

THE LAMB

Volume 7 | 2018 - 2019



GOOD SHEPHERD INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

VISION STATEMENT

Good Shepherd International School, in its pursuit of a holistic education, envisages inspiring and fostering a community of caring, progressive, lifelong learners to embrace and celebrate all Creation.

MISSION STATEMENT AND DESCRIPTORS

Good Shepherd International School endeavours to prepare each student for academic, social and personal success by creating a community of empowered and diverse learners striving to be globally-minded citizens in an atmosphere of mutual respect, understanding and trust.

GSIS is an International School by:

- maintaining a global perspective in an Asian context wherein it is situated
- embracing a diversity of cultures represented by its staff and students
- being sensitive and accepting of all cultures
- upholding a secular perspective within the School community
- offering national and international curriculums

Academic Success at GSIS is:

- acquisition of academic skills
- training to apply knowledge to real-life situations
- provision of qualified staff to ensure quality education
- being in a residential set-up that facilitates holistic academic growth and development
- benchmarked results and learning outcomes on global standards
- entry into leading colleges / universities in the country and worldwide

Social Success at GSIS is:

- development of a strong identity and self worth; ability to relate, connect and communicate effectively with others
- cultural sensitivity and acceptance
- valuing justice and fairness in social living
- being service-oriented unconditionally
- having an acceptable level of decorum

Personal Success at GSIS is:

- being a lifelong learner equipped with a keen spirit of inquiry
- developing a value-based and ethical outlook on life
- imbibing cognitive and behavioral skills to take on the world
- acquiring a sense of purpose and being goal-oriented
- possessing a sense of equanimity and ability to balance reason and emotion
- having acceptable standards of deportment
- having a spiritual-rootedness within a secular context

Community Life at GSIS means:

- staff and students living in a multi-cultural ambience / context
- having a sense of being in a 'family'
- developing a sense of belonging and togetherness in all we do
- allowing for personal space within a structured environment
- experiencing the joy / art of living – joie de vivre

Empowered Learners at GSIS:

- take responsibility and are accountable for their learning
- value and enjoy the process of learning as much as the outcome
- share and transmit knowledge
- develop initiative and leadership skills

Diverse Learners at GSIS:

- acquire holistic learning and development through a wide variety of academic / extra-curricular activities
- have varied curricular options to choose from, catering to their diverse needs and backgrounds
- are recognized and accepted for their multiple ability levels and learning styles
- learn from each other in the diverse community they live in, learn and work in

Globally-minded Citizens at GSIS:

- value the human spirit beyond the constraints of cultural boundaries
- develop awareness and sensitivity to global issues encompassing all aspects of life
- understand the impact of their thoughts and actions on the world at large
- think globally and act locally

Mutual Respect at GSIS means:

- upholding the sanctity of teacher-student roles
- appreciating and accepting individuality and diversity
- safeguarding and promoting the values and ethos of the institution
- preserving and maintaining the environment we live and work in

Understanding and Trust at GSIS means:

- Truth / Trust / Triumph (our school motto)
- caring for individual needs even as we live in the community
- belief in the goodness of the individual and the human race
- developing empathy and rapport amongst members of the community
- being active listeners and critical thinkers before being judgemental

OBJECTIVES

- 1. VALUE EDUCATION :**
To create a climate that encourages freedom of thought while inculcating the savor of self-discipline, punctuality, fair play and industry.
- 2. HOME AWAY FROM HOME :**
To actualize a 'home away from home' atmosphere where a right proportion of care and control is administered catering to the emotional and intellectual needs of a child.
- 3. ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE :**
To nurture heuristic, lifelong learners and who excel in conventional academic demands; explore and discover the interconnectivity of disciplines and grow into active generators of knowledge.
- 4. CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES :**
To ensure that ALL students gain experience, and appreciate ALL the creative and performing arts thereby promoting the acquisition of team spirit and development of individual skills needed for a holistic growth .
- 5. TEACHING STRATEGY :**
To practise tailored teaching strategies incorporating the latest technology to facilitate the diverse learning styles and intelligence quotients of the student.
- 6. COMMUNITY SERVICE :**
To disseminate awareness of environmental concerns and humanitarian issues and kindle a sense of responsibility towards the amelioration of the needy by working with charitable organizations.
- 7. TECHNOLOGY :**
To allow opportunities for a guided, constructive and age-appropriate use of technology and other resources within and throughout the academic programme.
- 8. INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION:**
To discover the latent potential in each child through individual attention and providing them with opportunities to hone their full potential.
- 9. COUNSELLING :**
To monitor a complementary growth of social, cognitive and spiritual facets of a child and aid in making life fulfilling career choices.
- 10. MULTICULTURAL :**
To foster respect for and tolerance of other cultures and creeds by creating a multicultural and secular ambience.
- 11. TO GROW FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH :**
To conduct periodic review of all programmes and procedures to ensure consistency and continuous improvement in line with the ideals espoused in the Mission Statement and the Motto of the school.

INTERNATIONALISM

GSIS fosters an ethically and culturally diverse learning environment wherein students transcend barriers through communication and mutual understanding which inspires them not only to become courageous leaders but also responsible citizens in the service of local and global communities.

A Prayer

Lord, we pray for guidance from your Spirit. Let your will and promises always be a meditation of our hearts. Help us come to you for guidance, strength, provision and protection. As we face tough choices and hard situations, help us to live in a way that brings honour to Your holy name. Feed us with your daily bread. Let the Bread of Life sustain us throughout our trials and hungers.

Keep our feet from stumbling and our mind from wandering into distractions that could steal precious time and energy. Fill us with peace in knowing that even if we take a wrong turn, Your purpose will prevail. Fill us with the hope that daybreak is coming and that your love will always prevail! We want you to heal and remove everything that is causing stress, grief and sorrow in our lives.

Thank you for your amazing power, goodness, blessings and work in our lives. Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy.

Amen.

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THE LAMB

[2018 – 2019]

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THE LAMB 2019

Editors' Letter...

"To me, the greatest pleasure of writing is not what it's about, but the inner music the words make."

- Truman Capote

*The seventh edition of **THE LAMB** has been an interesting task and it gives us immense pleasure to ensure that this magazine has successfully accomplished its objective. Our expectations are met this year also keeping the set realistic standards. The magazine provided learning opportunities for students to practice and engage in their writing craft. There were also outlets for artistic expression showcasing artwork, poetry, short fiction, non-fiction, sharing knowledge, encouraging brainstorming, student reflection and critical thinking.*

*We find writing as the most valuable literary expression. The inculcation of passion for creative thinking and writing amongst the students is one of the major objectives set by Good Shepherd International School, Ooty. **THE LAMB** has been a step towards it and it has served as a great platform to vent out students' passion for writing and encourage original thinking within them. The reflection of the students' creativity and achievements is the epitome of the magazine. Students have put forth their ideas and thoughts that are too deep to be expressed and too strong to be suppressed.*

The enthusiastic write-ups of our young writers are indubitably sufficient to hold the interest and admiration of the readers. This souvenir is indeed a pious attempt to make our budding talents give shape to their creativity and learn the art of being aware because we believe that our success depends upon our power to perceive, the power to observe and the power to explore. We are sure that the positive attitude, hard work, sustained efforts and innovative ideas exhibited by our young buddies will surely stir the mind of the readers and take them to the surreal world of unalloyed joy and pleasure. We have put in relentless efforts to bring excellence to this treasure trove.

GSIS is an incarnation of self-respect, love, affection, sensibility, responsibility and compassion which puts the students into a "state of flow" and makes them genuinely desirous to learn. We recognize, appreciate, applaud and foster the fine blend of sensibilities in a child changing a negative outlook from drab and demoralized to bright and expectant. This school attains its eminence in the first place through the achievement of children. The magazine also espouses the School spirit which is built up within the school through the collective actions, thoughts and aspirations. All these, we believe would spur higher growth and enterprise in children.

*We would like to thank everybody who has contributed to make you all enjoy reading **THE LAMB**. In particular, many thanks to all students and staff for their relentless support and contribution to make this publication a success.*

Happy reading!

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Fame

Articles



Master Shreyaan Jain

Don't you think it would be great to be famous? Let me tell you, it would NOT be great to be famous. Fame is just a term. It comes, and it goes; it never lasts long. In my opinion, fame sometimes makes people vain and rude. I have ample examples to prove my point. 'Famous' actors and actresses all around the world behave so rudely in public but act like saints on the movie set. Many 'famous' politicians promise the public to be good but shout at their own party members. Many 'famous' CEOs act very politely and behave humble, but they refuse to give their employees a pay rise. According to me, all these fame and money sometimes goes to people's heads and corrodes them from the inside.

Another problem is the rumours and the accusations. You cannot open a news channel without seeing your face in the middle of the screen with a wild rumour about something which you have

never done. There can also be speculations and predictions about you which don't even make sense. Then, there are people termed 'the haters' who criticize and comment on every single thing you do. They call you names and sometimes even start a campaign against you. Ignoring all these things is an art which is very hard to master. Some 'famous' people tend to break under the strain.

Fame, according to me, is the exact opposite of 'privacy'. If someone is famous, wherever he or she goes, his/her privacy is invaded. In the start it is bearable and interesting to an extent, but it gets frustrating after a while. Think about going to a formal dinner; instead of enjoying the food, more than half of the time goes into signing autographs. Imagine going on a long drive; instead of enjoying the wind and the music, you spend most of the time getting out of the car and taking a selfie with a complete stranger who claims to be your fan. You cannot even say no as it would be considered rude! You cannot enjoy anything personally. Your whole life is 'public' and everything you say or do is known to the masses. There is little or absolutely no 'me time' where you can be at peace with yourself. Every single person requires time to look into themselves and spend time in peace. This is sometimes not possible for famous people.

Almost everyone think that it would be great to be famous! However, what we fail to see is – the PROBLEMS after we become famous. This fact is often overlooked by most of us. My opinion has been voiced. Now it is upto you – 'Is it great to be famous?'

- **Master Shreyaan Jain, FM 3D**

Independence Day



Ms Gayatri Madan Lund

The Indian Independence Day commenced as a movement in 1857 with its desired goal of true freedom which was successfully achieved 72 years ago in 1947.

