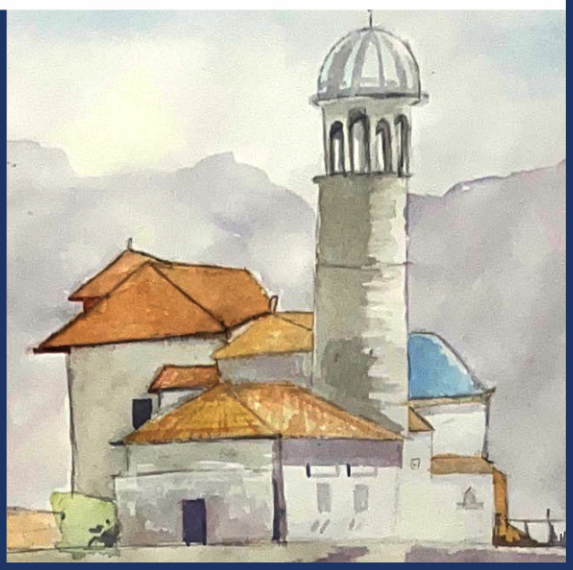
VOICES

2022-23







D. GOENKA SCHOOLS

GD GOENKA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Vasant Kunj, Delhi

GD GOENKA PUBLIC SCHOOL



HIGHER
STRONGER
BRIGHTER

Our motto takes its core idea from a quest for excellence, an insatiable thirst for knowledge and a limitless craving for the latest in innovation.

FROM THE EDITORS

Getting the opportunity to oversee the working of the first offline school magazine after two years has been a challenge in the best sense of the word. Our experience can be summed up in two words: Legacy and Responsibility. We have to uphold the legacy of our predecessors and we have a responsibility towards our school of making this year's school magazine an extension of its stellar reputation.

It is befitting to say that our student body is a storehouse of talent which we have tried to reflect through the pages of this magazine, be it through writing, art or photography. The culmination of countless hours of working, editing and shortlisting bore fruit to this edition of 'Voices' that you hold in

your hands.

As the name suggests, to write is to have a voice. Our vision with the editorial process was to bring forth some of those voices and hopefully encourage more echoes in the years to come.

Our journey as editors has taught us that those who work with integrity and passion today, do not have to worry about tomorrow.

As the batch of 2023 bids farewell to the premises of GD Goenka Public School, Vasant Kunj, we leave with a parting gift in the hope that every time you open this magazine, you are brought back to the place where your journey truly began.

Ananya Kashyap

Rabanee Gujral

D. GOENKA SCHOOLS

EDITORIAL TEAM















SCAN ME

(Scan QR code to access video)

"Trust the wait. Embrace the uncertainty. Enjoy the beauty of becoming. When nothing is certain, anything is possible."
- Mandy Hale

It is a privilege to witness the growth and evolution of our Founder School. I am filled with pride as I see the manifestation of my vision here. I appreciate the enterprise and enthusiasm of the students as they aim to make meaningful contributions to the global arena. I am happy that all Goenkans leave the portals of our school with a winning attitude : well equipped to face the challenges of the future !

The Yearbook is a forum for young minds to express themselves and describe their interactions with reality. Our school provides a platform that inspires a new league of thinkers to discover their true calling that helps them unleash their dreams and hopes for the future.

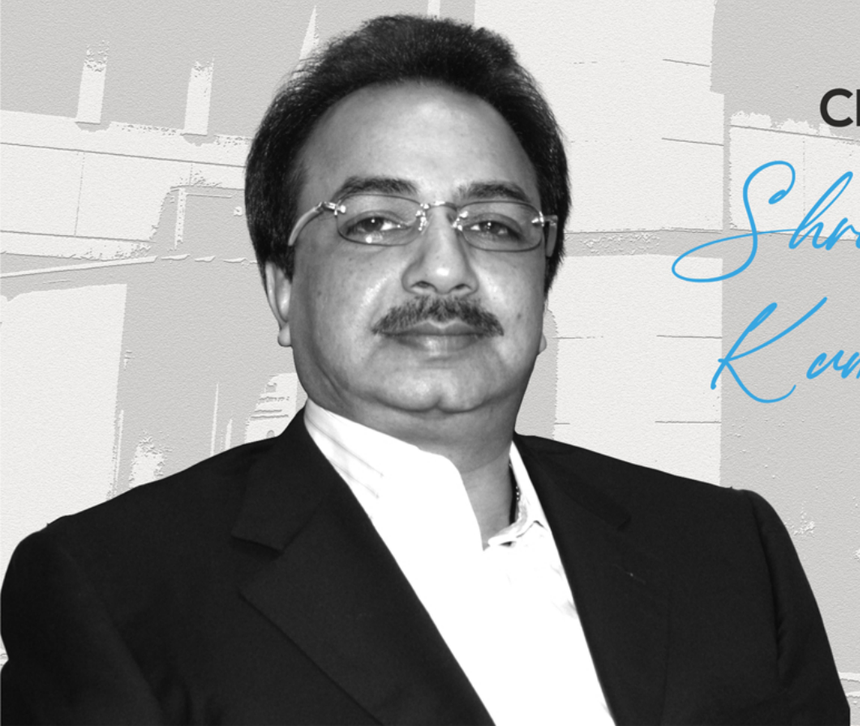
An array of events, activities and experiences fill up the Goenkan calendar and the students get to express their opinions and views and share their explorations of life itself in the Yearbook.

I take this opportunity to encourage the students and the staff for their efforts and passionate pursuits....

With best wishes

CHAIRMAN

Shri Anjani Kumar Goenka



VICE CHAIRPERSON

Mrs. Renu Goenka

Vice Chairperson
GDGoenka Group

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."
-Helen Keller

Our school has gained a firm foothold on the national arena and the Goenkan journey has revolutionized the way education is perceived and given it a new meaning and direction.

With new expansions, my role as an educator has been an eventful and exciting one. This school conforms to my vision of an ideal space where discipline, values and creativity are given top priority. Through these portals, dynamic leaders are carved out and students are provided a platform to manifest their highest potential.

The Yearbook provides a glimpse into our school life.

We are a school which is child centred and so all our efforts, our work and our endeavours revolve around the achievement of each student's potential, academically, socially and emotionally.

We have the highest expectations for each young person in our care and, as such, it is our responsibility to do our utmost to ensure that is exactly what each of them realizes. We believe that young people have new ideas and they are confident in standing up for what is right. These ideas and a strong stance, when applied, can be a great agent of change. It's been a definite approach to negotiate between children, teachers and parents in order to achieve perfection and excellence. All Goenkans use their talents to express their feelings and make their contributions to the community.

I look forward to developing in each member of the school fraternity the ability and passion to work wisely, creatively and effectively for the betterment of humankind.

Appreciating all efforts,

With warm regards



PRINCIPAL

“To quote Albert Einstein, ‘ Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving. ‘ ”



Dear friends and students,

One of my daily mantras that I like is that.....Everyday is a chance to be better !!

The key words to being better are of course, to maintain a balance and to keep moving. An educational journey involves both..finding a balance between learning and knowledge and to constantly strive to move ahead and excel.

The young mind is very tender and malleable. It has tremendous potential to expand, multitask and grow in a variety of directions.

Our students grow up in protected and safe cocoons of comfort and it is crucial for all to develop a social connect outside the environment of the school buildings too. A sense of empathy and awareness towards social, economic and ecological issues is the need of the hour. The extension and the expansion of the all round educational experience is what we as Goenkans aspire for.

The Yearbook is an extensive collection of the experiences of our students.

We can find the various nuances of school life here.

I hope that all the students feel encouraged to know that they can be changemakers and trendsetters in society by choosing an idea and actually empowering themselves to implement it too.

Those of us advocating for social / civic action projects in schools feel convinced that these will lead to our children growing up to be more active and responsible adult citizens.

Sensing an earnest interest among the youth , it is gratifying to see more and more children stepping up and getting out of their comfort zones of just academic pursuits and self gain and enhancement.

The activism has become trendy in a good way and the engagement in social change programmes have become life long learning experiences and cherished memories shared within the peer group.

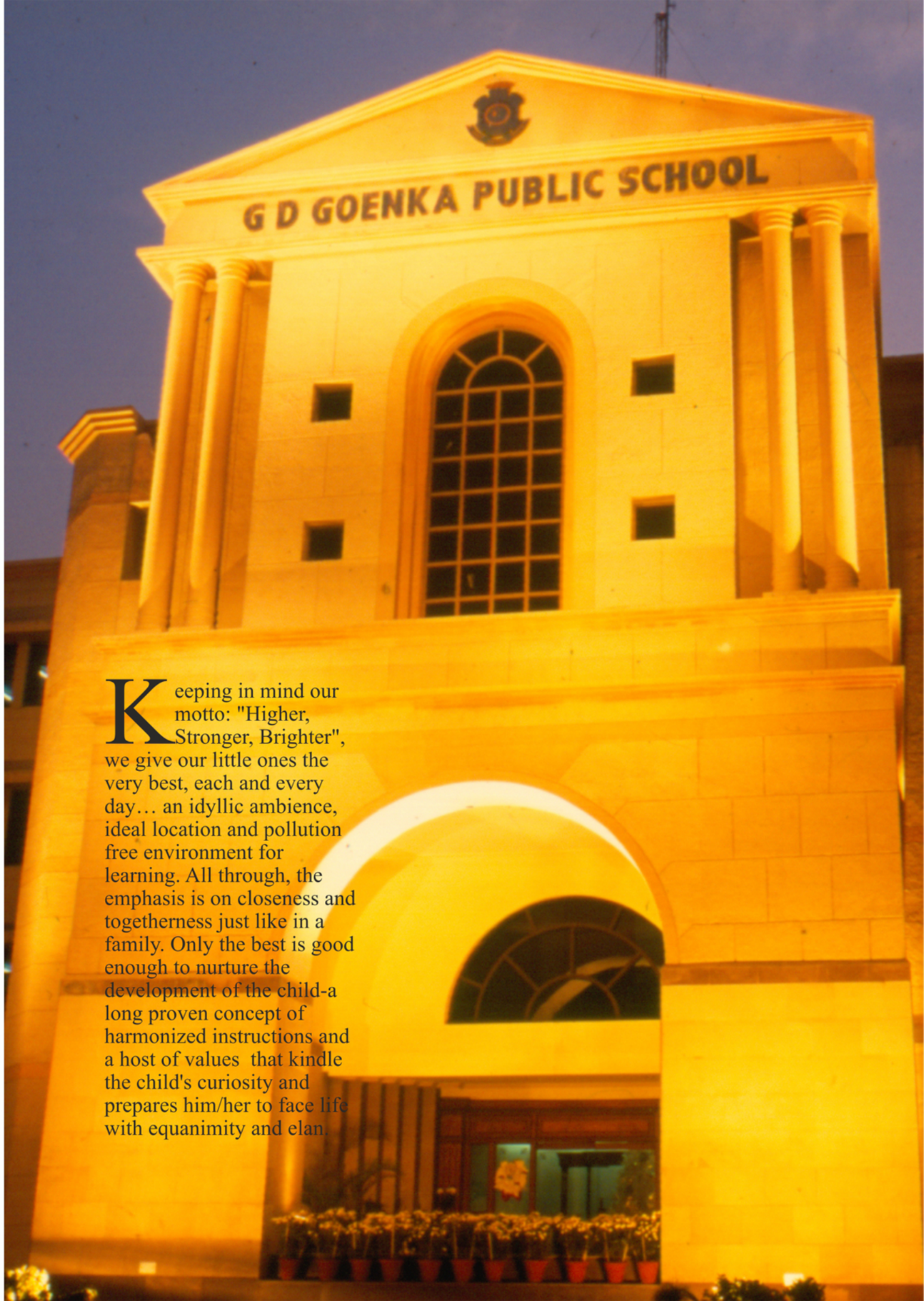
Let us continue to guide, monitor and encourage the young community as we gather stories and testimonies of the effect we see on students as they involve themselves in social change efforts right now.

I appreciate all the efforts that have gone in the compilation of this publication.

The CBSE board has given the mandate for students to do SEVA and learn to connect to the society.

This experience surely enhances their perspective and changes their attitude to a selfless and generous one.

Ms. Meenakshi Bhakuni
Principal
GD Goenka Public School
Vasant Kunj



Keeping in mind our motto: "Higher, Stronger, Brighter", we give our little ones the very best, each and every day… an idyllic ambience, ideal location and pollution free environment for learning. All through, the emphasis is on closeness and togetherness just like in a family. Only the best is good enough to nurture the development of the child-a long proven concept of harmonized instructions and a host of values that kindle the child's curiosity and prepares him/her to face life with equanimity and elan.

SCHOOL CAPTAIN'S *message*



ARNAV GARG | SCHOOL CAPTAIN | BATCH OF 2022-23

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Hello, Goenkans. Sorry, Hello True Goenkans. This batch was indeed a lucky one. It feels very strange when I say this journey has come to an end and we will no longer be entering this building with our library of memories.

The Batch of 2023 is not less than a Bollywood movie. It had drama, action, comedy and, of course, unbreakable friendships. I remember when I joined this school, I was an introvert who missed his previous school. But it was you guys who made me feel as if I had known you for decades.

A few years from now we will be adults and enjoying college life. Some of you have figured out your future and some are anxious about the uncertain future. But you know what ? It is okay. When you reach where you are supposed to be, you will be thankful that you didn't figure it all out. Because, life is indeed a journey, not a destination.

I know we lost two years of fun at school, stuck online behind our laptop screens but I would prefer to forget that because I have many other things to remember. Becoming the Head Boy of the most spectacular batch has been an honour. Harshit ke dance steps ,Viraaj ka rap, Abhishek ke songs, D-Boys ka swag, Whatsapp group ki ladai jahan hum topic pe voting kar lete.

Every corner of this school has its own memories, from its canteen to its basketball court. Some will miss Principal Ma'am's office or some will miss the medical room's refreshing Glucon-D. I have lost count of how many times I visited Ashok Sir's office to get my gate pass. How can I forget the school washroom where we carefully plotted and planned so many conspiracies against our friends!!

Our Athletic Meet which felt as competitive as the Olympics, the Gayatri Devi Basketball Tournament which had the same fan base as that of an India-Pakistan cricket match.

Every moment of this journey will be missed. Our silly fights, begging for an extra P.E. period, sharing that small lunchbox with the whole class, laughing at the lamest joke, dancing to item songs on school trips … the list is endless.

We Goenkans can achieve the impossible. After all, we added glamour and fun to the city of Bhopal which had seemed a quiet place. Goenkans know how to create memories that last a lifetime.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank my BFF's for life, our teachers. Thank you, for being the foundation of our successful life. Even if we make it to the Forbes list, which I am sure many of us will, a teacher will always have something to teach us that will help us grow further. Thank you, teachers, for the pleasant smile you would put on every morning to uplift a lazy mood.

You made this place feel like our second home. Good education changes a person but a good teacher can change everything. When we started our Goenkan journey, we wanted it to end soon. Now, when it is coming to an end, we want it to start all over again.

12 years feels like a very short time now.

Par kisi ne sahi kaha hai…

"Babumoshai zindagi badi honi chahiye, lambi nahi ... "





D. GOENKA SCHOOLS

SCHOOL CAPTAIN'S *message*



SHIVANI MEHRA | SCHOOL CAPTAIN | BATCH OF 2022-23

SHIVANI MEHRA | SCHOOL CAPTAIN | BATCH OF 2022-23

On behalf of the outgoing batch of 2023, I would first of all like to thank all the teachers and students who deemed me worthy of this prestigious post. I truly wouldn't have been here without your utmost belief and support.

What a strange feeling, isn't it? All of us, in Class 12, contemplating whether we feel relieved ki ab toh thand mai 6 baje nahi uthna padega or feel upset about not having canteen ki famous dal makhni for lunch every day. I, for one, cannot decide how I feel as there's so much to miss yet so much to look forward to from here on. But the one thing that is certain is that no matter how challenging this journey has been for all of us, it truly has shaped us into the people we are today. Each and every one of us has grown and blossomed, whether it was because of the infamous hot seat punishment or the unfiltered guidance from our teachers. I went from crying my way through junior school, because my classmates ate my chicken nuggets and I missed Mamma, to not wanting to go back home at all after our dance practices. Teachers, I promise it was always a full day rehearsal!

When we're young, we're always so fascinated by the idea of growing up, becoming adults, getting to drive, becoming independent. But now that we're approaching this milestone of graduating, staying kids, all carefree, doesn't seem all that bad anymore. From walking in trains to the playground for the rain dance, the fish wall in junior school aur Manjeet Ma'am ki eclairs, to writing with pens, boards ka stress aur school trips ke truth and dares. From Covid putting the brakes on our lives and also cancelling the Board exams (thankfully!) to readjusting and relearning how to socialise, and giving 3-hour theory exams with no conference call on the side, after a 2-year hiatus.

We've been through it all, together. We all may not be the best of friends, or even know of one another, but the pride of being a Goenkan will bind us together for years to come.

Moving on, I would like to thank each and every teacher here for always having our best interests at heart, and for truly being our mothers away from home. Especially my wonderfully patient junior school teachers who had to tolerate little 5 year-old Shivani's constant whining. We may not show our appreciation enough, but you really are the backbone of this school. Jaate jaate toh ab aapki daant bhi yaad aayegi.

Thank you to the entire school staff for making sure we had the best of facilities available right at our fingertips to unlock our potential here in this very building. Thank you to all the guards, drivers, didis and bhaiyas for making sure we reached home safe and sound.

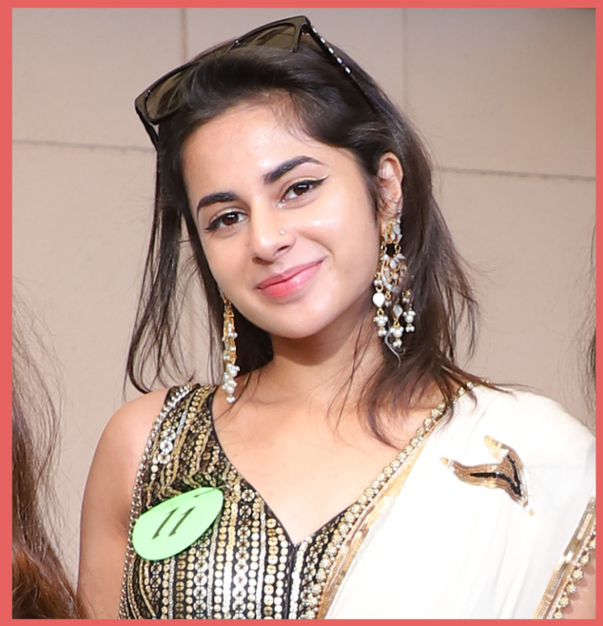
Lastly, I would like to thank this school for giving me the most beautiful friendships that I could've possibly imagined. Even though most started with us ignoring each other and not liking each other, well mostly them not liking me, I wouldn't trade them for the world. My journey truly would've been incomplete without you.

As we move on to the final page of this chapter in our lives, I wish you all the very best for all your future endeavors and hope that this journey has been as fruitful for you as it has been for me. We'll have our ups, we'll have our downs but everything that we've learned here will keep us afloat no matter how difficult things may get.

Here's to always aiming higher, stronger, brighter and becoming the best version of ourselves. It's time for us to leave this cozy nest we call school and finally spread our wings, little by little, and learn to soar the sky.

As we walk out of this school for the last time, a heartfelt goodbye to G.D. Goenka Public School and Cheers to the Batch of 23!





G D. GOENKA SCHOOLS





GLIMPSES THROUGH THE YEAR



A year end compels us to take a walk down memory lane.

A peek into the life of Goenkans in school.....

Annual Basketball Tournament, Annual Athletic Meet, student camaraderie, polishing culinary skills, hoisting House flags, stage performances and celebrations! Enjoy!





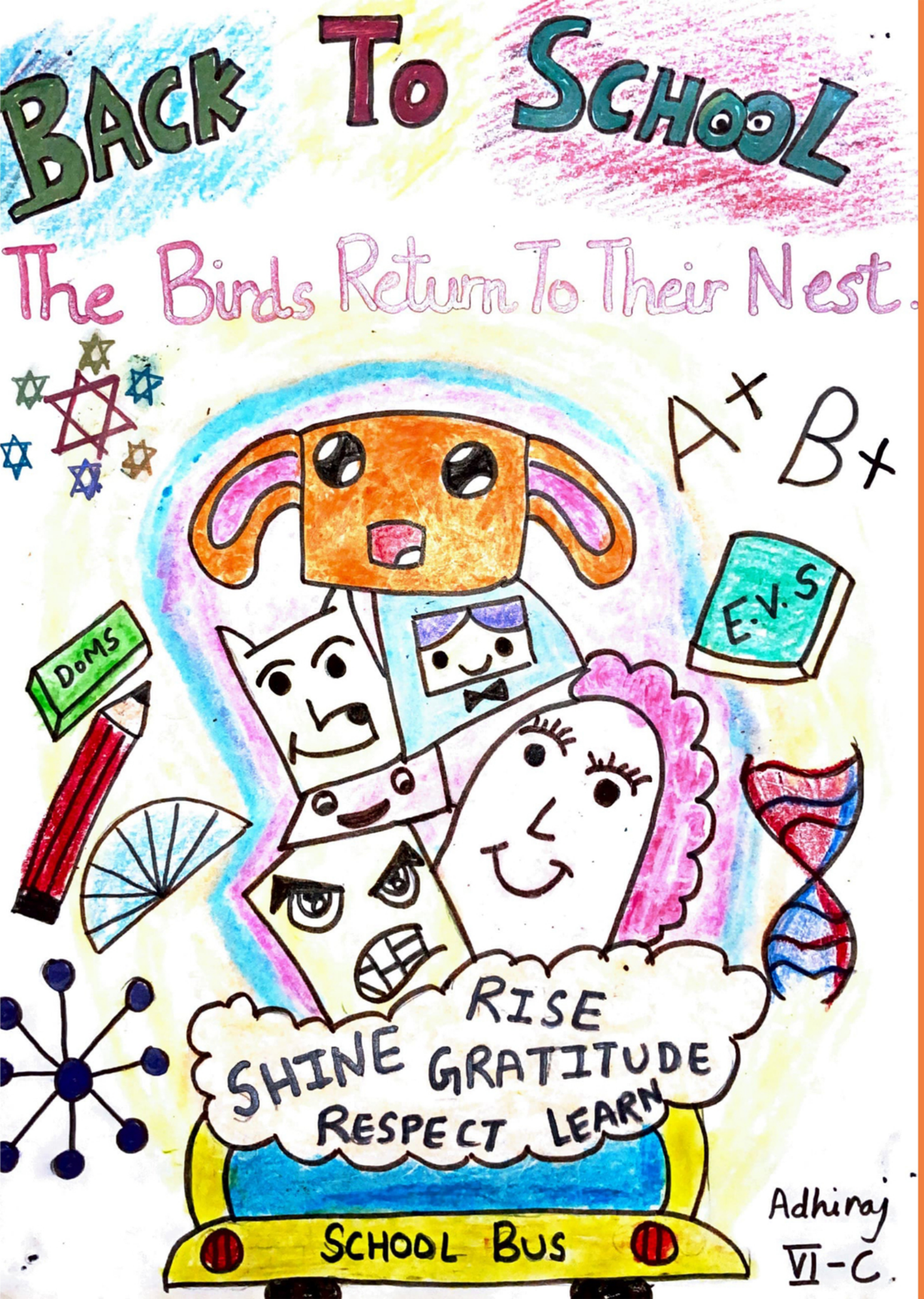








HOLDING OUR BANNER HIGH.....





BACK to SCHOOL

Birds stay in the nest till they are strong enough to take wing. But while in the nest, they LEARN to read, write, draw, paint, compete and just BE !

ASPIRE TO INSPIRE

Senior Section.

Class 09-12

"Education, for most people, means trying to lead the child to resemble the typical adult of his society ... but for me, education means making creators ... You have to make inventors, innovators ... not conformists."

Jean Piaget





































VOICES - CONTRIBUTOES

Our relationship with success is driven largely by our relationship with multiple failures.
The mistakes that we 'relentlessly' commit over the years.
The failures that we sit down with and reflect upon, that make us inch towards success at the most unexpected times.
Success has no prescriptions. It is about using failures as reflections to create our own success.
- Ankur Warikoo

Breaking the Barriers

Space is an almost perfect vacuum, nearly void of matter and with extremely low pressure. Space is so vast that scientists say we have discovered only about 4% of it, in reality almost nothing. This gap between what we have discovered and what is still unknown is covered by space fiction books and movies. We have seen exceptional space fiction films like Interstellar, Lost in Space, The Martian, Apollo 13, etc. in the past decade which may throw light on some interesting truths of space and our existence. Science fiction takes the level of imagination to extremes. By changing what counts as figure and what as background, the character can be seen in ways otherwise impossible, so ultimately we can understand ourselves in ways that would otherwise be impossible. Science fiction teaches us that human imagination has no bounds.

Sometimes we see black holes as big apocalyptic gravitational monsters which suck up everything and nothing can escape them, not even light, and sometimes there is a 5-dimensional world inside a black hole which can give us a glimpse of the past.

Sometimes it seems impossible to reach the boundless frontier of space as space is trillions of light years huge and nothing can surpass the speed of light, but fictional stories of worm holes or warp travel show a way to travel at the speed of light by bending space itself. Science fiction movies and books show us just how creative humans are and that there is no lack of imagination in the world.

Being brave when all hope is lost is also one of the things that science fiction teaches, especially in dark and frighteningly uncertain times. Movies like 'Lost in Space' teach that losing hope is not an option. Despite the charters getting lost in space for more than two years when they were on their way to a new habitable exoplanet - Alpha Centauri, they never lost hope and never gave up. The strong and courageous characters in science fiction movies teach us to face all the difficulties in life and never give up. They also teach us to work hard for our dreams. No matter how impossible or unrealistic someone's dream may be, if the person has the potential and belief that his dream can be achieved, then making impossible things possible is not hard. To conclude my piece, I want to quote a line by the main character, Cooper, of the movie Interstellar, "We've always defined ourselves by the ability to overcome the impossible. And we count these moments. These moments when we dare to aim higher, to break the barriers, to reach for the stars, to make the unknown known. We count these moments as our proudest achievements."

Harshit Agarwal, 12 D



Prateeti Chattopadhyay 12F



Anshika Gupta 11F

The Appeal of Blogging

Do you have an amazing talent for writing? Are you passionate about a specific topic? Or do you just like sharing your life with complete strangers? If yes, a blog is probably a great outlet for you. Blogs, sometimes referred to as online diaries, are an evolution of journal writing where people can self-publish their feelings, engage in activism, build community, or merely just share ideas. A professional blogger is an individual who writes blogs for a living and has gained some expertise in the field of writing. In a world full of speed and technological revolutions, a simple blog serves both, the writer's as well as the reader's needs. From the perspective of a writer, blogs serve as a forum for presenting one's genuine opinions and experiences. On the other hand, from the reader's perspective, a blog is looked upon as an open reservoir of information for easily enriching one's knowledge.

In my perspective, considering blogging as a professional choice looks like a healthy decision. It is among one of those career avenues which require bare minimum investment but have enormous profits in return. There are many justifications I have in hand while making such an argument.

Blogging as a professional career doesn't require any specific degree or course but it does require excellent writing skills. Any one can take up a career as a blogger, it is not gender specific. Men and women bloggers enjoy equal benefits because gender is insignificant in this career. Everyone, including those with special needs can opt for a career in blogging. As long as they have the desire to show the world that in all conditions they can accomplish their goals. The appeal of blogging is that anyone can do it from anywhere. Blogging can be done from your residence, from a cafe, or from the beach. Anybody who wants to share their words with the world could do so with a few clicks of the mouse and a keyboard. Whether individuals have a message they would like to convey, a professional service they are looking to sell, or a simple desire to have their words published for others to read, blogs can achieve these objectives simply and conveniently.

Shivansh Beri, 11 C

Have We Mistaken Comfort For Civilization?

Our age has mistaken comfort for civilization. This is because, I believe, we humans have reached a point in our day to day lives where we are satisfied with what we have. We don't have the same level of hunger to evolve and get better with time which our previous generations had. Humans have started to believe that they are at the peak of evolution. This is far from true. There is still so much in this galaxy, universe and Earth which we have no clue about. But the sad truth is, humans don't want to look any further. We have reached a level of technical ability which we did not think was possible. We can buy clothes, food, everyday items, etc., in a matter of minutes so why would we want to evolve?

The comfort and convenience which is being provided to us by electronics is slowly and gradually ruining us, and we are not doing anything about it. This comfort has killed our desire to try new things and take up new hobbies. Families have started to become distant even though they are close to each other. The new generation has become introverted as they do not have the confidence to talk to people when they are not behind a screen. Due to the comfort of technology we have become lazy and lethargic, and as a result we, humans, feel lost. We don't know what we are doing with our lives and our future because we just don't care about it anymore. This advancement in technology is truly the best and worst thing to happen to humankind. We can reach anywhere anytime by simply calling a cab, transfer money to someone in a matter of seconds. On the flip side, we are drifting from our families and friends. This is a time to cherish the good times we have with them. Instead, we give them the least priority and do not realize that they won't be with us forever and will be gone sooner than we think.

The sad truth is we can't eliminate this technology from our life, because by doing so we will be pushed back thousands of years in terms of evolution. However, what we can do is limit our obsession with technology and get back on the right track, which is the evolution and betterment of human life. Limiting the use of technology will not be as easy as we think because we rely on it for the most basic things in our daily lives, but this is something all humans have to do if we ever want to truly evolve.

Aditya Sehrawat, 11 C

An Eye For An Eye ?

The idea that the death penalty should be given to those who commit heinous crimes is a flawed concept. I believe that elimination of a criminal does not mean the elimination of the crime. We need to work towards a more effective solution. Capital punishment will interpret society as revengeful and merciless. There will be no scope of reformation for the criminal.

I believe that no one is born a criminal or a rapist or a murderer, it is society and a lack of proper value system that turns people into criminals. Perhaps the safest approach then is to educate our children about this. The answer to violence cannot be reached through the path of more violence. Imposing criminal punishment will not do justice to the criminals who were trapped in the loophole of crime because of factors like poverty. In some cases, having the threat of the death penalty looming over the case may make victims less likely to report cases of sexual violence, or even face increased pressure from their families to keep the matter to themselves.

The execution of a death sentence comes at the end of multiple stages of appeals, so there may be a delay in getting justice. Apart from this, death penalty may lead to the opposite, it could lead to criminals making sure that the victims are left dead or in no state to make a complaint or recognize them. States that have death penalty laws do not have lower crime rates or murder rates than states without such laws. In a civilized society, we must reject the principle of literally doing to criminals what they do to their victims. The penalty for murder cannot be murder. We should not, therefore, punish the criminal with death.

Having said that, life imprisonment can be an alternative for the death penalty as it gives the chance of reformation to the criminal and even if it doesn't work, life imprisonment can act as the severe punishment. Thus, instead of merely enhancing punishment, tackling crimes against women and children requires broader social reforms, sustained governance efforts and strong investigative mechanisms.

Kashika Saluja, 11 C



Padmakshi Pradeep Kumar 9C

Every Morning

Every morning, for the past 14 years, the alarm went off,
With reluctance, I woke up or was woken up.
Every morning, I tried my best to create an excuse,
Be it a fictitious stomach ache or cough.
Every morning, I was forced to go to this building,
Where I was locked in and made to read, write and learn.
Every morning, I had no idea that these 14 years would go by,
In the blink of an eye, with every little memory etched in my brain.
The brain that this building developed.
The memories that were created in this building.
The memories with people whom I will never be able to say goodbye to.
For 14 years, I've wished to be a senior,
I wished to grow up as fast as I could and do grown-up things.
Never in these 14 years, I thought I would be reminiscing about my earlier days.
Every morning, I hoped that a teacher would be absent so we could have free time,
Every morning, I wished for the rain to not barge in on our games period,
Never in these 14 years, had I thought I would be the one raining tears on leaving.

