutic and has various benefits to offer. Whether it’s muscle strength, motor coordination, enhanced body awareness, or calming effects, water provides numerous cognitive and sensory benefits,” shared Ms. Anita Prasad, Head of the Special Education Needs Programme, reflecting the philosophy behind the initiative.

For children with limited outdoor play options during the intense heat, the splash pool emerged as more than just a refreshing retreat — it became a vital space for strengthening muscles, improving balance, boosting confidence, and encouraging emotional well-being. The cool water not only engaged their senses but also helped in reducing anxiety and promoting self-regulation. For children already learning to swim, the sessions served as gentle, structured preparation for deeper water and more advanced aquatic skills.

Teachers observed positive changes — increased social interaction, improved motor responses, and above all, visible joy. But perhaps the most powerful evidence lies in the joyful squeals, bright smiles, and carefree splashes of the children — daily reminders that therapy can be both effective and delightfully fun.

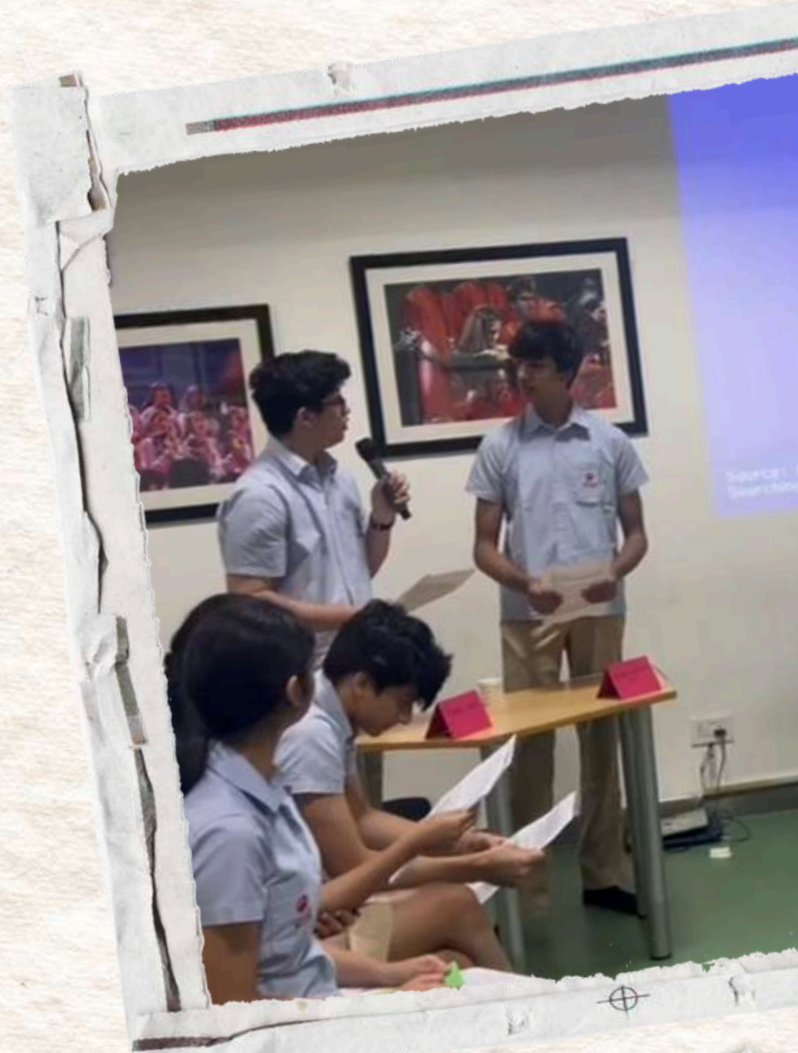
As the summer is unfolding the SEN splash pool continues to be a safe, cherished, and inclusive space for young learners to grow, connect, and thrive — one joyful splash at a time.



Econ on Stage! From Mercantilism to Memes

Who says economics is all graphs and jargon? In the last of May, our International Curriculum students turned their Economics class into a stage—literally! Through a series of lively skits, they explored how economic thought has evolved over the centuries, from gold-loving mercantilists to the behavioural economists who just get why you added five extra things to your online cart.

The classroom buzzed with energy as students dressed up, debated, and brought to life some of the most impactful ideas in economic history. The twist? It all unfolded in a courtroom setting, where theories from different eras were put on trial! There were judges, opening arguments, even surprise plot twists—because apparently, even Adam Smith and Keynes have beef.