India celebrated its 72nd Independence Day all across the nation with much gusto, patriotism and enthusiasm. Indeed, every Independence Day reminds us of the hard-fought freedom won by our forefathers. The birth of modern India was a moment of historic exhilaration; but it was also tinged with the blood of unimaginable suffering along the length and breadth of our country. The ideals and convictions, which had held through the travails of an epic struggle against the British rule, were under strain. A nation which forgets the idealism of its past loses something vital from its future.

The Indians' patriotism isn't just about the love and devotion to their motherland, it isn't about Ms Gayatri Madan Lund being dogmatic, it isn't about resorting to violence but to stand for what is right and just. It is about the acceptance of one another within our nation and outside, whoever the person may be. Foreigners visiting India can feel their importance, standing on our land. That feeling instilled in them is because of responsible patriotism. It runs in our blood and should do so for generations to come.

William Dalrymple, the renowned Scottish historian who had come to India for a brief visit, but has stayed on for more than 18 years said, "So vast is India, and so uniquely resilient and deeply rooted are her intertwined social and religious institutions, that all foreign intruders are sooner or later either shaken off or absorbed."

Independence Day is a chance to celebrate the uniqueness of our independent nation. Despite being a complex nation with 1.3 billion people, 122 languages, 1600 dialects and 7 religions, her strength lies in her unique capacity to blend apparent contradictions into positive affirmations. It is a country held together, in the words of **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**, “by strong but invisible threads.” About her there is the elusive quality of a legend of long ago. She is a myth and an idea, a dream and a vision, and yet very real and present and pervasive.”

Today, we celebrate the fruition of this dream, ours being the largest democracy. Don't you find joy in all you see around yourself? I look around me and I see freedom. Freedom means freedom of speech, freedom of expression, equal justice to all across the country irrespective of caste, creed, religion and harmony among the people of India. You can have a religion to follow what you believe in, not what you are forced to believe in. Freedom is not being afraid to say what you believe, because nothing bad will happen to you. That is what I was made to believe while growing up and this is what I stand by. There is equality because we are free. This, nevertheless, is not the work of one day, but it is the net result of the collective planning, policy and foresight of our leaders and visionaries. Freedom without responsibility is quite tempting but it will merely lead to chaos.

The well-known existentialist **Sartre** believes that humans create themselves; “it is only through consciousness that a human being can come to understand itself, and through its acts that it can create a self.” Find this self and look for it in everyone else too.

Each one of us here has a sense of responsibility within ourselves towards our country. This responsibility comes in many forms – voting for the right person to take care of our little world, complying with the various movements in order to help our nation progress, and also leading a life of harmony.

Hence, let's exercise our freedom with responsibility and re-dedicate this Independence day for the progress and prosperity of our nation, to the welfare of all our people, to the unity and integrity of our country. It is not that India is without its own present shortsightedness, struggles and difficulties. This is why each one of us has a role to play.

Let us remember **Julia Carney's** immortal lines (from her poem, Little Things):

*“Little drops of water
Little grains of sand,
Make the mighty ocean,
And the pleasant land.”*

- Ms Gayatri Madan Lund, IB - 2A

Learning



**Master Ahalani
Sanmaya**

What is more important for you, Academics or Games? You may have different choices and opinions about it, but for me both are important and both should be equally balanced, in everyone's life.

The brain needs a healthy body and for a healthy body we need to be active, which we can achieve through games. Games help us to be physically fit. Academics alone will not help us to grow. Playing games increases our thinking power and our ability to concentrate.

Studies are very much important in the life of a student. It helps each and every individual to acquire world knowledge and events. Better knowledge can guide us through darkness of ignorance and give us the understanding of right and wrong.

I am very lucky that I am in a school which helps me to achieve excellence by giving us opportunities to choose various games for our physical development and to opt for various subjects in academics for our inner development.

“Play, it brings joy. It is within this context that learning can occur”.

- Master Ahalani Sanmaya, FM-1B

Resources



Master M K Nitesh

“Resources are limited, hence we need to conserve them.” Resources exist in two kinds – renewable and non-renewable. Renewable resources are unlimited. Then, what’s the issue with misusing them? The raw resources provide very limited benefits, therefore we process them. Have you ever heard of solar panels? They are objects that convert raw solar energy into usable electrical energy. However, these panels are extremely costly and cost at least Rs 20,000 apiece. That is the whole point.

One minute of sunlight provides as much energy as 0.1 million tonnes of burning coal, but it must be processed. Though it’s unlimited, it is very costly, as the raw forms are not very beneficial. Then comes the non-renewable resources. These resources are extremely cost-efficient, but they are limited and biohazardous. Do you know about fossil fuels? They are non-renewable resources that take thousands of years to form. Fossil fuels are mined in very large amounts, therefore the Earth

will soon be depleted of them. Secondly, the burning of these resources harm the environment. It causes a huge emission of greenhouse gases, which can therefore cause global warming.

All I’m saying is that these resources are beneficial, as well as hazardous. Renewable resources must be used and non-renewable resources must be sustained.

Therefore, I propose the ACE. A stands for Alternative and it states that we must consume more renewable resources. C stands for Conserve and it states that we, the citizens of tomorrow must conserve these magnificent resources. E stands for Efficient. It states that we must use the resources in an efficient manner and thereby make them more durable and long-lasting.

Follow the ACE,

*“Resources are free,
Though we misuse.
Generations to come will have to light a fuse.
Please conserve the resources.”*

- **Master M K Nitesh, FM-1B**

Diversity



Master A P Maghizhan

I accept everybody in this World as unique but they do have something in common with each other.

Diversity is being different from one and another. It is good to be unique, but because of our uniqueness people discriminate us. When people discriminate against you, you don’t feel sad just because you are different from them, you feel you are unique from him or her in your own way.

Our country’s motto says, ‘India is a country of unity in diversity.’ It is our country’s motto since all of us are unique and all of us are diverse. Who are these people who discriminate, anyway. It’s us and I am just not talking about India; this is a global issue. People are being discriminated on the basis of race, religion, caste, etc. So, who are these people who can stop discrimination? It’s us. Stopping discrimination rests on our shoulders. So let’s try our best to stop discrimination.

Remember, we are never different from one another. We are the same as everyone else, but we are also unique in our own way. I would like us to stop discrimination thinking this: “You are a human being and are allowed to be flawed. There is a lot of beauty in your imperfection, in your uniqueness.”

- **Master A P Maghizhan, FM-1C**

The Sea



**Ms Angelinaashita
Ashish Rajwadi**

I love going to the beach. Isn't it a beautiful picnic spot? My parents and I love to see the waves come and go, the enchanting sounds of the water cutting through rocks and sand... all of these always make me ponder about how amazingly God created the world. I wonder if God wanted to teach us something through his breathtaking creation! Well, I got to learn a lot from one of God's wonderful creation – The Sea.

There are many qualities indeed that we could learn from the sea. Just like the sea we must have self-control and self-discipline. The sea is strong enough to swallow the whole city, but... does it ever do so? The sea is huge and strong, but... does it ever show it? It teaches us to be humble and tells us not to show off about what we have. Have you ever seen the sea very still? No! so, we must keep working ceaselessly.

But many times the sea can go out of control and may come up with huge waves. It is natural to lose control of something. This means you can express your emotions but try to do it without causing harm to anyone.

The sea keeps swallowing everything that is dumped into it but after a while a lot of waste only come to the shore. This means that we should accept everything but practice the right thing only.

There are so many things I learned from the sea. Isn't it beautiful to know how nature teaches us lessons? I loved it and you should too. So, the next time you go to the beach, don't just enjoy the breeze or play in the water, but observe what it can teach you and what you can learn from it. No one is too old to learn, especially from nature.

- Ms Angelinaashita Ashish Rajwadi, 7B

Democracy



**Master Godfrey
Shaunaq Gomez**

Democracy is an archetypal standard to what a free nation's government should strive for. Everyone has a voice that counts to change the nation. The people elect their own leaders, pick policies that stand to benefit them and form an utopia where everyone is happy. Democracy is the best form of government or so it would seem.

When first conceived of in ancient Greece by Socrates, democracies were very different to what they are now. They were meant to be the best form of government, indisputably. Now however, it doesn't seem to be as much of a paradise as it once may have seemed. Democracy now, is riddled with false promises, pretentious policies and lying, lazy leaders. Why are democracies that we have, so lacking? To answer this question, we have to look at how the word 'democracy' has transformed from a word connoted to empowerment of people to an inefficient form of governance.

In the book, "The Republic", by **Plato**, on the teachings of **Aristotle**, it is clearly stated that true democracy can only exist in the world of forms. The world of forms is essentially a world of perfection and ideals that we strive to achieve fruitlessly. It is the world of the unachievable. But knowing what exists there helps us to mimic it and therein better ourselves. However, we must acknowledge that from the outset, true democracy is unattainable. But even a mimicry of such a government must be better than what democracy currently is. This is because, what we call democracies now have devolved into demagogues.

There are 2 main reasons as to why this has happened. The first reason is that an ideal democracy is meant to be led or have candidates that argue with reason that helps the voters understand who they should support and why. However, now a democratic party is represented by a demagogue, a leader who manipulates the voters using emotions rather than reason. They do this by antagonizing the other candidate or by supporting causes that coerces the voters to empathize with them. It becomes a contest of which candidate is better at manipulating. The second problem of modern democracy is not so much an issue with the candidates, as much as it is with the voters. Due to the literacy rates of some democratic nations, a large amount of the voting population fails to understand what benefits them. This fact prevents even the educated people from choosing the right leaders and policies. An analogy Plato makes in "The Republic" shows how we need people with the right skills and

knowledge to be able to vote. In fact, it is a very essential aspect in their proposed idyllic democracy. A conversation between **Socrates and Polemarchus** depicts this idea perfectly.

“The skillful player.”

“And in the laying of bricks and stones is the just man more useful or better partner than the builder?”

“Quite the reverse.”

“Then is not a man, educated, a better partner in deciding who must run the state than the just man?”

This dialogue rightly depicts why the voters should not be allowed to vote based on the age of himself, but the procedure must rather be decided through intellect and knowledge.

Though, resolving these 2 issues will not make democracy a government that can make its populous happy, due to other problems that plague it. Problems, such as corruption and greed, can only be eradicated in the world of forms. However, by being aware of the problems described above and attempting to find solutions to them, we as a people can turn our inefficient and hierarchical demagogues into functioning democracies run by and for the people.

- **Master Godfrey Shaunaq Gomez, IB-1B**

Metamorphosis



Master S Pragith

“Life is but death’s bride.” Often we have heard the saying, yet refuse to look under the surface. This statement not only is universal, but one that is scathingly true. Like the legendary bird, the phoenix and how **Pharell Williams** in his platinum single, ‘*Get Lucky*’, states, everything ends with the beginning.