There was a time when I believed that nothing would change after school,
But little did I know that change is only the only constant in life.
There was a time I thought we all would stay friends,
But as I went through the heartbreaks and walk-aways I learnt that things change, and people change.
Maybe it's all for the better, as this journey comes to an end.
All we have are these bittersweet memories,
which make us sob our hearts out, most of them happy moments,
That we want to cherish and relive again.
For, it is too late now. Every morning I wish to wake up as a student and live my school days again.

Kaveri Sharma , 12 B

Dear Future Self

Dear Aassia

How are you? As I sit here writing this letter to you at the age of 17, I hope you are doing well and that this world has been kind to you in the 43 years that you have lived ahead of this time. I'm sure you have changed a lot, in good ways more than bad. After all, your eagerness to always be better never fades even when times get hard. I hope you lived the life you have always wanted - one full of success, happiness, adventure and love, and that you enjoyed every moment of it. I'm sure it was not one without pain or difficulties, but I'm certain that you would've pulled yourself out of it.

I am currently in grade 12 preparing for my board examinations which are almost around the corner. A marksheet that will decide my career - at least right now I think it will. But you would know better. It really felt like time is slipping away this year, maybe because this is my last year in school with the friends I thought would be with me forever. However, it is now scary because everyone will be starting their own lives when college starts. Who knows what will happen next? I wonder if you and our friends really went on all the adventures we always talked about, and are still in touch. That would be amazing. Coming to college and the new life I'm talking about, I hope you had a good time. Did you travel a lot? Are you a doctor now? Is our dream finally true? Or did you find another passion to follow? Either way, I hope you are proud of yourself and of how far you have come.

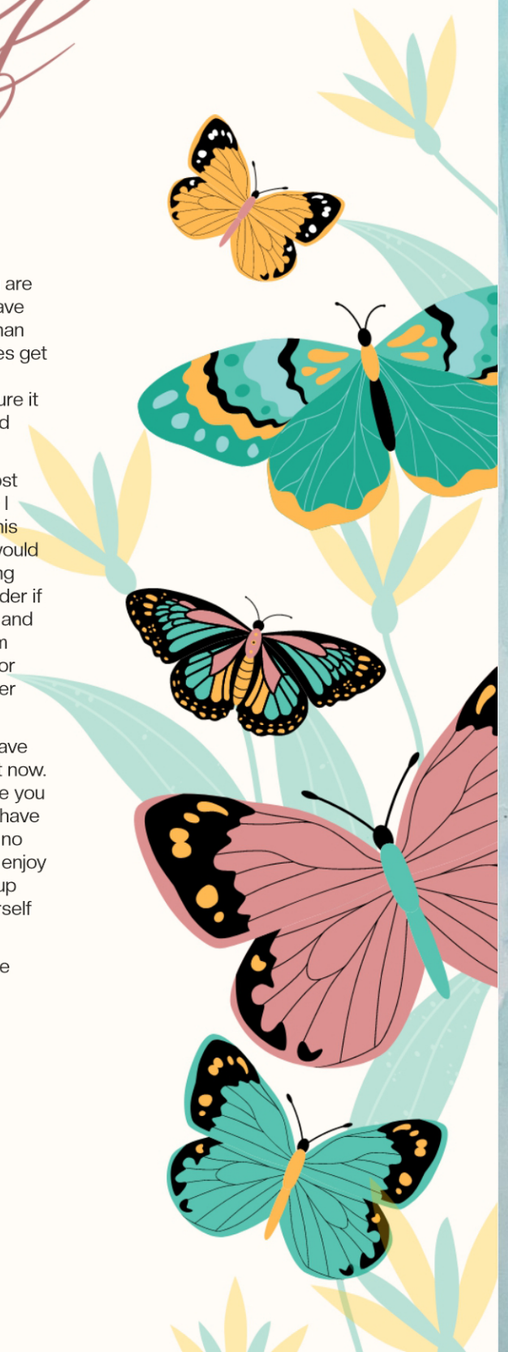
I want to remind you to be grateful for the life that you have lived. I hope you have learnt to be gentle with yourself, and not so self-critical as you tend to be right now. I hope you are surrounded by people you love and people who love you. I hope you have accepted that no one lives forever, including you, and so, I trust that you have done your part to make this world a better place, and have made a difference no matter how big or small. I'm sure time has not slowed down, so don't forget to enjoy the next twenty years and cherish every moment as they pass. Keep waking up with a smile on your face ready to take on the world, but remember to let yourself relax when it is necessary.

There is so much more that I wish to write but for now, here's to living life to the fullest and making the most of the time that we have. Take care.

Love,

Your Self

Aassia Kaur Dua, 12A



The change I'd like to see

India is a vast country with people of different religions and castes. In India, we see people from different walks of life - some rich, some poor and some in the middle. Our country's Constitution accepts all our religions and people freely and gives them equal fundamental rights. But not everyone in our country takes these rules into consideration. People from lower classes are still disadvantaged in places like schools and offices. They are given less recognition. They are undermined and considered unworthy. For instance, a person walking on the street, who does not look rich enough or is wearing shabby clothes is considered inferior and is not treated with respect. I want that to change, I want all citizens of India to be on the same level and not be judged because of their background.

Our society has two genders - male and female. And it has set some gender norms for each. Men will not cry, women are weak and sensitive, men are strong and more bold, etc. Even when some people in our society have tried to break through the stereotypes, they have been criticized and condemned. If they see a girl playing cricket or football, people comment on her, say that they are manly sports and how she could get hurt playing them. If they see a boy crying, there would be a typical comment on how he's crying like a girl. This should stop. A boy should be allowed to show emotions if he wants to, and a girl should be able to watch or participate in sports without being commented on by society.

The third change I would like is to keep our Mother Earth clean. Our earth is a beautiful place and we as humans are destroying it by throwing garbage on it. Our beautiful rivers have gone gray because of how we're polluting them. You might think what difference does it make, it's just a peel of banana, trust me it does.

Riddhi Batra, 9 D

Hypocrisy Is An Art

"God has given you one face, and you make yourself another" - William Shakespeare

I sometimes feel that we live in two, parallel universes at the same time. We are one person when we are alone, but the moment another arrives, the hypocrisy begins. We totally become someone else by putting on a mask. Maybe not always to deceive, maybe more often to be polite, as a mark of respect. But the truth remains that we cease to be who we really are. If the world is a stage, we are all actors. We cannot live on this planet without being fake at some point. Some people try vainly to convey that everything about them is black and white, but their true colours start to show soon after.

Hypocrisy isn't something that is taught or imparted to us as a value, yet each one of us has mastered it. I wonder where and when this skill is learnt, or is it just a natural survival instinct we are born with? Hypocrisy is at its best when we point out the amount of 'fake-ness' in this world, just like me writing this article. But, I'm not against hypocrisy at all. We go through each day, trying to smile even if we aren't happy and give insincere compliments to others who we might not like. I feel it is harmless since it helps maintain some civility, as long as it doesn't trample upon the emotions of others. Imagine a completely honest world, where people always speak their mind and hurl profanities at each other. The world would be filled with rancour and bitterness. Will we be happier then? But on the other hand, pretence becomes vicious, the moment we use it to manipulate others to act in our interest and to the detriment of their own. Though, no matter how well we pretend, real situations expose fake people and so, we can't perpetually get away with it! Die-hard hypocrites are what I fear the most, but fortunately they are the easiest to spot. Fake friends will back out when you need them the most. Some people show their true colours once you are no longer beneficial in their life. Such hypocrites are the problem. An open foe may be a problem, but a pretentious friend is a curse. There are numerous examples of what I have stated in real life, and everyone will have their own perspective on it. But as for me, I don't mind a little bit of hypocrisy, but excess of everything is bad. So, go ahead and be a hypocrite. Make it an art, adding value and peace to your life and to that of others, as long as you are aware of where to draw the line.

Shriya Soni , 12 B

If I Could Choose And Create An International Day For Someone, I Would Choose ...

There are approximately 186 international days and weeks listed by the United Nations. The international days are occasions to educate the general public on issues of concern, to mobilise political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity. If I had to choose someone to dedicate an international day to, it would be

Elon Musk

He is an undisputed visionary. He has a vision of a world that is no longer reliant on fossil fuels, maximising use of green energy, space exploration, building colonies on Mars. As a major shareholder of Tesla, he has completely revolutionised the automobile industry by producing one of the first fully electric automobiles. Elon Musk also continues to invest in artificial intelligence. Leaders such as him leave a mark on the world for generations to come.
Yuvraj Puri,12 A
Kritin Dhingra, 12 D

Charlie Lightening

He is known for his spectacular work in the music industry as a writer and director. He is one of those directors who believe in showcasing the work of his team as appreciation and a token of gratitude toward them. As his name suggests, he believes in bringing light to all the hard work that is put in by the team to make concerts possible and successful. "The happier you would be at your job the better you would be able to do it". These simple but inspiring words by Charlie are nothing but the truth.
Adya Arora, 12 A

Mahendra Singh Dhoni

Our Captain Cool. A sports person of Dhoni's stature not only provides entertainment and happiness but also becomes an inspiration for millions. His personality, calmness and ability to think far ahead of everyone in tough situations sets him apart from others. An international day after Dhoni is a justification for his contribution to sports and will motivate younger generations to recreate his legacy.
Arush Gupta, 12 B

Aryabhatta

He was the first Indian mathematician, physicist and astronomer who created groundbreaking theories and inventions. He invented the most important concept 'Zero', the number system as we know it today, and worked out the value of pi. Without the inventions of Aryabhatta, the science and mathematics as we study today would have been very different.
Kartik Dabas, 12 D

Srinivasa Ramanujan

He made great contributions in mathematical analysis, number theory, infinite series and continued fractions, including solutions to mathematical problems then considered unsolved. He had no formal training in Mathematics yet he became an expert in it. He belonged to a very poor family, fought against the circumstances and became the Master of Mathematics.
Harish Yadav, 12 B

Day of Health

It should be held on the 1st of every month. To celebrate this day, people will go to the nearest park for walking, jogging, skating or bicycling. Smoking will be prohibited everywhere. This day will be for fresh home-made healthy food and a lot of smiling faces. This day will inspire people with energy for the rest of the month.
Aditya Singh, 12 A

Ramabai Ranade

She was the first women's rights activist in India and the founder of Sewa Sadan, an institution in Delhi that trained thousands of women with various skills. She dedicated her life to helping women to become financially independent.
Samaira Sarin, 12-D

Edson Arantes do Nascimento - Pelé

The greatest footballer of all time. He holds the title of Athlete of the Century. His unique playing style has speed, creativity and technical skill mixed with physical power, stamina and athleticism. All of this made him the only 3-time World Cup winner in the world.
Arjun Taneja, 12-B

Katie Ledecky

She is the undisputed queen of freestyle swimming, an Olympics gold medalist and the world record holder. Swimming is not the easiest of sports. It takes courage, dedication and a lot of hard work. Like every sport, it teaches us confidence, teamwork and how to cherish winning and accept losing. It teaches us the greatest life lesson of enjoying life.
Vanshikaa Chowdhary, 12 A

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

He was one of the most influential leaders in India's freedom struggle. Sardar Patel was deeply influenced by the Gandhian ideologies and followed the path of non-violence. He gave his heart and soul to the cause of Indian independence.
Kabir Ved, 12 E

Muhammad Ali

One of greatest boxers and athletes to ever grace the planet. Along with a remarkable career in boxing, he was also an activist and social worker. He was a very high-profile figure of racial pride for African Americans during the civil rights movements and throughout his career.
Viraj Arora, 12 D

Ourself

We need this day to explore what we are truly meant to be. This day should be spent focussing on our unique capabilities. Let's stop being critical of ourselves and have gratitude towards ourselves. On this day, we must finally do something that we always wanted to do but dared not do it.
Harman Sethi, 12 E

Farmers

Each time we put food into our mouth, we have our farmers to thank for it. Their blood, sweat and toil make it possible for us to have food on our plate. In India, farming and agriculture are the backbone of our economy. The government must assist the farmers in adopting modern farming practices that require less labour and produce a higher yield.
Kanishk Garg, 12 B

Bhagat Singh

He was dedicated to the cause of getting India freedom from British rule. His value system is also relevant today, every young person should be dedicated to a purpose or a goal and make a meaningful difference in this world. His life story shows us that life is not an easy walk but a challenging marathon.
Arnav Sethi, 12 D

Roger Federer

He is the most famous and the greatest tennis player of all time. He has the most Grand Slams, which is 20. In 2012, he went in for a surgery but after 5 years, he returned and in 2017, he won the Grand Slam, yet again.
Aarav Verma, 12 D

Sisters

Sisters act as a second mother to brothers when their mother is not around. In some situations, we cannot confide in our parents but we can always fall back on our sisters to help, advise and guide us.
Kavish Chitkara, 12 A

"Messi, Messi, Messi, Messi"

This one name has brought more joy and tears to the eyes of football fans all over the world than one can imagine. A superhero to some... an icon to others... and an inspiration to many. Outside the football world, he is a very generous person and has donated millions to charities and personally funded the development of AI glasses that allow visually impaired people to view the real world as we do. Messi's greatness on and off the pitch puts him up in the list of the most influential humans to walk the earth.
Jivesh Makkar, 12 D
Adit Bablani, 12 B

Survivors

All the people who have been through a great deal of pain and have fought it, need to be recognised and appreciated. We need a Survivor or Fighter Day to celebrate with all those who once went through hell yet gathered the courage to turn it into heaven. We can hope, from this day forward, that we can inspire, encourage and show compassion towards those who are still trying to move on.
Harmann Kakkar, 12 E

Michael Jordan

His determination and his will to work hard and his drive to become the best basketball player of all time has made him who he is today. He inspires millions of people to work hard and achieve their dreams.
Aditya Modi, 12 D

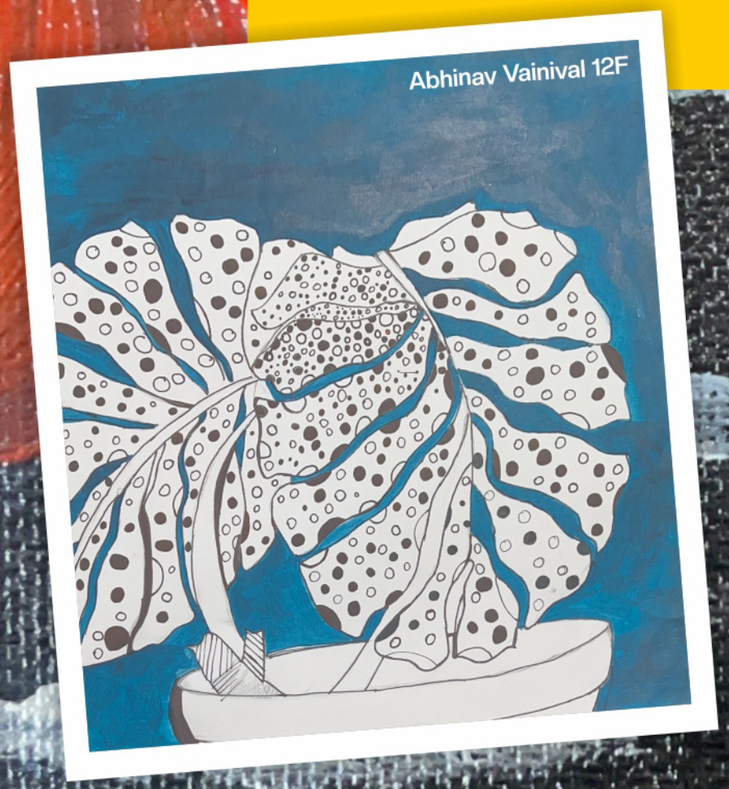
Laugh, Live And Feel Alive

Laughter is the shortest distance between people. That's so true! Laughter is such a great way to build connections and understanding between two people. It helps break down barriers and create a safe space for meaningful conversations. Plus, it's just plain fun! Laughter is a universal language that can break down barriers and bring people together. It helps to create an atmosphere of comfort, relaxation and connection. It's amazing how even the simplest of jokes can bring a smile to faces and create an instant bond.

Laughter is underrated. People take it for granted until it's gone. We don't cherish it enough while we have it and agonize after losing it. Thinking back that those days really were the best. Laughter, joy or happiness is just about the only feeling that has enough power to bring people together. It acts as the best intermediate for connecting people and bringing harmony. For example, when we meet someone new, before anything else, we see if they are on the same wavelength as us. And this isn't the academic or financial or social wavelength. It's something that's past these. We ask ourselves, does this person make me laugh? Do they have the capability to make me a happier person? Do they make me feel alive? If yes, then they pass the 'vibe check' and we automatically want to associate with them more frequently. And, just like that, people go from being strangers to the best of friends and all it took was a few laughs together. That's how easy it is. Even the most antisocial people find it easy to open up to people who can make them laugh as the people who make them laugh also make them feel safer, and much more comfortable.

Besides helping make new bonds, laughter also might reignite an old one, which may have a lag due to whatever reason. In conclusion, I would like to say that the oldies weren't wrong when they said that laughter is the best medicine, I would say that not only is it the best medicine and a cure for all your problems but, it can bring you closer to people, who can help you solve problems, who may be distant. My suggestion: laugh, live and feel alive. Laughing is the only thing that will make you both momentarily and permanently happy, all other resorts are only temporary and can never be the solution.

Jasnoor Rayat, 11 A



Isolated

Is life just a game?
This moment doesn't feel fine, not the same
I feel drunk on wine...
But I feel no pain
Just tape the pieces back together
And staple all the torn pages, they're crinkled anyway.

Bet it's not a big deal, they say
It easy and it goes away
These two-faced people make me uneasy
I started to look at things differently when he....

They make me isolated
They're not friends, they just fake it.
Taken everything away, the loneliness catches me
I'm taken for granted, I don't exaggerate it.

There's still a small spark and it's not fading
I can still lend a hand
I won't let it faze you
I'll be the shoulder you can rely on
I can carry you on.

Talk to me
I'll listen, no judgements, honey
We're free, you don't have to worry
It's just me and you and you and me

I hope that you're happy
It starts with a hug
Or a 'Hi' if that's more preferable
The trauma stays, I know
You don't have to let it go just remember those times like the first snow

It comes for some time
But gradually goes.
But don't lose that part of you
The part which I love the most
Your true heart
I'll show you your tough face, you know it
It's you.

The scars don't fade
They display the hurdles we passed though, the courage.
We had to live with the fading lines
And remise the times
Say goodbye.

Khushi Darnal, 9 E

Bittersweet Tree

Can you rest an old tree?
Small and fragile, yet the one who shades thee.
Some leaves fall and others stay around.
Once the bark sinks in, the rest of the evergreen is left forgotten
But it stays and it lives till its voice echoes on.
And as the days pass by, we'll remember the bark that was once its part
The evergreen mellow once again arrows its path

Khushi Darnal, 9 E

My Favourite Colour

People say it is dark
While some call it dull
Well, I would say that it is how the night sky looks without stars
And the colour most of us choose for our cars
It is how our life feels without happiness
And it is used to describe a person who is depressed
Why is it my favourite colour then, you may ask
Because it is the only colour that shows both power and aggression
Both elegance and something conventional
Both sophistication and evil
To me, this colour means dignity
It evokes an emotion as large as infinity
And most importantly, to me, it brings peace and tranquility
Now, let me just give this iceberg a little crack
The colour I was talking about is black.

Shriya Soni 12 B

Social Impact of Movies

Movies are watched by everyone. We all enjoy them. From thrillers to adventures, comedy to horror movies, they are part of everyday life ... and the industry is growing every single day.

Sitcoms and comedy shows make us laugh, psychological thrillers help us see the world from a different perspective, and historical films help us understand where we've come from as a people. Every video and every film reflects society and transforms opinions.

Movies can be an effective instrument for activism and advocacy. They have the capacity to connect with a sizable and varied audience and can draw attention to crucial issues that might not otherwise get media attention. These films raise awareness of social and political concerns that have an impact on both communities and individuals, and they have the potential to lead to discussions, debates, and the mobilisation of change movements. For instance, environmental documentaries like 'An Inconvenient Truth' and 'The 11th Hour' raised public awareness on the effects of climate change and prompted action to preserve the environment.

Additionally, socially conscious movies can upend the culture's preconceived notions and attitudes, sparking change and having a good effect. For instance, movies addressing women's rights and gender inequality like 'The Color Purple' and 'Hidden Figures' have pushed stereotypes to the limit and aided in the empowerment of women and girls all over the world.

Furthermore, these films provide a stage for under-represented groups to speak out and draw attention to their difficulties and experiences. For instance, movies portraying the LGBTQ community like 'Brokeback Mountain' and 'Moonlight' have encouraged people to fight for their rights by raising awareness of the prejudice and discrimination that the LGBTQ population encounters.

Thus, it's safe to conclude that movies definitely play a crucial part in impacting, shaping and developing us as humans.

Aanya Malik, 9 D

Jiya Gupta - 11C



The Aesthetic of Suffering

"Madness comes from God, whereas sober sense is merely human. If a man comes to the door of the poetry untouched by the madness of the muses, believing that technique alone will make him a good poet, he and his sane composition never reach perfection, but are utterly eclipsed by the performance of the madman." - Phaedrus, by Plato.

The idea that one needs to be mentally ill in order to be perceived as interesting is one that is common in the world of art. The tortured artist is a recurring trope in contemporary media so much so that it is termed, 'melancholia'.

'Melancholia' is said to be something that touches more upon sadness that is creative and inspiring rather than debilitating. Let us break down the myth of the tortured artist.

When we think of tortured artists, we think of Vincent Van Gogh. Some would argue that despite having severe psychological illnesses, Van Gogh still produced art that revolutionized the art world for eternity. So, some link is bound to arise between creativity and mental illness, right? Debatable! Hannah Gatsby brings this up in her Netflix special, 'Nanette'. He wasn't born ahead of his time, he couldn't network because he was eccentric, he had unstable energy, people would cross the street to avoid him. That's why he didn't sell more than one painting in his lifetime. This whole idea of romanticization of mental illness is ridiculous. It's not a ticket to genius; it's a ticket to nowhere.

Salley Rooney is another icon that is prayed to by the sad girlies. A common theme in the female characters is that they are all painstakingly thin. Not to imply that she is fatphobic, however, thinness and sadness are states that are continually interlinked. 'Protruding collar bones', 'dainty wrists', 'breakfast consisting of only black coffee' are adjective phrases that have been repeated more than once to describe her protagonists. This recurrent romanticism of eating disorders amongst the sad girlies is one which implies one needs to be stick thin in order for their sadness to be taken seriously, that you can only be interesting and 'alluring' when your ribs show.

Furthermore, tuberculosis, a deadly disease responsible for the death of millions was the 'trend' back in Victorian Europe as its symptoms were weight loss, a rosy complexion, flushed cheeks, and pale skin. Tuberculosis back then symbolized 'feminine beauty' and romantic passion. So much so that it was desired by all the women in town.

At the height of the pandemic, we were bombarded with the pressure to improve ourselves - wake up at 5 am, go for a run, drink green smoothies, and write five things you're grateful for. A movement that was the exact opposite was one that was inevitable. There is a sense of liberal empowerment in rejecting the toxic standards that are imposed on women, to have a sense of ease in their mannerisms and just to lie down and stop trying. However, when does nihilism disguised as empowerment become regressive? "I am making sure to eat a square of dark chocolate during my depressive episodes so they'll sound fascinating in my memoirs. Even when I am ostensibly at my lowest, I am still filtering my experiences through the eyes of a consumer." The desire to editorialize our own experiences, to romanticize the unseen, to live for our biographies, has become an autonomic facet of womanhood as inevitable as breathing.

Gen Z is terrified of mediocrity. They actively seek things that will make them special or different, and most of them resort to inducing sadness. Can we blame them? When all media has fed them watered-down symptoms of life-threatening illnesses. When the only way you can be the main character of your life is by being the sad, frail, pretty girl who keeps everybody at a distance or the artist lost deep in their melancholia fueling the 'I'm not like the others' phenomena, by taking pride in not being a 'dull and uninteresting' neurotypical. The sunshine girlies are crying in their graves; it's the era of the sad girls.

Saishaa Mehta, 11F

The Only Distance You Need To Cover

It seems like yesterday when I walked in through the gates of GDGPSVK and found myself rather alone in the class full of tiny tots like me, all unknown and probably all missing home. Amongst this heavy thought cloud of "when will we be going back home", there emerged a rainbow in the form of our teacher. She entered the room with the most warm, welcoming and radiant smile and suddenly, even as a toddler, I could feel the calmness and the protection in the air. Within a few seconds there were buzzing, laughing, talking and smiling faces all around - I saw one of the longest distances of life from leaving home for the first time to being settled at school getting covered in the most spectacular and speedy way.

There are many instances where the magic of laughter withstood the most turbulent situations providing calm and peace. As I narrate these not so unknown situations you actually would agree that laughter may be a road less travelled but definitely a journey which we should all attempt to overcome hurdles in our tryst with life.

If you recall your visits to government offices where people often look worked up the moment the work begins - one laughter or smile covers that longest lap between work being postponed or being concluded. If this sounds familiar then what I am going to say next would be something you have experienced a million times. Remember, when as kids we did something wrong, broke something, or perhaps didn't perform as expected and as you said 'sorry' in the most apologetic way the only thing you looked for was a glimpse of a smile on your parents' face and the moment there was one, you knew you had covered the most agonizing and lonesome roads.

If this still doesn't ring a bell then I am sure this would – when you were ill or when you were with someone in the hospital or nursing someone as you anxiously waited for the doctor to give the news, that one sign of smile on the doctor's face worked more than the medicines you had been popping and that journey of darkness got illuminated with hope. Or, it could be when you were asked to lead a team with the most uncooperative lazy lumps and how your smile did the magic covering the longest distance between getting an F or an A grade.

This quote by American comedian – Victor Borge that Laughter is the shortest distance between two people is truly a life lesson and stands true in every walk, every stage, every age, and every period of life. The only distance you need to cover is to believe in this statement. As for the rest, let the magic of laughter do it for you. Trust me, life is better when you are laughing !!

Adyant Jain

12 A

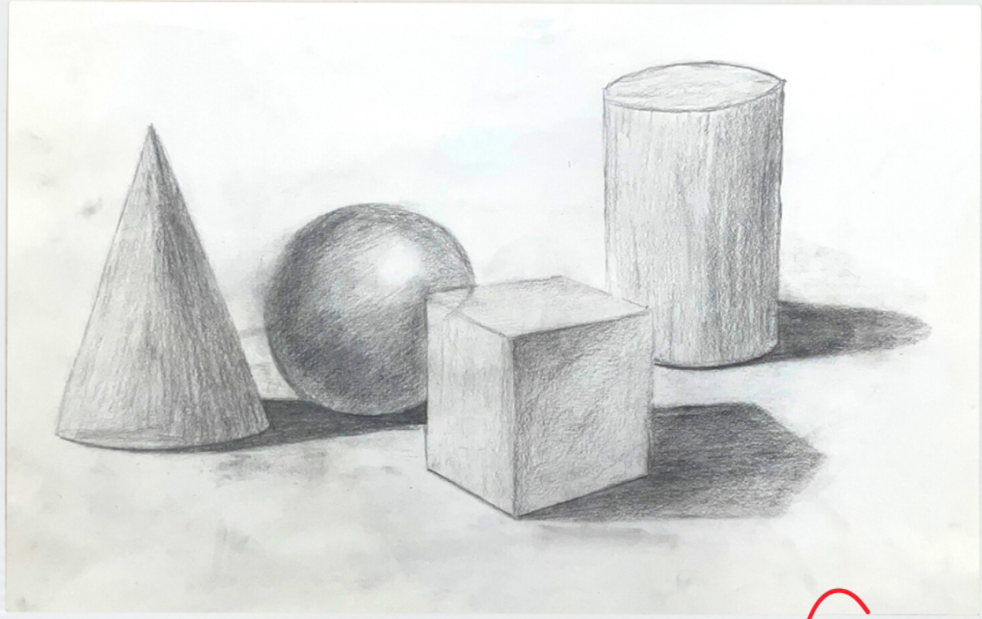
Challenging Stereotypes

In our traditional society, particular professions have been explicitly or implicitly given to men and women in different ways. The tasks requiring more physical prowess and power were given to the men, while the caring, food preparation, cleaning, and other housekeeping tasks were given to the women. They made this choice entirely based on what they noticed about gender traits. They were prompted to make those decisions by observations such as the biological strength of the males and the more intricate interior body structures of the females, which included the womb, which needed to be safeguarded from any outside danger.

According to people who make decisions, men do the majority of the outside labour while women do the majority of the inside jobs. However, as civilization matured, new occupations began to emerge. Both sexes began to choose careers that more closely matched their interests, despite the traditional gender line between them. For instance, many males desired to work in the field of cooking, whereas many women wanted to work in the field of defence. Due to various unique characteristics that each gender has received from nature, there are some vocations where men and women do slightly better than one another. Due to this, it is believed that certain restrictions are placed on a particular gender in a given employment.

No one, in my opinion, should be subjected to discrimination based on their gender in any career if the discrimination is done just to appease stereotypical thinking. But is this kind of idea or stereotypical thinking still valid today? Despite some physical differences, no one can tell the difference between a man and a woman's cerebral or emotional capabilities. It is wrong to exclude one gender from a position just because they don't seem qualified or might not be able to perform it. No matter their gender, everyone should be given a fair chance to attempt any job that interests them. In particular, society needs to encourage men to work in jobs that are more 'feminine' and women to work in jobs that are more 'masculine'. They shouldn't be subjected to prejudice just because of how they look. The need for creating suitable work environments for both genders has increased as the world has become more advanced.

Aasmi Sachdeva, 9 C



Bhavishya Dhama
9B

The Potential Of Women

"Women are always saying, We can do anything that men can do. But men should be saying, We can do anything that women can do." - Gloria Steinem

Gender discrimination and exclusion limit the potential of women and affect their ability to contribute to the development of society. Women make up half of the global population and it is imperative that they be given equal opportunities in all areas, including the workplace. Denying women the right to choose and pursue the career of their dreams is not only unfair but also detrimental to the progress of society.

Women bring unique perspectives and skills to the workplace and have the potential to bring positive changes and solutions to the challenges that face organizations. Women are proven to be strong leaders, with the ability to bring innovative ideas and approach challenges from a different angle. Allowing women to participate in all professions opens up the possibilities for companies and organizations to benefit from this diversity.

Furthermore, excluding women from certain professions only perpetuates gender stereotypes and reinforces the notion that certain jobs are not suitable for women. This can lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy where women are less likely to pursue these careers and may miss out on the benefits and opportunities that come with it. It also undermines women's confidence in their abilities and reinforces the notion that they are not capable of doing certain jobs.

Moreover, the exclusion of women from certain professions contributes to the gender pay gap, as women are more likely to be paid less for the same work, regardless of their qualifications and experience. This is due to the gender stereotypes that are associated with certain jobs and the lack of women in higher paying positions. By ensuring that women are not excluded from any profession, it is possible to reduce the gender pay gap and promote equal pay for equal work.

In conclusion, women should not be excluded from any profession. Exclusion perpetuates gender discrimination and reinforces the notion that women are not capable of performing certain jobs. Allowing women to participate in all professions opens up the possibilities for organizations to benefit from diversity, reduce the gender pay gap, and promote equal pay for equal work. With the advancement of technology, women are equally capable of performing physically demanding tasks, and should not be excluded from these jobs based on their gender, but rather on their ability to perform the tasks required.

Ruhan Narula, 9 C

Sibling Love

Ever since I was a toddler, I've been known for being mischievous and playing pranks. The incident I'm sharing is my first and funniest prank or, as my brother, the victim, would say, the cruelest prank. The story is set on a beautiful beach in Bangkok about a decade ago. My brother and I sat on the wet sand making a sandcastle when our magnificent piece of architecture was knocked down by a gentle wave. All of a sudden my brother jumped up and squealed that something was on his foot. The daredevil I was, I bent down to investigate. "It's a fish." I told him. He let out a sigh of relief and looked at the tiny creature and asked, "Is it dead? Did I kill it?" At this point, he was almost in tears. Being the oh-so considerate sister, I told him that it was not dead, since the sea water was cold, it merely came to land to take a nap in the sun. My four year old brother and his innocent heart believed me and asked, "Won't it get cold on the wet sand?" I smirked and replied, "You're right. Let's take it to the beach chairs." My brother then picked up the 'sleeping' fish and proceeded towards the chairs. Just as he was about to place it on the towel clad chair, I stopped him and said, "The towels here are so rough, the little thing won't be comfortable at all." My brother looked up at me in confusion as I continued, "You should lie down first and let the fish rest on you." Lo and behold! I had my brother cuddling with a dead fish for 15 minutes before I couldn't control my laughter anymore and told him that the fish was dead. He screamed and threw the fish away. His scream caught the attention of our parents and they started walking towards us. I swiftly picked up the dead fish and flung it back into the sea because no evidence equals no punishment. He told mom what I had supposedly done as I stood in the corner silently giggling since no one believed him. It's been over 10 years since this happened, a lot of things have changed but till date nobody believes him when he tells this story and till date I laugh in the corner every single time.