Through laughter and role-play, students tackled big ideas like supply and demand, industrialization, Reaganomics, and nudges. Many discovered concepts they hadn't come across before—and learned them in a way they won't forget.

But it wasn't just about the drama. Behind the scenes, students collaborated, rewrote scripts at midnight, and stepped in for unwell teammates. The experience sharpened their research, teamwork, and presentation skills—plus, it gave them a whole new lens on how economies (and people) work.

As one student reflected, *"We didn't just learn theories—we lived them, questioned them, and had a lot of fun doing it!"*





SUMMER CAMP 2025 | SWIMMING EDITION



While most of the campus slipped into vacation mode, the swimming pool at SBS was wide awake — echoing with cheerful splashes, determined strokes, and the excited chatter of students who chose to dive into summer... quite literally!

From the last week of May through to June 21st, the SBS Swimming Summer Camp welcomed students across age groups for an energetic and refreshing start to the holidays. Under the guidance of trained coaches and with all safety measures in place, participants worked on building water confidence, perfecting strokes, and simply having a whole lot of fun.

Whether it was tiny feet wading in for the first time or older students refining their technique, each session blended skill-building with play — making every swim a moment of growth and joy.

“It didn’t feel like practice — it felt like a pool party with purpose!” — shared one happy camper.

The camp not only helped students stay active during the break but also strengthened their physical coordination, discipline, and love for the sport. With happy faces and water-soaked high fives, this summer swim season left behind waves of memories — and a whole lot of splashing success!



Pehal : Every Beginning Matters

26–28 June 2025

As June drew to a close, the SBS campus came alive — not with students just yet, but with shared laughter, thoughtful conversations, and the spirit of new beginnings. SBS hosted a three-day induction programme for staff members who had joined the school across the last academic term.

Although many had already settled into their roles, the induction marked a formal welcome into the SBS ecosystem — a chance to deepen understanding, forge connections, and experience the ethos of the school beyond the day-to-day.

The programme kicked off with a touch of delight — induction kits greeted each participant, filled with carefully chosen essentials, school mementos, and warm intentions (*let's just say the tote bags were instantly Instagram-worthy!*).

Each day began with *Pause, Connect & Begin* — a grounding ritual that encouraged mindfulness, presence, and community-building. Whether through quiet reflection or gentle interactions, these morning check-ins helped set a positive tone for the learning ahead.

Over the course of three thoughtfully curated days, participants engaged in a series of immersive sessions designed to build alignment, capacity, and connection. The session *Our Why, Our Way* offered a deep dive into the story of SBS — its values, vision, and the unique learner profile. This was followed by *Teaching That Matters*, which introduced SBS's Core Teaching Commitments and the Norms of Collaboration, anchoring professional practices in trust, reflection, and shared responsibility.

In *Making Thinking Visible*, participants explored simple yet impactful routines that foster curiosity, engagement, and deep understanding in learners. Another reflective session, *My Identity and the School's Identity*, invited participants to explore how their personal values and vision align with the larger purpose and culture of the school.

Designing Assessment for Learning reframed the concept of assessment — not as a tool of measurement, but as an ongoing conversation to support growth and self-awareness. *Communication with Parents* brought to light the importance of structured dialogue in building strong, respectful relationships with families and keeping them meaningfully involved in the learning process.



The session *Joining Hands, Building Culture* emphasized collaboration, connection, and shared ownership of the school's environment — reminding participants that culture isn't built by chance, but by choice.

On the final day, *Effective Strategies for Managing Collaborative Student Work: Pairs, Triads, and Beyond* offered practical tools and frameworks for organising group learning with purpose and accountability. This was followed by *Classroom Management*, a session focused on proactive and respectful approaches to behaviour guidance that foster a safe, thriving learning environment.

The session *From Message to Meaning: Communicating Well at Work* reminded participants how everyday interactions — emails, conversations, or meetings — can be made more impactful through clarity, empathy, and intention.

The programme concluded with Closing Connections — a reflective circle time where everyone came together to share insights, celebrate the journey, and honour the new relationships formed. It was a joyful and grounding close to three days of learning, laughter, and belonging.

As Shreya from Senior School shared, *"I'm excited to take this learning to my classroom — I'd love to see how my students respond."* Bunty from the IT team reflected, *"I learnt how to value my voice."* Sumegha of Middle School noted, *"These sessions were a true reflection of how the school's motto and the value of Seva are deeply rooted in the culture here."*

Together, these sessions laid the foundation for a shared language, a collaborative culture, and a deeper understanding of what it truly means to be a part of SBS.