The idea of a beginning is only feasible with the idea of an end, or the ‘Big Bang Theory’ would be a hoax and the crusades would be peace treaties. It is nerve-wracking, realizing that one has to go to their graves but can it be stopped? If it has begun in the first place, how do we not expect it to stop? One dreads the prospect of letting go of someone they love, but did they dread it before the inception of the relationship? The answer simply resides in the land of the negative.

The world is composed of such confusion and commotion, that adds to the chaotic beauty of universe, where laws of physics are worthless outside a universe and words are variables created by man, just to ease understanding. Such a bittersweet idea is one of a timeline.

A regular human wakes up from their bed, overjoyed at being alive; they thank the Lord for the day and bread. Yet, is it truly by God’s mercy that humans, or any other living organism, could experience a new dawn, a fresh start? How ironic it is then, when a supposed child of God has breathed his last? Of course, several would argue, that God has claimed their soul, for He loves his children, but why pray for another day at all, if He loves you?

Tyler Durden, from ‘*Fight Club*’ rightfully states that we are not special. We are just another constituent of the compost heap. In the end, we are but decomposing molecules of carbon, hydrogen and sulfur. Is it not funny to know that we spend all our lives, getting educated and then making money just to buy the things we actually do not need? Why, one could lead a life on simple bread and cold water, can he not? Why the extravagant diet? Why the over-priced automobile? Why a cigarette? Just like how the idea of death contradicts the idea of birth, yet sustains it, is how the world works. It is a morphed, perfect, seductive and ugly world.

I’m your eyes, I am a psychotic retard. I’m mine. I am an ambassador of the painful truth. But Death sees only one. She does not discriminate. **Marshall Mather III** and I are indistinguishable in her eyes. Why so? The very similarity of conception and

termination, trumps the insignificant details of our lives. We are not how much money we have in the bank. We are not the car we own. We are highly complex bio-organic aliens that have survived the wrath of the Earth. Any action of ours never makes a difference (unless you produce music, of course!). In the eyes of Martians, we are cloth-wearing, six-foot aliens composed of carbon that zoom in an organic spaceship. But Death sees the only truth.

Chief Seattle, in his popular oration, states that we are all related by Death. Death's sweet kiss could be a mere slash of the sword or a bullet, but it is one so seductive that it makes us lose our sense and chase the beautiful woman. She is wrongfully portrayed as a negative concept. She is the Redeemer. She is the Mother of All Creation. Yet, we fear her and hate to embrace her. A beautiful young lady, will age, will develop wrinkles, and will eventually die. A triumphant ship, that leaves a port returns weather-beaten.

How amazing is this uncertainty, so beautiful and manipulative?

- Master S Pragith, 10B

Beauty is the Beast



Ms Sasha Athaide

Almost every girl yearns for a zero figure body. Yet half of them use the wrong means to achieve their desired weight. *Anorexia nervosa*, *Bulimia nervosa* and *Binge eating* are eating disorders widely spread especially in the US. Anorexia is said to be a disorder where the victims assume that they are overweight and hence starve themselves to lose weight.

Why must they use such a dreadful way to achieve their goal? In some cases, lack of knowledge, desperation and desire to achieve their goal snatches the victim's ability to differentiate between right and wrong. A patient with *Bulimia nervosa* often tries to throw food out of the body by vomiting or by taking laxatives so that they will look thinner or feel thinner. The most common eating disorder in the US is *binge eating* which preys on 3.5% of women, 2% of men and 30% to

40% of individuals seeking weight loss treatments. A victim of *binge eating* disorder tends to consume large quantities of food in a short period of time and then starve themselves for a period of time to avoid gaining weight.

In India, the prevalence of eating disorders is not clearly known since mental health is still kept in the dark. Spreading awareness about these eating disorders, counselling, medication and nutrition education through campaigns can be a big help to reduce the number of such disorders.

- Ms Sasha Athaide, FM-4B

Benefits of Music



Master Shreyaan Jain

Music is good for you and your health. It has been thousands of years since man discovered music and gave it a name. Since then, there have been countless benefits of music which have been discovered. Here are some of them:

Stress: One of the most fatal killers of all time; it has been ranked with diseases like cancer, Schizophrenia, Alzheimer's disease and many more. Studies show that music helps to reduce stress and calm the mind. All the physical and mental tension is removed quite easily. Biologically, music helps to slow the pulse and reduce the blood pressure. This is beneficial for patients with high blood pressure and coronary heart disease. Hormones which are released due to stress can also be controlled by listening to music. Anxiety can be lessened using music. This is especially true when

considering slow, classical music. Music can distract us from the current problems in our life, helping us to relax at least for a little while.

Pain is an unpleasant physical sensation. Experiencing pain is something which all humans have to face in their lives, but they do not have to do it alone. Research has shown that listening to music while experiencing pain can significantly ease the pain. This is not only true for everyday cases, but for patients who have chronic pain too. Patients commented that they did not require medication for pain after listening to music.

In addition, memory and cognition are affected by music. Sports, studies and a variety of other activities are influenced by music resulting in a better performance. Listening to music releases *endorphins*, that block pain and induce feelings of pleasure. Listening to music before going to sleep helps in providing a more comforting, fuller sleep. It can provide aid in the worst cases of depression, lifting people out of the depths of despair. The immune system functions of the body becomes more efficient. Brain degeneration can also be limited by music.

The list goes on and on. It never ends. Therefore, the verdict is clear.

- Master Shreyaan Jain, FM-3D

Short Stories

"Wherever my story takes me, however dark and difficult the theme, there is always some hope and redemption, not because readers like happy endings, but because I am an optimist at heart. I know the sun will rise in the morning, that there is a light at the end of every tunnel."

- Michael Morpurgo

A mysterious letter



Ms Shannah Sarah Jacob

After school I had come home and I had to check the mailbox. My parents had insisted that whenever I came from school I had to check the mail. I had gone home and I sat to read the mail. They were all ordinary, but there was one different from the rest. One part of it was midnight blue and the other navy blue. It had our address on it. After opening, I read only instructions which were:

- Carry this paper always with you because your journey will be eerie and dangerous, also mysterious
- Beware of animals and all the other things you may encounter
- Carry enough amount of water and food. If not, you will have to hunt
- Bring two friends and two friends only

After I read this, my two friends came to my house for homework, Ron and Betty. Then, a few minutes later, a door opened and I told my friends to get all the food and water they could get and also clothes and blankets. I had gone to see if there was anything written on the door and surprisingly there was a small note on it saying, "Go in and never come back and go in and come back with all the riches in the world."

I did not know what to do. Should I go or should I stay? My sister was ill and she had to get medicines from the finest doctors to recover. A short time later, Betty and Ron had come back with the bags and all the stuff required. I made a choice to go and get the medicines for my sister. Ron and Betty came with me.

As we entered, there was a garden filled with medicinal plants which could cure my sister. When I knelt down to pluck a few plants, a huge swarm of bees arose and made a barrier. They asked me a riddle which was, "What letter holds the most amount of water?" All three of us were horrible at riddles, so we could not answer it.

We waited three days and still the swarm of bees never went away. I kept thinking of my family. At a sudden shot, I got an answer right after all the water and food had run out. I got it right and the answer was C.

I saved my sister from this illness and I was proud even though I had got a lot of scoldings from my parents. Ron and Betty were also extremely happy. I had never experienced anything like this in my life. It was a story that I could never forget.

- Ms Shannah Sarah Jacob, 7A

A Mystery of Gold Toys



Master Rupansh Bajaj

It was Sunday morning and everything was going well. My father entered the room and told me to be quick and get ready faster. I brushed my teeth, took bath, changed my clothes and sat for breakfast. I thought something was wrong. My father was doing everything very fast. He told me to eat fast because we were going to have fun.

When I came out of the house I saw there were two cars and some relatives over there. We all soon sat in the car and my father took us to a beach. He left me, my relatives and friends in a food court and went to a ticket counter. We did not know what it was. We got up and we were just walking and taking rounds of the beach. We suddenly stepped on something. It wasn't sand, it was something hard. We were looking at what it was. It was a gate. We opened it and went inside. There were tube lights illuminating the entire underground tunnel. While walking, we saw a note. It said, 'Find the

gold toys.' When all of us were looking for it, we got a map. It showed the way to the gold toys. We had to go through some of the rooms. The journey began. We came to the first room; it was empty. When we were just looking at the room there opened a secret passage. It was a maze, we took time to complete it but we did it. Then there was a second room. We had to complete three tasks. One – drink the bitter gourd juice, second – eat the pumpkin, three – put our hands in a worm pot and take out the key. One of us loved eating bitter gourd, so he was interested in drinking it. The other loved eating vegetables and he ate the pumpkin. Only I was left, I put my hands inside the worm pot and took out the key. We were looking for the last door and all of us fell down. We landed on a sponge bed and there it was - the third room. There was only one task - to lick the flavour you wanted to. There were seven flavours, but only one thing available was chocolate. So, I enjoyed licking it. One huge door opened. There was the room of gold toys.

We saw an exit door beside the gold toys. We wanted to escape instead of taking the toys. We came out of the door and we were back at the beach. We went back to the food court and my dad came and said, "Sorry, I was unable to get the tickets for the Mystery of Gold Maze. The tickets were over." Then we all realized it was just a game and the toys were fake. All three of us told everything to my father. My father was amazed and happy for the interesting game we played. He was sad too because he couldn't play the game.

- Master Rupansh Bajaj, FM-1C

The Undiscovered Palace



Master Harshan Elango

John's summer vacation has started. The first week of John's summer vacation was good, but after that he was very bored. He asked his parents that he wanted to go somewhere out for summer vacation. They were going to a place called Hawaii. Their flight was after five days. After the long and tiring journey, they reached Hawaii. John said he wanted to go to the beach, but his father said that they can go to the beach after three days because they had some shopping to do.

They enjoyed their shopping, they bought so many things and ate tasty food. They saw a small poster near the hotel. The poster said that there is a beach 5 kilometers away. They decided to go there. The next day they went to the beach at 9:00 in the morning. They had fun over there swimming in the beach and making sand castles. John and his brother Mac who was two years younger to him were playing football. When his brother kicked the ball very hard, it went to John but he wasn't able to stop it.