Himanya Grover, 11

My brother, over the years, has pulled many pranks on me which he considers very funny. I, however, consider them acts of war.

There was this incident where my brother decided to officially declare war on me by throwing powder on my hair whilst I was asleep. Later on, when I woke up and went to the dining room to have breakfast, I was so confused as to why everyone was laughing at me. I looked in the mirror and saw how my hair was greyish white and dusty because of the powder.

So, of course, I did what any logical younger sibling would do. Next day, I woke him up in the morning by throwing cold water on his face. Refreshing truly, though he was very mad (hmm, I wonder why?). I ran to my room and locked the door which he then kept on banging on. A secret fact about us younger siblings is that we always have backup plans. I took my loaded water gun out of my drawer (as Holi was just around the corner), opened the door and with a very smug look said, "Surprise, dear brother!" sprayed him with my water gun. If he wasn't drenched before, he sure was now.

This wasn't the end of the war.

I pulled one final prank by removing the cookie cream from the mini Oreos and replacing it with toothpaste. I kept the Oreos back in the box and waited for him to eat them. I was so eager to see his reaction but, to my surprise, after having the cookie he said, "Oh, new mint flavor ?". He liked them so much that he offered them to his Physics teacher the next day. Even he said, "Oh, minty Oreos, nice". At that point, I finally gave up. To make up for all of this, I bought him a phone case which he really liked but instead of saying "Thank you, I appreciate it.", my brother looked at me suspiciously and said, "What do you want ?".

Shreya Dutta, 11 F

When I was 12, my family and I took a trip to Jim Corbett National Park. My elder cousin and I had to sleep with our grandparents and everyone else was sleeping in their parents' room. All of us cousins had decided to meet in the lounge after the elders fell asleep and the elders were not supposed to find out about this plan of ours.

My cousin and I were in the room talking and waiting for our grandparents to fall asleep so that we could sneak out. My grandmother was sleepy and getting annoyed by our constant talking. She scolded us and told us to be quiet. Soon she was asleep. We both thought it was safe to sneak out so I texted the others to join us in the lounge.

Just as we got out of our bed and walked to the door, my grandfather said angrily, "Where do you think you are going?". We froze with fear. Slowly we turned around and, to our surprise, saw that our grandfather was sleeping. Then again we heard him shout, "Give me back my wallet! You stole my wallet! Come back!". For two minutes, my brother and I were really scared that Dadu had caught us sneaking out and would tell our dads. We stood still trying to figure out what was going on and then suddenly I realised my Dadu was talking in his sleep. Finally my brother and I were able to catch our breath. We both started laughing so much that we actually woke them up.

Japneet Bakshi, 11 C

Sensitivity Over Truth?

The political correctness of my generation takes our attention away from the substance of the matter, directing it towards the optics of it all. Don't get me wrong, I am a believer in speech sensitisation because speech is the voice of thoughts which sets the precedent for change. But the over policing of speech dilutes the veracity of these very thoughts.

I come to a very basic question, what is political correctness? Put beautifully by Bill Maher, "The elevation of sensitivity over truth", it is supposed to be a weapon against racism, to prevent speech from systematic marginalization. But, look at the broader perspective. If we censor uncomfortable conversations simply to not offend someone, the baton of change will never move ahead.

An instance, R.V. Dhulekar, a congressman in a meeting of the constituent assembly made aggressive comments in his bid to make Hindi the national language of India. His speech offended many members but it was a catalyst that made others raise the issue of language as well. From one negotiation to another, everyone's views came to the floor.

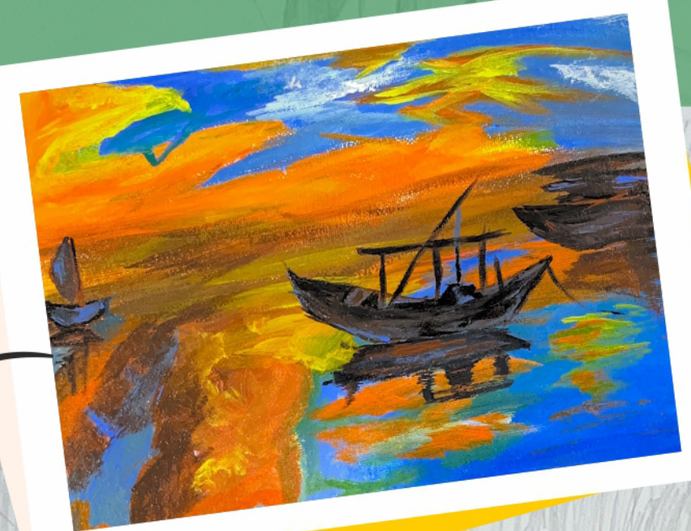
The fact of the matter is there is a fine line between hate speech and opinionated speech. The latter is cardinal for solutions to uncomfortable topics, it will offend some, it will be controversial but reality is contentious and if it becomes a victim of pseudo-political correctness, then we will be a generation with big words and no actions.

The downside of this is that people are so afraid of saying the wrong thing, they don't say anything at all. The irony is one we cannot ignore. Countless revolutions to allow people to think, speak, debate and deliberate only to scare them into submitting to yet another one of society's archaic idealisms. While, on the other hand those who want to instigate or propagate bigotry will do it anyways. Using sensitivity or moral posturing to police people is totalitarianism dressed as a friendly precept.

Political correctness has to be readapted to firstly, encourage people who it aims to protect to voice what actually offends them and not what a third party trying to fit into society thinks is offensive. Secondly, to make politeness, rather than sensitivity, a societal obligation. Real change will take place when free speech is the altar we march to and the obligation of politeness is the doctrine.

Not many in my generation would agree with this opinion but that is where we come to the popularity of it all. By deeming an opinion as popular, we are accessorising it. It should be measured on the magnitude of its subjectivity rather than favourability or lack thereof. I believe all laws are a culmination of an opinion. Theft is a punishable offence because society is of the opinion that it is morally and monetarily damaging. However, to a thief, it is a means of survival, a thrill, adventure, etc. Hence, he would favour it. Imagine a world where thievery being a means of subsistence was a popular opinion. Calling it mayhem would be an understatement. The subjectivity of beliefs and opinions in society is necessary because, firstly, it brings several voices to the stage which is a prerequisite to inclusivity; secondly, it forces us to find quantifiable standards to measure which general opinions should be enforced for societal well-being. While everyone should have an opinion, we should not try and seek validation for it. The individuality of opinions is what prevents us from being victims of the bandwagon effect and for popularity to set precedence over objectivity.

Rabanee Gujral, 12 F



Padmakshi Pradeep Kumar 9C



'Energy needs and sources, space exploration and quality education are high on my list'

My country is my true home and I love it more than anything else. But there are a few things about living in this great nation, which if changed, could give it the push it needs. We must look at the long-term goals for the development of our nation that will help us live longer and more sustainably. Here I will talk about the three things I would like to change.

The first of them is to meet the energy needs of our country. India's main source of greenhouse emissions is fossil fuels such as coal and petroleum. We use them quite heavily so we can't really expect to go from these to renewables in a day or two. In this scenario, slowly going towards nuclear energy is our best shot. It's safe, produces a large amount of energy and does it predictably when required. But it is a non-renewable source of energy so it will eventually run out. A solution to this is that while we depend on nuclear energy to fulfil our needs, we can simultaneously develop solar and new renewable techniques so that Tesla's and Bhaba's dream of free energy becomes a reality.

The second area is the aerospace sector. There is a lot of suffering all over the world. We need something to feel good about the future and I think that being in the stars is quite a good start. We have lived but a little time on this tiny fathomless blue dot, which has consisted of all that happened - empires rose and fell; we dug deep and built high; all the love and the hate; all the terror of war and the silence of peace, all your friends and your adversaries - all of that happened on this little blue dot.

Our forefathers looked to the heavens for guidance - when the rain will come, what will happen to our civilization, whether doomsday will come sooner than expected etc. They could never have imagined that we will go to the moon one day and be among the stars. Well, it's been 2000 years. We pretty much should have quite gone by now for quite a while too. We have problems here undoubtedly but we are humans and it's is our curiosity that has brought us here.

And the third thing is the education system. The root of all hardships of a country, or the world at large, can be traced back to how we educate the youth of a country. Education plays a key role in the growth and development of a country as better education equips us to have varied careers. If we want to make the future interesting then we must have better-educated youth. Here the phrase better-educated stands for the quality of teaching which prepares the youth to face the challenges of an ever-dynamic world with confidence. To that end, education needs to be made more personalised catering to the individual needs of the students.

Adwith Gupta, 10 D

Nepotism in Bollywood

My interest in Bollywood dates back to many years ago when my mother and I used to sit in front of the television watching award shows. As inane as this topic may sound to others, I do not find it so. The appeal Bollywood has, for me, stems from the fact that it has a massive role to play in our lives. It is a reflection of thought processes and ideologies and all that goes on in society. At some level, it also shapes our personality because most of us have grown up watching movies and idolizing the film stars we saw on the big screen. Do not get me wrong; I understand that everything must not be taken at face value. I also acknowledge that every coin has two sides. On one hand, I agree that Bollywood often encompasses somewhat trivial pieces of news. The brief I came across about what Katrina Kaif had for lunch the other day is testimony to that. But on the other hand, 'Nepotism in Bollywood' is one glaringly evident issue that must be brought to the table for discussion. And that is one topic I feel I can go on and on about.

Through this essay, I wish to clear the misconceptions associated with nepotism and the false notions surrounding it. Granted, some people do get an easy introduction to the industry purely because of their lineage and family background. But to assume that they will last would be a misstep on our part. All the dialogues sieging nepotism have blown things out of proportion and are responsible for the harsh and unfair barometers people set for newcomers in the industry. Today's contemporary audiences are too quick to judge and we would be wrong to blame the newcomers for not being able to make a lasting impact under such scrutinizing eyes. It is as hard for 'star kids' to prove their mettle as it is easy for us to make a generalized opinion. We forget that despite all the glitz and glamour, acting remains a profession, after all, and that Bollywood is a pathway that provides the platform for displaying one's expertise in that field.

In due course of time, an actor's sole duty and responsibility should be towards his craft and his audiences because in the end, it is mere talent that shines through and makes one last.

Ananya Kashyap, 12 F

She Chose ...

She chose to be happy,
She chose to be beautiful,
She chose to be fabulous,
She chose to be her.

She realized that she has this one only,
This one big beautiful life,
That God has gifted to her
And to live this precious life,
With all the happiness and joy.

She chose she didn't want this life to be
chasing, crying,
Apologising and feeling low!

She realized to live this life,
Proudly, freely and creatively,
She realized that at the end there is only you,
You that will build your life and take this life
to the very top of the world.

She realized that she could choose,
So she chooses herself!!

Samaira Sarin, 12 D





Tushaar Raj Kataria 12D

If I Had a Magic Wand

I see the beauty of nature that surrounds us, the tall mountains with sky-kissing peaks, the clouds that encapsulate the blue and capture the attention of all, the sound of clean river bursting out of a glacier and the pleasantness of green pastures with a serene ensemble of flowers, trees and grass that never fail to captivate, then see the vast variety of animals, mammals, fishes, birds, reptiles, not to forget us, humans, who again have such diversity of being that is unfathomable. Attuned to all of it are the oceans, beaches, deserts, plateaus that mesmerise with their unending vastness. I see the charm of the flat plain when sunshine delicately falls on it and the serenity which soon is lost then miraculously regained when the moonlight permeates its ambience in silence. I derive pleasure when absconding is the charade in which humans lower my eyes with their unnecessary evils, but then too I absorb it as an anomaly which is delectable in its own way. So, even if I had a magic wand, I wouldn't like to change a thing about our beautiful planet. Good and evil, sweet and sour, gracious and ingrate, delicious and insipid - everything is there for us to experience and enjoy. It's God's creation and tampering with it with a magic wand shall be quite an imbecile act, or near about ...

To seek a change is not an option for my mind that thoroughly derides this notion,

This world that He created doesn't lack any aspect which is still and also simultaneously in motion,

Tantalising is the thought for some who seek utopia all around in their vivid assertion, But, to me, the balance is more important - the world being dystopic in its flavour along with its pristine acclimatization.

Reyan Gupta, 9 C

Deafening

He knew sounds. So much so that sometimes he thought he could lose himself in it.
It was familiar; it was woven into every fibre around him because he heard it everywhere, never ending, and scarily tangible.
But, silence?
He didn't know silence.
Sitting in that dark cell, tiny and concrete, isolated, he learnt a horrifying truth.
Silence was the worst sound of them all.

Jiya Gupta, 11 C

Her

If you boiled her down to the purest of her essence, you'd probably be left with two things: red lipstick and a love for learning.

One's a mask, a barrier. The colour red is one of boldness, of confidence. It feels like power.

The other is unfiltered, rather raw. She needs to be knowledgeable to the highest degree to navigate her way through an untamed world.

But to always know everything, is to have nothing left to learn. She's afraid of both.

She learns fear is a good motivator.

It leads her to pretend, so she does. Pretends to be someone she is not. Pretends to have some semblance of control, to not unravel.

She learns a new word.

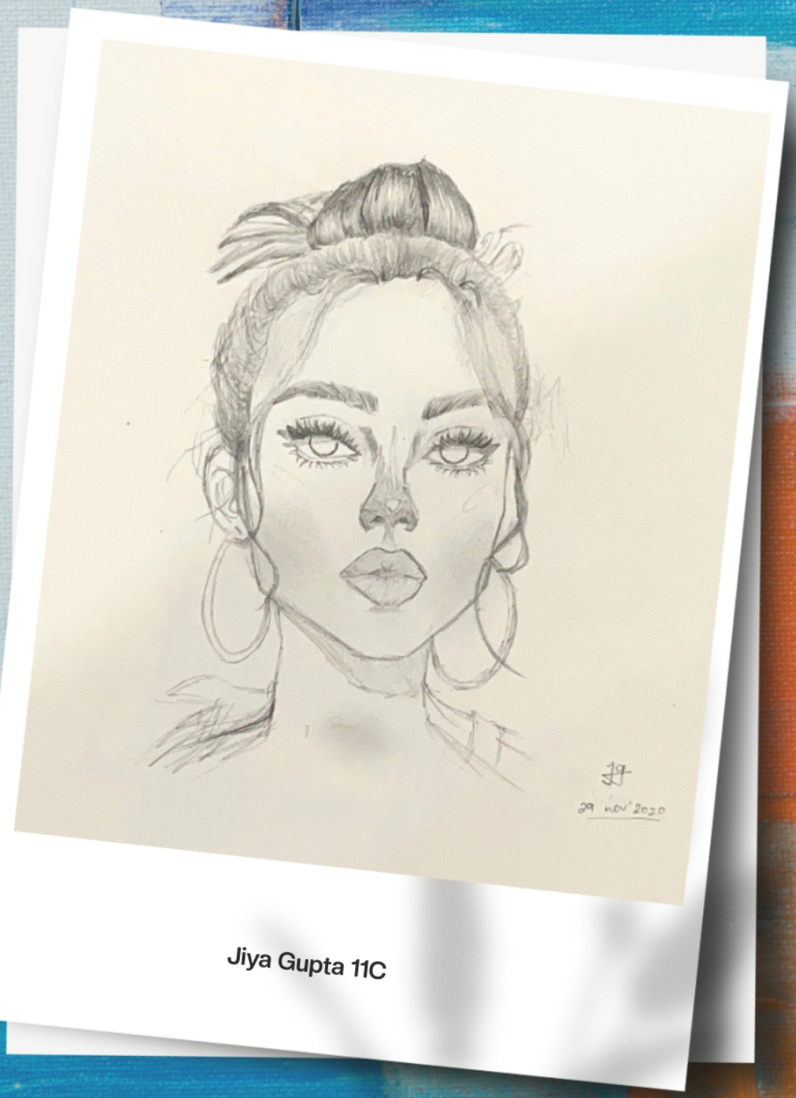
Hypocrite. From the Greek hypokrit□s, meaning 'a stage actor' or 'one who pretends to be what he is not'. That's her, Actress of the Year.

Jiya Gupta, 11C

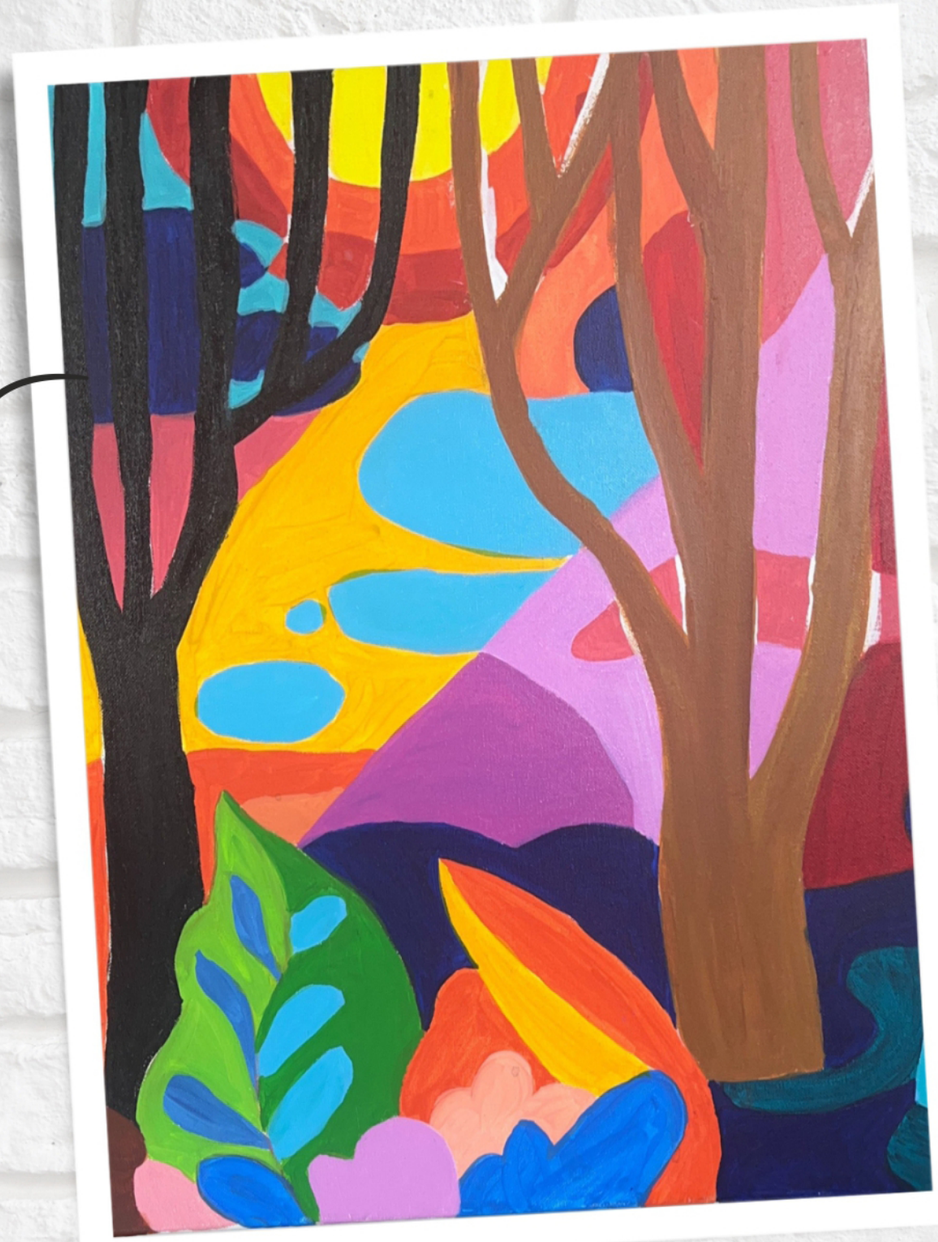
Unconventional

When I grow up, I want to be inventive. I want to be different. Everyone in our ever changing world desires to go with the flow, or follow the trend in the fear of being left alone, sidelined or outcast. This fear inside humans prevents them from experiencing growth. As I grow up, day by day, I start to accept reality. There's no escape from it. But who says you can't alter reality to favour you? When I grow up, I want to be a truthful human being. I want to be successful on my own, I want to create something new. As they say, 'only dead fish go with the flow'. Our society pressurises us into becoming an image of normality that is globally accepted but we should embrace ourselves, become different to show the world it's okay to differ. When I grow up, I want to strive to become a better role model, for the upcoming generations, for my children, for all my brothers and sisters who look up to me, and provide them with the strength to be proud of who they are. When I grow up, I want to be able to give back to the people who let me live a luxurious life, who sacrificed a lot just so I could be here, and who never left my side for even a split second. When I grow up, I want to be someone my younger self can without a doubt be immensely proud of.

Jyotsna Pathak, 12 A



Jiya Gupta 11C



Sonal
Kaur 12C

"Things'll Get Worse before They Get Better"

'One of Us is Lying' by Karen M. McManus. I read this book during a reading slump, and it goes without saying that it helped me snap out of it. You are led into the confusion, chaos, and suspense by a very innocent-looking cover. The first chapter had me fascinated, and I couldn't put it down. The entire time, I was on the edge of my seat. Along with a sprinkling of other genres like romance and excellent humour, it featured the ideal murder mystery. The last storyline twist was absolutely unexpected, and it blew my mind. It didn't seem at all like a debut book as it was perfectly written and the multiple points of view were the cherry on top! That being said, I liked all the characters' personalities. I felt like they all were different but similar enough to complement each other. I'm aware that a lot of people claimed it was predictable, but for me, it wasn't at all! If you have read the book, you would either agree with me that the ending was completely ludicrous in a wonderful manner or that it was anti-climatic.

"Things'll get worse before they get better." I personally adore this quotation because, when read out of context (like right now), it makes me feel warm and bittersweet at the same time. However, as I was reading the book, the chills that ran down my spine overpowered the bittersweet and warm emotion. I believe that the quote's duality increases the excitement.

I definitely suggest this great high school murder mystery, which also features romance, humour, and a few surprising revelations. I often recommend this book because it's one of my favourites! Though looking back, I wish I had known not to read this book at 1:30 in the morning. Not that I was scared...nope!

Devina Saxena, 11F

A Feeling Of Deep Affection?

The dictionary definition of love is 'a feeling of deep affection'. This, however, does not capture the severity of the concept of love. Love is more than just a feeling; it is also an act. Understanding is love. It is an effect that emerges after surviving light years of emotional and physical understanding.

It is an occurrence beyond our comprehension. It may be as fleeting as a spring breeze and as intense as a thunderstorm. Love isn't about possibilities, money, appearance, and definitely not about gender. As a result, putting love into categories as basic as the modern concepts of 'homosexuality' and 'heterosexuality' is absurd. Love cannot be bound by gender stereotypes.

No one is harmed by love. Only someone who has never experienced the incredible beauty of love would be ignorant enough to attack something so pure. Love is expressed through the eyes, not the body. In his book 'Origin', Dan Brown describes love as follows: "Love is from another realm. We cannot manufacture it on demand. Nor can we subdue it when it appears. Love is not our choice to make". That sums up the purity of love.

It is our responsibility as citizens of the world, to protect love. For love has the power to restore ravaged cities and weave bleeding wrists. From Amelia's complex definition, "Love is the one thing we're capable of perceiving that transcends dimensions of time and space" to Rahul's simple words which said, "Pyaar dosti hai", it is love that nurtures life.

Stanzin Idzes, 12 B

The Art of Giving

"No one has ever become poor by giving." This quote by Anne Frank is one that summarizes my idea of 'giving' which also connects to another simple yet important belief in my life, that is, kindness. I call them simple because it can be found in the littlest of things and important because it is quite uncommon these days. It is not limited to giving money or something materialistic, rather, contributing your attention, energy and love can be considered as its wider aspects. Moreover, it doesn't have to be complicated because it is not about the big gestures. It can be as facile as giving someone a hug, complimenting them, taking out time for someone, giving someone a shoulder to cry on.

In today's world, giving is often seen as an act of weakness or something that a docile person would do. The 'takers' are touted as the confident, successful ones to be admired and emulated. The way I look at it, to have the courage to selflessly invest your time and effort, is the biggest act of strength. To deem giving as something mentally and emotionally exhausting is understandable. However, it leaves you with a new perspective, a life lesson that was waiting all along for you, an optimistic mindset, more respect for yourself which makes it all worth it.

Life is full of downfalls and disappointments, but it feels a little lighter when you have someone beside you through it. In this fast-paced world, where everyone is so caught up with themselves, it can be difficult to find that comfort and trust within someone else. That is why I can say that the best I have given to someone is my time, especially when I needed it the most and it also makes it the best gift I have received from someone else. It may seem trivial, but it made me aware of my ability to understand and encourage myself and others, and I feel that is the most valuable gift of all.

It is a wonder how as humans we have so much power to lift others up, but it truly depends on how we choose to utilize that power. I wish to use mine to empower others at the same time, growing by always trying to embody compassion whenever and wherever I can. I can proudly say, I'd rather be a 'giver' than a 'taker'.

Nitsaa Tayal, 12 A



Vainavi Jain 9D

"I am Big, It is the Picture that Got Small"

Fiction is a very powerful genre that allows people to express their wildest imaginations. Sunset Boulevard is one such fictional work of art that taught me important lessons. Directed by Billy Wilder, Sunset Boulevard is a film that focuses on self delusion and corruption in the film industry.

Joe is a struggling screenwriter in debt who meets Norma, an old silent film actress, and decides to work with her. Norma is still clinging to her former fame when she was surrounded by fans and cameras. She wishes to return to the days when silent films were widely produced, rather than the current films which depend heavily on dialogues.

The truth revealed in this film was that while some aspects of culture and traditions may continue, others are doomed to change. The filmmaking culture will continue, however, the style will evolve. Norma is unwilling to accept the change in filmmaking style in the modern era, which leads to an unhealthy obsession with wanting to live in the past. This has an impact on her health, both mentally and physically, as she suffers from self delusion and attempts to harm her body.

This serves as a model for our lives. Anything, from religious traditions and how they are carried out, to societal and family traditions, everything changes with the passage of time, and one must learn to accept change.

Stanzin Idzes, 12 B



Tushaar Raj Kataria 12D

My Knight In Shining Armour

He was the air that I breathed
Always ready with a bandage for my broken heart
He made me feel like a long trapped bird freed

His unconditional love, purest of all
Taught me how to stand again after a fall

Always a call away
When everyone would leave, he was the one to stay
Born in the month of May
He rescued me like a knight in shining armour
On my darkest day

A thunderclap was the message of his demise
That day the earth lost a soul very wise

He was the most precious support of mine, not any more
Despite the time that's said to heal the pain
It still lingers deep inside my core
Leaving my heart sad and sore.

Ishita Singla, 12 D



In der Realität verloren

Lass es dir am Anfang entgehen
Lass es dich bedecken, während du darauf bist
Lass es dich kontrollieren, wenn dein Herz schmerzt
Denn wenn du weißt, dass du zu spät bist und,
Du bist nichts mit deinem Lieblings Schmerz.

Lost in Reality

Let it elude you in the beginning
Let it cover you while you are onto it
Let it control you when your heart aches
Because when you know, you're too late and,
You're nothing with your favourite pain.

Kirpal Kaur, 9 D

What Lies Beyond?

We live in an immeasurably large universe, which is constantly expanding. As there are trillions of galaxies in the universe with our own Milky Way among them, there could be multiple universes beyond the observable universe and our universe is just a part of that cluster. This possibility, known as the Multiverse Theory, is believed by a minuscule number of people, including me. The theory itself is too baffling for the human mind to process. Another universe with different laws, different intelligent civilizations or maybe just an empty hollow space with no planets, no stars, no galaxies and entirely different celestial bodies. There is a possibility, if the multiverse exists, that if you look far enough into the multiverse you will be able to see infinite versions of yourself. The plausibility of this theory is based on the fact that if multiple universes don't exist, then what lies beyond our ever expanding universe? Nothing? The human mind cannot comprehend what is scarier - nothingness or infinite being, which leads them to reject this theory while it is the most sane explanation out of all the theories out there. This theory seems ethereal, something straight out of stories, comic books or sci-fi movies, which intrigues me even more. The human mind longs for answers, to satisfy its curiosity. The world can continue to detest this myth, but I'm sure one day they'll come around to believe it.

Jyotsna Pathak, 12 A

A Symbol of Pride

Living in a world where your clothes determine your social standing, uniforms are a breath of fresh air. Uniforms play a vital role in spreading belongingness, uniformity, and equality among students no matter their religion, caste or economic status.

Children are exposed to many different fashions and trends in today's digital age. Clothes have taken the shape of a status symbol, and in the absence of a uniform, children will judge each other based on what brand they are wearing. Uniforms create a feeling of oneness among the students.

When students don't have to worry about what to wear to school or how they look, they can focus fully on learning. In the absence of a uniform, children will dedicate more time to what they should wear rather than concentrating on learning. Getting ready for school will become one more thing they have to worry about, along with exams and assignments.

The presence of a standard dress code for students eases the burden on students to look a certain way and motivates them to express themselves through sports, arts, academics, etc. Every student gets an equal footing, and their fashion choices do not dictate their personality or creativity. They are not judged by what they wear but how they behave, and this learning is taken forward when they grow up.

School uniforms promote school spirit and make students feel they belong together. It helps generate a sense of pride and motivates students to function as a team. When they represent their school at any competition or inter-school events, the uniform makes them feel fiercely loyal to their school. They try to make an effort to uphold the reputation of their school.

Last but not least, school uniforms are the economical choice for parents. With a uniform in place, they do not have to worry much about this aspect.

Ryha Mahajan, 9 C

2.0 - Science Fiction or a Warning?

A great work of fiction allows us to see the truth that may be hidden from us in real life. A good example of the ability of fiction to teach us an important truth is 2.0.

This Bollywood science fiction film revolves around the concept of how electromagnetic radiation is wiping out bird population and a supernatural being named Pakshirajan who comes in part human, part bird form to take away all the mobile phones. The movie reveals to us how the hidden radiation which seems harmless turns out to be deadly for birds.

I always wondered why I no longer heard the melodious chirping of sparrows whenever I woke up in the morning, why now I needed to carefully look for a sparrow to spot one. Where did all the sparrows go? After watching the movie, I understood the visible effects of invisible radiation. It is no longer hidden and its true colours are yet to be seen fully.

We need birds more than they need us. Birds are our major source of food as they help in pollination vital for growth of fruits and vegetables. Birds act as natural insecticides and one of the major reasons we receive pest-free fruits and vegetables at our home. Birds have a natural navigation system. However, the use of mobile networks like 4G increases radiation that disorients the birds neurologically, genetically, and reproductively. They are not able to figure out which direction to move in and eventually die.

The supernatural being in the movie comes to teach us a lesson why humans need birds and how we are destroying our own future, especially with the 5G network already developed and ready to be used. This 'science fiction' film wants us to change our communication network system to one more friendly for birds before it's too late and the movie is no longer fiction !!

Arnav Garg, 12 B

Love & Compassion - The Building Blocks to a New World

In today's society, we find an endless sea of hatred, anger and resentment lurking in the dark and looking for an opportunity to claw out our inner self esteem. In these vulnerable times, it is ever so difficult to find the ray of compassion, love and hope that can guide our soul to a better tomorrow.

Does showing love only change the people around you or bring along something different in your heart as well? Is it right to remain self centered and in your own bubble when the world around you seeks some empathy and understanding. Is it so difficult to spare a bit of your time to spread happiness, a smile and a lesson to one deprived of it all? Can love and compassion really bring about change?