Get a glimpse of "*Pehal*"



Pickleball, Pep and PE!



Who said professional development had to be all serious? Our PE team brought their A-game to the court during the latest PDPD session on 30th June, trading in their clipboards for paddles in a high-energy Pickleball Workshop!

The session was packed with rallies, laughter, and plenty of learning. From mastering the rules to testing out the freshly laid courts and equipment, the team got hands-on and match-ready—gearing up for student sessions to begin soon.

Let's just say: serves were strong, spirits were high, and team bonding scored big!



Alumni Stories

Kaashni
Kapoor

Nayanika
Kapoor

FOUNDERS OF LEMON MEDIA COMPANY

From walking the same school corridors to launching their own creative venture, sisters Nayanika and Kaashni Kapoor have turned shared experiences and complementary strengths into a thriving entrepreneurial journey.

Nayanika, from the first graduating batch of Step By Step School (Class of 2014), and Kaashni, who studied at SBS through Grade 11 co-lead Lemon Media Company—a full-service digital marketing agency known for meaningful storytelling and audience-first strategies. *“Having grown up in the same nurturing environment, we shared similar values, vision, and complementary skill sets. This made our collaboration both seamless and fulfilling,”* says Nayanika.

Reflecting on her time at SBS, Nayanika says being part of the first graduating batch was a formative experience: *“We watched the school grow around us. The friendships I made then are still strong today. And the values instilled in me by my teachers continue to guide me both personally and professionally.”*

She credits SBS for helping her develop confidence, adaptability, and communication skills—qualities that have shaped her as a founder of a Vibrant Media Agency.

She further adds, *“We were always encouraged to try everything—from public speaking and sports to academics and the arts. That balance helped me embrace new challenges and stay open to learning, which is essential as an entrepreneur.”*

Their professional journey began in 2020, at the height of the lockdown. Of course, starting a business comes with its hurdles. While Kaashni had to navigate the learning curve of balancing creative work and business operations, Nayanika had to quickly adapt to the ever-evolving expectations of Gen-Z clients. They’ve tackled these challenges by learning continuously, working as a team, and staying grounded in honest communication. After all it wasn’t just about numbers or big influencers; it was about creating stories that actually mattered.

Looking back, Nayanika believes that one of the most important aspects of the transition from school to the professional world is learning to stay curious, take initiative, and not fear change.

“The leap from being a student to building something of your own feels huge, but it starts with small steps—like managing your own projects, listening well, asking for feedback, and staying true to your voice. These are habits we unknowingly built at SBS that helped us later in life.

She also emphasizes the importance of evolving with the times while staying rooted in what matters. As digital creators, the sisters had to remain adaptable, constantly refreshing their knowledge about trends, technologies, and tools. But they always anchored their approach in clarity, empathy, and creativity—qualities nurtured in their school years.

“The most fulfilling part of our journey has been building a space where ideas flow freely, people feel heard, and stories make an impact,” says Nayanika. “That’s what keeps us going.”

Their advice to young SBS students dreaming of their own venture?

“Don’t wait for the perfect time—just start. Be consistent, stay patient, and give it your all. Growth takes time, but if you keep going, you’ll get there. Believe in your idea and trust the journey.”



On the horizon:

July

exciting events at SBS!