The ball went very far. John told his brother to stay there and he went to take the ball. He couldn't find the ball. So he went a little further and saw a big palace behind a very big rock. He was amused. He went to see what it was. He entered the palace. He saw a very big and a beautiful pearl in the middle of the palace and there were many sea shells around it. The palace was very beautiful and shiny. There was nobody in the palace. There were many rooms and even a small boat. He collected many shells and some pearls. He took a picture of it and went back.

He gave the ball to his brother. They were tired and they went back and they changed their dress. They saw the sunset and went back to the hotel. He told his parents about the castle. The next day they went back to their own place. That was his best vacation ever. He wrote a book about what he saw and named the book "The Undiscovered Palace".

- Master Harshan Elango, 7A

A mysterious pathway



**Ms Dwiti Manish
Sambaragi**

On a hot summer day, the sun was shining bright in the sky. My friend and I were enjoying on the beach. We were talking about classes and birthdays. We were gulping soft drinks and taking photos.

My friend sat on a rock. As soon as she sat on the rock she fell in a pit. It was as black as charcoal. We all were trying our best to get her out of there. After a few minutes she saw a light. She told us to come in. My best friend stood up because she was very scared. Oh! Her name was Manasvi. When we entered the pit we could not see anything. I turned on my flashlight. It was a tunnel. We walked along. There were so many insects. When we were walking along, we saw two paths. We chose the left one. It had some sea shells and some skeletons. At last we reached the end; it had a door which had a lock. One of my friends was really good in history. She tried to unlock the lock. She was sweating because if something went wrong anything could happen. It took little time but

it was safely unlocked. The door opened. When I stepped in, a giant rock came rolling; but I knew something was wrong, so I stepped back. I was safe.

We walked in. And guess what we saw? We saw a throne and few royal chairs. And on that throne was a skeleton with a crown which was made of gold, 24k gold. There were a few paintings on the wall. They were probably paintings of kings and queens. There was another tunnel which led us to the treasure room. It was full of gold jewellery and coins. We went back to the entrance. Manasvi helped us climb up. We went to the police. And the next day we were famous. We were in the newspaper and on TV. We were invited to appear on TV shows. We met superstars. Suddenly I heard a voice: "Wake up, wake up, we are late." I was awake. I was just dreaming and I was late for school.

- Ms Dwiti Manish Sambaragi, FM-1C

A most astonishing Friday



Ms Norah Bagchi

"Are you quite sure that it's a good movie? I've heard some bad reviews", asked Hailey. Her friend, Fern had agreed. "Relax, you know I really want to watch this movie", she replied. Both the girls were on their way to the Friday night out they shared every week.

The friends had almost reached the theatre when Fern's phone rang. She picked it up and said "Hello?" but nobody answered. Looking confused, she said the word again. This time, a raspy male voice answered. "Good evening to you. Your evening is just about to turn bad. Everyone around you will be dead if you don't come and meet me in the next two hours. I'll be waiting for you at your gymnastics academy. I'll be waiting." Terrified, she quickly told Hailey what the man had said. "Well, we've got to do as he says if we want to save the world", replied Hailey. So both of the girls were soon on their way to Fern's gymnastics academy.

As the girls reached their destination, both looked at the other nervously. After giving Fern a big hug, Hailey took a deep breath and opened the door. It was dark, but the girls put on their phone torches and walked in. But the light didn't help much as the academy was huge. Then all of a sudden, Hailey yelped and tripped. It turned out that she had tripped on a big wire. It led to a huge machine with a bright green liquid.

"So, did you think that you could win against me? I will kill you, slowly and painfully forcing you to watch the others die", said the same voice, making both the girls jump. The man then started talking about himself. Apparently, he was going to kill everyone, use some of their souls to make him immortal, and make the rest of the humans to follow him as their king. Then, Fern had an idea, "I think the green liquid will be used to kill everyone. We'll use that against him. You distract him and I'll kill him."

So, while Hailey told the man how stupid he was to challenge them, Fern quickly found a huge bottle and filled it with the liquid. By this time, the beam of light coming out from Hailey's phone fell on the man, so it was easy for Fern to find him. Quietly, she poured the liquid on to the man as fast as she could. He turned too slowly and the liquid killed him. Then the pair created

an antidote that would make people live longer and poured it into the machine. Then they switched it on and soon everyone around the world was feeling better and younger. As it was too late to watch a movie at the theater, the two went for dinner, feeling glad that they had saved the world.

- Ms Norah Bagchi, 7A

The Adventure of Italy



**Master Shiv Manish
Punjabi**

It was a misty morning when Jaden got a call out of the blue. Jaden had won a trip to Italy. A week later Jaden was on a flight to Italy. When he landed in Italy, two shady men in black suits started following him. Jaden called for a taxi and drove away to his hotel. When he reached his hotel he was shocked to see that a bomb had been detonated.

The local police had surrounded the hotel. Jaden noticed that the shady men from the airport were walking towards him. They asked him a few questions, "Can we ask a few questions?" asked the shady men. "Yes", replied Jaden. After the questioning, the shady men said, "We work with a secret organization and we need to take you with us to a secure facility". Jaden knew that something was fishy.

Jaden immediately ran away. He was in an alley when two men with beards started shooting at him. He stole a car and went to the airport. He reached the airport but he could not take a flight back

home as he was banned from travelling by air. Jaden ran onto the runway and got into a jet parked in one of the hangars. While he was trying to take off, the cops were blocking the path on the runway. Fortunately Jaden made it.

Few hours later, Jaden landed few miles from Kotor, Montenegro. Jaden thought he should find some place to rest for the night. It was a barn in Kotor's outskirts and border of Bosnia. In the morning, Jaden came to know that those secret agents were working for a really big criminal warlord. Jaden planned to give this information to the US Government.

To reach Washington D.C., Jaden had to stop at a few places. Jaden first stopped at Zagreb, which is in Croatia. Next was Cardiff, Wales and he finally reached New York from where he drove to Washington. Jaden gave in the information and a day later the criminal warlord was brought to justice.

The misery does not end as hours later Jaden's house was burnt. The question remains. "Where is Jaden now?"

- Master Shiv Manish Punjabi, FM-1A

The message of the locker



Master Jaivik Zadaphia

It was Jack's first day in the high school. He woke up late as usual. It was 7 o'clock, and only ten minutes left for him to get ready and go to school. Jack got ready and quickly ate his breakfast. He quickly ran towards the school. He reached the school just in time. He walked towards his locker and he was surprised. There was a strange note, which contained a mysterious message. Jack was not able to understand what was written in the message. Below, in the message it was written: "Under the black computer". Jack began to wonder, what might it be... He went inside the computer lab and saw there was a black, gigantic, wide-screened computer. He pressed the 'play' button. The person who recorded the tape, told in the recorders: "Search about the letter on NET".

Jack turned on the computer and searched about the letter. He found the language on the net, in which the letter was written. He uncoded the letter and found that the letter said "An attic of

house". Jack went home and took a long ladder so that he can reach the 'attic' of his house. He opened the lock. It felt like his last moment and his heart began to punch his chest, while he saw a 'man-like' statue staring at him when he opened the door. The 'man-like' statue was holding a letter in his hands. The letter said: "Dig a hole in your house." Jack went out of his house." Now, Jack was really confused what was going on. He went to his backyard and started to dig a hole. He now found a letter with a weird-shaped coin. The letter said: "Go to an older member's room in the house". He went to his grandfather's room, because it was the oldest member's room in his house. Jack couldn't open the door, because it was closed for a hundred years. He pulled

at the door with his full strength. Finally, the door opened and he found a wall with a weird-shaped hole. He compared the hole in the wall with the coin he had; they both looked similar. He put the coin in the wall; suddenly the wall slid and Jack found a locket. The locket was the key of the 'eternity'. A strange voice whispered in Jack's ear, "Never lose the locket and never remove it from the ear."

After wearing the locket, Jack was transferred to 'Eternity'. Jack was confused with what was going on with him? After a few moments of silence, Jack started to understand everything. He saw the entire 'Eternity', and the 'infinity'. He got to know the secrets of the entire 'multi-universe' and the secrets of the 'eternity'. He saw everything, from the earth to the other universes. Now, he got to everything, he became immortal. He got many powers. He became a God and achieved the power of creating a new universe itself and destroying it. By just a snap of his fingers, he could do whatever he wanted. He could change or re-create anything he wanted. He literally became a God. Jack now changed his name to 'The living Tribunal'. He created a new universe.

- **Master Jaivik Zadaphia, FM-1D**

The Surprising Message



Master Naman Punamia

My first day at school was exciting. Here starts my daily routine. Get up in the morning, brush your teeth, eat your breakfast and go to school. Then after school, come back, keep your bag, wash your face, do your homework, go down to play, come back home, eat your dinner and then go to bed.

This was very boring last year. But this year let's see what happens. My first day of school started the same way but when I went near my locker, I saw a note on the top of my locker. It was for me. This was very surprising. It said, "Meet a man after school, below the highway." It was shocking. Yes, it was a little scary too. It was our last period. I could not understand anything what our teacher said. I was very scared.

The bell rang loudly. All ran towards the outside of the school happily, except me.

I went to the location as it said. A hooded man came to me. I asked, "Are you the person?" "Yes", he said. He gave me lots of candies and chocolates. I was very happy. I could not see the face of the man. He removed his hood and it was my father. I hugged him and gave a kiss to him.

- **Master Naman Punamia, FM-1D**

The Hideaway Spot



**Ms Shanaya Priti
Bhandari**

It was a hot summer day and Maya was tired of sitting at home and doing nothing all day. All her friends went away for vacation and she had just gotten back from an amazing road trip. "How can summer be so boring? This is supposed to be the most fun time of the year. Ugh", it was all Maya was thinking about.

After several hours of eating tubs of ice-cream and watching netflix, it was finally time for the sun to set and that meant that it was time for her to go to the beach. You must think that it is weird, going to the beach during sunset? What is she going to do there? The thing about California is that no matter how fun the beaches are in the day, nothing can compare how beautiful and peaceful it is during sunsets. Maya jumped into a casual dress and ran off to the beach. As soon as she reached, she sighed and inhaled the fresh air and started to walk along the beach. While she walked, she noticed something unusual about the beach. The sand had this kind of glow that made it look like a

bunch of diamonds scattered around and there were not many birds in the sky. She ignored it and continued walking until she realized that the shiny sand started separating from the regular sand and continue to make it a path. Curiosity took over Maya and she decided to follow the magical path.