You need not be rich or knowledgeable nor have it all to give back. You must just be willing with a good heart and a hand that goes out to help. Like Helen Keller and Evelyn Glennie, you don't need to have sight or hearing, you must just have patience, a goal and willingness to change the world with some love and compassion. Love and compassion maintains a balance, a cycle of positivity that goes on and on.Every person who has been an inspiration and given back to society in some form or other, has only been able to do so as some kind spirit has always supported them to move forward in life. You must show love for it to go on and affect someone else as well.

Spreading love and empathy goes beyond individuals, it also seeps into relations between countries. If only countries like Russia and Ukraine aspire to take the path of love and compassion that is when our world could be at peace. No amount of hatred and apathy can heal our world and simply set our love on flames.

"An eye for an eye, makes the whole world blind." But, a glimpse together, hand in hand, can fill our world with unending positivity and endearment.

Sonakshi Samanta, 9 C



Vaaruni Agarwal
12E



Prateeti
Chattopadhyay - 12F



Anshika Gupta - 11F

Dear Future Roommate,

Here's what a day in your life with me will look like. I'll wake you up before your alarm because we have a lot to do and I despise being late. But don't worry, I'll compensate for this by bringing you the perfect breakfast from the cafeteria, I'll also make my world-famous tea which in all honesty is just an excuse to have my third cup of the morning. Then, while you eat, I'll read the headlines of the day because I have an incessant need to know everything.
After a day of classes, you'll be coming home to me dancing to my 2000s music mix, after which I will persuade you to explore the campus where I will definitely stop at the library for a little browsing (PS, we'll be there for a while). I will also order some bubble tea as we relax at what I know will become our spot at the campus. Then, once in our dorm, as we eat dinner, be ready for some interesting discussions, ranging from the role of Darwinism in psychology to whether you're team Marvel or team DC (this will define the course of our friendship). Also, fair warning, I am a talker once you get to know me. Then, we'll go for an evening stroll, pick up some ice cream while deciding the movie of the night which I will insist be a period piece. Finally, as we head to bed, I'll smile at you and wish you goodnight.

Rabanee Gujral, 12 F

The Life Lesson

It comes without a call
To help us recall
Our responsibility, our devotion towards our well being.
It ensures that we sustain in this world by being optimistic
The realism around becomes unrealistic.
Seeing everything happening around us tends to influence us negatively
It's our duty to enhance our inner selves positively.
So, let's take a step together to prioritise ourselves.

Hridya Anand, 9 B

Setting Boundaries

Swami Vivekananda once said, "Happiest is the man who is not at all selfish." However, I believe that it is more appropriate to say that the happiest is the man who knows when to be selfish. A tree only giving out apples without receiving any water or sunlight will eventually die. A tap continuously giving water will eventually dry up and just like that, a man who only knows how to give will eventually be drained - mentally, physically and emotionally. Selfishness in my opinion is natural, necessary for survival, as stated by Charles Darwin too in his Theory of Evolution - survival of the fittest. If you always take care of others, who will take care of you?

By stating this, I don't want to be misunderstood as someone who discourages people from helping others. I want to emphasise that sometimes it is necessary and okay to set boundaries about the expectations that people may have from you. Helping others in a symbiotic relationship, where thoughtfulness, effort and gratitude is reciprocated is wonderful for personal growth, but it is not wise to constantly be taken advantage of.

As humans, the ideas of ethics, morals, and humanity are etched in our thoughts, and rightfully so, but is it humane to use these noble ideals to pressurise someone to do something they do not want to? To discourage someone from doing something just because someone else doesn't want to? To end up wasting their time and opportunities to help out someone who hasn't tried their best? Familial and friendly ties are precious and should be cherished, but not at the cost of our own well-being and future. Being selfish is good when it doesn't intentionally harm others. Selfishness and selflessness are both equally necessary, each situation is different and it is up to us to distinguish the blurred line between them.

Yashanshi Sajwan, 12 B

Hidden Meaning of Dreams

I woke up a little later than usual, around 11 am. This was about a year ago. I remembered my dream well because this was the first time I'd ever experienced something like this. So, apparently, I was a dog in the dream. I was a white dog who was small in size but fairly old. I had just died and was standing in front of a huge door. While I was standing there, I could hear the voices of people laughing. All of a sudden, the doors opened and I moved forward, scared because everything was pitch black. I saw a dull temple-like monument in front of me but the rest was all dark. I moved forward regardless and soon the surroundings started to light up. I was walking on a concrete path that was at the centre leading to the temple-like monument. Around me I saw people enjoying themselves. It felt like an event. I assumed the people to be dead souls. I saw my owners; I remembered their faces. I went to them but they didn't seem to recognize me. I saw a lady standing next to them and I went to her. She turned to me and said, "You lived a good life. You were kind and because of your good karma you'll now be reborn as ..." I could not hear what she said as I was interrupted by a ball thrown at me by someone. I ran to fetch the ball. When I returned to the lady, I asked her to repeat what she had just said. She repeated the same thing but I couldn't hear the last part again for some reason. I remember something strange happening but since it's been a long time, I do not remember it well. But the fact that I did not watch anything related to life and death or a dog before I went to sleep and yet I had this dream out of the blue makes me wonder if maybe I was a dog in my past life. Or did I dream about a dog's experience after death? Were the people present there really people or dead souls? Maybe they were souls who were yet to be born? I have had questions about this dream ever since I woke up from it. This dream has stuck with me since then because it did not feel like just a superficial dream that did not make any sense, but a dream which had a hidden meaning. The meaning of dreams can only be assumed, never known for certain. Yet, it's a dream I'll not forget for a very long time.

Devika Chauhan, 11 F

A Heart Full of Gratitude

Every year, on the 1st of January we wish each other a 'happy new year', not knowing if it would be a happy year or a year we wish we never had to enter. Something similar was the year 2021 for me as it was one crazy ride.

We all know about the deadly Covid pandemic and how India witnessed its worst in the second wave. It was the month of April when the pandemic was at its peak when my mom and I tested positive for covid. The moment we learned about our test results, we shed a tear for each other because we did not want it at a time when there was no cure for it. I dreaded it and my stress level had reached its maximum, not for my health but my mother's. Every single minute of every single day, I heard about nothing but deaths. Be it celebrities, sportsmen, relatives, neighbours, or friends, they either had lost their lives or lost someone very close to them to this horrifying disease. I feared not making it through because just a few days ago, I had lost my uncle who was our very close relative. Days had not passed when I lost my other uncle, who was also very close to us. Only a few months later, one of my teachers also lost her life to covid complications. I was distressed, anxious, and afraid of whom I might lose next. This fear did not let me sleep and made me constantly fidgety. As afraid as I was with every passing second, I also realized the uncertainty of life. We tend to take our relationships for granted. We do not care about our loved ones until they are not there. We have become so obsessed with materialistic things that we often forget the simple things which have made us reach here, none other than our family, friends, teachers, and even our pets for being the constant source of joy in our lives. I wished I could have told my uncles that they were such awesome individuals, amazing fathers, and the best uncles ever. I desperately wished I could go back in time and tell my teacher how lucky I was to have her as my inspiration and how great an impact she had in my life. The havoc created by Covid made me concede how fragile life is and to be grateful for every person in our lives. In fact, the whole year not only forced me to search for an easy escape but at the same time gave me the strength to face my fears and also taught me the importance of relationships.

Take a moment out of your busy schedules and go say 'Thank you' to your loved ones for being your pillar of strength, for being supportive of your every decision, and for just being there. Take a moment to acknowledge their presence in your life by hugging them and spending quality time with them for if it would not be for them, you would not be where you are. In this endless rat race of life, be grateful for even the smallest of your relationships because what will be the point of achieving something with no one there to congratulate you for it?

Last but not the least, be grateful for yourself. Grateful for your ability to walk, hear, listen, and talk, and grateful for your strengths. Never take any of them for granted for you are there, for a reason. Be grateful, before it's too late.

Kanika Deo Narayan, 12 B

Wind

I am the wind
Flowing on a path undecided,
Making the trees and leaves rustle;
The turns and curves I love,
When finally, I rest and see the beauty around me.

Siya Rai, 10 C



The Gravity of Grief

'The Raven' is a 108-line poem by Edgar Allen Poe. It teaches us the more conducted, serpentine truth of the human minds. It touches upon the true nature of our subordinates and the gravity of grief.

'The Raven' is about a man who is heartbroken over the passing of his beloved, Lenore. On a lonely December night, a raven knocks incessantly on his window. The man lets it in. Amused by the gravity it held in its face, the man begins talking to it. However, the bird can only croak the word 'nevermore'. As he continues conversing with the raven, the man slowly loses his grip on reality; he peppers it with despairing questions. He takes the bird's repeated response as a sign that all his dark thoughts are true, even though it's unclear whether it was understanding him or simply speaking the one word it knew. The narrator, seemingly maddened by his grief, shrieks at the raven and declares his "soul shall be lifted - nevermore!".

Poe wanted to show the fine line between rational thought and insanity and how profound anguish can blur it. Grief blots all elation around it, amplifying the already-prevalent latent ability to abandon living in the present. Mourning can result in a simple interaction transpiring into obsession and devotion. We observe this as the man asks the bird questions it could never conjure the answers to, such as if he will meet his Lenore in heaven. The poem also delves into the labyrinthian nature of what our thoughts can lead us to believe. In the narrator's mind, the word 'nevermore' shifts from an amazing response to a logical and truthful one that convinces him to believe his intrusive thoughts.

I believe that one cannot justify or express or understand in simple words the theme that the poet has written about - one requires a poem to convey it. What makes it an almost bewitching poem is how it effortlessly incorporates literary devices to create a setting of apparent melancholy, prompting us to exert our intellects to uncover the real meaning. The truth of self-borne falsehood is the most prominent lesson of 'The Raven', which is why it remains, in my opinion, a literary work of unparalleled genius.

Ayaana Raheja, 12 B

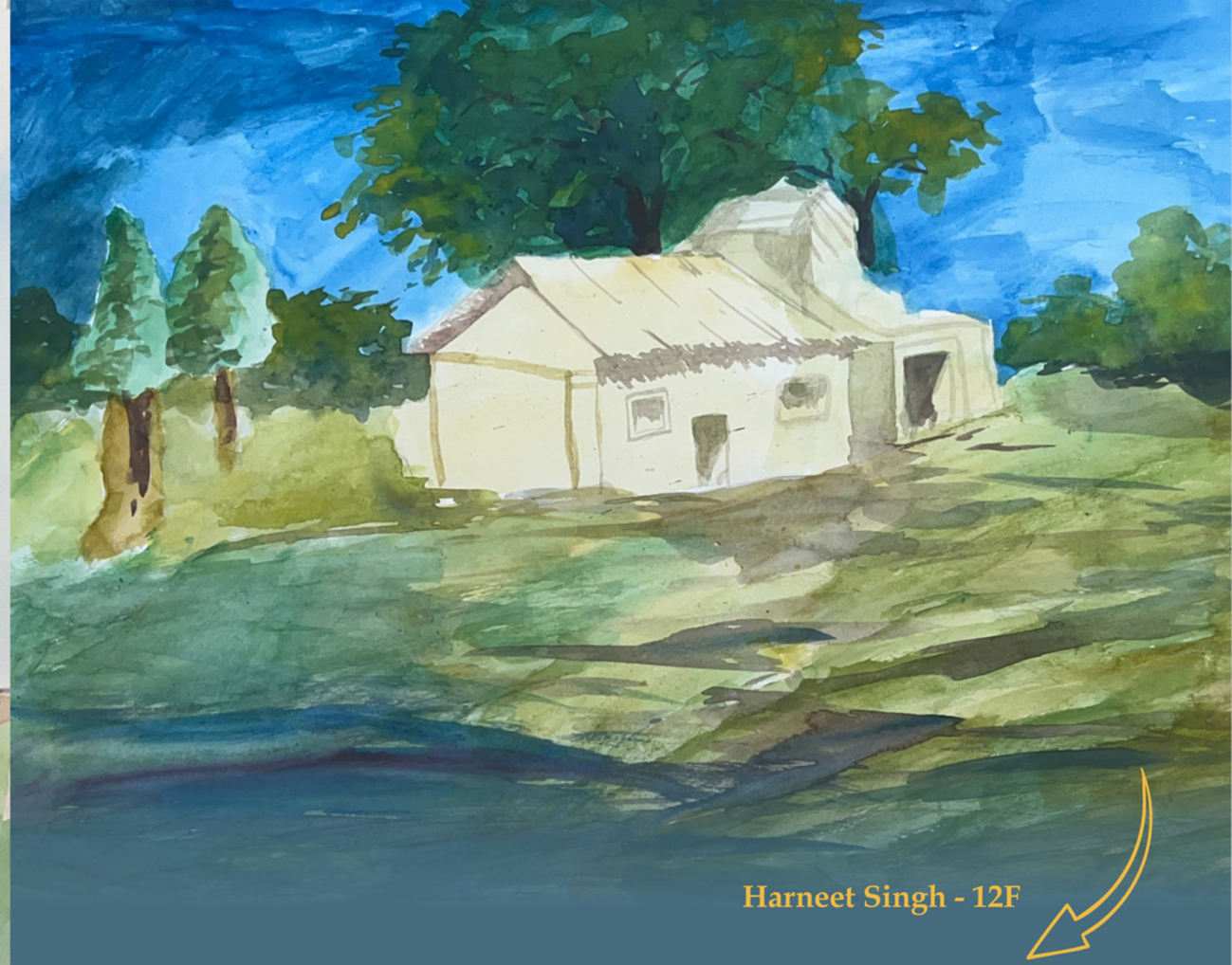
Teach Us to Give...

"Teach us to give and not to count the cost" is a very relevant and beautiful line from St. Ignatius Loyola's Prayer of Generosity. Cost doesn't always have to mean money, it could be spending time with someone, spreading kindness or any gesture or act of kindness. It may be like helping someone to carry their groceries. An act of generosity could be holding the door open for the person behind. It is a service that one provides regardless of whether he gets anything in return or not. It could also mean standing up for someone. A kind and generous person could also be the one who lives with his parents even after they have grown old and doesn't leave them on their own or to old age homes but provides mental and emotional support and doesn't leave them with only money and other resources.

The best gift I have ever received is my family's love and affection, their support in good and bad days, at every stage of my life. The best gift I have ever given is guidance and support to the needy. I have donated books and personal material and also tutored and motivated the housemaid's son for studies.

I feel good giving such gifts because in today's world where greed for money and hatred is increasing, there are many people who are ready to serve selflessly and help the society.

Abhishek Rakshit, 12 A



Harneet Singh - 12F

Why you Should Never Claim Something Cannot Be True

We've all heard rumours about alien sightings and time travel and what not, but we always claim that they're false since we don't have any concrete proof. But what proof do we have that they are just rumours? The human mind struggles to imagine something which it hasn't experienced before. Just try imagining a new colour.

I'm not telling you to believe everything you're told blindly. I'm saying that you shouldn't completely rule out the possibility that something is too ridiculous to be true. 2,000 years ago, a philosopher said that we get sick because of 'animals so small that we can't see them but they enter our bodies through our nose and mouth, infecting us'. As you would expect, nobody believed him at the time. Before Galileo invented the telescope, people believed that the Earth was the centre of the solar system. Even when Galileo proved that the actual centre was the Sun, using his telescope, it took many years for people to accept it. The first computer was the size of a room, but now having a much more powerful device in your pocket is totally casual.

However, there are instances when people accepted something false. Nikola Tesla provided electricity to a whole town wireless back in 1901! Back when electricity was new and not thoroughly researched, scientists noticed that electrocuting a dead frog made its legs twitch and they concluded that the frog was coming back to life, but the only real world application of this was inspiration for the novel 'Frankenstein'.

So, who knows? Maybe aliens are real. Maybe the Bermuda Triangle is a wormhole to another dimension. I admit that I don't have anything to back up my claims, but when the Titanic completely decays, people are going to say that it was never a true story since there would be no proof that it actually happened.

Dhruv Sehgal, 12 B



Sonakhi Samanta - 9C

Is There Really Only One Victim?

Our world amazes me in numerous ways. Being home to a population of 7.98 billion people belonging to a plethora of religions, castes, sexualities and more, there is indeed a lot of room for people to express themselves and have the opportunity to create their own opinions. However, with good comes bad. Although it has always been an issue, people projecting their interests and opinions on others, it has come into the limelight in recent years and is also a heavily debated topic now.

Since their birth, girls and boys are treated differently. When a family is blessed with a girl, it is not always celebrated. But on the birth of a boy, the family is full of joy. Similarly, when a boy cries or shows any form of emotion, they are told to 'man up' and hide their emotions. Girls are often not given the chance to follow their dreams and live a life according to their own likes and dislikes. They are constantly pressurized to look a certain way - petite, with an hourglass shaped body; to act a certain way - soft-spoken, vulnerable and accommodating. They are even asked to dress a certain way and hang out with limited people at certain timings and places, for if they don't, they could be unsafe. On the other hand, boys are always expected to be manly, and according to how our society defines masculinity, they should be aggressive, reticent, competitive and more. They are always pressurized to show dominance over other boys as well as women. Moreover, there are body standards for boys as well - tall with a muscular body, etc. There is no doubt that on a larger scale, boys have more freedom than girls in today's society. However, that does not mean that one's problems are bigger than the other as they are both equally damaging and cannot be excused.

Our society can be as ugly as it can be loving. There is no one victim here, it's both the groups suffering equally. Everyone in this world wants the same thing - freedom to be themselves and not be tied to the stereotypes and notions that our society has created. We all want to live a life of our own according to our terms, not one controlled by other people. After all, do you really think someone could fit into this unrealistic mould that society has created for us and live up to the standards of billions of people with different opinions?

Aassia Kaur Dua, 12 A

A Mystery Resolved

I don't believe in ghosts, but the tinkering of the cup and saucer placed on my study table was mysterious. My palms started to sweat as I was overcome with uneasiness ...

That evening, I had retired early to bed after an exhausting day. My parents had gone out of town. Just as I was dozing off, I was jarred awake due to a loud explosion. This inexplicable sound made my stomach drop. I reached for the flashlight on my nightstand and frantically started flashing the light in all directions while creeping towards the switchboard.

By now all traces of sleep had vanished. I switched on the light and went around the house only to find nothing amiss. I heaved a sigh of relief and pondered on what might've caused the explosion. Eventually, I decided to return to my bed. I tossed and turned but couldn't find the relief of sleep. After a few more minutes of restlessness, I heard the tinkering of a cup and saucer. The tentacles of fear wrapped me in its clutches. I pinched myself to ascertain that it was real.

I wracked my brain for all possible explanations but came up short. I couldn't help but wonder if there was a ghost in my room. But the logical side of my brain refused to accept this. I had read many reports which dispelled the existence of ghosts. By then, the dread I felt and the irrationality of my thoughts had taken sleep miles away from me so I decided to leave the lights on and stay awake.

All of a sudden, the curtain rod on my window came clanking down. I sprung to my feet, rushed towards the window and shouted, 'Who is there?!', but I saw no one. By now I was exasperated and hysterical due to fear and exhaustion. I glanced towards the clock and saw that it was 2 a.m. There were still a couple of hours until dawn. I prayed to God, asking him to get me out of this ordeal.

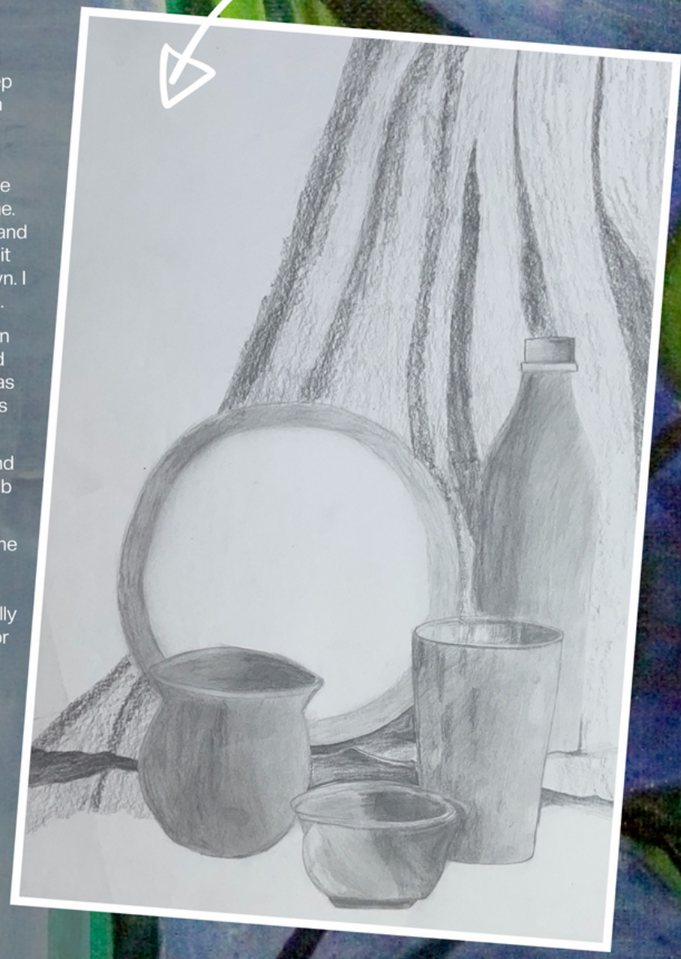
The next few hours went painstakingly slow as I sat on my bed drifting in and out of sleep. I didn't realise I had fallen asleep until I felt the sun shining on my face. I was glad to see the sunlight and got up stretching my limbs to try and relax my sore limbs.

Once I was fully awake, I went into the bathroom to find shards of glass across the floor, the remnants of a bulb that I figured caused the mysterious explosion.

I decided to freshen myself up by turning on the T.V. The lady on the news could be heard mentioning an earthquake that had left mass destruction in its wake the previous night. The bizarre puzzle of last night finally made sense to me. I thanked God for His grace and for keeping me safe during the disastrous event.

Anshika Gupta, 11 F

Sanika Pal - 12E



I started to look at things differently when..

I believe everyone is given a reality check in life at least once, if not several times. No matter how much (or how long) it affects the person, it always comes along with a lesson to learn and, if not learnt, it keeps coming to us like an angel being sent by a higher power. This 'angel' may be sent to us repeatedly if we fail to learn our lesson.

People tend to take up a new hobby when they have a lot of free time. During the lockdown, although I took up a new activity to learn, I also utilised my time to reflect upon myself and my surroundings. I like to believe that your surroundings and the people you have as company help shape you as a person, be it positively or negatively. People you surround yourself with could enhance your energy or drain it. During the lockdown, everything was digitalised; even a simple board game 'Ludo' was turned into an app. People started downloading social media apps at a young age and, unfortunately, it has been normalised this way. Most of my so-called 'friends' started being unusually very distant from me and gradually stopped talking to me and that is when I started looking at things differently. You can say that during this period, God sent down an angel to me to give me a reality check. I've been sent several angels but none of them had such an everlasting effect on me like this one had. This angel drastically changed my perspective on everything.

I realised that even though friends are an essential element of our lives just like our families, we mustn't force ourselves into a group of friends just because we perceive them as 'cool' or 'fun'. The whole concept of 'if it's meant to happen, it'll happen' suddenly clicked with me. Other than the friendship element of life, this angel helped me comprehend the idea of karma. I strongly believe in it till date. You could have good karma or bad karma. Everything you give to the universe, eventually comes back to you.

I could go on about such concepts for hours and not feel exhausted by it as I like to believe it enhances my mood and my energy. It strengthens me even more looking back at how I was a few years back and how I am now - surrounded by good people who uplift me. I suppose they're my good karma. I would like to conclude by stating that being by yourself is alright. It's normal and it generally has good outcomes. Spending time by yourself would help you open your eyes and start looking at everything differently, perhaps just the way it is. It's time we find our true selves and start working on ourselves.

Aajuni Ahluwalia 9D



Vaaruni Agarwal - 12E

The One Who Stayed

They leave
And act like it never happened.
They come back
And act like they never left.
But you ...
You stayed, for the worst and for the best.
People call you a man's best friend,
A friend? Maybe, but to me you are my whole world.
From your tiny paws and your wet little nose,
God knows when you took me by whole.
A day without you, is a day I would never wish
A life without you, is a life I don't want to live
The warmest hugs, the softest kisses
I hope you never leave me like the others who always did.
And till the last beat of my heart, I will always love you, no matter what you did.

Kavya Kapur
12 F



Prateeti Chattopadhyay 12F

See You Later

Presently I'm sitting at my desk
writing this letter to you, my 60-year old self.

Our desk lamp illuminates the entirety of my room,the
same one where we have spent moments of happiness and
even of gloom.

I know you've shifted out by now,
leaving these things behind.
But I pray you haven't let the memories slip away from
your mind.

Do you and brother still have our famous sibling fights?
Do you still call for mother
when you're having sleepless nights?

Did father continue to update you
with the important news of the day?
That you eternally remember these gems,
I pray and pray and pray.

Have you achieved all your dreams,
the ones that kept you awake?
I hope you treated yourself with love and care and
understood that it's okay to give yourself a break.

I hope life was kind to you
and the years passed by with bliss.
Are you happy to have left your childhood behind
or is it something that you miss?

I hope you don't beat yourself up
when things don't go your way.
Do you still remain quiet
even when you're not okay?

Were you able to find your Prince Charming or did it
remain a wish?
I hope a reflection of your childhood
is what you see in your kids.

Being successful is great
but being a good person is greater,
remember this as I bid you goodbye, my love, or should I
say, 'see you later'.

Ananya Kashyap, 12-F

The Many Exhilarating Genres in a Book

As I am currently writing this, I just finished 'A Game of Thrones' by George R.R. Martin. "Game of thrones? Oh, so you must be into the fantasy type." People tend to associate a bookworm with a particular genre, but the same may not go for me. The story goes that I had a phone addiction. And to get out of it, I used an unusual method. My unusual method to treat my phone addiction led me to camp out in front of my school library, wreck my sleep schedule and annoy my mom (because now there are too many books cluttering my room) all so that I get into the habit of reading books.

Books come in so many different genres that it might make the mind of even a genius like Leonardo Da Vinci spin. Romance, comedies, tragedies, historicals, historical fiction, biographies, non-fiction, self-help, dystopia, horror, gore, thriller, mystery - you name it, you get it. And if someone like good ol' Mr. Da Vinci can get crazy, then what kind of mysterious adventure lies in store for me, a mere 11th grade student? And thus, on the advice of my English teacher I went, grabbed all the books I could lay my eyes on and started reading.

Now, don't imagine me as someone who is sitting in an armchair with a mountain of books next to her. That's not how it's done, unless you wish to get a headache (and a flying slipper from your dear mother). One book at a time, that is the golden rule. And don't rush yourselves and skip pages or paragraphs because they happen to be too 'wordy'. Simply ask your parents or your literature teacher to guide you.

Going forward, this is how my literary adventure began. On a beautiful afternoon, right after a pesky practical exam, my English teacher suggested that I read 'Pride and Prejudice' by Jane Austen; a go-to classic. Now, I will be frank and admit that I am not a big fan of classic literature. I prefer the sentences that I read to be practical, easy to understand and straight to the point. Also, I am one of those people who do not like reading romances. So, two genres that I was uncomfortable with, in one book. I did not have the heart nor the courage to disagree with my teacher, so off I went home, 'Pride and Prejudice' in hand.

Long story short, it seems that I underestimated the genius of Jane Austen's writing skills (not that I had ever read her works before, so I really did not have any right to judge before). But my most favorite thing about 'Pride and Prejudice' would be that it went against the rules of a typical lovey-dovey story. Here was a protagonist (and my favorite character) who would take absolutely no nonsense. And such good 'women's intuition'! Elizabeth Bennet made me realize that when it comes to marriage, women have to learn how to observe other people, and be a good judge of other people's character, otherwise it might really lead to a disaster (and truly, in the book, it did). But it was not just one character. Jane Austen fleshed out the others also, giving them traits that made these fictional people human. In this aspect, the one character I loved the most would be Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy, a.k.a Mr. Darcy, as he is known throughout the novel. Austen, through Mr.Darcy, showed that pride due to the hard work they had to do for maintaining their status is worthy, and prejudice against people because of first impressions can really hide the best parts of somebody's inner character or their beliefs. The developing relationship between the two main leads and the eventual ending made me more satisfied than a romance has ever made me. So, I have to give it to 'Pride and Prejudice' for setting, in my belief, the standards that novels of the romance genre should follow.

However, it is not only because of the genre that made me more inclined to read classical literature. The sweet aftertaste that 'Pride and Prejudice' left me with led me to read one of Jane Austen's other works, titled 'Mansfield Park'. I don't know, whether it's because of the fact that I myself have changed houses three times and even had to go to entirely different states at times (due to the nature of my father's work) or because I too face difficulty in opening up in front of strangers, but I was able to relate with Fanny Price (in her younger years) a lot more than I had earlier anticipated. Really, much more as compared with Elizabeth Bennet. However, this time what really struck me in the eye was how brilliantly the duality of human nature was showcased in the form of the characters, Mary Crawford and her brother Henry Crawford. Both were earlier depicted as charming and attractive, capturing the attention and approval of most of the Bertrams. However, little by little, Jane Austen showed how masterfully she can present people as somebody entirely else (I will not delve more into this lest I accidentally leave a spoiler regarding the novel's plot). The themes that were used were also quite uncommon, considering the fact it was written during a more conservative time period.

During the time that this was being written, one of my favorite books that I had read was 'A Thousand Splendid Suns', by Khaled Hosseini. By now, it had to be one of the few pieces of literature that moved me to tears. From the situations that Mariam and Laila were forced to be in, to the consequences they were forced to bear because of the actions of other people in their lives, straight to the bittersweet ending left me wishing that I could read it for the first time yet again.

My interesting foray into the exploration of genres now has made me realize that to truly enjoy the art of reading, sticking to just one or two types is not going to help. So, I am back in the library, grabbing all the titles that spark my interest.

Tarushi Pradip Kumar, 11 F



Manika
Chopra - 11E

A Holiday to Remember

Twice a year my family and I go for a spiritual trip to Calcutta (now Kolkata), and every trip brings about several hilarious incidents as well as many emotional ones. I'm going to stick to the fun ones as of now.

So, it was the night of Christmas (around 8 or 9 PM). All of us were in my uncle's apartment, having dinner. The next day, 26th December 2015, was my grandmother's birthday. My cousins and I decided to get everyone to write something about her on a piece of paper. Once everyone was done writing, we decorated the chits and put them in a fancy bowl. At midnight, we got our grandmother to read out what was written in the chits. While everybody wrote something sweet and emotional, my aunt's daughter took a completely different route. "Even though you're the sweetest person on earth, you're probably the worst singer too" she had written. To prove her wrong, my grandmother started singing and boy was it terrible! Everybody burst into laughter at that very moment. We partied all night, sang and danced away our problems. My elder brother started dancing on a rather romantic track and it was an absolute hilarious yet stunning performance! He's got great moves! We were all so busy having fun that we lost track of time. Finally when my uncle checked the time, he let out a massive yell. It was 4:30 a.m. and we had a train to catch at 6 a.m.! Everybody started to panic and got dressed in a hurry. The house looked like a mental asylum. Absolute chaos!! Kids running around, parents shouting at them to get dressed while getting ready themselves. Once everybody sat down in the bus, it was already 5:15 a.m.! There was clearly no time for a head count and I think you'll see what's coming next. We left a kid at home! The driver quickly turned the car around and this time, we did a head count. It was scary at first but 15 minutes later, everybody started laughing. Finally when we reached the railway station, a full on DDLJ scene happened with us as the train had already started moving and we, as expected, were late. Somehow we managed to board the train and again, this time while catching our breaths, we started laughing. Soon everyone was tired, grumpy and sleepy, which was justified after what had happened. Everyone went to their seats, took out their neck-pillows and tried to sleep. But the adventure wasn't over. My mom's sister was feeling cold in her coach so she came to ours. There, she encountered a middle aged man who wanted to sit next to the lady sitting beside my aunt. Mind you, my aunt has a sweet face but a very loud voice and an absolutely terrifying tone. She means well, but sounds super scary! She straight away snubbed the guy and when my mother and I asked her what had happened, she whispered, "He wanted to sit next to his girlfriend". The man then called the TC and my lovely aunt, in her ever-so-lovely tone, started fighting with the TC. The poor guy eventually gave up after my aunt woke up the whole coach by talking in her 'normal' tone. After the TC left, my aunt quietly asked the lady sitting next to her if the man was her husband or boyfriend. She replied in an offended tone, "No, he's my father! Do I look that old to you?!"

