

SPJ SADHANA SCHOOL

(Empowering persons with special needs)

JUNE NEWSLETTER 2026

The month of June brought us to the start of the new academic year 2026-27.

The academic year commenced in a meaningful way with a Staff Orientation and Planning Meeting, led by the Principal, Ms. Fionika Sanghvi. The session began with prayer, Yoga Pranayama exercises and the school song, conducted by Ms. Charusheela Dhotre, setting a positive and reflective tone for the year ahead.

As part of a summer enrichment assignment, staff members watched selected educational and inspirational films, and engaged in group discussions to identify and present the central themes and learning's from the films. Staff members also shared insights gained from webinars, podcasts and professional development activities related to special education, undertaken during the vacation.

The Principal, Ms. Fionika Sanghvi, outlined important academic plans and school events for the year, including student and parent orientation programmes, vocational and exhibition activities, sports events, the Annual Fun Fair, various staff wellness initiatives, as well as curriculum-related expectations. Updates regarding staff allocations, care worker assignments, volunteer schedules and student orientation objectives were also discussed. An important session was the detailed Audit Analysis presentation, conducted by Ms. Kashmira Vazifdar, who explained the findings and recommendations through an interactive smart board presentation.



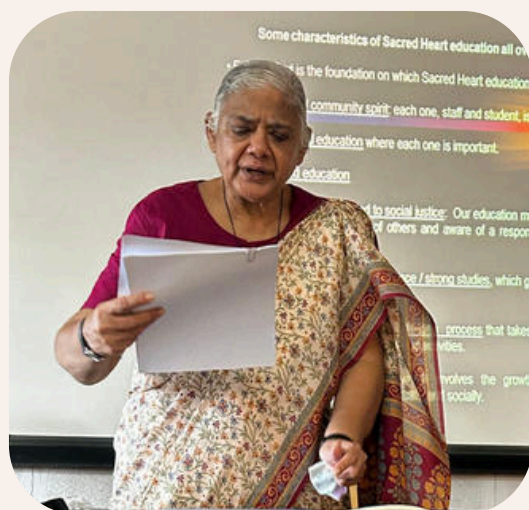
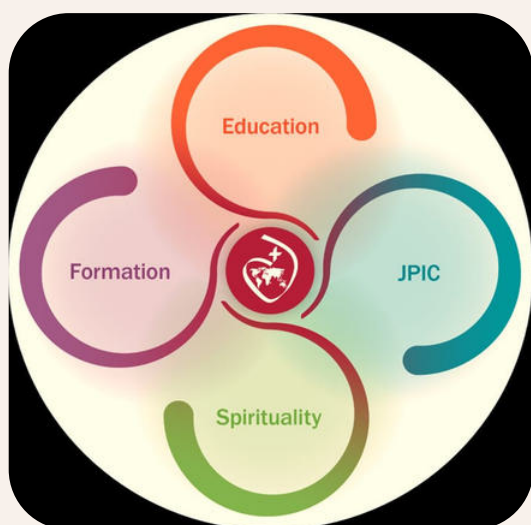
A reflection on the Sacred Heart Mission was conducted by Sr. Rita Pinto, who shared the meaning of the acronym RSCJ, and reflected on the lessons learnt from her years of service among marginalised and underprivileged communities. She emphasised the importance of compassion, inclusion and service in education.

Sr. Anila Verghese, Directress of the Sophia Polytechnic, introduced herself and presented the vision of the Sacred Heart Education inspired by the foundries St. Madeleine Sophie Barat. She emphasised the fact that education is rooted in faith, community and family spirit, fostering a sense of belonging and dignity for every learner. She reminded the staff members that education is a two-way process, where both teachers and students learn from each other.

She also reiterated the core philosophy of Sacred Heart Education:

- Person-centred education that values each individual
- Values-based education that nurtures character and integrity
- A commitment to excellence
- Lifelong learning as an on-going process
- Holistic development of every learner

The four Apostolic Priorities of the Society of the Sacred Heart - Education, Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, Spirituality and Formation - were discussed, and the staffs were encouraged to integrate these principles into all aspects of teaching and learning at Sadhana School.



The Orientation concluded with a renewed commitment to creating an inclusive, compassionate and empowering learning environment for all students and their families.

The school warmly welcomed students to the new academic year with a joyful beginning, by way of an engaging and memorable Student Orientation Programme. Students were greeted with enthusiasm and escorted to their respective classrooms, helping them to settle into their new learning environment with ease and confidence. The day was filled with exciting activities designed to encourage interaction, creativity and a sense of belonging, such as Bubble Play and Balloon Tossing, creating an atmosphere of laughter and teamwork. Students also explored various hands-on experiences that fostered learning, including Potting a Plant (nurturing responsibility and care for nature), Mandala Art (expressing creativity and mindfulness), Interactive Board Activities (fun through technology), Puppet Shows and Storytelling Sessions (inspiring imagination and communication skills). The Orientation Programme provided students with an opportunity to make new friends and build confidence, beginning their educational journey with excitement and enthusiasm.



A Parent Orientation Meeting was conducted to familiarise parents with the school's vision, values, policies and academics for the new academic year. As part of the interactive session, the parents enthusiastically participated in a quiz based on the school. The Orientation concluded with an open discussion, strengthening the partnership between home and school for the holistic development of every learner.



A project on creation of new uniforms for the students was successfully completed as a result of collaboration between the Dress Design Department, Sophia Polytechnic and SPJ Sadhana School.

After initial coordination between Ms. Jignasa Shah, Head of Department of Dress Designing, as well as Ms. Novia Soares graduating student of DDGM department and the Principal, Ms. Fionika Sanghvi, the concepts were reviewed and the design approved. Multiple design variations and a range of options were evaluated at a staff meeting before final approval.