As she kept moving forward, she noticed that the place around her didn't look like a beach anymore and that she was not walking on sand. What she was now looking at was a scenery of vines and trees making an archway to some place. Maya was

now walking on a fully paved pathway, at the end of the archway, she noticed a bright light. She started walking faster, curious to know what the pathway led to. As she got closer, fireflies started surrounding her and suddenly, Maya forgot about her boring summer and her worries. All she could focus on was the fireflies that looked like a galaxy over her head.

Soon, she was at the end of the archway and it surprised her. It was a large cave, but not a scary one. The top of the cave looked like she was in space, with galaxies and stars surrounding her. There were fireflies all around her, making them look like fairy lights. In the center of the cave was just a beautiful and big rock that was covered with a few vines too, attaching it to the vines around the cave. Maya felt the urge to go and sit on the rock. Tired from all the walking that she did, she went and sat on it. As soon as she sat on it, a cluster of fireflies gathered above her and burst as if showing a million stars falling. The cave was one of the most amazing things she'd ever seen. It was the kind of thing you could only see in movies. Soon, some fireflies gathered and started forming figures as if they were trying to tell her something. She went closer and – RING! RING! RING!

Maya's alarm went off as she woke up confused. She started wondering how she got back home! Then it hit her, it was all a dream. She knew it was too good to be true. But Maya knew she could never forget that place. So, she decided to write about it and here she is, writing about it, using a different name. Whenever she feels dull she thinks about the place. It's her hideaway spot.

- Ms Shanaya Priti Bhandari, FM-2E

The Unusual Surprise



**Master Shubh Vinod
Dulhani**

People get surprises often. But there are very few people who get surprises which are very unusual. I have a very good story related to this. Once, there lived a boy, named Max. He lived very happily with his parents and his brother. Max studied very good. Once he was coming back from his school very happily. After he reached home, he opened the mailbox. In that, he found a letter; it looked very different from the other letters which he had received. He thought that, if the letter was so different, there would be something interesting written in it. So, he opened it.

But then, he was shocked to see the letter. There was nothing, but some instructions written in it which he had to follow. The first instruction was that he had to pack a bag of clothes and some money. He did so. The second instruction was, he had to leave his home without telling anyone and stay in a hotel. Then he stayed there for one whole night. He thought that his parents would be tensed about him. But then he remembered that in the letter it was written that if he completes all

the instructions, he would get a big reward for that. So, he decided that he would complete all the instructions after he stayed for one night at the hotel.

The next instruction was, he had to go to some poor people and he had to stay with them for a week. He did not like it to stay there for a week but he completed a week there.

The next instruction was, he had to go and work at a rich man's house for 3 days. He was frustrated by doing all those chores. But he didn't want to quit. So he continued. The next instruction was, he had to work in a restaurant which was not in a city but was 1 hour away from his city. Then he worked there also. He was really missing his home. He wanted to go home, but he didn't even want to quit. His next instruction was to go to a random house and ask the owner if he / she needed a babysitter for their child. He enjoyed doing it.

His next instruction was to help a farmer grow his crops. He was very tired by doing that. He wanted to know who had sent that letter to him because he didn't even know about the address which was written on the letter. He was just thinking about it all the time. He was not able to figure out about the sender of the letter. But he kept completing the instructions. All he knew was that he didn't want to give up on those tasks. The next instruction was the toughest one of all the instructions he did till now; it was that, he had to work in a mechanic's garage. After that, finally the last instruction came. It was that he had to go back home and apologize to his parents for not telling them and leaving home just like that. When he went home, he was shocked. His parents were not at all worried about him. His father then told him that he was the one who had kept that letter in the mailbox with the fake sender's name. When Max asked him why he did it, his father told him that he wanted Max to

experience all those people's difficulties and wanted him to understand that life is not easy. His father also told him that he was proud of Max. And the big reward for completing those tasks was that he could take whatever he wanted. He was very happy.

- Master Shubh Vinod Dulhani, FM-2C

One Last Time



**Ms Mahek Inayatoli
Pirani**

"I wonder! What shall it be like if I say 'yes' to watching this boring movie?" Jack said to Anna and his group of friends. It was a Friday morning that was going terribly for Jack and his group. They decided to go for this movie that was horror and comedy. Jack hates horror films but Allen loves them. To keep Allen happy, Jack agrees to go out with Allen and Anna for a movie on a Friday night. "What about the others? Are they not joining us?" Anna asked Jack and Allen. "They said that they are caught up with some work, and I think that's completely okay! It's been a while since we three have gone out together and spent some time", Allen whispered to them. "He he", they laughed. Jack yelled at Anna excitedly. Jack's face was so dull, just because he was watching a HORROR movie, on a Friday night, something he thought he would never ever do his entire life.

"Allen, it will be a movie that shall start at 8 pm and end at 10:30 pm. Why don't we go, have dinner and hangout?", Jack told Allen as he was so bored of sitting and doing nothing. Jack and Allen

dropped Anna at her place and told her that they would pick her up at 6:30, Anna was super excited about this Friday night because Allen, Jack and Anna are best friends, but unfortunately, as time flew by, their circle got bigger, but this day would come was nothing as she expected.

Anna was ready by 6 pm anxiously waiting for Jack and Allen to pick her up. Her eagerness didn't let her sit still, so she grabbed her phone out of her jeans that she was wearing with a violet velvet crop top. She quickly opened her phone and texted Jack, "I can't wait to meet you both!" She typed but later cleared it and types, "where are you? I think I'm ready, please pick me up." She waited for two minutes and sent the text. She immediately got a reply saying, "Hey! Anna I'm with Mom, give me 10 minutes and I will be there."

"You are no way going out with Anna and Allen", says Jack's Mom with anger. "Why not? Though Anna and Allen live without their mother, that doesn't make them a bad company, Mom!" Jack says with a frown on his face. Jack's mom was an evil mother. She never liked to see Jack happy because of a reason or reasons best known to her. "Mom, I need my car, I have to go, pick Anna and Allen up." Jack told his mother as if it were an order to her. "I will send a driver to go, pick her. Sorry, I mean them, do not worry, you go freshen up", said his mother as sweetly as she could. "Okay", said Jack, though he wondered on how she agreed to this suddenly. Jack rushed upstairs to his room to freshen up, not knowing that his mother would be up to some drama or scene. "I need a bomb implanted in the car coming, make sure both the kids are only inside," spoke Jack's mother to someone over the phone.

"Jack! Open the window", screams Allen as he hangs there. "Oh, my God! you crazy chicken", Jack quickly opens the window and lets Allen in.

"Hurry up! We will leave your place soon and pick our beautiful friend", said Jack giggling. They quickly got downstairs and took the keys, but the driver having been bribed refused to let them take the car and move. Jack and Allen argued with him and moved the car out. The driver quickly called Jack's mom and told her what has happened. She got so scared that she would lose her son in this evil plan of hers. Jack and Allen booed and went around. They never thought what was coming up their way; they laughed, rejoiced in their old memories and in 15 mins boom! The bomb blasted and Jack was out of the car and Allen laid there bleeding. The people there quickly called up the ambulance, but now it was way too late. Allen was lying dead there. Anna got the news and quickly called Jack's mom. She said that she already knew all this and it was all her plan to slaughter her and Allen. Anna was shocked; she rushed to the hospital but saw that Allen was dead and Jack was missing, something that she still can't get over, even after 4 years of this incident. Whether Jack is dead or missing is still a mystery.

- Ms Mahek Inayatoli Pirani, FM-2D

Sky Maps



**Ms Megha Elizabeth
Stephen**

Adrian led me to a dry patch of grass at the edge of the Hill. We call it “The Hill” because it is the only elevated area around for miles. Far below, our house is nestled around a cozy bunch of spruce trees. A beautiful petrichor engulfed our senses and we sat bundled up, surrounded by dew-topped grass.

“Hey, that’s Orion!” I pointed out.

“This is a bit embarrassing”, Adrian said, “But I don’t really know about Orion or those other constell-”.

“Constellations?”

“Yeah, that.” Adrian said, looking sheepish.

“Oh, that’s all right”, I said, “I’ll teach you”.

Adrian sat up, with a sparkle in his eyes. “Okay” I started, “So constellations are these patterns created by explorers and ancient folk, to find their way around unknown places.” “So they’re kind of maps? In the sky?”

“Precisely. So basically all you do is use the brighter stars in the sky, like the North Star and make patterns out of them to navigate.”

“Oh, I get it!” Adrian said excitedly.

“So now you know. You’re welcome”.

“Thanks sis, but I think you forgot something”, Adrian said mysteriously.

“What do you mean?” I asked, confounded by the sudden wise look in his eyes.

“Don’t you think there’s something missing in the sky?” I looked up and searched the stars.

“Wait, where’s the North?”

“Come with me, my friend”, Adrian said, and took hold of my hand.

I suddenly felt the ground under my feet descend. Wait, no, I was the one going up. Adrian took me up, higher and higher, until I couldn’t see the Hill, or my house, or even the ground anymore. I was too dumbfounded to speak. I did not even know how I was breathing. We were out of Earth’s atmosphere and getting closer and closer to nothingness.

“Where are we going?” I asked, with finally enough courage to speak. Adrian said nothing. We finally stopped, and I looked around, only to see nothing but darkness everywhere.

“You see this spot?” Adrian said, finally speaking. Do you know what this place is?”

“No Adrian, what?”

“All will become clear in time”. Adrian said, with that beautiful sparkle in his eyes.

“So”, I said, trying to act casual, “Where are we exactly?”

“We are home”, Adrian said, “or at least, my home until you are old enough.”

“What do you mean?”

“You are chosen, Earthling.” He said, “You are chosen to be one of the most important parts of the sky.”

“When you return to Earth, you are to keep this a secret, but you can spread the joys of the night sky to all those around you.”

“You will forever be my friend”, he said, and let go of me and all of a sudden I was back on the Hill. Only this time, there was no one next to me. I saw the North Star back in its place in the sky, twinkling like never before.

“Mom, that movie was great!” I exclaimed, as my gang and I exited the movie theatre.

“That was the best movie about friendship I had ever seen!”, said Sheila, a friend next to me.

“Yeah”, I said.

“So who’s your best friend?” Sheila asked.

I said, with a twinkle in my eye, “The North Star.”