Naunidh Rekhi, 11 A

BACK TO SCHOOL AFTER 2 YEARS

BACK to SCHOOL

Inspite of challenges the show must go on.....And it did! And how !

During Covid the learning didn't stop.....bridges were created with the help of technology and children traversed smoothly and continued to conquer !



Class 06-08

Middle Section

ASPIRE TO INSPIRE

"So remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and hold on to that childlike wonder about what makes the universe exist."

Stephen Hawking



VOICES - CONTRIBUTOES

A Portal To The Unknown

Dreams are a figment of our imagination. Some may be magical while some may be our darkest fears... Dreams are an unreal wonderland where countless possibilities can take place. But how is it possible to live in another world while sleeping? The answer to that remains unknown. The concept of dreams is somewhat like an illusion - the harder you explore it, the more confused you get.

Once, I had a peculiar dream. The dream began with me being present in my own house which had been covered all over with vines and leaves. The atmosphere was filled with an eerie vibe. I looked everywhere, but no one was present. Suddenly, there were sounds of many birds chirping all at once. But as soon as I turned it was all gone. Just at that moment, the house started shaking. Things started falling everywhere. I panicked and tried to escape. To my shock, the door turned into a portal that led to an unknown dimension.

As I entered the portal, I found myself floating in space and the next second I was in a jungle. I could feel tremors in the ground. Thousands of mysterious birds started flying around. I soon realized I was in The Mesozoic Era! Also known as 'the era of dinosaurs'! The mysterious birds were none other than pterodactyls. I calmed myself down and looked for shelter. There were dinosaurs all over the place. I decided to search for the portal. It had burned to ashes. As soon as I rushed to the portal, the ashes turned into a disembodied voice. I shrieked! I wanted to end this nightmare as soon as I could. I was looking frantically for an escape when, out of nowhere, a dinosaur came rushing at me. I jumped to one side to save myself and found myself on the floor near my bed. I was breathing heavily and my heart was pounding.

I was both amazed and shocked to witness such a crazy incident. Dreams are truly confusing and two-faced!

Amaira Agarwal, 7 D

The Power Of The Universe

Energy is generated by us all. It is always around us. The most basic functions of our body require energy be it breathing, digestion or reproduction. The Earth requires gravitational energy to revolve around the Sun, the Sun in turn provides solar energy for the sustenance of life on Earth.

In a similar manner the Universe also possesses a unique energy. Albert Einstein was the first to understand that everything is made up of energy. If we can understand the concept of 'being one' with the energy of the universe, we can shape our own reality. This may not sound very credible initially. Some people believe that they don't have any control over their destiny and everything is already fixed based on their fate and past actions and if they try to manifest anything it won't work.

Manifestation is the power to turn a thought or idea into reality. This is sometimes also referred to as The Universal Law of Attraction. If you have read the book 'The Secret' or watched the movie, you might be curious whether it actually works or if it is a concept at all. Well, the law of the attraction or manifestation is scientifically proven. Ever heard the term 'like attracts like'? Well, manifestation is something like that. To put it in other words, this means that what you focus on expands, so if you are focusing or thinking about positive things then positivity will come back to you and if you are focusing on negative energy, then that is radiated through the universe to you. However, this is not as simple as it sounds. If you wish or want something, it won't just materialise. There are certain principles that follow the Law of Attraction. First we must understand in depth what manifestation actually means, it is much more complex than just wishing for something. Secondly, we must ask or order the universe exactly what we want. Then, we must expect and believe that whatever we have asked for is already true and be ready to face the consequences that follow the outcome. And once we receive what we wanted, it must be accepted. To get started on this journey of becoming one with the energy of the universe, we have to practise some simple exercises, such as maintaining a vision board for our goals or helping someone in need, as this will radiate positive and happy energy.

In the end, yes, manifestation is possible and you get exactly what you ask for. The universe never wants to make you sad or hurt you in any way, it gives what you ask for. So, we must leave behind negativity and generate positivity and happiness around us which will help create a better world for you and for me.

Tahira Arora, 8 C

Uncanny Night

Lightning flashed as I crept into the hut, crackle crooboom crackle broom, the bellow of thunder broke the silence of the tranquil forest. The furious sky roared and threw the streaks of light all around, scaring me. It was one of my usual nature trips to the jungle. I often visited 'my jungle' during the holidays. Little did I know that this trip would be a blessing in disguise. I was walking in the woods when the flashes of lightning revealed a hut. Out of curiosity, I entered the dilapidated and desolate hut which reeked of dust and mildew.

The spell of silence was broken by the squeaking sound of a rocking chair coming from the adjacent room. For a moment, I stood listening: I could hear someone breathing heavily. I was petrified and a jumble of questions raced through my mind. I tiptoed to the adjacent room and there I saw a hoary woman. She had wrinkles around her eyes yet her eyes were bloodcurdling. I was flummoxed because my grandmother had the same wrinkles and she had passed away three years ago. It was my grandmother. I stood rooted to the ground. I held her hand to take her back home with me but, to my astonishment, she vanished into thin air in the blink of an eye. I was baffled. My alarm clock started to yell at me. I woke up feeling as happy as a lark as I had met my grandmother in my dreams.

Moral - ghosts are fine in dreams, not in real life.

Pranit Malhotra, 6 A



Aarsheeya Gupta - 7A



Shragvi - 7B

I Get Scared When ...

I get scared when I see a hawker standing in the scorching heat

With an empty look in his eyes waiting for customers to come to his street

I get scared of the thought, "What if he cannot sell anything?

How will he feed himself and his family with nothing?"

I get scared when I see young homeless kids and toddlers begging,

Wearing torn clothes, weary and withering without means of living.

I get scared of the thought, "Where will they sleep tonight?

How do they keep their spirits bright and alive?"

I get scared when I see masons and other labourers in a life of toil on the construction site,

Building and lifting heavy stones, risking health without any sign of fright.

I get scared of the thought, "What if they get physically impaired one day?

How do they manage to gather strength each day while keeping their miseries away?"

Vivaan Sethi, 7 D

A Lesson In Inclusion

I recently watched the movie 'Wonder' on Netflix based on the book written by R. J. Palacio. The story is about a ten-year-old boy named Auggie Pullman, living in New York City, who was born with a facial deformity. This made it difficult for him to make friends and destroyed his confidence. The boy lived with his parents, sister Olivia, and his dog Daisy. The family was extremely caring and supportive of Auggie but his real struggle began when he stepped out of the comfort of homeschooling to actual schooling.

The movie is filled with emotions and excitement, and a happy ending too. This movie will certainly leave you with a radical thought which will definitely ring a bell in your head. The movie has a strong message that a simple act of kindness can make a difference in the attitude of everyone around us. And we have the ability to choose to be kind. This kindness can stop bullying in schools.

After seeing this movie, I understood that we should not bully anyone and should not mock anyone on the basis of their looks. Looks are what we acquire by birth and we have no control over them. The actual thing that matters is the character of the person because that is what we develop on the basis of our education, value system at home, and experiential learning from society.

Another important point, I have realized is that people who are born with deformities or disabilities should be embraced with an open heart so that they feel accepted and will be able to maintain their self-esteem. You never know how you might touch someone's life with your positive attitude, how you can spread happiness and send a ray of hope in their lives. If each one of us harbors love in our hearts for our fellow beings then only we can achieve the greater goal of world peace.

I loved the ending when Auggie was accepted for his qualities and kindness by everyone in the school and was presented a special award for his courage and kindness. This boy did not give up being kind to others despite what everyone thought about him. I highly recommend this movie to my friends as this story will encourage everyone to be kind to others and will inspire us to appreciate inclusion in our society.

Vivaan Sethi, 7-D



Manan Dhawan - 6A

Fairy Tales Are Not The Same Anymore

Once upon a time, not very long ago, there lived 3 princesses who we know pretty well - Rapunzel, Cinderella and Snow White. They were happy in their cozy beautiful homes away from their step moms, witches and vamps. Their princes loved them and gave them all they wanted, from pretty dresses to lovely necklaces, from sparkling crowns to glittering gowns. There was all the yummy food served at the snap of a finger and there were a hundred maids and servants to do even the tiniest chore. There was love all around and their lives were filled with happiness. They played in the royal gardens from morning till dawn and then they slept till they would want.

Oh, what a life they had ! A life that we all can just dream of having. But then one day, they realized there was something missing, something really important, something which is needed, something which is essential for everyone, be it us or the princesses.

As Snow White sat in the garden enjoying the birds chirping, suddenly an apple fell on her. She jumped up and shouted, "Ouch ! How dare the apple fall on me, doesn't it know I am a princess and hurting me is a crime. The tree can be sent to jail on my command !" "Ha ha haaa," laughed the gardener's girl who was sowing flower seeds just beside her. "It's Newton's law of gravity. Hey, Highness! I thought you would know it's nature's law - no one can punish anyone, be it you, the prince or the king himself, when apples fall ! Snow White was perplexed as she said, "What is this 'New' 'Ton'? Is it something 'New' in 'Town'?" "Oh no," said the gardener's girl. "It is a law of nature that everything is pulled towards the ground due to gravity which rules our Mother Earth." "Mother Earth !!!" said Snow White. "Now who is she? I have no mother. Is she some step mom or is it someone I need to see !" "Oh no no no no no" said the gardener's girl as she laughed and tumbled on the floor. "Oh ! Princess Snow White, there is so less that you know. Didn't you go to school, or read books or hear stories about the world, its happenings, and about all the things that we see?" Snow White ran into the palace, crying and sobbing. "Is this what I was made for? Just pretty dresses, eating and playing!"

There, in the palace dining hall, sat Rapunzel enjoying her delicious supper as she munched on chips and fries to her insatiable desire. Just then her closest friend said to her, "Stop eating so much junk, it will spoil your health, skin, hair and all !" Rapunzel laughed and said, "What nonsense you speak! Don't you know that eating gives you ... what do we say, nutri ... nutri..." The friend interrupted and said, "Nutrition!" "Yes," said Rapunzel, "it gives you nutrition that makes you strong and your hair long, gives a glow to your skin and helps you grow tall." The friend was shocked and sad for Rapunzel. She realized that a little knowledge is the most dangerous thing. She told Rapunzel that it was all junk food. It might taste yummy and delicious but the nourishment she was talking of came from green vegetables and fruits. "What ?!" said Rapunzel. "I don't understand what you are saying, go away. I don't wish to talk to anyone. We will meet some other day. Back in her room, as she sat in a dark corner, she felt that there was something missing, something that made her completely dumb and unaware.

Cinderella in her dance class did the best steps possible as she swung to the beats. Just then she started to do some wrong steps and kept knocking her knees on the hard floor and parapet. The dance teacher told her to stop immediately. "You can't do this, you will injure your knee ! It will never get ok and then dancing will be just a dream !" "What?" said Cinderella, "You said I was flexible as rubber. Then how can I injure myself?" "Oh no, my dear, how ignorant you are. The human body is not made only of muscles but bones too. If the kneecap is hurt, it will never recover." Cinderella was perplexed. "What are you saying? I don't understand. I need rest so you may go now." As Cinderella went back to her dresser, she saw the blue marks on her knee cap and it surely did hurt. "I guess the teacher was right and I was dumb not to understand that I am made of muscle and bones. But what are muscles and where are the bones? Are they similar to the branches of the trees on which leaves grow?"

As the 3 princesses lay on their bed that night, they knew something was wrong and something was missing in their seemingly happy lives. With that thought they slept and, when they woke up with the first ray of sun, they started to walk towards the garden where all the three had once played and had fun.

Astonished, happy and thrilled all at once, they hugged and kissed as they danced and pranced around to 'Ring a ring of roses'. Till Cinderella said "Let's slow down as we can hurt our muscles or bones." To that Snow White added, "We all fall down as Newton's law states. We are ruled by gravitational law." And Rapunzel joined in, "We should have fruits and veggies so that we grow strong."

All three looked into each other's eyes. They all had something to say as eyes don't lie. Snow White took the lead and said, "I am dumb" to which the other two added, "We feel the same. What is it that others know that we don't know? What is it that others have learnt and we never learnt !" Just then they heard a voice come from behind and as their heads turned, they saw that it was their fairy godmother. She said, "It's high time you understood - it's not the luxury or money, beauty or appearance, it's not the gowns and riches which make us wise and happy. It is education and learning. It is hardwork and perseverance, sincerity and courtesy which make us a complete person.

The fairy godmother disappeared but not before etching in their hearts this message – Wake up, my princesses, it's time to make a new start !

Soon, the three were seen together sitting on a bench. This time the bench wasn't at a palace or at a fancy restaurant – it was a school bench on which you and I sit and now sat the three princesses, studying and learning all that they had missed out on. The three, now intelligent, princesses knew that it's important to continue learning and never to stop.

Myra Jain, 7 A



Kavya Aggarwal - 7B



Saumya Srivastava - 7A



Aanya Mundhra 6D

Lass uns zusammen lachen
Let's Laugh Together

1. Was sagt man, wenn man einen Baum in der Hand hält?
- Palme !

2. Was ist das beste in der Schweiz ?
- Ich weiss nicht, aber die Flagge ist ein riesiges plus

3. Haben Sie von dem Mathematiker gehört, der Angst vor negativen Zahlen hat?
- Er schreckt vor nichts zurück, um ihnen auszuweichen.

4. Wo werden durchschnittliche Dinge hergestellt?
- Die zufriedenstellend.

5. Ein Mann sagt zu seinem Arzt: “Doc, helfen Sie mir. Ich bin süchtig nach Twitter!”
- Der Arzt antwortet: “Entschuldigung, ich kann Ihnen nicht folgen ...”

1. What do you say when you hold a tree in your hand?
- Palm Tree

2. What is the best in Switzerland?
- I don't know but the flag is a huge plus.

3. Have you heard of the mathematician afraid of negative numbers?
- He will stop at nothing to avoid them.

4. Where are average things manufactured in a factory ?
- The satisfactory.

5. A man says to his doctor: “Doc, help me. I'm addicted to Twitter!”
- The doctor replies: "Sorry, I can’t follow you..."

Haamil Gorai, 7 B

Money Can’t Replace Love

If I had a lot of money, what would I do ? Let me think. My first wish is definitely to buy a dream house for my parents. It would be equipped with the latest technology and it would be a smart home. I will ensure that my family is comfortably settled in this house.

The second thing I would do is to go on a world tour with my parents as I love travelling. First, I would like to visit Europe, especially Italy, the city of romance. I would visit all the museums and buildings I have heard so much about. I would also visit Paris to view the Eiffel Tower. This would be my dream come true.

I would do a lot of shopping, which is my favourite pastime. Besides shopping, I would spend it on various important things. I want to eliminate poverty, and if not completely, then at least help the poor people who are deprived of the basic necessities of life. I would certainly build good homes for the orphans in my town. In fact, I would also sponsor their education till they could stand on their own feet.

My parents say that a fool and his money are soon parted. Thus, I will be very careful with how I spend my money. However, money can never be compared with the importance of love and care in our lives.

Dishita Somany, 7 D



Akshara Arora - 7A



Saumya Srivastava - 7A

ARTWORK

GOENKA

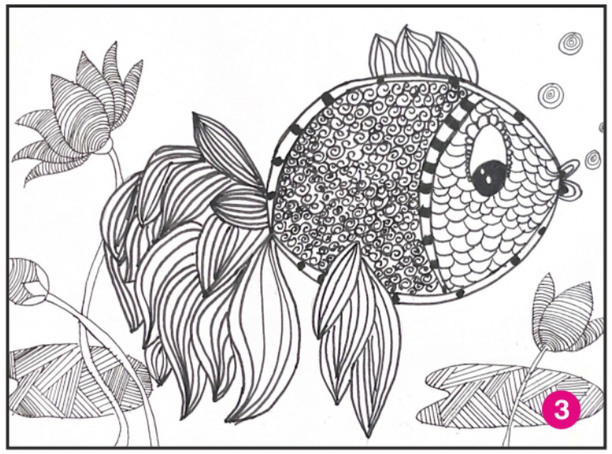


1



2

01. Aaliyah | Grade 7
02. Aanya | Grade 7
03. Aaliyah | Grade 7
04. Aaliyah | Grade 7
05. Amyra | Grade 6
06. Tiyasha | Grade 6
07. Tiyasha | Grade 6
08. Anchita | Grade 7



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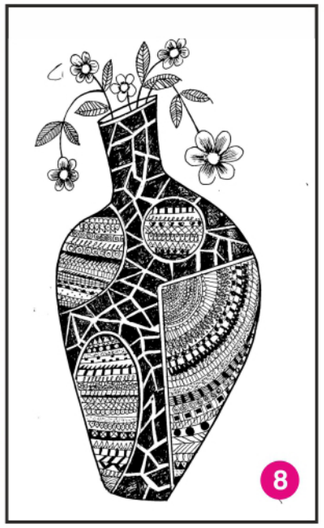


8

Educate Her

A house next to mine was under construction and had a security guard living with his family. Their son was going to school, but their daughter wasn't. Initially, I thought she was ill, but after a month I found it unusual. So I discussed it with mom and decided to talk to him. He said he had no money and girls anyway have to do household chores. I was taken aback. I instantly said,

"Educate a girl as you educate your son.

Educate her because she deserves it.

Educate her because she can make her own decisions and stand up for herself.

Educate her because she can prove that she is strong and beautiful.

Educate a girl because it is her right."

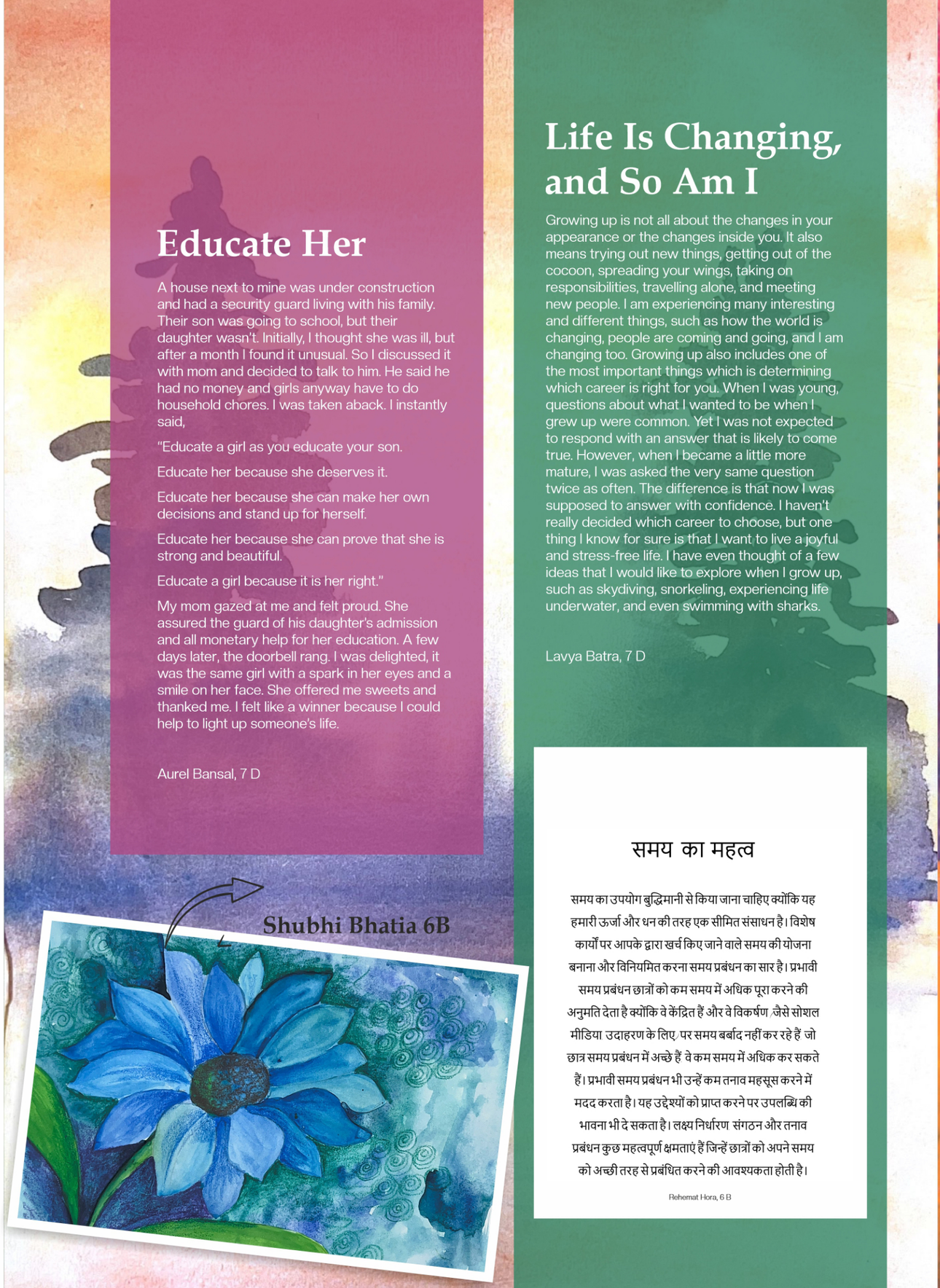
My mom gazed at me and felt proud. She assured the guard of his daughter's admission and all monetary help for her education. A few days later, the doorbell rang. I was delighted, it was the same girl with a spark in her eyes and a smile on her face. She offered me sweets and thanked me. I felt like a winner because I could help to light up someone's life.

Aurel Bansal, 7 D

Life Is Changing, and So Am I

Growing up is not all about the changes in your appearance or the changes inside you. It also means trying out new things, getting out of the cocoon, spreading your wings, taking on responsibilities, travelling alone, and meeting new people. I am experiencing many interesting and different things, such as how the world is changing, people are coming and going, and I am changing too. Growing up also includes one of the most important things which is determining which career is right for you. When I was young, questions about what I wanted to be when I grew up were common. Yet I was not expected to respond with an answer that is likely to come true. However, when I became a little more mature, I was asked the very same question twice as often. The difference is that now I was supposed to answer with confidence. I haven't really decided which career to choose, but one thing I know for sure is that I want to live a joyful and stress-free life. I have even thought of a few ideas that I would like to explore when I grow up, such as skydiving, snorkeling, experiencing life underwater, and even swimming with sharks.

Lavya Batra, 7 D



समय का महत्व

समय का उपयोग बुद्धिमानी से किया जाना चाहिए क्योंकि यह हमारी ऊर्जा और धन की तरह एक सीमित संसाधन है। विशेष कार्यों पर आपके द्वारा खर्च किए जाने वाले समय की योजना बनाना और विनियमित करना समय प्रबंधन का सार है। प्रभावी समय प्रबंधन छात्रों को कम समय में अधिक पूरा करने की अनुमति देता है क्योंकि वे केंद्रित हैं और वे विकर्षण ,जैसे सोशल मीडिया उदाहरण के लिए, पर समय बर्बाद नहीं कर रहे हैं जो छात्र समय प्रबंधन में अच्छे हैं वे कम समय में अधिक कर सकते हैं। प्रभावी समय प्रबंधन भी उन्हें कम तनाव महसूस करने में मदद करता है। यह उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने पर उपलब्धि की भावना भी दे सकता है। लक्ष्य निर्धारण संगठन और तनाव प्रबंधन कुछ महत्वपूर्ण क्षमताएं हैं जिन्हें छात्रों को अपने समय को अच्छी तरह से प्रबंधित करने की आवश्यकता होती है।

Rehemat Hora, 6 B



Dimpy - 8A





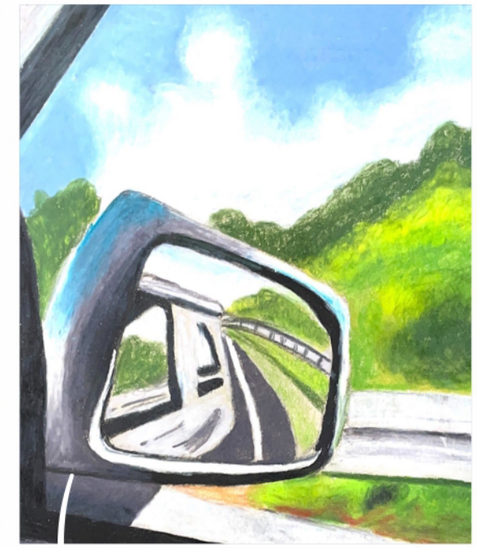


Ginessa Kapoor - 7A

A Beautiful Gift From God

Naturel
It's a clean environment with flowers, trees, birds and greenery
I can keep looking at it through my window for hours, oh, what beautiful scenery!
On the bright sunny morning, the rays shining through the trees
While taking a stroll in the garden, touching the flowers, oh! how it feels.
Even the wind, flitting between the leaves,
With swinging energy, it touches my skin - what a cool breeze!
Once, when I saw majestic snow-covered mountains, I got so engrossed,
Whenever I feel stressed, I find a peaceful place, lie under a tree, and doze.
No one can forget the beauty of daisies, lotuses, sunflowers, and roses,
Imagine, who knew that one small seed could slowly change into a pretty flower as it grows?
Actually, places like Delhi have a polluted environment, or nature, in reality,
I got thinking about how Isaac Newton just saw an apple fall from a tree and discovered gravity!
We even learnt of many phenomena like photosynthesis and the water cycle, thanks to science
Click pictures of nature, thanks to Johann Zahn who invented a camera appliance.
When I went to the beach, the sound of the water was so soothing and relaxing that it made me fall in love,
While doing my online classes on the terrace I get lost in hearing the chirping of birds, paying attention is so tough!
But today, global warming is not ready to stop,
Grow trees so that we can control floods, even a tiny drop.
Even the peacocks enjoy the pitter-patter rain and open their feathers and dance,
If we start taking more care, nature can become more peaceful, there is a chance.
But do you know who invented nature? It is so odd,
Right, it's not a man-made thing, it's a beautiful gift from God!

Suvenna Tayal, 7 D



Khushi Hasija - 8D

The Right Stuff

An apple a day keeps the doctor away
This is what our elders say.
Obesity and unhealthy diet are the two things
From which we need to stay away.
So let's pledge to stay healthy
And eat balanced meals everyday,
To have more energy to learn and play.
Proteins like eggs and pulses, keep our hair shiny
And our muscles strong.
Little carbs like rice and wheat give us energy all day long.
Fruits and vegetables have the vitamins we need,
Good fats like almonds, walnuts, flaxseeds
Good for our skin and help our brains succeed.
Dairy helps to keep our teeth and bones tough
Milk, cheese and yogurt have the right stuff.
Say 'no' to junk food, colas and cakes
Stay healthy and don't make mistakes.
So let's pledge to stay healthy
And eat balanced meals everyday.

Smyal Bansal, 7 D

प्रकृति प्रेम

फूलों-पौधों से है मुझे बेइंतहा प्यार
आता है इन पर बड़ी बहन सा दुलार
सुबह होते ही लॉन में अपने आती हूँ
घेर लेते हैं दौड़ कर मुझे बारम्बार
जाने क्या-क्या गुनगुनाते हैं
जाने क्या-क्या फुसफुसाते हैं
मैं भी छेड़खानियाँ करती हूँ इनसे
कई खेल खेलती हूँ
दौड़ कर छुपती हूँ बरगद के पीछे
नीम की टहनी पकड़ कर झूलती हूँ बाजुओं में किसी को भरती हूँ
छूकर किसी को दौड़ जाती हूँ
एक-एक फूल को सूँघती हूँ
एक-एक पत्ती से बात करती हूँ
खिलखिला उठते हैं जूही के फूल गुलाब के लाल रंग पर आता है प्यार
हरसिंगार पैरों तले बिछ जाते हैं
गुलमोहर सिर पर छाँव करता है
कुदरत के इन क़ीमती तोहफ़ों को लिए
ईश्वर दस्तक देता है हर सुबह मेरे द्वार !

प्रिशा तलवार
6 ब



Nitya Khurana - 7C

Life Is A Simulation

We live in a simulation. You might think that such a thought is too far-fetched but if you look over the events of history, you might realise that there is a loop in events. For instance, each century has a great trend, each century has a pandemic which wipes out a good deal of the population, both Napoleon and Hitler invaded Russia in an identical manner and there is a time of great depression in each century. People might think that it is impossible that we live in a simulation as we make our decisions ourselves but this fact only makes me more inclined to believe that we live in a simulation as we can make only one decision. Also, the fact that our fate is already decided makes me more convinced of the fact that we live in a simulation. This is the only myth I believe in. I believe in such a perception as I believe people like Stephen Hawkings have predicted the future of the world to a great extent. Are people actually able to tell the future or are they just presumptions? Is there a secret society or is it coincidence ? Are recurring events done in the same manner by the One Above Us or are they just possibilities. These are questions that will probably never be answered but are relevant.

Kiaanraj Singh Anand, 7 D



Yashika Gupta - 8A

Back To The Way It Was

What's the one common parent-child argument you hear in each and every household? "Get off your screen!" "Ya, ya... soon." "NOW!!!" This is bound to be a recurring dialogue. So, what is a decent and healthy screen-life balance that a student should maintain that keeps them and their parents happy? I think this is the biggest challenge for today's students.

Before the Covid lockdown, students were told that screens were bad as our eyesight could get weak and it would affect our studies. Our reading and writing skills would not improve. We would only play video games and watch YouTube videos all day and soon it would become an addiction.

However, during the Covid lockdown everything went online! Children were glued to their screens for hours with parents, teachers and students scrambling to get and stay online. We did all our subjects, including PE, music, dance, etc. online. Screens became the lifeline for entertainment. Everyone could meet or text their friends online through WhatsApp. Children could continue their education online. It definitely made life easier.

Now, again students are being told that screens are bad for us as lots of people's eyesight has become poor. Many are suffering from an addiction to screens. Children keep playing video games and aren't going outside to play anymore. People are still meeting their friends online instead of going out. Children have become used to doing everything online.

Almost all students have become hooked onto screens. This is a habit to get rid of. The best way to go forward is to keep all electronics aside and, for entertainment, we can read books, go to neighbourhood parks and waterparks, travel and so on. Well, now, students have started going to school and adults have started going to work. It is nice to see that everything is back to the way it was. We will now try our best to get rid of our addiction and once again make life offline and healthy!

Maanya Taneja, 7 D

Unity In Diversity

Ladakh and Kashmir joined the group of Union Territories
On 31st October Two Thousand and Nineteen.
Ladakh being the crown and Kashmir, the paradise of India.
Snow capped mountains unfold tales of the Sherpas.
Diversified in culture and divided by a very thin line
It's fascinating to unravel the mysteries behind.
While Lahakh is famous for its unique Indo-Tibetan culture
The valley is adorned by Hindu – Muslim customs and structures.
Dance festivals, weaving, archery are part of traditional life in Ladakh.
Bringing people together to celebrate the meaning of being 'Zadock'
The valley is known for its fine arts for centuries,
Pottery and handicrafts are the sources of livelihood to feed their families.
Thukpa, noodle soup, and Tsampa are the prominent foods of Ladakh
The influence of Tibetan food makes the people's health spark.
Kashmiri food is mild in taste, rich in flavors with hot spices that thrive
Kahwa, green tea with spices and almonds, keeps the people in the valley alive.

Jeep safari is an amazing way to experience the rugged terrain,
Camel safari makes you feel the cold desert's pain.
Paragliding is the best way to explore the beauty of Ladakh
Don't forget to add camping adventure to your excursion chart.
Shikara's are the common feature across the rivers and lakes of the valley
People prefer to stay in houseboats or Dongas to experience the grand finale.
Skiing and biking are way too much fun,
Making you enjoy the mesmerizing beauty in the long run.
Changpas and Bakarwals, the nomadic people in the mountains,
Graze their goats in high altitudes for super warm fur worth thousands.
This wool is then woven by the weavers in the valley
Taking months to produce the warmest pashmina shawl in their alley.
How fascinating and amazing to see the art and culture of different states and boundaries
Well, let's learn and take inspiration in our lives from unity in diversities.