Staff Professional
Development

30 June
& 1 July

SEN Welcome Back
Fun Day

2

Middle School
Samvaad

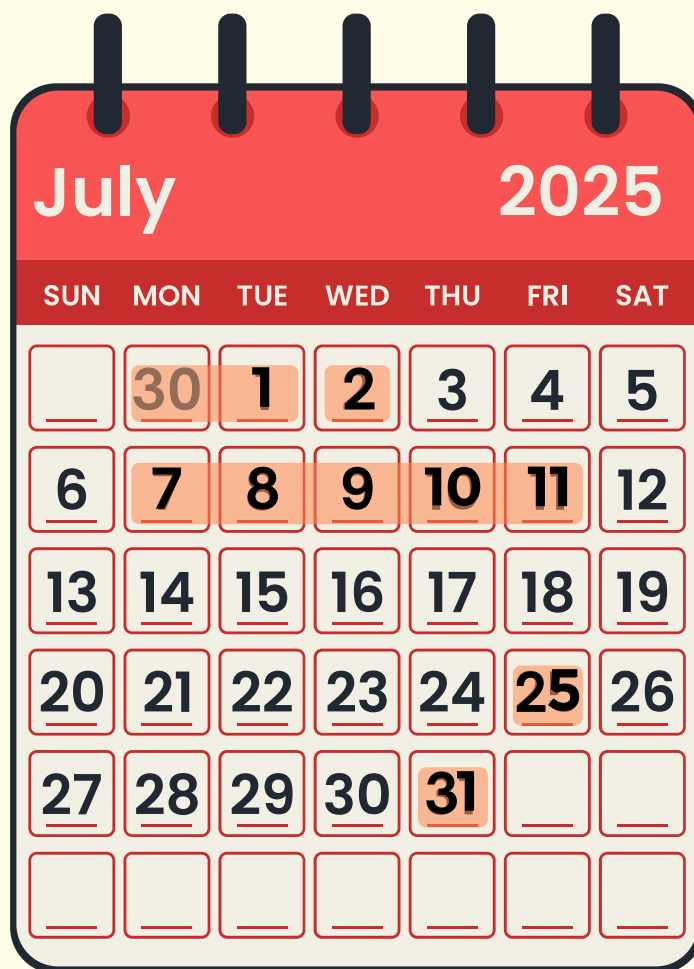
7 - 11

Senior School
Sports Day

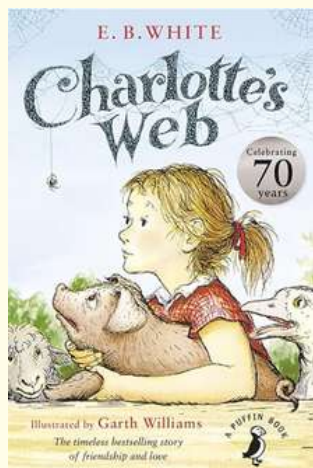
25

Junior School
Book Talk

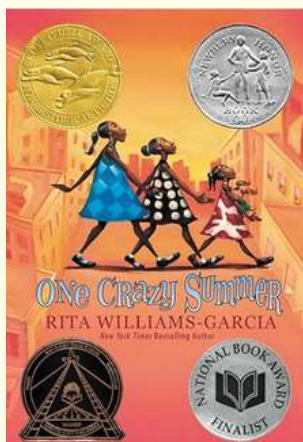
31



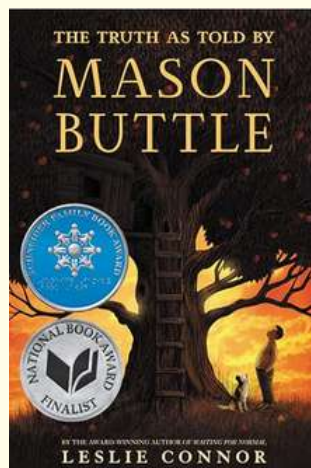
Five Great Reads of the Month



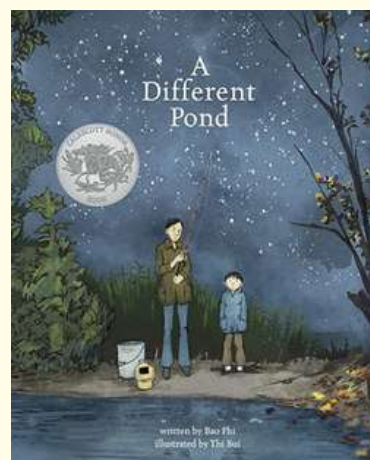
E. B. White



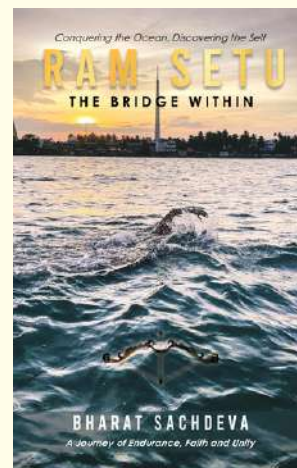
Rita Williams-Garcia



Leslie Connor



Bao Phi



Bharat Sachdeva



SBS Moments

Capturing the little yet meaningful moments that reflect the heart of our community!





“ I envision SBS as a warm, joyful and nurturing space, where children can explore what it means to live with intelligence and compassion, and grow into integrated and responsible individuals deeply rooted in values of Seva and Inclusion. ”

Mrs. Ritu Suri



Curated by: **Communications, Engagements & Alumni Relations**

For feedback/comments/suggestions, please write to communications@sbs-school.org

Copyright © 2025 Step By Step School All rights reserved.

<https://stepbystep.school>