- Ms Megha Elizabeth Stephen, 8A

A Dream



Ms Rachel Paul

Kate was a 13-year-old teenager. She started middle school and is in Grade 7. She was a normal girl with a brother and a sister. She was quite popular. She was the pet of all the teachers at her school. All the boys wait in line to date her.

One day, her best friend invites her over to her house. Her name is Mavis. Kate gladly accepts the invite. She goes happily to her home and packs all the things she needs for a sleepover. Kate also takes her sister along as Mavis was fine with it. Kate’s sister, Kim, is as excited as Kate.

They both change their clothes and go to Mavis’s house. She meets some of her friends there. But, Kate feels as if she has seen that house before. Kate forgets about it and enjoys her time with her sister and friends.

But as she was going to sleep, she heard some noise. She looks around to find Mavis gone. She feels as if Mavis is in trouble. She goes around the house in search of Mavis. She finds a little nutcracker which looks exactly like Mavis! Suddenly she hears a voice. From behind her comes two huge mice and suddenly Mavis comes to life. They both see the mice and scream. They run as fast as they can and at last outran them.

Mavis explains that every month, one night, she will change into a doll and her worst nightmare comes true. Then, she says, that her last nightmare was that a creature with no heart or soul will come and challenge her. If she wins, she will be free. But if she doesn’t win, she will be killed. Kate gets terrified, but agrees to help her friend.

The creature blasts open the door and comes to challenge Mavis. Mavis magically gets a shield and a sword. The creature gets the same. Mavis fights with all her might but the creature still scares her. She was winning at the start but towards the end, starts to get weak.

Then without the creature’s knowledge, Kate strikes the head off the creature. The creature falls down with a mighty thud. Mavis and Kate hugs each other with happiness. Suddenly, Kate starts to fade. She suddenly wakes up to see that it was morning and Mavis and Kim were there. It was all just a dream!

- Ms Rachel Paul, FM-2D

Karen's Destiny



Ms Karunya Sundaram

A girl named Karen lived with her family along the beach-side. There were also other families who lived along the beach. Karen was 15 years old. She had two best friends and they were Neo and Riya. Riya, Neo and Karen were three best friends who loved each other very much. Karen lived with her father, mother and grandmother.

Karen's grandmother told Karen, Neo and Riya a story since they were small. It was a story that starts beyond a reef on the beach. It goes like this. Long before Karen's ancestors lived there, a tragedy took place. Karen lived in a place called Rotonui which was also like a paradise. But, there was also another place a bit far from Rotonui called Arendelle. In Arendelle, there was a person called Mavi. He was known as the demigod of wind and sea, shape-shifter and the king of men and women. He was superior to all. Everybody respected him until one day. At that time the people of Rotonui started to get bad and rotten coconuts from their coconut trees. Mavi stole the heart of the island called Tafiti simply because he wanted to do more for the people of Arendelle, but even Arendelle started losing the coconuts and even fishes as for now they had no survival. So, they banned Mavi from Arendelle because he took the heart of Tafiti. Till today they haven't been able to survive. This is the story Karen's grandmother tells to Neo, Riya and Karen almost every day hoping they could find Mavi. But there was one thing that Karen's grandmother said that there is a hidden pathway in Rotonui, it is pathway to lead to Mavi. But, it is true that when Mavi left Arendelle he even took the heart of Tafiti.

Karen's grandmother and Karen's friends always love to play with water. It is like they have some kind of bonding with the water and Karen's father always found it disturbing. Since Karen was a small baby she used to try going beyond the reef. But, her father always hated that because her father and his best friend crossed the reef on a stormy night, his best friend fell in the water and it was hard for him to save his friend. But, his friend was stuck, so he couldn't save him. But, Karen's father returned safely, that is one reason he doesn't encourage Karen and her friends to go beyond the reef. But, now, Karen, Neo and Riya were all old enough. So, they decided that they would restore the heart of tafiti and help Arendelle and Rotonui. When Karen's father was sleeping, they sneaked out with a boat to Rotonui. They went searching for days and they found the heart of Tafiti but it has to be placed back by Mavi. So, they went searching for Mavi and finally they found him. But, it is said that before they go to Tafiti they have to fight with Teka. So, as Mavi was a shape-shifter, he shape-shifted to a hawk and he flew above Teka and restored the heart of Tafiti. Then, Tafiti came back alive and all in the island were saved. Fishes lived and the coconuts grew. After all it was 'Karen's Destiny'.

- Ms Karunya Sundaram, 8B

A General Knowledge Test

1. Who won the women's singles title in the Indonesian Masters Badminton Tournament in 2019 that was organized by the Badminton Association of Indonesia?
2. What is the English term for fear of heights?
3. What do you call a group of monkeys?
4. What do you call a noun formed from a verb which refers to an action, process or state?
5. What do you call a group of flying ducks?
6. Which famous singer sang "My Heart Will Go On", the theme song of the 1997 James Cameron blockbuster film "Titanic" ?
7. Name the social activist who was instrumental in the construction of the Vivekananda Rock Memorial?
8. Which bird walks in to the jaws of crocodiles to pick out bits of leftover food lodged between the crocodiles' teeth?
9. What is the Roman numeral for 100?
10. What does D represent in Roman numeral system?



Master Savya Ansh Makol

Answer key:

- 1. Saina Nehwal, 2. Acrophobia, 3. Troop, 4. Gerund, 5. Flock, 6. Celine Dione, 7. Eknath Ramkrishna Ranade, 8. Plover, 9. C 10. 500**

- Master Savya Ansh Makol, 8B

Best Speeches at Elocution Competitions

[Ms Vanshika Panchloriya, FM-3A, secured the first place in the Inter House Elocution Competition for Grade 9 students]

Topic : Female genital mutilation (FGM)



Ms Vanshika Panchloriya

I want you all to close your eyes. Imagine a blade. I want you to run your finger across the blade. Do you feel the sharpness of it? Does it cut your finger slightly? Is there a bit of blood at the tip of your finger? That's all normal. Now, imagine being pinned down to the ground by your parents, and imagine that same blade slowly creeping between your legs. You feel it touch you, you're yelling, screaming, begging for someone to help you, and then it happens. You can open your eyes. In Somalia, about 98% of women undergo female genital mutilation at one point in their lives. Due to this, the women in Somalia are unable to live like normal women and are not given the right to the well-being of their own body. Not only in Somalia, this act is practiced within the borders of our own motherland. Just recently, the Supreme Court has passed a judgement banning this practice among the Borah community in India. Therefore, as citizens of the world, we must provide awareness on this topic and help to decrease the amount of women suffering from this epidemic.

FGM is commonly performed on young girls "as a rite of passage to womanhood. Since the early 1990s, FGM has gained global recognition as a serious health and human rights issue. Often, this act is committed for social and cultural values as opposed to medical ones and so it is very difficult to begin a process of change as in order to do this, the whole mindset of the society and its actors would need to be adjusted.

FGM poses severe health risks, both physical and psychological in both the immediate/short-term and also the long-term. Some of these medical problems include: haemorrhaging, infections, septicemia, shock from the severe pain and loss of blood, risks during childbirth, and in extreme cases, death. Other side effects include: "infertility, cysts and abscesses, urinary incontinence and psychological and sexual problems". Intense trauma is often caused as many of the females who undergo this operation are of an incredibly young age, held down by force and circumcised with little, if any, anaesthesia.

These medical consequences for women who undergo genital mutilation are unbearable to even think of, let alone experience, yet still the practice continues due to the myths which surround the issue, i.e. females being sterile until they have been excised and so the procedure will supposedly increase fertility and other myths that the clitoris is incredibly dangerous to women, so if not excised will be harmful to the foetus, physically and spiritually. Such myths are of course based on fictitious information but due to social pressures are not questioned but preserved, as has been the case for many years.

Shock, trauma, inability to trust others, and depression are just the beginnings of psychological side effects of FGM. FGM causes about 7% of women to experience post-traumatic stress disorder and though it is done at a very young age. The physical and psychological well-being of women just like you and you are hanging on a thread - how can this not concern you? Ridiculously enough, mothers believe that FGM's benefits include protecting daughters from promiscuity and preserving their chastity. Approximately 68% of women aged 15-49 believe the practice should be continued and that besides tradition and religious reasons, social status and chastity are very important when considering the issue. No matter what beliefs the people in Somalia have, they do not outweigh the duress and suffering caused to their children, the issue remains unjust. Everyone listening right now... what if it was your daughter who was pinned to the ground and had her vagina sewn shut? Or your little sister? What if it was her, tied with a rope around her neck, trying to escape the physical pain and the depression by leaving this world?

It's easy to sit here and soak in what I say, but it's another thing to get out of that seat and try to make a difference. One of the most important awareness campaigns is the International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation. On February 6th, the entire world makes an effort to provide awareness and help put an end to female genital mutilation by speaking up against FGM. By just getting involved in the awareness day, you, for once, take a stand for something.

Therefore, as citizens of the world, we must provide awareness on this topic and help to decrease the amount of women suffering from this epidemic; we must provide awareness for those 98% of Somali women who are not able to do so for themselves. The truth is, we are hardened human beings with hardened hearts. I say this because I KNOW for a fact many of you will walk out of here today unchanged, and unwilling to take action. For those of you who will donate or spread awareness...

you give me hope. You give me hope because you are the essence of empathy that is overpowering apathy. You give me hope because you are the reason that this, and all the other issues in our corrupted world today will one day be healed of its injustice and oppression. You give me hope for a better world.

STOP. Rewind. Erase. It's a new dawn. Blades replaced by books and pens. Fears turned into aspirations. Despair to HOPE. No more shall she suffer in the name of religion. No more will tradition violate her rights. We must defend and protect her childhood. Arise young girl, a new day has come.

[Master Sriniketh Krishnan, IB-1B, secured the first place in the Inter House Elocution Competition for Grade 11 students]

Topic : Our relationship with hair



**Master Sriniketh
Krishnan**

Every day, when you get up at 5.30 in the morning, you're fresh, alert, ready to tackle even the most overwhelming of challenges that life has in store for you. So, you shower, change and pull up your socks, yet, just when leaving your dormitories, you, out of habit, turn to face the greatest antagonist that the human race has ever borne witness to, the mirror, and staring at you from it is its greatest weapon, so devastatingly evil that it is paradoxically a part of your being itself. That weapon, ladies and gentlemen, is your hair. At that precise moment, when all the universe seems to be in order and the world within your grasp, your hair has to defy gravity, has to remind you that there are complications in life you cannot solve.