Vivaan Sethi, 7 D

Ocean Life

The starfish, brainless but beautiful, lying on the ocean bed,
The baby seahorse, not in mommy's but daddy's pouch instead.
The friendly dolphins are intelligent and bright,
The sting of the jellyfish that gives out light.
The sharks as ancient as dinos have an awful bite,
The sea turtles also swimming since then, so gentle and polite.
The triple-hearted squid with multiple arms and tentacles to squeeze,
The zappy stingray with its electromagnetic sense its prey it sees.
The beauty of the ocean so colourful and serene,
Let's not dump it with plastic and ruin this scene.

Vivan Goel, 6 C

Anish Balwani - 8B



Yeh Dilli Hai Meri Jaan

The Pandavas called her Indraprastha centuries ago
This city has gone through several big blows.
Later founded by Rajputs and nurtured by 11 dynasties
This city has witnessed transformation silently.
Now a Union Territory and the capital city of India
This land of cultural treasure embraced everyone for millennia.

Delhi is famous for its unique multi cultures
Adorned by various customs and structures.
Food festivals, music and dance make life vibrant in Delhi.
Bringing people together to celebrate the meaning of being 'merry'.
Delhi has been known for being a shopper's paradise
Traditional and latest fashion wear keeps the markets alive.

Chaat, kachori and chole bhature are the prominent street foods of Delhi
Mughlai food adds extra pounds to your belly.
Delhi food is chatpata in taste, rich in flavors with hot spices,
The best of tea, coffee and green tea along with energy drinks and ices.
Ho-Ho bus is an amazing way to get Delhi Darshan,
From Mughal architecture to British era constructions.
Shopping is the best way to explore the streets of Delhi
Don't forget to add sip-and-bite adventure to your excursion tally.

Vivaan Sethi, 7 D



Twisha Bhattacharya - 8E

Letter To Your 60 Year Oldself

Hi, Oldie Me,

Hope you are in the pink of health and good spirits. This is your eleven-year-old self. Yes, that's correct; I am the young you! I am sure that you must have built your dream house, had kids, and a few dogs as pets by now. Please tell me, will I miss my parents? Life will be difficult without them, right? Am I spending too little time with them? Will their passing and my loneliness bring tears to my eyes? My present self really wants to take care of my parents in the future. I hope I am fulfilling my responsibility toward them.

Tell me, along with earning name and fame and a comfortable life, I presume I have lost my loved ones, my friends? Did you go on summer vacations like you said you would?

No, something related to work always cropped up and you had to cancel. So what did you do all these years? Work?

Well, now you can finally take a break, smile, learn to play the flute, keep yourself fit, and go on that long-overdue vacation. I hope you are sitting in your library full of books reading this letter from 'young you' as I have always aspired to have a library in my house.

Well, my future oldie self! Welcome to the retired gang, where the motto is to leave everything aside and relax. Which I imagine will be a big task for you as your young self is always on the go at all times.

Where do I live? Do I have any health issues? Are my family and friends still the same as they are now? Or has their personality changed? I am disappointed at not being able to fit all my questions into one letter.

I have a fixed and structured routine now. Going to school, studying, and playing are my daily chores. I don't have any anxieties and am well-fed with all the world's delicacies. Well! My metabolism allows me to feed on yummy chocolates and cakes. Oh! Are you able to maintain the same junk-food diet, or are you on boiled food? I hope I am able to live up to my parents' expectations and keep my future family happy.

Well, oldie, I better get to school before I'm late or else I won't be allowed to enter! Goodbye, this is your 11 year-old self signing out.

Vivaan Sethi, 7 D



Manya Singh - 7A

The Witching Hour

It was a dark night. The cacophony of a thousand crickets broke the jungle peace. I was in my bed trying to sleep. The baying of the jackals was clamorous. The tempestuous wind pounded on the windows making them groan. I was frightened as I heard it was the time of the witching hour. I pulled the blanket over my head. The loud groan awakened me. It was like an elephant stomping on buildings. I looked out the window and spotted an enormous giant. My blood froze to ice as he headed towards my building. I ran headlong to safety, and hid behind a small sack of potatoes. I prayed to God that everyone remained safe. The monster was looking for something. I distracted it by throwing potatoes one by one into the forest. The monster felt that there were small creatures in the forest, scurrying around. He thought they would be easy prey and tasty food for him. He turned around and as he was rushing, I threw the rest of the potatoes too, just to keep him busy. I quickly beckoned to everyone to follow me quietly. They trooped behind me safely to a safe spot. Everyone heaved a sigh of relief. Tough times never last, but tough people do.

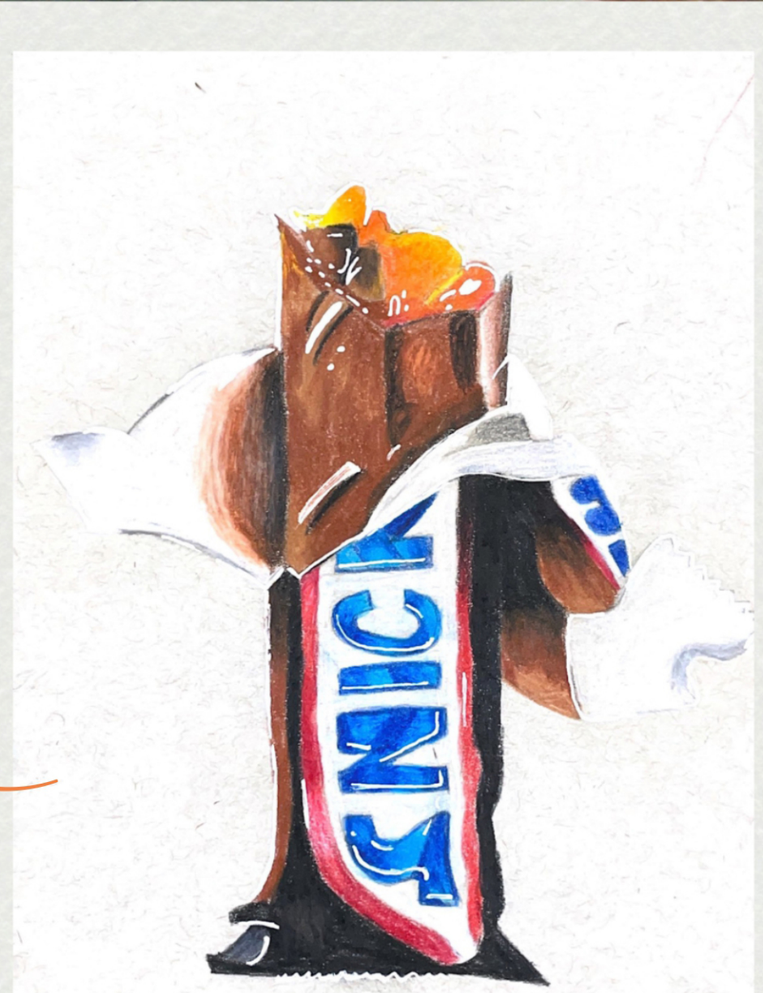
Daivik Suri, 8 D

Zara's Wish

Once upon a time in the city of Edfu, Egypt, lived a young woman named Zara. She used to live alone but was surrounded by piles of books. She spent her days reading books filled with adventure. She especially loved books with maps as they would take her to a different world. One day she found a book with a map of Giza, but it looked a little different. It looked exactly like a treasure map. She wondered if the map was real. Giza was far away and the journey could be long and dangerous. However, it could be her real adventure. Immediately, she packed a small backpack with a few camping things and the map and began her journey. She finally reached the cave drawn on her map. She was excited and walked into the deep, dark cave using the torch from her backpack. In her heart, she expected to find the treasure but instead found a dusty old teapot with cracks on it. She was so disappointed. Just as she was about to bang the teapot on the wall of the cave, she heard a whoosh! She noticed smoke coming out of the teapot's spout. The whole cave was filled with smoke, and a big, strong figure appeared in front of Zara. With amazement and a little bit of fear, she realised it was a genie!

The genie had a blue turban with a green emerald on it. He had a long white beard, his arms were muscular and he wore golden bangles. His clothes were sparkly and had multicoloured gems, and he had pointy silver shoes. The genie introduced himself and told Zara she could ask any three wishes, but only three. She thought for a while, then decided on her three wishes. The first was that she never wanted to be alone. The second was that she wanted to fly around the world. And finally, she wanted to set the genie free so that he did not have to spend the rest of his life in a dusty old teapot. He could not believe his ears as he had never met such a kind-hearted person. He hugged her to say 'thank you' and snapped his fingers to make Zara's wish come true. All at once the Earth began to rumble, and Zara fell down and fainted. She opened her eyes to find herself home in Edfu with her best friend, Atlanta. Zara thought she had dreamt about the genie. Atlanta told her that they had won the lottery for which they had bought tickets! They had gotten lifetime tickets to travel the world. Now she realised it wasn't a dream and that her wishes were actually granted by the genie. Now Zara and Atlanta could have as many adventures as they wanted together.

Vivan Goel, 6 C



Khushi
Hasija - 8D



Ahana
Kumar - 8A

Let Children Earn Knowledge, Not Money

There's an important saying that knowledge is a wise man's treasure. However, nowadays, in the hustle of earning money, the relevance of knowledge is lost somewhere. We have been brought up with the culture that one cannot survive without money. Indeed, though it is true, one must understand that money decreases by spending, while knowledge increases on acquiring. We all must be taught that knowledge is infinite. It lasts long, whereas money doesn't.

We often see that children at a tender age are compelled to play with fire instead of toys, while some, due to poverty, have to wear the badge of the bread earner on their shoulders, and have to make hazardous material using their nimble fingers. Children are being pushed by their families to earn money, get a well-paying job and to lead a wealthy life instead of a meaningful one. We must understand that we can buy materialistic objects through money, but one needs proper knowledge to understand what is appropriate.

The significance of knowledge has been beautifully mentioned even in our sacred books. The Bhagavad Gita says, "Knowledge is the key to open the door of wisdom, prosperity and happiness". Not only this, even in ancient times, our Rishi Munis considered knowledge a gift from God. We must keep in mind that all discoveries and inventions are based on knowledge. Money is only a manifestation of knowledge.

The growth and development of our nation do not depend upon the wealth of citizens, but upon the knowledge they acquire through which they can easily increase their wealth. The person possessing wealth is not the richest person, but the person who has knowledge is. Thus, it is far better to be looked up to as a 'knowledgeable person' rather than a 'rich and wealthy person'. William Shakespeare has aptly said that "Knowledge is a wing wherewith we fly to heaven".

We, the children, are precious. Let us be children and not workers.

Aahana Agarwal, 6 D

My Evergreen Rainforest

Beady eyed toucan munching on berry,
The lazy sloth smiling and merry.
The anaconda slithers and squeezes its prey,
The dotted jaguar at night finds its way.
The poison dart frog is toxic yet bright,
The tapir's snout sniffs out leaves with all its might.
Let's not destroy the rainforest for human greed,
Let's protect it by sowing more seeds.

Vivan Goel , 6 C

An Endless Loop

We as humans tend to forget dreams ten minutes after we wake up but I haven't forgotten one particular dream at all. The dream in which I saw my life in an endless loop. I saw many moments of my life both blissful and sad while I continued to fall down a vast tunnel. Seeing my life in this tunnel made me value the moments and their importance. When I finally cuffed the end, I woke up. I thought the dream had lasted for hours on end but in reality it was only five minutes. I asked myself if we really lose perception of time when experiencing fantastical sights or is it just our brain's illusion. Does the view of life move too quickly or are we monitoring time wrong? Such thoughts occur rarely but just what if it really is possible. Is the life we are living in going slow or does our mind perceive it moving quickly, but why was it in a loop, a loop of life? These are questions we might never get an answer to but what if we do someday. What if the person who is in charge of time doesn't exist. We humans have created time zones and time itself but is it really flawless? Is time a thing to monitor or is just a flow. What if it can be controlled? What if the unimaginable theories are right? But for the time being this remains a mystery, yet unsolved, but a mystery one should think about. I think that life itself is a mystery because there are an endless number of possibilities and the supreme question is just what if ? If we even start to dwell on the world of possibilities, we'll again be stuck in an Endless Loop.

Kiaanraj Singh Anand, 7 D



1. Reduction in vehicles causing high pollution.
2. Balance between house construction and tree plantation.
3. Spraying of water to reduce soil pollution.
4. Awareness among local people about importance of soil pollution.
5. Set up of industries outside city to avoid smoke in the city life causing health hazard among people.

Chirag Mitra.
Class-6.C. Roll No-24

Chirag Mitra - 6C



Alisha Sultana - 7A

The People On The Street

I saw a sweeper on the street
Cleaning a filthy lane;
He tried for every other job;
But his efforts went in vain.

That poor sweeper on the street;
He was hunched so low,
He didn't seem to like it;
But he had nowhere else to go.

I saw a beggar on the street;
With a baby in her arms,
But everybody sped away;
They thought she'd do them harm.

That poor beggar on the street;
She roamed the cruel and crowded road,
She couldn't even buy some food;
Let alone a comfortable home.

I saw an orphan on the street;
Eating a fruit covered in dust,
She'd love to have some soup and bread;
But eat that fruit she must.

That poor orphan on the street;
Has such little joy,
Even a crumbling brick or a lump of dust;
To her is a brand new toy.
All the people on the street;
A little help is all they need,
But every time they ask for some;
We refuse due to our greed.

That's just how it is sometimes;
No matter how hard they try,
The people on the street are always;
Seen as crooks, cunning and sly.

Diyaa Wahi, 6 B

Well ... I Really Can't Tell!

A dream or reality?
No one can tell.
It all feels so real,
A trap in which I fell.
It was an odd morning
And as far as my eyes could see,
My grandma was coming towards me
Strange, did she take a trip from heaven to see me?

I was almost in tears,
But it happened so out of the blue.
Then some chit-chat started,
when my grandpa came in too!
My expectations were so high,
Although he acted like we were invisible!
My mind went topsy-turvy,
N.. no... it can't be possible!

He pretended he was alone in the room,
Was he ignoring me or really couldn't see?
Had grandma actually risen from the dead?
Or had I risen from land, poor confused me!
I know, I know, it's a bunch of hocus-pocus.
Suddenly, I heard another sound - "Get up, Mr. Lazy!"
So, after all, it was a dream
Totally strange, all of it ... so hazy!

Suvenaa Tayal, 7 D



BACK to SCHOOL

My School Is Special

My school is abundantly special to me. We have a unique system in the school that allows us to make our way to a better future. In my school, children are taught to gain knowledge from everywhere that is possible. My school is extraordinary because of the incredible students, parents, community partners and staff who bring it to life each day. Their energy, love and passion are infectious, and we are so grateful for all they do. I also love my school because my teachers are very kind to all the children. The best thing that I like about my school is the knowledge I get about various subjects. My school is a very beautiful place where I go every day. It teaches me discipline and respect. My school is a very clean and hygienic place. It provides all kinds of activities and sports. I love my school so much that I eagerly wait every day to go to school.

Shriyans Aggarwal, 6 C



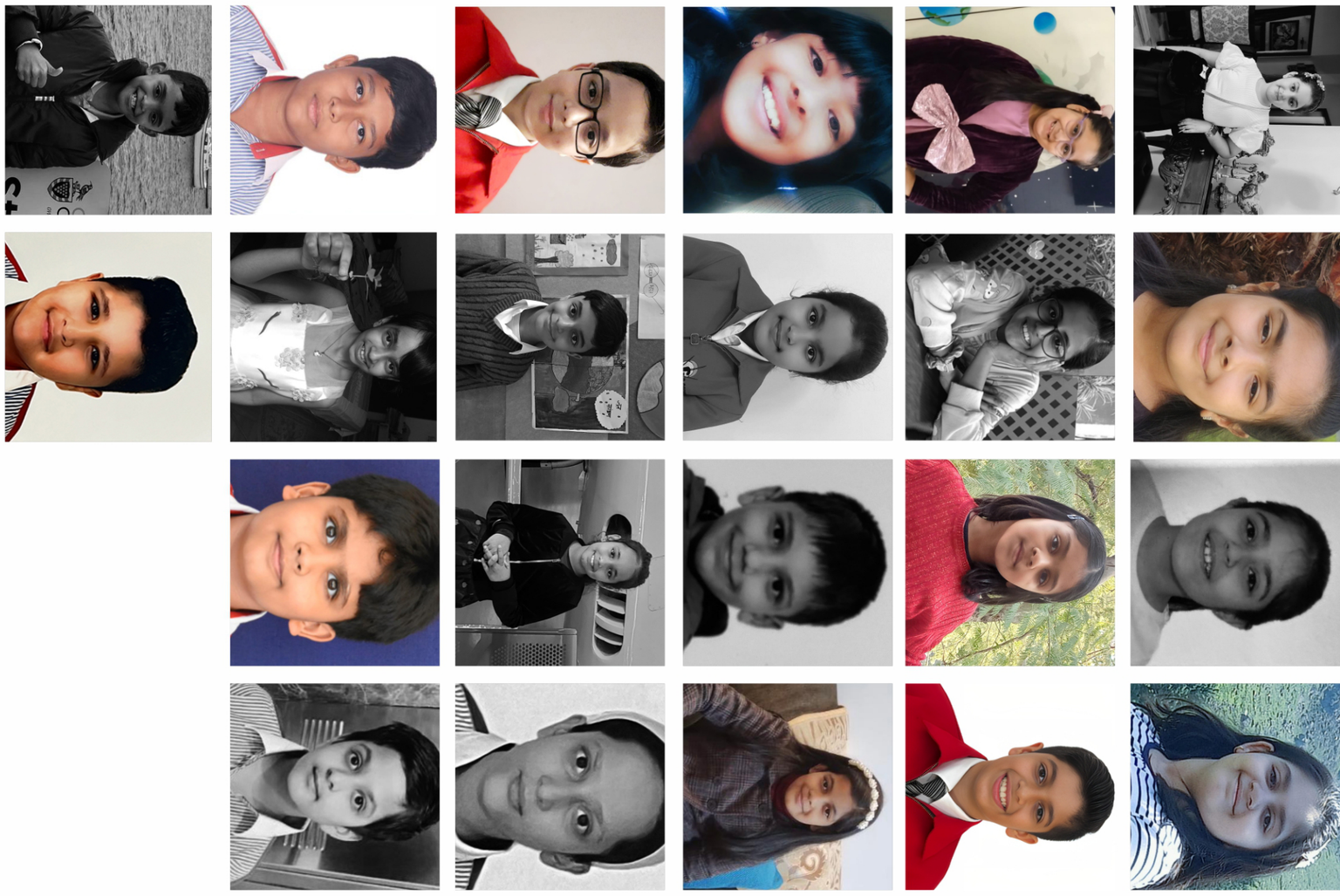
Class 03-05

Primary Section.

ASPIRE TO INSPIRE

"We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and trying new things, because we are curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."

Walt Disney



VOICES - CONTRIBUTOES

If I Had All The Money In The World!

WOW! If I had all the money in the world!! I won't have to think before spending money. I will help poor people, give education to kids, and help old people. I will donate some money to the needy, provide them food and medicines if required. I would love to build an orphanage and an old age home to help others. And lastly, for myself, I will buy a huge castle near the Thames river where I can stay with my family and friends and give them all the happiness in the world. I don't want anyone in this world to be sad or unhappy. I will try my best to spread happiness in this beautiful world.

Money can't get you everything, but happiness can. So, BE HAPPY, everyone!

Kiara Makkar, 3 C

<u>सहयोग</u> (कविता)

जो है ताक़त गठरी की,
न होती इक लकड़ी की।
सीख हमें मिली है ये,
एक-दूजे के साथ चलें।
जब कठिनाई का समय पड़े,
सब मिलकर मदद करें।
हाथों में जब हाथ रहें,
तो जीत हमारे साथ चले।

स्पर्श गुप्ता
कक्षा- ६ 'सी'



Sweta Vishkarma 3D

पहेलियाँ

1.पहेली : एक टेबल पर, प्लेट में 2 सेब हैं, उसे खाने वाले 3 आदमी हैं, कैसे खायेंगे सेब कटना नहीं चाहिए।

उत्तर - तीनो एक-एक सेब खायेंगे क्योंकि एक सेब टेबल पर और 2 प्लेट में हैं😆😆

2.पहेली : मान लीजिये आप, बस में १० सवारियों के साथ सफ़र कर रहे हैं।

पहले स्टेंड पर 2 उतरीं और 4 चढ़ीं, दूसरे स्टेंड पर 5 उतरीं और 2 चढ़ीं, अगले स्टेंड पर 2 उतरीं और 3 चढ़ीं।
अब यह बताओ कि, बस में कितनी सवारियाँ सफ़र कर रही हैं?

उत्तर - 11 (10 सवारी और एक आप)🤣🤣

3.पहेली : ऐसा कौन हैं जिसके पास शब्द बहुत हैं लेकिन बोलता नहीं?

उत्तर- : किताब, किताब ही एक ऐसी वस्तु है जिसके पास बहुत शब्द हैं, लेकिन बोलती नहीं। 🤣🤣

4.पहेली : एक अंगूठा और चार अंगुलियाँ लेकिन हाथ नहीं हैं, बताओ क्या हैं?

उत्तर - दस्ताना, दस्ताने के पास चार उंगलिया होती हैं और एक अंगूठा भी लेकिन उसके पास हाथ नहीं होता 🤣🤣

5.पहेली : गाय दूध देती है, मुर्गी अंडा देती है, ऐसा कौन है जो दूध, अंडा दोनों देता हैं। बताओ!

उत्तर - दुकानदार। जी हाँ एक दूकानदार ही है जो आपको दूध और अंडा दोनों दे सकता है।🤣🤣

7.पहेली : ऐसी कौन सी चीज है जो बारिश में चाहे जितनी भीगे, कभी गीली नहीं हो सकती?

उत्तर - पानी, पानी ही ऐसी चीज़ है, जो चाहे जितनी भी भीगा दो वो भीगता नहीं!!🤣🤣

मेरा परिवार (कविता)

पापा कहते हैं “पढ़ो लिखो नहीं तो होगा बुरा हाल”,
माँ हमेशा साथ रहती हैं,
रखती है मेरा ख्याल।
भाई मुझे जितना तंग करता है,
उतना ही करता है प्यार।
दादाजी और नानाजी के पास
रहता कहानियों का अंबार।
दादीजी और नानीजी के पकवान सबसे स्वादिष्ट हैं,
चाचा-चाची, मामा-मामी, मासा-मासी
मुझे जो चाहे देते हैं।
जितना भी हम लड़ें अंत में हम सब एक हैं।
यह है मेरा परिवार,
जिसे मैं करती हूं सबसे ज़्यादा प्यार।

श्रीया कुसुमा
कक्षा-५



Siddhi Raut 5A

Inaya Sachdeva 3D

I Want To Grow Up Fast

I am eight years old. I want to grow up fast to become a doctor. I want to be tall, healthy and become wiser. Everyday I see my mom and dad working hard day and night. I want to be like them. I want to help poor and needy people who are unwell. I want to serve them and take care of them. My mom tells me that to become a doctor I have to study hard. Sometimes when I fall and get hurt, I try to become stronger with every fall. I want to make my country fit and healthy.

Seerat Kaur , 3 C



My Chocolate Ice Land

Dreams can be good or bad. I am a happy-go-lucky girl and my dreams are also like me, happy and beautiful.

Last night I had the strangest dream. I was in a wonderland covered with ice, like an Ice Land. On this Ice Land, I had a beautiful and yummy chocolate castle. Wow!! I was with my family - Maa, Paa, Bro. My chocolate castle was made up of white and dark chocolates. The most amazing thing was that I saw a beautiful slope made with colourful and tasty Gems. Then a magical thing happened, my brother and I popped some Gems into our mouth and, as soon as we had it, I saw the slope fill up with Gems again. My eyes shone with joy and my brother jumped, danced and sang. Amazing!! Then a beautiful chocolate fairy came and waved her magic wand. She gave me and my brother dresses made up of chocolates and also a big basket full of chocolates and Gems, Yummy! We went into the castle and showed our gifts to Maa and Paa. We sat together and relished the chocolates. So delicious!

What a strange but lovely dream it was. I wish this chocolate and icy dream of mine comes true.

Rihanshi Dua, 3 E

Marvellous Mathematics

Mathematics is fun, amazing and great.
If you know Mathematics, you can never be late,
As it teaches you time, calendar and date.
You will never be fooled when you go shopping.
It teaches you about managing money and checking weight.
Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division -
It teaches you how to calculate.
I feel geometry is an art,
Oh what fun it is to make a shape.
I love to make angles of different types,
Acute, obtuse, complete and straight.
Complementary and supplementary angles are also great.
Mathematics teaches you how to measure your height, weight,
And to calculate your age.
Without Mathematics, you can't even understand the weather update.
So friends, I'll give you some valuable advice,
Start taking Mathematics seriously if you want to win and rise.

Zaara Reshi, 5 A

My Aspiration

Money cannot buy happiness but when used well it can make others smile. When I grow up to be a billionaire, I will ...

buy thoughtful gifts for my family and friends which will make them jump in delight. As I have a soft corner for homeless people, I will build a modern shelter with lots of fun activities for them. The world will be a better place if I spend money to invent a device that can make plastic dissolve in water and soil to free Mother Earth from plastic waste. Once I make everyone happy, I will be a little selfish and think about myself. I will get a huge mansion to play hide and seek and buy all varieties of art supplies in the world to make best-selling art pieces. Oops! I've spilled the beans on how I became a billionaire.

Rhea Sodhi, 3 B

My Proudest Moment

It was the happiest moment of my life when I came first in the Techy Canvas competition. My classmates congratulated me. I was very happy when I received the certificate in the school assembly. When I told my family about this, they were very happy and hugged me.

If you practise hard, you can show your talent to everyone, like I did. I encourage my friends to participate in such competitions which help in showing your talent to everyone. That was the happiest moment in my life.

Sana Nasin, 3 E



Anisha Gupta 3A

तितली 🦋 (कविता)

पीली, हरी, लाल, भूरी,
तितली है गगन की परी,
उड़ उड़ जाती वो,
पल भर न बैठ पाती वो।

एक बार मुझसे बोली,
सखी, उड़ोगी मेरे साथ?
चल गगन की सैर करें,
आसमान से तारें तोड़ लाएँ।

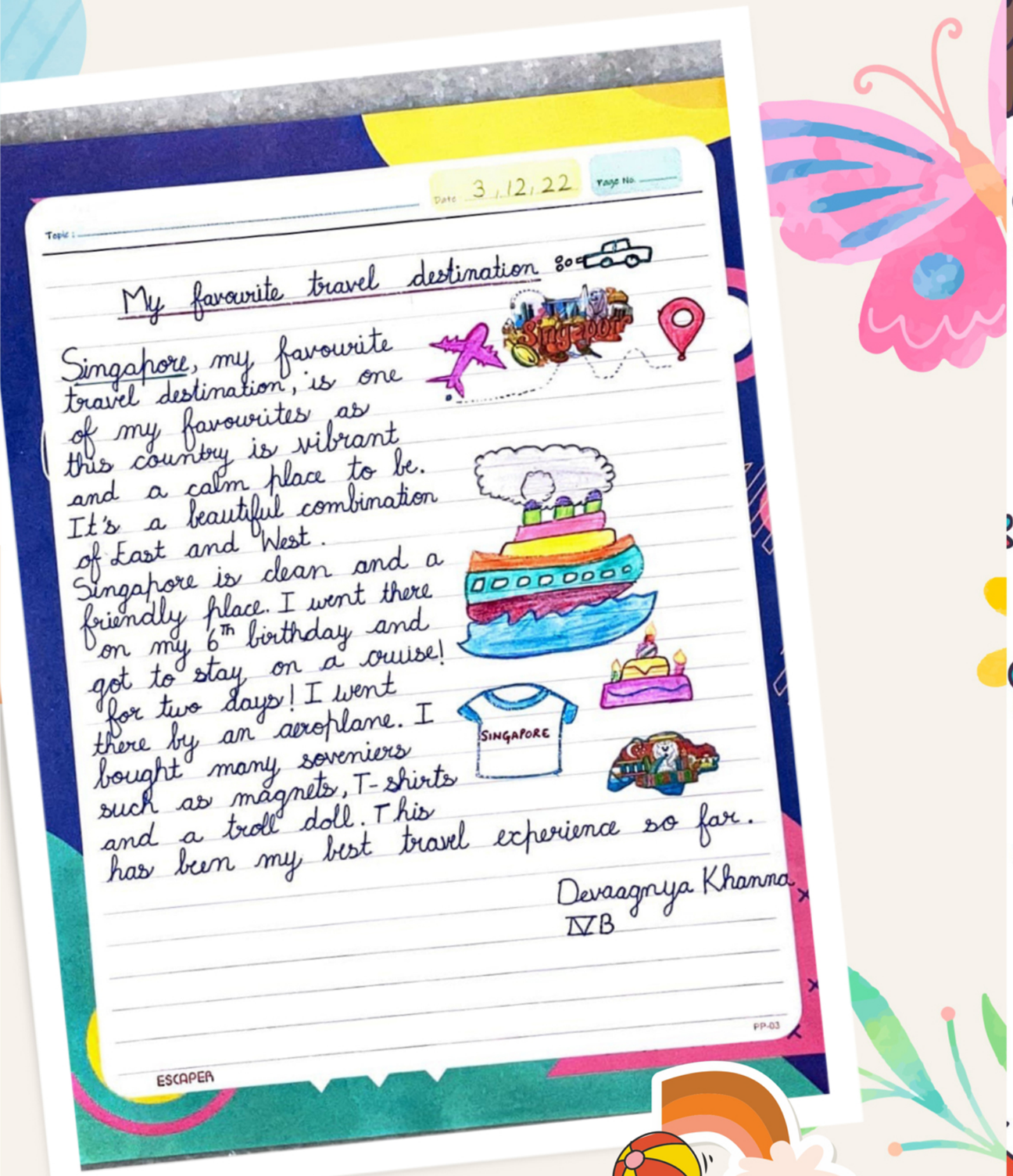
मैं उड़ चली,
अपनी तितली सखी के संग,
पंख लगाए मैंने हवा के,
सर पर बस...आसमान की छत,
दिल में अरमानों का ढंग।

घूमे हम बादलों के पार,
पार किये नेप्टून के द्वार,
बस जाने वाले थे सूरज की ओर,
तितली बोली चल चलें चाँद के पार।

कर ली मैंने पूरे ब्रह्मांड की सैर,
आ पहुँचे धरती पर,
तितली जा बैठी फूल पर,
बोली सखी तू जा घर की ओर।

मैं चली अपने सपनों में,
इक काम मैं करूँगी
जो अकेले हैं इस जहां में,
उन्हें भी संग ले उड़ूंगी!

आरिनी मल्होत्रा
कक्षा- ६ 'ड '



तितली रानी (कविता)

प्यारी- प्यारी तितली रानी
कहाँ से आती, कहाँ को जाती
किनसे अपने पंखों में चित्रकारी करवाती?
तुम्हें देखकर ऐसा लगता
तुम्हारी दुनिया में जाने का मन करता
काश मैं भी चित्रकारी कर पाती
तुम्हारे पंखों में रंग भर पाती
तुम्हारे बारे में सब जान पाती
प्यारी- प्यारी तितली रानी
मुझे लगती तुम बड़ी सयानी

रिहांशी दुआ
कक्षा- ३ 'ई'

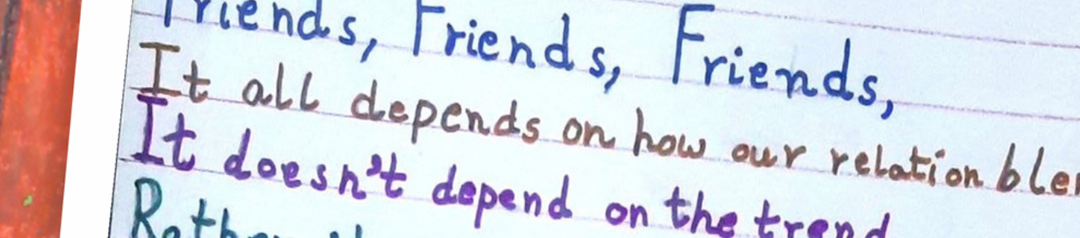
नाना जी की छींक (कविता)

मेरे नाना जी की छींक
छींक मेरे नाना की
जब सुनी मैं काँप उठी ।
आँछी आँछी करती आवाज़
नहीं कर सकते आप नज़रंदाज़।
मेरी गुड़िया को गिराती है
किताबों के पन्नों को उड़ाती है।
मुझे सोते से जगाती है
फिर भी यह मुझे भाती है ।

मिहीरा सिंह
कक्षा- ५ 'ब'

FRIENDS

Friends, Friends, Friends,
It all depends on how our relation blends.
It doesn't depend on the trend,
Rather it is more upon intends.
Friend never defends, offends and never pretends.
A true friend spends a life that extends
Love, faith and interdependence.
Friends, Friends, Friends,
As the lockdown extends,
And the online classes we attend,
We sometime wait for the teachers internet to suspend.