The next phase involved sampling and iterative refinement, where a series of physical prototypes were prepared. On the basis of feedback, modifications were made to align the products with the standards and requirements of the school.

Bulk production was undertaken by the National Association of Disabled's Enterprises (NADE), whose artisans are remarkably talented individuals with various physical challenges. These skilled artisans executed the bulk order with immense dedication, precision and excellent craftsmanship.

The collaboration was a resounding success, involving smooth coordination among all parties and meticulous execution by the NADE team. The final product is outstanding in quality and is a testament to the incredible capability, hard work and resilience of the artisans at NADE. This project was one more Collaboration between two institutions on Sophia Campus.



**Our heartfelt gratitude to
SPJ Sadhana School and
the Management for
trusting us with this
beautiful opportunity to
craft these uniforms. Your
faith in our team has made
this meaningful circle of
empowerment possible.**

**"Special Uniforms,
Extraordinary Makers:
Empowered Hands
Clothing Exceptional
Minds."**

SPJ Sadhana School proudly participated in the IASE Conference 2026, organised by the International Association of Special Education (IASE) in collaboration with the Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan, from 21st - 26th June, 2026. The Conference focused on the vital theme, "Cultivating Inclusive Futures".

The school was represented by Ms. Fionika Sanghvi (Principal), Dr. Kashmira Vazifdar (Coordinator, Enhanced Intervention Centre) and Ms. Tejal Kothari (Coordinator, Intermediate Level), who presented research papers and shared best practices in the field of inclusive education.



Ms. Fionika Sanghvi (Principal), presented a paper entitled "You are not alone!", which provided a reassuring perspective for caregivers of individuals with special needs, by recognising that disability affects not only the learners but also family members and caregivers. Recognising the social stigmas that create obstacles for social inclusion, particularly related to school-to-work transition, the paper provides hope and emotional support by outlining effective solutions and action plans for rehabilitation, employment, livelihood and respectful living for special needs individuals, based upon the belief: "Be the change you want to see in others".



Ms. Tejal Kothari (Coordinator, Intermediate Level), presented a paper entitled "A Holistic Approach to Inclusive Education and Sustainable Skill Development", focusing on empowering individuals with special needs through a sustainable, inclusive curriculum that integrates teacher training, assistive technology and art-based healing, thus enhancing skill development and opening pathways for meaningful job opportunities. The curriculum is based on a holistic approach, using art as a therapeutic medium, with assistive technologies supporting diverse learning needs, ensuring accessibility and growth. Thus education becomes a powerful catalyst for lifelong transformation and societal change. Congratulations to Ms. Tejal Kothari on being elected for a second term as a Board Member-at-Large of the International Association of Special Education (IASSE).



Additionally, Ms. Tejal Kothari participated in a Round Table Discussion on "Volunteer Service Projects: Stories and Highlights from around the Globe", sharing impactful experiences and initiatives from SPJ Sadhana School.

Ms. Kashmira Vazifdar (Coordinator, Enhanced Intervention Centre), presented a paper entitled: "Importance of Teacher Training for 'Education on Sexuality' for Children with Special Educational Needs". The paper emphasised that education on sexuality, which is often not prioritised, should be a mandatory segment of the curriculum for every child, being limited not only to physical developmental issues, but covering expansive social, psychological, emotional, cultural, safety, security and legal dimensions. The presentation highlighted the components for a comprehensive, clear and culturally relevant curriculum to develop the capacities of the educators in order to understand and impart information on sexuality for special needs learners.

Dr. Vazifdar also made a presentation on "Social-Emotional Learning for Children with Special Educational Needs", highlighting strategies to nurture emotional well-being and social competence among learners with diverse needs.



The presentation by Ms. Kalpana Kapadia (Coordinator, Math Lab), entitled "Mathematics is Integral to Curriculum Design", was presented by her co-presenter Ms. Fionika Sanghvi. The paper highlighted the functional 3D curriculum for differently-abled students, which balances student needs, subject content, and foundational strengths while focusing on individual strengths. Using a functional approach, the curriculum integrates mathematics with visual art, sports, computer literacy, catering, performing arts and environmental science, thus fostering vocational skills and enabling students to develop independence and practical problem-solving abilities.



The participants at the Conference also had an opportunity to visit the Draktsho Special Needs Vocational School in Thimphu, in order to observe the interventions and activities at this institution.



SPJ Sadhana School sincerely acknowledges and appreciates the valuable support of IASE in empowering students through inclusive and effective learning opportunities. The equipment provided by IASE has significantly enhanced the school's educational, therapeutic and vocational programmes, creating meaningful opportunities for student engagement, skill development and practical learning.



The Conference provided an enriching platform for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and strengthening the school's commitment to building an inclusive and empowering future for all learners.

SPJ Sadhana School celebrated Gratitude Day with warmth and joy welcoming the Ahura Support Group, for a day filled with meaningful interactions and shared experiences.

The celebration began with a warm welcome followed by a heartfelt gesture from our Formative Years students, who presented handmade greeting cards to the Ahura Group as a token of appreciation. The occasion also included a tribute to our beloved Sr. Gaitonde, with our Principal, Ms. Fionika Sanghvi offering a bouquet and lighting a tea light in her honour.

Students of SPJ Sadhana School delighted everyone with a vibrant dance medley, while the Ahura Group showcased their enthusiasm through a lively dance performance of their own. The participants then engaged in a variety of interactive activities including art and pre-vocational tasks, a drum circle, snack-making and fun games. These activities encouraged creativity, collaboration and the spirit of inclusion. The session concluded with everyone sharing lunch together.



Thus the month of June ended with a celebration that reinforced the values of gratitude, kindness, togetherness, friendship and the joy of building meaningful connections.

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