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen!

In the 21st century, many of us take it for granted that hair has to be an indispensable part of our being, that without it, we are sunken, aged vessels, living proof of the loss of allure with age. Today, we have come to believe that hair defines our personality. Think of every single blonde joke you've ever heard. Take this: why couldn't a blonde dial 911? Because, when she looked at her keypad, she couldn't find 11, if you know what I mean. Trust me, these stereotypes have now been ingrained into our society to such an extent that we have made jabber fact and fact jabber. According to a study by Ohio State University on 10,878 women, blondes on average were not just proven to be as smart as the rest, but even had 3 points in their IQ's above other hair colours to their advantage. Let's take another barbaric example -mohawks. We have come to accept that mohawks are an encroachment over formality, are heresy and their very existence proof of ghastly 'punk' behaviour. Yet, we still accept bizarre hairstyles for religious reasons, for religion is the word of God and the word of God must be followed, shouldn't it?

Another ceremonious task undertaken generation after generation is the colouring of hair grey to black, the masking of identity and the disposal of all honesty that one proves to possess. So desperate have we been in history to conceal ourselves, that the Romans in fact used the fecal deposits of pigeons, also known as pigeon poop, as dyes. And needless to say, that that desperation, in whatever form, still exists today. Like other impulsive and possibly senseless tasks, this is done in fear, fear of being judged and ridiculed by the people one trusts the most. What others prefer is to more forcefully pluck the hairs from the scalp, believing that nature is within the sharp grasp of those tweezers.

Yet, what's more interesting about hair is that unlike all the other perpetual problems that we are faced with, its absence actually bothers us more than its presence. Hair fall, on a personal level has become more disturbing than domestic matters. The progression of age is now not evident from medicines to the cane but rather from oil to tonics to transplants! Ladies and gentlemen, not only is its absence limited to balding but even extends to haircuts: in ordinary situations, people choose to get haircuts and then repent afterwards for allowing themselves to pay another person to knock off a part of their body.

Now, I wish to divert your attention to hair as the big picture, one that covers one's entire body, dissolving all the juvenile hopes of supple, smooth skin. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, I am talking about facial, limb and of course, chest hair. Aligned with the general belief of current times, facial hair is supposed to be the epitome of manhood. I mean, why would a real man care about the occasional mushroom, the decaying chocolate, the rabid soup that is interspersed with his beard? And women, oh no, women cannot have facial hair: it is a rebellion against natural order. Moreover, the same goes with hair on the legs and arms, all indicative of an infectious manliness that disregards the chastity of being a female. Hence, comes the gruelling,

laborious effort of waxing and shaving, like taming the growth of weeds in a supposedly otherwise perfect garden. Despite the previous, however, what overshadows them all is chest hair. Chest hair presents to mankind the conflict of disgust and natural occurrence. Men with excessive chest hair nurture dense forests on their bodies while those who are clean are infants, still to reach the promise of puberty.

So, at the end, what is the point of all this fluster? What is the point of respecting a pet-like, correction: a repulsive pet-like bundle of distractions? The point, as it seems, is that we are mere minions to the incessantly turning gears of stereotypes; that to try to remove them results in pain equivalent to that of someone plucking your hair without counting to three. Hence, I beg you to treat THIS (*pointing to his hair*) not as a divine offspring but rather as a black bush that towers above your skull, casting a shadow over your very existence. And for one final crack at a joke, remember, boys are clean-shaved, men have beards but legends, legends are bald.

Thank You!

[This speech is completely from the perspective of the speaker and is not intended to mock any parties, religious, ethnic or otherwise who are of interest in relation to the topic at hand.]

Best Speeches at Debate Competitions

[Master Namith Anil, IB-1D, secured the first place in the Inter House Debate Competition for Grade 11 students]

**Topic: Despite all scientific and technological advancements women are still mistreated and misrepresented.
[Against]**



Master Namith Anil

This is a question for the women out there. Have any of you been denied the right to education, not been able to access basic facilities or not been able to experience the vast freedom a person can procure within the depths of the internet, when we say the world is just a click away?

Good Evening!

This evening I would like to voice my stance on the given topic and my opinion is that scientific and technological development have unquestionably made women's lives more safe as they can voice their demands, expose the social follies and fulminate through social media.

Technology and scientific developments have paved a path towards a better livelihood for women, a life where women feel they are finally treated as equals to the supposedly powerful and influential men out there. Think about this!

Of the more than 2,000 women surveyed from four, low- to middle-income countries, including Bolivia, Egypt, India, and Kenya, 41 percent of women reported increased income or professional opportunities, 85 percent reported higher independence, and a staggering 93 percent reported feeling safer because of mobile phone ownership, yeah, you heard it right, 93 percent. Daily, we open the Coimbatore Times or any other newspaper available to us to read the news and astonishingly, most of the time, we see at least one article about this one dominant movement - an upheaval, courtesy to information technology! Can anyone guess? Exactly, #MeToo: the movement that has exposed atrocious and filthy men across several nations and multiple work sectors, especially the film industry, of their ghastly 'habits'. This expansive outburst of women reporting their own personal stories of sexual misconduct by men couldn't have been possible without the influential outreach of technology, specifically social media that has allowed for women's voices to not simply be HEARD, but be HEARD OUT LOUD. Social media has served as a groundbreaking platform for the formation and initiation of this and other such righteous movements that support noble causes and allow women to engage with the public in a healthy, liberalized and empowering manner which, we can all agree, could not have been possible two decades ago, when women just hid their faces in shame and ignominy.

Throughout history we have relied on bulky, robust, meaty and burly men to do most of our jobs, but do we now? Hasn't technology changed that? Hasn't technology permitted women to take up more responsibilities? While it may be a fact that men hold more jobs than women, technology without a doubt is aiding more and more women to work. According to an article by Forbes, 76% of women surveyed said the chance to work remotely with the help of technology was necessary if companies wanted to retain long term female staff as it provided women with the flexibility they needed which isn't incorporated into many companies today and might be the reason why there still is a gender gap in terms of pay and work opportunities for women.

For us, we might use our laptops to secretly chat with our friends between classes or during preps or play video games when we are not supposed to, but out there in the outside world technology has immensely transformed the lives of many women. Technology acts a tool for women to balance their work and personal life in a coherent manner and allows women to take up their own leadership responsibility where they can showcase their capabilities in a world where men generally dominate the work sectors. Women are thereby also able to start more companies independently based on their OWN work and their OWN ideas and innovations and women are no longer considered as mere users, but they are considered as CREATORS.

As we continue to progress in tandem with technology, it is important to realize how empty we would be without it. Just imagine a world without technology, no PUBG or Fortnite, no Netflix or YouTube, but more importantly, we should understand the extent to which technology has made a positive impact on the lives of women all around the globe. Technology has been a catalyst in the process of making our world a place where women are no longer discriminated against. The lives of women have transformed significantly from previous centuries where women couldn't express their opinions freely, gain leadership roles, apply for credit cards or loans on their own name, claim for equal pay, work in the legal profession and shockingly couldn't even prosecute their spouse for rape. So if there are allegations against technology being harmful, I WILL STRONGLY oppose this idea, because science and technology has opened vistas of portals, providing information and processing information, so even if a girl is ever molested she is just one click away from getting justice. So how can you say that despite scientific advancement women are still mistreated? Therefore I conclude by saying that science and technological advancement has given women the scope to discover themselves and technology has undoubtedly been the saviour that women deserve cause as we know Angelina Jolie, Lady Gaga, Oprah Winfrey, Kangana Ranaut and several other women now live a more peaceful and secure life because of it.

[Master Aditya Nagaraj, FM-3B, secured the first place in the Inter House Debate Competition for Grade 9 students]

Topic: Classical music is far richer than contemporary music - Against the motion

"I'm too hot (hot damn)
Called a police and a fireman
I'm too hot (hot damn)
Make a dragon wanna retire man
I'm too hot (hot damn)
Say my name you know who I am
I'm too hot (hot damn)
Am I bad 'bout that money, break it down
Girls hit your hallelujah (whoop)
Girls hit your hallelujah (whoop)
Girls hit your hallelujah (whoop)
'Cause uptown funk gon' give it to you
'Cause uptown funk gon' give it to you
'Cause uptown funk gon' give it to you
Saturday night and we in the spot
Don't believe me just watch (come on)"



Master Aditya Nagaraj

Why did you clap? Why did you stomp your feet? And most importantly, why did you move your body in sync with the beat of the song? Wait, we'll come to it in a short while.

Good Evening, respected judges, teachers, friends and of course, my fellow musicians,

Let me begin with defining the term "contemporary." "belonging to or occurring in the present". So we are talking about music **today**. How many of you sitting here enjoy classical music? Those of you who love classical music - think of three of your favourite classical songs. Now think of three of your favorite contemporary songs -

Which was faster? ... I think I have made my point already. We relate to contemporary music better than classical music. Now, why is that?

I'm going to make this quick and painless - three things - I have just three things to say to you that will make it clear that contemporary music is richer and far better than classical music.

Firstly - we can relate better to it. Contemporary music is written and composed by people of today - people who know the problem that the people of **today** face. It is more relevant than singing the praise of kings long gone. Classical music is an acquired taste, it has trickled down to us from the cradles of civilization such as Greece, Rome, and India. It targeted the kings, the elite of the society. It was created and popular during a period when technology didn't exist, and human perception of time was very different from what it is today. Contemporary Music is something we appreciate naturally...we don't need to be taught how to appreciate it; we just know how to appreciate it.

And with the gradual growth of contemporary music, music was brought down from the ivory tower and made available to the common man and made accessible to us. And that's who we are, we are common men; common men and women of today. Back in the day, it was these high brow, intellectuals who were the custodians of the arts and music. But it was musicians such as those in the *Wu Tang Clan* and *Tupac* among many others who made music available to us and without them, we probably wouldn't even know how to understand music today. Contemporary music has given us the freedom of expression. It has brought the margins to the center and let me tell you how: it has given voice to the black American through the *Blues* and *Hip-Hop*.

Genres such as *Hip-Hop* only came about as they were needed by us; as a progressing planet, we needed energetic music to keep us motivated in times of adversity like slavery and war. *Hip-Hop* was a manner of speaking out against authority that deforms the human spirit through conformity. In other words, contemporary music has helped to fight the wars that you and I fight on a daily basis; wars that no one may know about and to slay the demons that no one may see.