Say Hi!, Hello! My dear friends,
and alas! we contend.
Friends, Friends, Friends,
Hopefully we meet again dear friends.
Thank You!!

Abhav Mehra 5-B





The Strangest Dream I Ever Had.....

Dreams csn be good or bad. As I am a happy go girl and my dreams are also like mine happy and beautiful.

Last night I had a strangest dream.....I am in the wonderland covered with ice like an ICELAND. On this ICELAND I have a beautiful and yummy CHOCOLATE CASTLE WOWWW..... I am with my famliy , Maa , Paa, Bro. My CHOCOLATE CASTLE is made up of white and dark chocolates.The most amazing was that when I saw a beautiful slope made with colourful and tasty GEMS. Suddenly a Magic happened me and my brother pop gems from the slope and we had it , I saw the slope filled it with GEMS again. By seeing this my eyes got SHINY and me and my brother jumped , danced and sing .....WOOOWW AMAZING..... Then a FAIRY came beautiful and chocolaty. FAIRY moved her magic wand and she gave me and my brother dresses made up of chocolates and also gave us a Big Basket full of Chocolates and GEMS , YUMMY..... We went into the castle and showed it to Maa and Paa. We sat together and relished the chocolates. Yummy and Deliciious.....

What a strange dream I had.....I wish my this chocolate and icy dream come true.....

Rihanshi Dua, 3 E





My Travel Diary

My USA trip was so special because after the Covid lockdown, this was the first time I was going for a trip. I was very excited. My long-time dream was to visit NASA because I had only a few toy rockets and satellites and I wanted to see them for real. Also, I wanted to see the Titanic Museum. I went to NewYork, Orlando, and Miami in October 2021 with my mom and dad.

Rishit Singh, 3 E



Orlando Diary

First, we went to the hotel which was far from the city but close to NASA. So, we stayed there for one day. The next day we went to NASA. It was my dream to go there because I only had a few rocket, space, and planet toys. At NASA, I saw some very old and huge real rockets. I also saw the launch site and the real space shuttle. There was a control room to see how those rockets work. I bought an astronaut suit. One day I want to go to school in my astronaut suit. I also bought rocket toys there. I loved going to NASA. I would also love to go to ISRO one day. After going to the new hotel, we went to Disneyland. There we watched many shows. We went on a roller coaster. We also watched a 5D movie. There was also a scary movie, but we didn't watch it. I was afraid to watch. Then I went to the Titanic Museum with my dad. This was my favourite place. I saw a real broken part of the ship. There was a real iceberg in the museum but it was small. It was also my dream to visit this museum. I bought a Titanic toy for myself and a blue Titanic necklace for my mom. It was my first Titanic toy. I also took photos with my dad on the Titanic.

Miami Diary

After checking into our hotel, we went to the beach. I enjoyed playing at the beach. The next day we went to the beach again to watch the sunrise. Later, we went shopping. I bought a Miami plate for memory. We also went in a superfast speed boat - it was very thrilling. With the speed boat tour, we saw some beautiful mansions and homes on the island.

New York Diary

When we reached New York, we lived in Downtown New York. We stayed there because all the attractions like Times Square, The Empire State Building, and other high-rise towers, 9/11 Memorial, Statue of Liberty and shopping areas were nearby. We first went to the Empire State Building which was at walking distance from our hotel. The building has 102 floors. The elevator was very fast and it had a screen on the roof to watch the history of the building. Once, it was the highest tower in the world. The top floor of the building had some telescopes. We could see the Statue of Liberty from the building. Another day, we took the Big-Bus tour of New York City. We reached the port and went to the Statue of Liberty in a yacht. The statue is on an island. Long time ago, the statue was golden, but now slowly the statue has become green. I also saw the new Twin Towers and there were also photos and names of the people who died in the 9/11 attack. I bought some models of the Statue of Liberty and Empire State Building before leaving New York.

A Challenger's Dream!

I had just finished my book 'The Wild Robot' and I didn't realize it but, just as the clock struck midnight, I started to doze off in my chair. I entered dreamland and the first thing I saw was some curious and adorable otters. A few minutes later, there was a 'clunk' then a 'clink, clank, clunk'. I looked down, it was the sound of pine cones falling. The sound irritated me so I started climbing the tall mountain. I had to keep on backtracking and search for the nearest rock to put my foot or hand upon, but after an hour or so I reached the peak of the great mountain. Looking around, I realized that I was on an island. From that point, I could see everything. There was a glorious meadow filled with emerald green grass, perfectly healthy trees and plants on which fresh, heavenly, sweet fruits grew. Further east to the meadow, there was a lake filled with clear sapphire blue water on which swans and geese were gliding gracefully and teaching their young ones to do the same. In the dead centre, a spacious and comfortable looking beaver's lodge. To the west, stood more mountains and hills crowded with gigantic trees. To the south and north edges, there were deserted plains with not yellow, not white, but black sand. Far off in the distance, when I looked carefully, I saw an enormous volcano that sat right in the middle of a deserted island. While observing all of these, I looked at the sky. I was quite surprised to see that it was completely black. In the eastern horizon was a blood curdling red moon. It took me a few minutes to realize that it was night and the moon was red because it was a blood moon. Suddenly, I was alerted by some rustling in the thick leafy brush. There stood a hungry looking badger trying to pounce upon an opossum. But, as the badger was about to pounce, the opossum just played dead and gave off a stench of rotting corpses which disgusted the badger, forcing him to sleep with an empty stomach. I explored the whole island and I was getting really bored and lonely. So, I decided to make my own submarine and swimsuit so that I could dive into the deep secrets of the ocean. Fortunately, I found a swimsuit abandoned near the shore. As I dived into the cold dark waters, I saw in the distance what looked like an impossibly deep trench that must have stretched on for miles. I swam right to it and straightened my body vertically like a whale and dived down at great speed. Once I reached the bottom, I realized I was in the 'Challenger Deep', but suddenly I shot up and straight out of the ocean at lightning speed and kept shooting upwards until I saw a face. I opened my eyes to see my father. He was lifting me up from the chair to put me into bed.

Shreyansh Dash, 4 D

On Top Of The World

Cricket is my favorite sport. I can play cricket round the clock.

Last month, our class had a selection for the cricket team.

Some of my friends thought that it was a piece of cake but I had butterflies in my stomach. There were three rounds for selection - batting, bowling and fielding.

Children who did well in two rounds got selected and I was one of them.

I was on top of the world.

Reyansh Saluja, 5 E

Education and Technology

There are quite a few challenges and problems that students face today. While starvation, hunger, poverty, lack of resources, etc. afflict many communities and not just students, I would like to talk about technology and how adapting to it is one of the biggest challenges faced by us students today.

Especially after the Covid-19 pandemic, technology has become essential to education. From virtual classes to online exams, assignment submissions etc., everything now has technology attached to it. Even this essay for instance is being written with the help of a gadget.

However, as we are slowly and steadily learning, with frequent use of technology, problems also arise. Students today also have access to unlimited resources and information, which depending on their tendencies, can be a good or a bad thing.

The pervasive use of technology has made our attention spans extremely short because earlier we used to read text from books and write handwritten notes and even sit for 3-hour long exams in classroom settings. Unfortunately, now we learn from snippets shared on social media, short videos etc. Due to this, many students are unable to focus on one subject for a sufficient amount of time.

Another problem that usage of technology in education poses is that it increases inequality. Everyone uses the same books, pen and paper in schools. But students belonging to richer households often have access to better and more efficient technological resources than their peers and this leads to a gap that is difficult to bridge, keeping the rich students at an unfair advantage as compared to the other students.

It is important that we make consistent changes to our education systems in order to battle these challenges effectively because technology is here to stay and we must learn to progress with it.

Zoraan Chadha 4 E

The Happiest Moment of My Life

The happiest moment of my life was the day when my grandmother told me that we would be attending the 50th founding year of a girls school in Agra that was started by my great grandfather. As trustees, we were invited to the celebration. I was so happy to see a school dedicated to the free education of girls from poor families. We were greeted by students, both former and present. I was so delighted to learn that the school had many doctors, engineers and IAS officers as their old students. I was so proud to learn that my family was instrumental in shaping so many lives.

Ahaan Gupta, 4 A



Sweta Vishkarma 3D

Shooting Buckets

My favourite sport is Basketball. It is my favourite sport because we grow tall if we play it. We play it in school also. I love our school's basketball court; I eat my tiffin and play with my friends over there. 89 points in 5 minutes is my highest score in the lowest amount of time. The Boston Celtics is my favourite team. My favourite player is Tyreese Maxie. My sister also likes to play basketball, she taught me how to play basketball. I have made my own basketball court theme on Lego. I have my own Jason Tatum signed basketball kit and ball .I have played basketball since the age of five and this is my third year [I think so]. I have played basketball in 7 other countries like Singapore and London. I love to play basketball on an open court in pleasant weather. I am most excited to shoot buckets.

Kabir Singh, 3 B



Siddhi Raut
5A

The Curious Five

The Curious Five

A long time ago, there used to be a village in Kerala and the village was called Malakirathi. It was a place filled with happiness where people did their chores with joy, animals lived in peace, and nobody ever fought with each other. In that village lived five children who were the kindest but most curious and cheeky children ever. Their names were Manu, Krishna, Manish, Heera and Myra and they were called The Curious Five.

One day, everybody in Malakirathi was preparing for a special offering to God where everyone had to sing a prayer. But, The Curious Five were facing a problem. They were chosen to be the main lead of the prayer! They were nervous and their practice was not going well. Krishna was thinking about studies, Heera was worried about what to wear, Manu just thought about the food and sweets, Manish wanted to take a nap. Only Krishna and Myra were worried about the team.

"Oh, we'll never learn the prayer with everybody unfocused." Said Krishna. "Look, the problem is that everybody is just hungry. We even skipped breakfast and lunch, but yes, I think you are right." Just then, Guruji (their teacher) called them from inside. "Kids! Come in! I have made your favourite coconut lassi." Hearing that, all the kids ran inside and finished their drink immediately.

They told Guruji about their problem and he said "Practice makes perfect but you should also take breaks in between." So, they practised and took breaks every two hours. Soon they were ready. When the prayer began, everything was going well till someone saw a fire. Soon the fire started to spread and there was havoc everywhere. People started running here and there and children started crying.

The Curious Five couldn't bear to see all the suffering. They might have been scared but instead of looking for shelter, they helped the others. Heera saw a dog with her pups surrounded by fire so she took her dupatta and tried putting out the fire. She managed to save the dogs. Manish and Manu were trying to save some children who had jumped into the pond. They dived in the water and saved the children. Meanwhile, Krishna and Myra had saved some people from underneath a pile of wood. This is how The Curious Five saved the people of Malakirathi and were rewarded for their bravery. They were now called The Brave Curious Five.

Mrinmayee Krishna, 3 C

The Strongest Woman I Know

A role model is someone who inspires you to be better and do better. It is someone who you look up to when you're in conflict and when you're in need for guidance. Most people have celebrities, sportspersons or influential personalities from all over the world as their role model. I think having a role model in your life is very important but I don't see why I should have a celebrity or person from the outside as a role model when I have a very inspiring person closest to me. My mother.

Yes, my role model is my mother. She inspires me everyday to be hardworking yet live the small moments in life to the fullest. She teaches me to be fierce when required but to still be gentle and kind to others. She is my pillar who always supports me but never hesitates to point out when I'm doing something wrong. My mother has taught me to raise my voice against any wrong even if it means going against the majority. She has taught me to be strong headed and never compromise for less. My mother does many things on a daily basis yet her favourite job is to take care of me. I aspire to be as caring and loving as her when I grow up. I have watched my mother wake up at odd hours in the morning and cook for our whole family, get me ready for school after which she immediately leaves for work and she does all this while carrying a calming and comforting smile on her face. Watching my mother do everything for me and my family without a hint of distress on her face has inspired me more than any sportsman or celebrity ever could. My mother has taught me to be confident but never condescending. She has taught me to be practical but never insensitive.

My mother is the strongest woman for me. If I were to ever be in a dark situation and wanted someone to throw light on me I would always think of my mother and that is why I feel she is the best role model for me.

Nirosha Kaistha 4 B

जल की यात्रा (कविता)

जल के हैं रूप अनेक
पानी भाप, बर्फ़ सफेद।

पर्वतों से ये जन्मा है, नदियों और समुद्रों में जा बसता है
सूर्य की किरणों से डरकर पानी भाप बन जाता है
आसमान में जाने कहाँ जाकर वह छिप जाता है।

बादल जैसे वह दोस्त बनाता,
उनके घर जा बस जाता।
मरते दम तक साथ निभाता,
ऐसा इनका नाता है ।

रिमझिम- रिमझिम बरसता सावन,
खुशियाँ खूब लौटाता है,
पेड़- पौधे और खेत लहरा उठते हैं,
जब पावन मौसम आता है।

बादल बन अमृत बरसाए,
झरना बनकर सबको लुभाए,
नदियाँ पर्वतों पर जम
बर्फ़
उनका श्रृंगार बन जाए।
जल-जल-जल
जीवन का आधार है जल।

हारिका



मेरा अनुभव

अपने जीवन में हम कई चीजें और कई परिस्थितियाँ अनुभव करते हैं जिनसे कई शिक्षाएँ पाते हैं। मेरा पूरा जीवन अभी मेरे सामने पड़ा है पर मैंने अपनी बाल्यावस्था में कई ऐसे अनुभव लिए हैं जिन्हें मैं पूरी ज़िंदगी याद रखूँगी। जब मेरी उम्र लगभग पाँच साल थी तब मैं पालनाघर में रहा करती थी। जब तक मेरे माता- पिता अपनी नौकरी से लौट नहीं आते थे मैं वहीं रहती थी। पालनाघर में रहने का अनुभव मेरे लिए बहुत अच्छा साबित हुआ। मेरे वहाँ कई मित्र थे। हम सब साथ मिलकर खेलते थे। मैंने वहाँ ख़ुद का ध्यान रखना सीखा। इसी अनुभव के कारण आज मैं स्कूल से घर आने के बाद अकेले रह पाती हूँ। मेरे माता पिता के नौकरी पर होने के बावजूद भी मैं ख़ुद अकेले अपने घर पर रहकर अपना ख़्याल रख सकती हूँ।ऐसे ही कई अनुभव पूरी ज़िंदगी में हमें एक बेहतर और ज़्यादा समझदार व्यक्ति बनाते है।पालनाघर में वक्त बिताने से मैं आत्मनिर्भर और उत्तरदायी बन पायी।मैं स्कूल से घर पहुँचने के बाद कुछ ही देर में अपने स्कूल का गृहकार्य और पढ़ाई करने लगती हूँ । बाद जब मेरे माता पिता नौकरी से लौट कर आते है मैं अपना होमवर्क की जाँच उनसे करवाती हूँ और वे मेरी पढ़ाई में मदद करते हैं। हमें हमेशा जीवन के अनुभवों से कुछ-न-कुछ शिक्षा लेनी चाहिए। हर अनुभव हमें कुछ सीखा कर ही जाता है।

निरोषा
कक्षा- ५ 'ब'

यादगार दिन (कविता)

बाल दिवस नहीं, न ही नया साल
मेरे जीवन का यादगार पल
इस बार का मेरा जन्म दिवस था
इस दिन मैनें हठ करने की ठानी
माता - पिता से कर मनमानी
अपने जन्म दिन पर अनाथाश्रम में जाकर
नन्हें बच्चों के साथ समय बिताना
उनकी सूनी दुनिया में थोड़ा सा प्यार बरसाना
कुछ उपहार दे कर उन्हें अपना बनाना
उनके साथ खेलना, अपनापन जताना
अपना जन्मदिवस अलग ढंग से मनाना
इस दिन को यादगार बनाना।
इस दिन को यादगार बनाना।



अर्शिया सिंह गिल
कक्षा- तीसरी 'ई'

Dear 60-year-old Happy and Kind Me,

So, you have made it this far!

How was your journey to this age ? Hope you are jolly and have had a great life, without sorrow or pain or without being lonely as you sit here at the age of 60. By this golden period of life, you must have created the world of your dreams. Is the world at 60 full of new technology and innovations? Hope that your strong willpower to create robots, equipped with the latest innovations, is accomplished.

My interest in science and coding was nurtured by my dearest father and I dreamt of becoming a successful computer engineer. Here, I would advise the youth to follow their passion and interest for a prosperous and propitious career. Follow your heart and be happy!

Through these years of experience, you must have traveled the world and spread knowledge and awareness about my inventions. This is what I believe is a fulfilled life. The great dream of my life has been to develop a time machine and a robot that works like humans and is able to translate animal voices. Hope I could accomplish these by 60.

My dear 60-year Self, your world must be seeing a world free from war, poverty, and deadly diseases. A world where people coexist in peace, have full control over their greedy selves and make sensible choices to save the world from disastrous climate changes. Dear Old Self, remember, we are never too old to change or grow. Our life's work should be to constantly improve on our younger self.

Start living your life to the fullest! Do not regret it, you still have time to explore new areas of life and meet new friends. Live a healthier life and take care of yourself.

That's it for now. Please write back!

Love,

Your Young Self

Ayaan Jain

5 B



Pranay Budhraj 3D

When I Grow Up ...

When I grow up, I aim to become a doctor. It's been my dream to become a doctor since my childhood. On becoming a doctor, I wish to serve the people of my country. I will provide people with the best possible treatment. Also, my dream is to help the poor and needy people. I will provide free treatment and free medicines to them.

If possible, I will also do my best to open a blood bank for my patients. I know it is a very challenging and hard thing to become a doctor but I will work hard until my goal is achieved.

Priyanjali Gupta, 3 E



Siddhi Raut 5A

बकरी और शेर

एक समय की बात है..बहुत दूर नांगलपुर नामक गाँव में एक बकरी रहती थी, जिसका नाम गुलाबो था और उसी गाँव में एक भयानक शेर रहता था जिसका नाम था सिंबा।

एक दिन गुलाबो तालाब में नहाने जा रही थी तभी सिंबा आया। उसे लगा यह बकरी ही आज का उसका भोजन है। शेर को सामने देखते ही गुलाबो डर के मारे कांपने लगी। बस शेर की आँखें लाल हुईं और वह बकरी को मारने एक कदम आगे बढ़ा तभी बकरी चंपत हो गई। सिंबा को बहुत गुस्सा आया और वह तेज़ी से गुलाबो को ढूंढने लगा।

बहुत समय भटकने के बाद उसे गुलाबो कहीं मिल ही गई। अब गुलाबो कहीं नहीं जा सकती थी क्योंकि रास्ता बंद था। बस फिर क्या था.. शेर आगे बढ़ा। पर यह क्या? आगे कदम बढ़ाते ही वह झट एक जाल में फंस गया।

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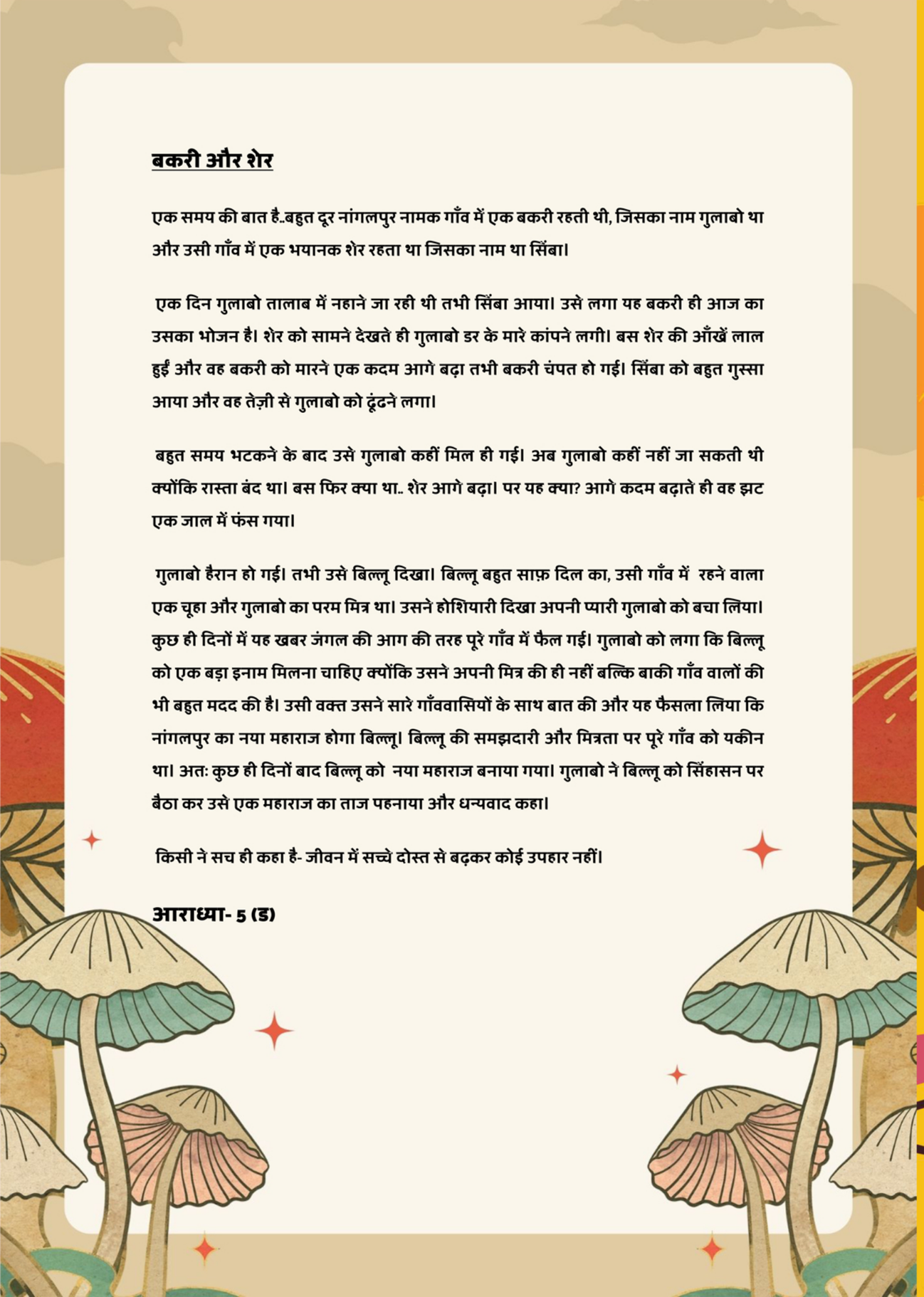
किसी ने सच ही कहा है- जीवन में सच्चे दोस्त से बढ़कर कोई उपहार नहीं।

आराध्या- 5 (ड)





बकरी और शेर (कहानी)

एक समय की बात है..बहुत दूर नांगलपुर नामक गाँव में एक बकरी रहती थी, जिसका नाम गुलाबो था और उसी गाँव में एक भयानक शेर रहता था जिसका नाम था सिंबा।

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आराध्या

कक्षा- ५ 'ड'





BACK to SCHOOL

My School Is Special

My school doesn't focus on bookish knowledge. It gives us practical knowledge through whatever we study. My school focuses on all-round development of a child. It focuses on extracurricular activities so that our mind gets relaxed. The teachers teach us how to solve problems in real life. They help us to get leadership qualities so that we become future leaders.

Advik Garg, 3 C



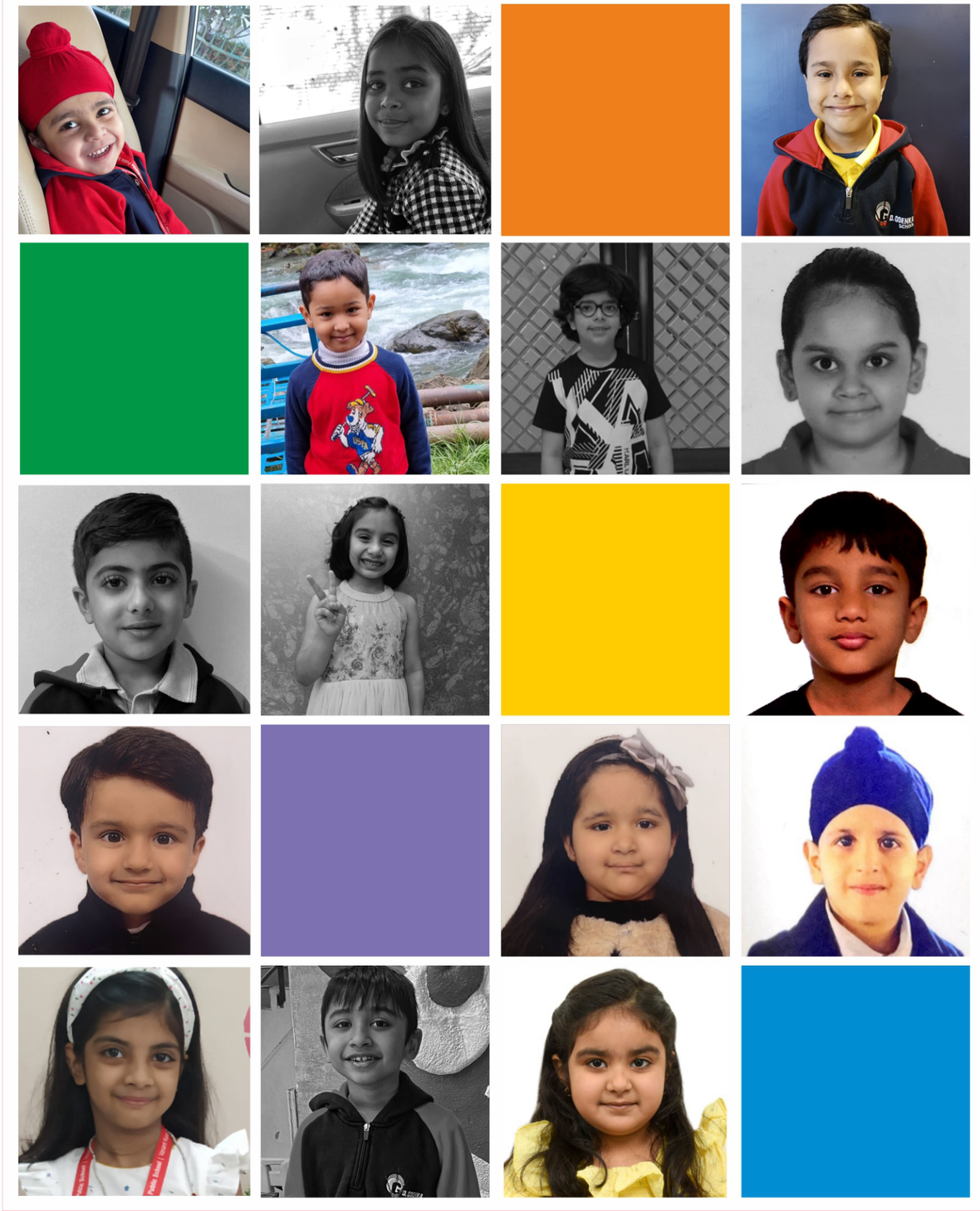
Class Nur-02

"A child can teach an adult three things: To be happy for no reason, to always be curious, to fight tirelessly for something."

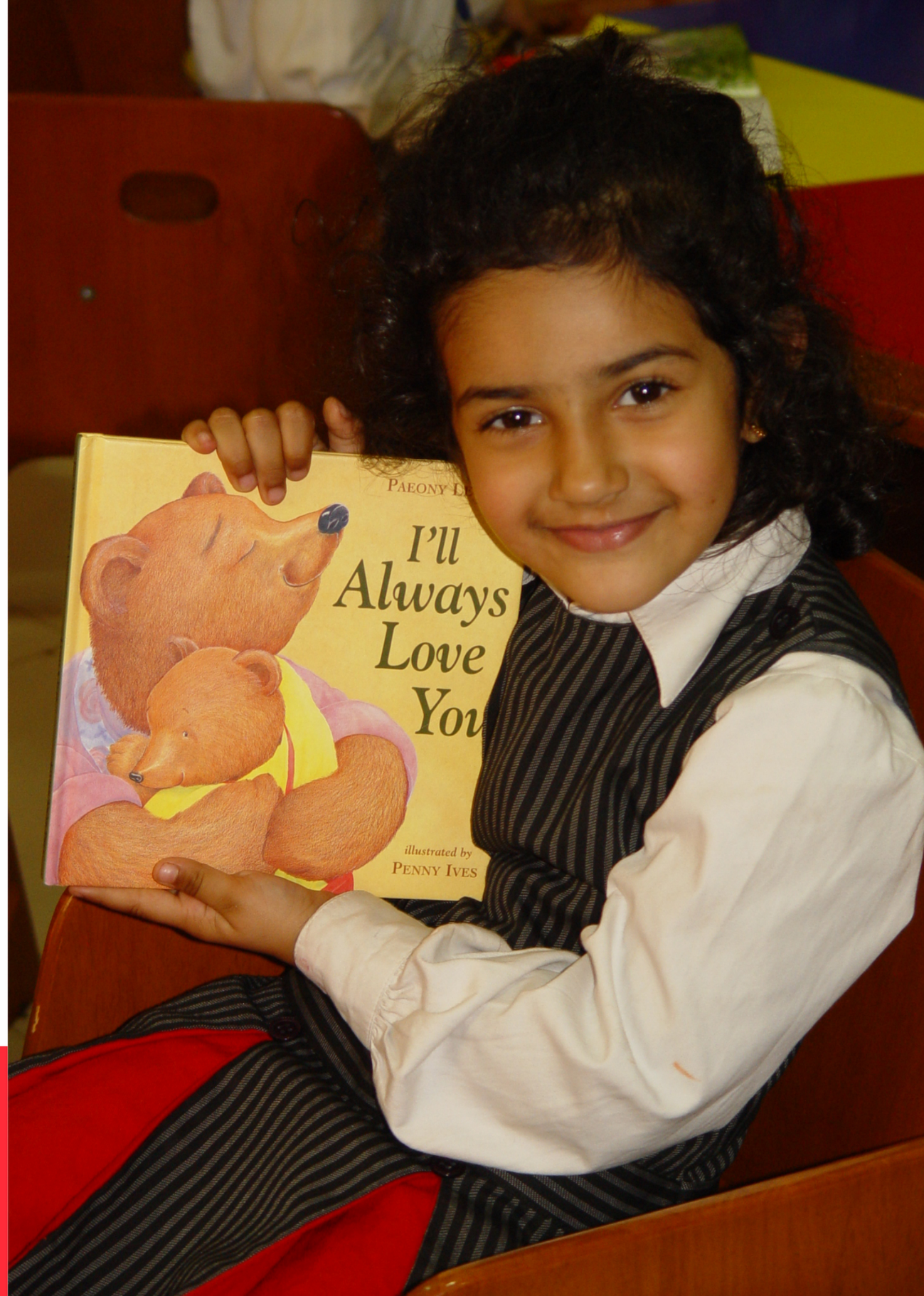
Paulo Coelho

Pre Primary Section.

ASPIRE TO INSPIRE

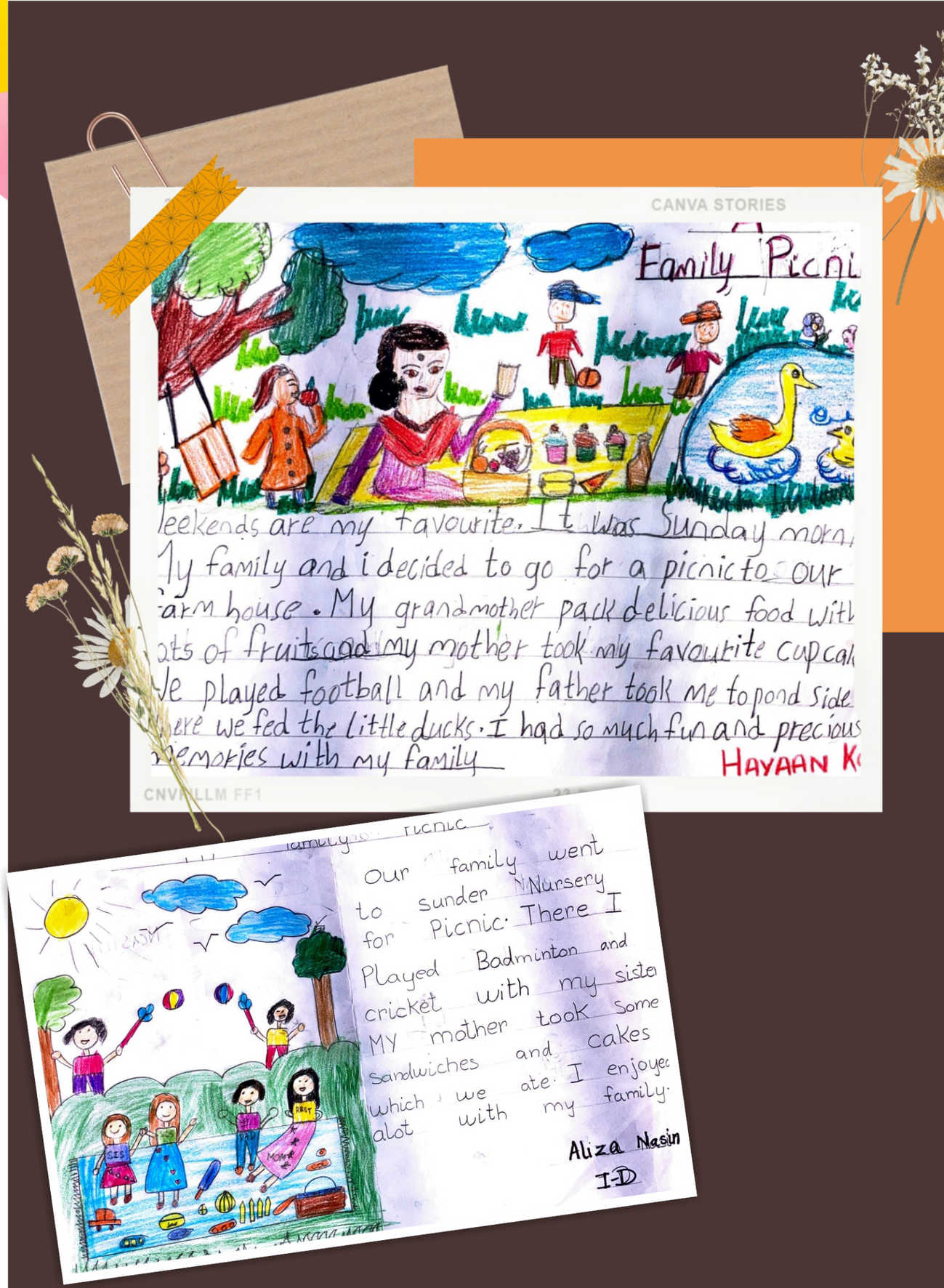


VOICES - CONTRIBUTOES


I'll Always Love You
illustrated by
PENNY IVES

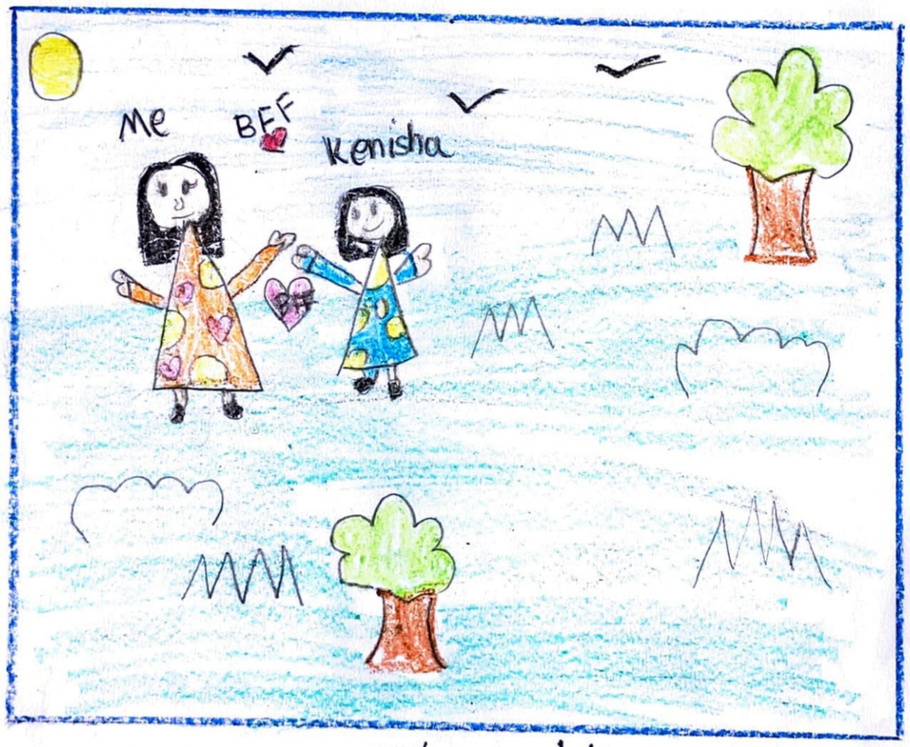
Friends, Family, Fun

We had joy, we had fun
We had seasons in the sun ...
The best times are always found
When friends and
family gather around



My best friend

My best friend is Kenisha. We both study in the same class. Kenisha is a kindhearted girl and she makes me laugh all the time. We have so much in together and we like to sit together in class. We are best friends forever.



Name: Vrinda Gola
Class: 2C

My best friend



This is my best friend Agastya and me. We play in b-10 park everyday. We love to climb on trees, dig holes in mud, collect dried fallen leaves and stones. We love to swing and play together.

Name: Ahaana Mongia
Class: 1
Section: E



1. This year we went to Pune, Jaipur, Jammmu and Trivandrum on a family trip.

2. My favourite trip was to Trivandrum, Kerala.

3. During the trip we went to beach, did boat ride in mangroove forest and drank coconut water.

4. I had lots of fun in the swimming pool and enjoyed the food.

I-A Shanaya Negi



Desire to fly !!

I Want to become a "Pilot" when i grow up

I want to fly the huge planes in the blue sky through the white clouds. I want to soar high above in the sky and see the world from there. I always like the birds floating in the sky with their wings spread.

Name: Shivansh Kakkar
Class: III C

Kids with Dreams Become Adults with Vision

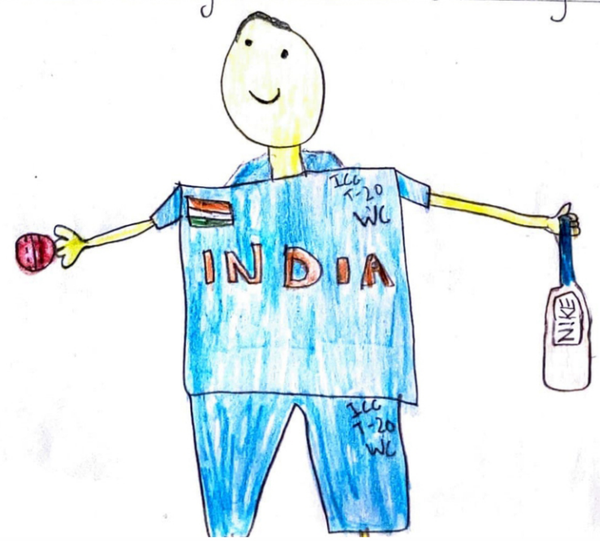
"The path from dreams to success does exist. May you have the vision to find it, the courage to get on to it, and the perseverance to follow it."
- Kalpana Chawla

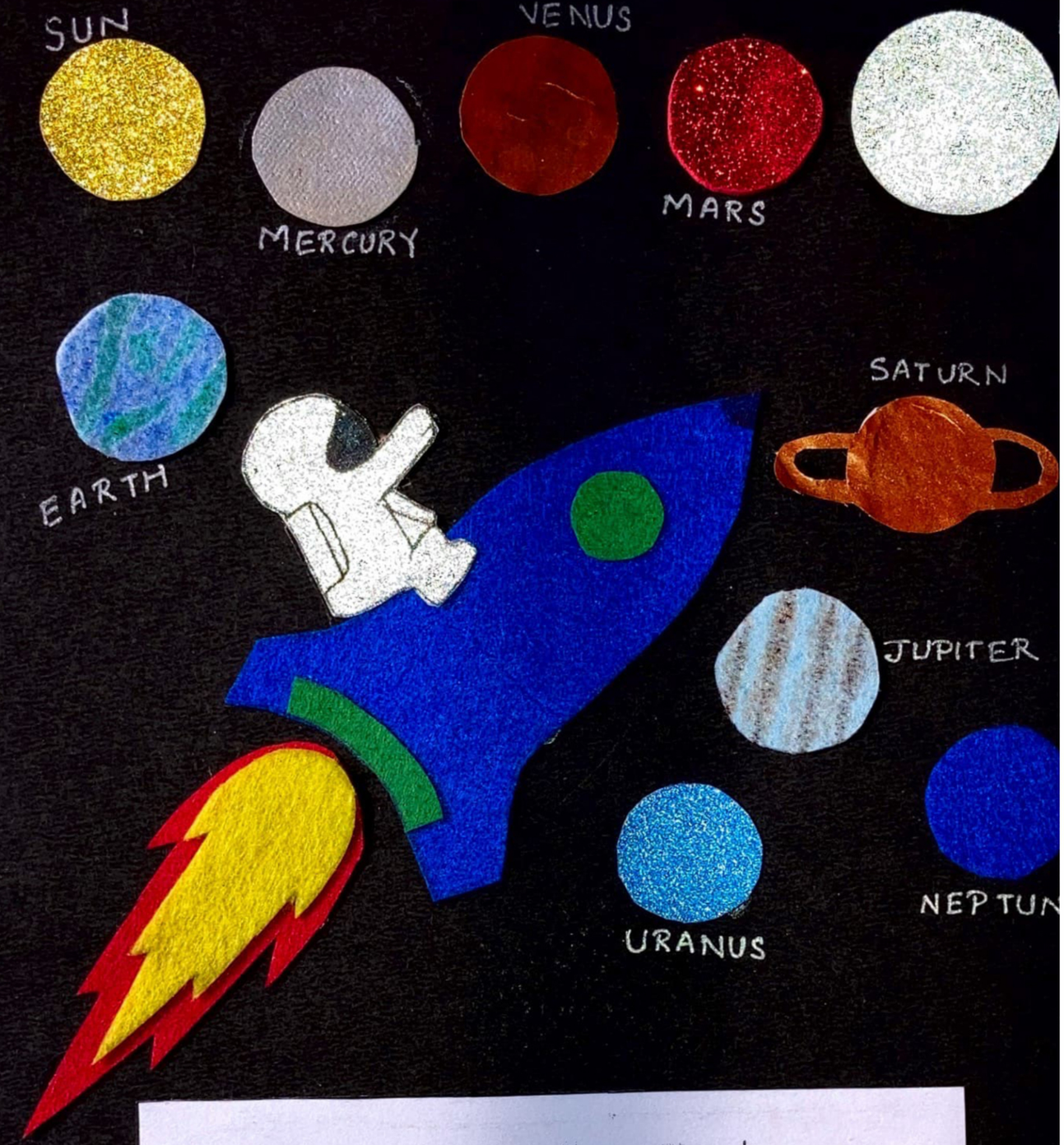
Name: Khaan Suri
Class And Sec: 2-D

Date: 22.11.22

What will I become when I grow up

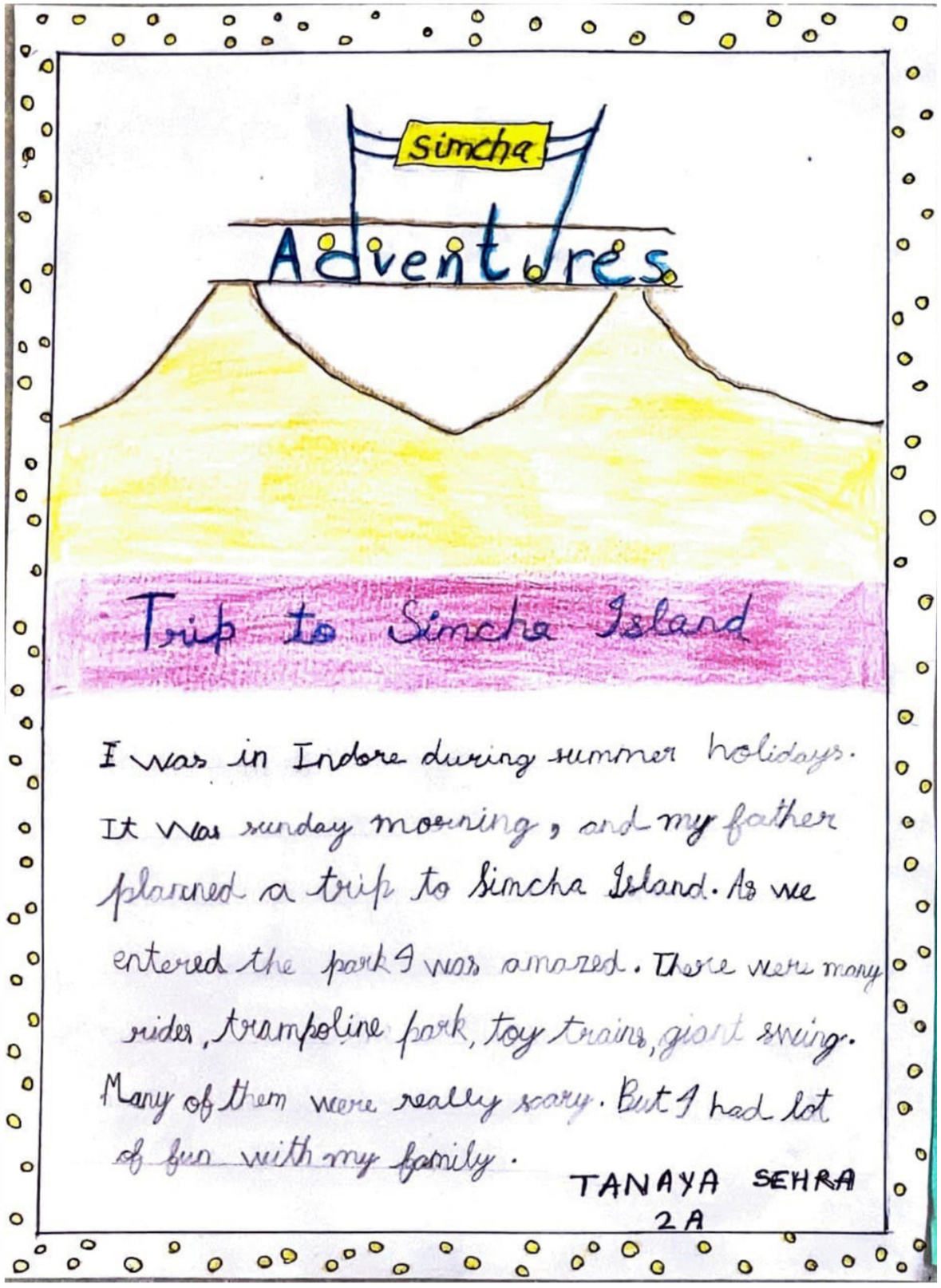
I will become a cricketer when I grow up. I play cricket with my brother and my father. I have watched Sachin Tendulkar, Virat Kolhi, Hardik Pandya, Kapil Dev and other cricketers on T.V playing. India won 2011 word cup in the captaincy of MS Dhoni. Every time I see a batsman make a century, I wish achieving the same one day.





When I grow up, I want to be an ASTRONAUT, because I want to explore The universe, and I love stars, planets.

NAME - EKAKSH JINDAL
CLASS - 2B



21.11.22

What will I be when I grow up

. When I grow up, I want to be a Soldier.
. Soldiers defend our country from enemies
. Soldiers take training to become super strong.
and brave. I also want to be strong and
brave
. They also help people stuck in floods or
high mountains. I Love to help people.
. I Love my country India and I want
to do something good for my country.

JAI HIND.



Shiv Veer Singh
2-D

What will I be when I grow up



I Want to be an Astronaut. Wearing a spacesuit, I will fly into the stars and planets. And I will make my country proud.

NIVAAN GAKHAR
II nd - C

Topic : _____ Date 3.12.22 Page No. _____

My favourite travel destination



Singapore, my favourite travel destination, is one of my favourites as this country is vibrant and a calm place to be. It's a beautiful combination of East and West. Singapore is clean and a friendly place. I went there on my 6th birthday and got to stay on a cruise! for two days! I went there by an aeroplane. I bought many soveniers such as magnets, T-shirts and a troll doll. This has been my best travel experience so far.



Devaagnya Khanna
IV B

ESCAPER PP-03

WHAT I WANT TO BE WHEN I GROW UP

an ASTRONAUT - Riaan Garg

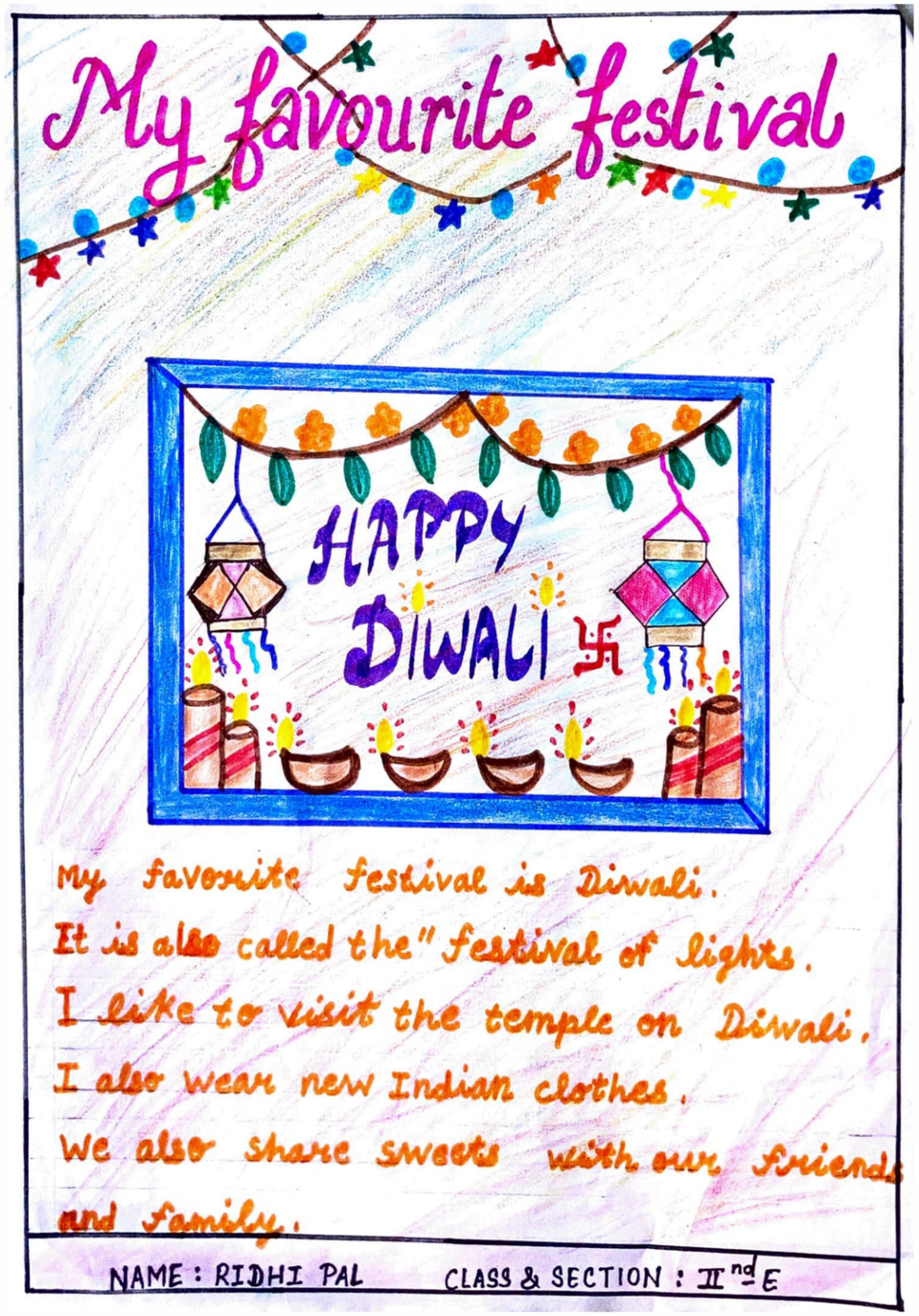


I want to be an Astronaut because I love the sky, stars and planets. I want to know how it looks above the sky

Every festival
teaches us only
one thing ...
Unite and Share
Happiness






My favourite festival
HAPPY
DIWALI
My favourite festival is Diwali.
It is also called the "festival of lights.
I like to visit the temple on Diwali.
I also wear new Indian clothes.
We also share sweets with our friends and family.
NAME : RIDHI PAL
CLASS & SECTION : IInd E


MY FAVOURITE FESTIVAL
HAPPY
HOLI
My favourite festival is Holi.
It is a festival of colours. We throw colours and balloons on our friends and play with water guns.
NAME :- ARUHI MANDAL
CLASS:- I 'C'

Date : ..... Page No. .....

HOLI

My favourite festival is Holi.

It is celebrated in the spring season.

We wear White clothes on the day

of Holi. We play with bright colours

like pink, green, yellow, blue and

many more. Holi begins with burning

the demoness Holika. Holi teaches us

the victory of good over bad.

Shivaay Dhawan
2-A

Ritika kohli
1-C

My Favourite Festival



Diwali is my favourite festival. it is the fastival of lights; it is Celebraed in all Parts of our Country. A few day before Diwali, People Clean their houses and Shops and get them whitewashed on diwali day, people decorate their houses.

My Favourite Festival



1. Diwali is my favourite festival.
2. It is the festival of lights.
3. We decorate our house with diyas and lights.
4. We make rangoli in our houses.
5. At night we worship Goddes Laxmi

Name = Advika Mehlawat
CLASS = I-D

saira chawla
class 2-E

My favourite festival
christmas



1. We celebrate christmas on 25th of December
2. christmas is my special to me because it is my father's Birthday come on christmas
3. We get lots of gifts from santa.
4. We docorate our house with christmas tree and lights.
5. We sing christmas carols.

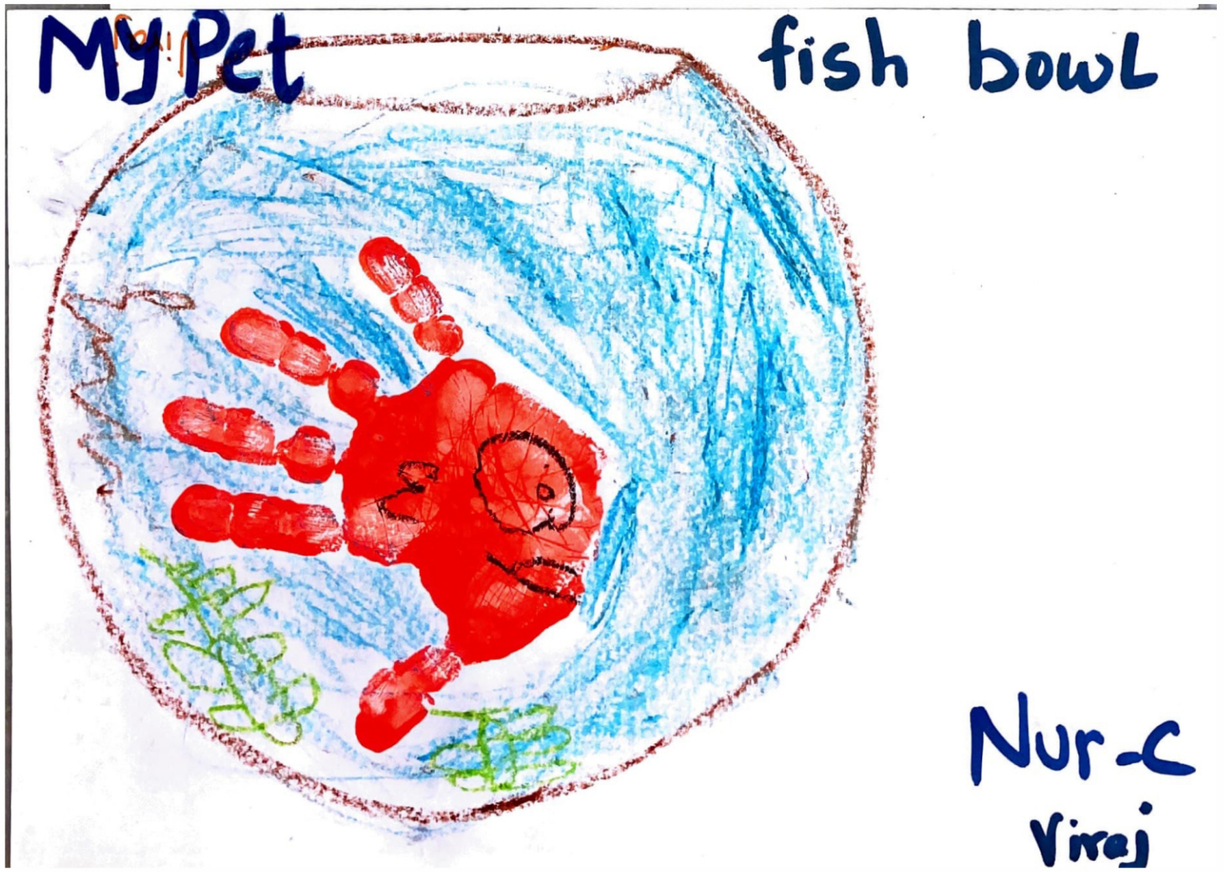


I am a ...
Tree hugging
Flower sniffing
Animal kissing
Planet loving
Nature worshipper
...And proud of it !





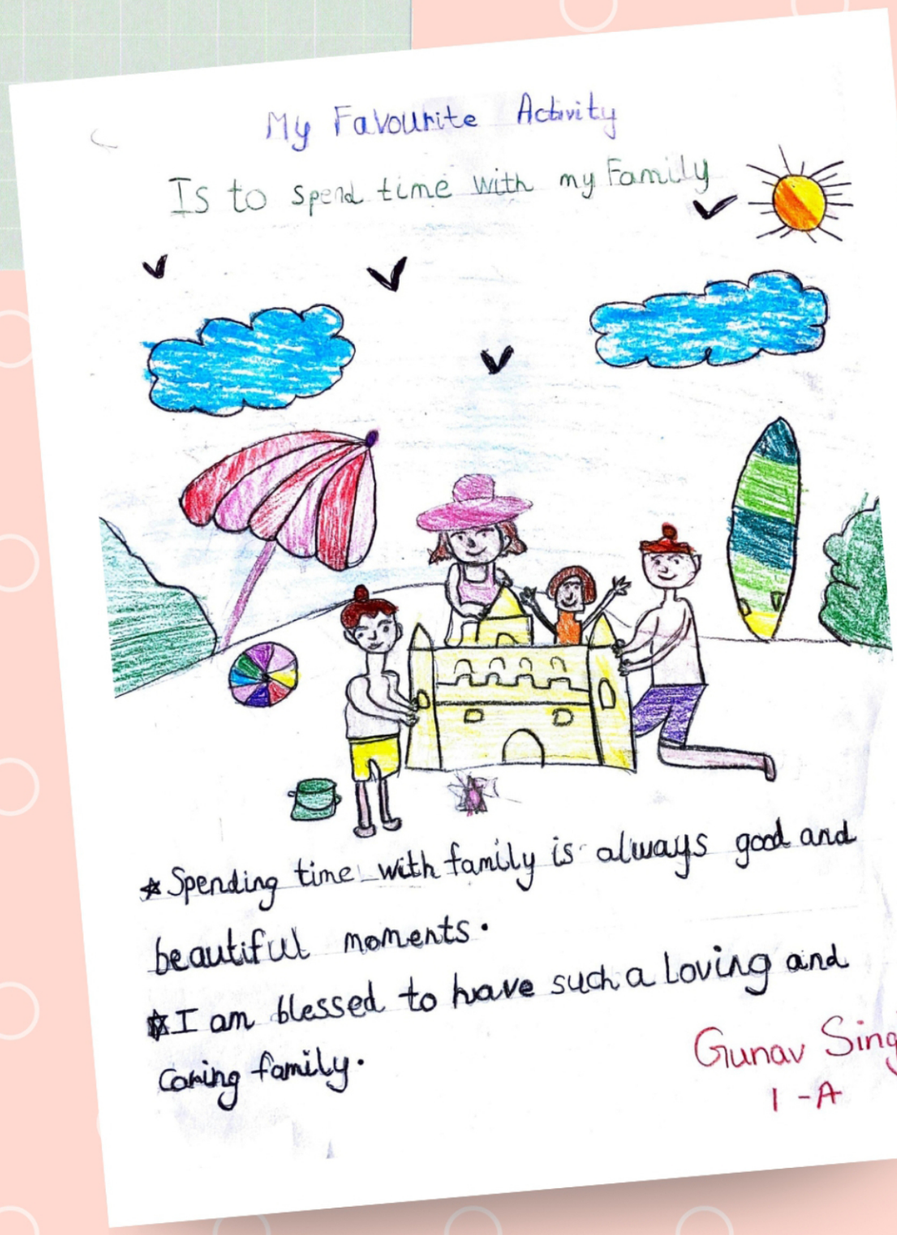

STANZIN DESK
KG-E
A rat is in the hat.
A cat is on the mat
AYAA


My Pet
fish bowl
Nur-C
Viraj


DINOSAUR
ADVAY TIWARI
NURSERY A


Nursery-B
Unvan
Nursery-B
Tall giraffe

The best
preparation for
good work
tomorrow is to
do good work today.
-Elbert Hubbard





MY HOBBY - COOKING





* I relish cooking very much.
* Cooking is really an enjoyable and relaxing hobby.
* I enjoy cooking with my mother.

Saina Yadav
I-B

My Favorite Activity



Art and craft are my favorite activities. It helps me focus and relax. I love when I create something nice, it makes me proud of myself and gives me confidence. There is no right or wrong in art and I can be who I want to be fearlessly. one day I will make many hearts happy through my art.







Aariya Sharda
2 - B





BACK *to* SCHOOL

Home is where the heart is !And SCHOOL is the pulse of a student 's life for it is synonymous with learning, life-long friendships, choicest memories and discovering the wonder called LIFE !



CREDITS

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Anshika Gupta, Saina Sethi
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WHO WE ARE.

GD Goenka Group is a leading conglomerate set up by avant-garde industrialist Shri Anjani Kumar Goenka and has under its umbrella some of the finest educational institutions in the country. A galaxy of educational institutions from pre-schools to post-graduate institutes with world class infrastructure, well-equipped libraries, hi tech laboratories and a dedicated and seasoned academic support, create an ideal and conducive environment for providing education that can be benchmarked against the best in the world.

THE GOENKAN NETWORK

GD Goenka Schools under the aegis of GD Goenka Group

1994 - START OF THE DREAM

20+ La Petite Montessori Pre-Schools



65+ Toddler House Pre-Schools

1 UGC Approved University



120+ K12 Schools across the country



40+ Healthcare Academy

1,50,000+ Students & Alumni across the country



THE JOURNEY CONTINUES .....



BACK *to* SCHOOL

Usually goodbyes cause pain but THIS ONE BROUGHT RELIEF !Children happily bid adieu to Covid and jauntily returned to school, friends, fun, games, stories, food and classrooms ! Teachers were only too glad to welcome them !