Secondly - Music today is not limited to just sounds. Music is visual today - it includes voice and body. Surprising that we can imagine music without the human voice. Genres like hip-hop have movement as a basic feature of its music. It allows us to express ourself with our body and words. I'm not talking about dance, let's get that straight. People relate and identify better with songs that have lyrics. Contemporary music not only harnesses the power of sound but also the power of language. And this leads us straight to the arguments of cuss words in contemporary songs. What is it about expletives that frighten us the most? Think about it for a minute... What makes these swear words so powerful that they draw so much attention?

Our sensibilities give these strings of letters their potency. Even as children we're told that these are words that are bad and, that you can't say them. We punish people for saying them. Cognitive scientist, **Benjamin Bergen**, explores profanity-related research in his new book, *What the F*. He says that ironically, we're training kids, socially, that these words are powerful.

So, what is it about these words in songs? These words make it all the more powerful for the audience of today. These emotionally charged words can become so deeply ingrained in us that uttering them, makes the individual **feel** something. And that's what contemporary music is all about - to make us feel something, not numb us up. Oh, and let's not even go into the argument that cuss words are a symptom for a shrunken vocabulary - research shows that people with larger vocabularies can actually generate more swear words than people with smaller ones. So apparently, people who use these expletives - are smart!

Finally - Music is the expression of the individual, not just a society. The world has clearly seen a shift, from the classical to the postmodern; it has seen a shift from the social interest to the individual interest and this is also seen in music - In contemporary music. Music today is not only meant to please an audience, but it is also meant to please the creator of the music. It is an

expression of the individual. Today, contemporary music gives voice to the people on the fringes of the society, the outcast! Isn't that beautiful? It recognizes that all forms and all minds are equally important. Isn't that richer?

It is true that classical music is good for health and helps you sleep better. But who is fighting our battles? Would you rather sleep with classical music or bite the bullet and face the music? Contemporary music!

[Master Vedaant Vinodkumar Jain, FM-3C, also secured the first place in the Inter House Debate Competition for Grade 9 students]

Topic : Mahatma Gandhi's leadership and freedom struggle through non-violence has been marred by the partition of the Indian subcontinent at the time of India's Independence in 1947. [Against the topic]



**Master Vedaant
Vinodkumar Jain**

History is a repository of events we have established in a sequence as it favoured our narratives. Many people go through history to find these connections, these stories in the way events came to occur and in what manner people influenced them.

M K Gandhi was neither the first of such people who influenced the history of many nations in such a formidable manner, nor is he going to be the last, but he was certainly one whose name is mired in controversy, as the topic suggests.

Mahatma Gandhi's leadership and freedom struggle through nonviolence has been marred by the partition of the Indian subcontinent at the time of India's Independence in 1947 and I'm here to present my views against the topic.

As history has suggested, time and again, no occurrence is an outcome of a single factor.

The partition of India was not the mistake of one man but of many; there were several radical groups both amongst the Hindus and Muslims. Not excluded are the factors of Churchill's drive to keep the English politics viable and Jinnah's attempts to reach some kind of balance.

Most of us sitting here consider Mahatma Gandhi as the leader of India's freedom movement and perhaps regard him as the greatest of them all. If the majority considers him as one of the greatest leaders the world has seen, then how has his leadership and freedom struggle been marred? How does his reputation suffer if the reasons for partition cannot be him and him alone?

Martin Luther King Jr appraised Gandhi as a reason for progress of humanity. He said "If humanity is to progress, Gandhi is inescapable." It clearly indicates the reach of his ideology that defined the destiny of more than one nation. When humanity regards someone as a reason for their development, how can it be doubted that one's leadership has been marred?

In times when peace is the goal of the world, nonviolence is clearly its biggest weapon. In such a time, Gandhi's principles should be one's guiding light. Today, Gandhi is considered one of the most well-respected individuals of the world because of his non-violent approach to the conflict that marred the British India and the claim that is now made only undermines his stature and the long lasting impact of his ideas; they direct us even today in the way India positions itself globally. The partition was an entry in the saga of the non-violence movement, not its culmination.

During the partition there were riots in Calcutta, which led Mahatma Gandhi to observe a fast. The fast was instrumental in shaming the communal forces that demanded blood. The communal leaders were drawn to pledge to keep peace and begged Gandhi to break his fast. That was Gandhi's influence. A resurgence of the same approach was witnessed in the 2011 Anna Hazare's anti-corruption movement. It brought out people in astounding numbers to the heart of the country's capital and started a national conversation and debate. This is Gandhi's influence. Catastrophic though the partition was to the fate of the nations and its people, Gandhi's ideology rises above it by way of proposing focus on the peace-keeping mission and not be distracted in the face of violent aggression.

His non-violent approach during the freedom struggle has inspired a great many political leaders, thinkers, great inventors and Nobel prize winners: Barrack Obama, Steve Jobs, George Bernard Shaw, Albert Einstein to name a few. These personalities have ensured the healthy progression of Gandhi's ideology in the face of constant irrational barbarity of the powers that be.

Even the objectionably dilapidated relationship of India and Pakistan has not disrupted the respect of the Pakistanis or Indians for Gandhi. The father of our nation is studied in the textbooks of Pakistan because his towering presence cannot be avoidably forgotten about, let alone be marred by the partition.

The topic suggests that Mahatma Gandhi's leadership and freedom struggle through nonviolence has been marred by the partition but what truly makes it so impossible is the very fact that this contestable claim relies itself on Mahatma Gandhi's eminent and distinguished standing. What cannot be marred sustains itself in debate topics we chose to deliberate upon 70 years after the father of the nation's demise.

General Awareness Quiz

1. When is World Anti-terrorism Day observed?
2. Who painted 'The Creation of Adam'?
3. Who painted the world famous half-length portrait of 'Mona Lisa'?
4. Who was the first Secretary General of the United Nations?
5. Who is known as the 'Father of Modern India' in acknowledgement of his age making social, instructive and political changes?
6. Which is considered as the most difficult cycle race in the world? The intensity of this race is grueling that a speed of 25 miles per hour has to be maintained every day for 21 days to complete more than 2,100 miles.
7. What do you call the scientists who study microorganisms?
8. What is the name of one of the world's longest mountain glaciers lying in the Karakoram range of Kashmir near the India - Pakistan border?
9. Who is the first Indian to win the Grandmaster title in chess?
10. Who is the author of 'The Adventures of Tintin'?
11. Which glacier is the source of the Bhagirathi River, a mountain stream which joins with another river below to become the Ganges?
12. When is the Earth Day celebrated?
13. Who is the first European to discover a sea route to India by sailing around Africa, a major expedition in the Age of Exploration?



**Master Shubh Vinod
Dulhani**

Answer key:

1. May 21, 2. Michelangelo, 3. Leonardo Da Vinci, 4. Trygve Lie, 5. Raja Ram Mohan Ray, 6. Tour de France, 7. Microbiologists, 8. Siachen Glacier, 9. Viswanathan Anand, 10. Georges Remi, who wrote under the pen name Hergé, 11. Gangotri Glacier, 12. April 22, 13. Vasco da Gama

- Master Shubh Vinod Dulhani, FM-2C

Hindi Diwas at Good Shepherd International School



Students presenting a skit in Hindi



Mr Rakesh Kabra lighting the lamp



A group of students presenting a cultural performance

CV Raman, the Indian Physicist and Nobel Laureate once said, *“We must teach science in our mother tongue, otherwise, science will become a high brow activity.”* The importance of the mother tongue is recognized at Good Shepherd International School and **Hindi Diwas** is celebrated as an annual event that students are eager about.

India is a land of languages and cultures. There are 22 major languages and 720 dialects. Hindi Diwas is celebrated on the 14th of September every year. In 1949, on this day, the constituent assembly adopted Hindi as its official language. Hindi is spoken by 250 million people and it is the fourth most spoken language in the world. The school community gathered together on the 10th of September to celebrate this great event. The Chief Guest was **Mr Rakesh Kabra** from the Commerce Department. He inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamp and addressing the students.

Master Aman Goyal of grade 8 welcomed the gathering. The school captain **Master Prabhraj Singh Bhatia** addressed the gathering, reiterating the reasons for the celebration and the importance of Hindi in our lives today. The students showed their love for the language with flourish through poetry, speeches, dances, dramas and by reciting Shayaris. **Mr Ajith P Jacob**, the Director of Activities, spoke to the students about the significance of the Hindi language. It was a day of joy and reverence to the great culture that we all belong to. It brought to mind the words of **Kailash Kher**, *“For us Indians, I don’t think English can ever exude that magic of emotions which our mother tongue can.”*

A Memorable Christmas Celebration!



Children unable to contain their excitement at the long-awaited arrival of Santa Claus



The budding violinists



Music rendition by staff members

Good Shepherd International school celebrated Christmas on 3rd December 2018. As an international school, global-mindedness is rooted in all aspects of its functioning and therefore we celebrate most of the festivals. Moreover, celebrations in school provides an arena for the learners to discover themselves and extend their learning territory.

The celebrations were held in the school auditorium. The auditorium was decorated to create the perfect ambience and a Christmas tree with lamps, gifts and flowers was placed to create that aura of Christmas. The programme started with a prayer by **Mr Dominic Jude Hurst**, Middle School Coordinator. The teachers of the Middle School put up the nativity play and the learners of the middle school were a part of the choir and were able to captivate the audience with the melodious rendition of Christmas carols. **Mr Ajith P Jacob**, Director of Activities, delivered the Christmas message. The Western Music Department was actively involved in the programme presenting the strings ensemble and the Big Band. The programme concluded with the arrival of Santa Claus, who made the Christmas celebration a memorable one with joy and festivity by evoking the spirit of Christmas among the audience.



Musical performance by students



The Nativity Play by staff members



Nativity Play in progress



Star of Bethlehem



Arrival of Santa Claus

"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful."

- Norman Vincent Peale

Children's Day Celebrations at GSIS

"Children are the anchors that hold a mother to life."

- Sophocles



The GSIS teachers' choir in unison proclaims 'Truth, Trust & Triumph'



Homage to Ganapati by teachers



'Dandiya Raas': Blend of culture and glamour presented by High School teachers

Children's Day is one of the most awaited days in our school. The very thought of the fact that an entire day has been put aside to celebrate and make the children feel very special, makes us feel proud and acknowledged. A day for us, kids, to unwind and breathe in the whole effect of the joyous occasion that has been made for us. The teachers had put up a spectacular show where they unleashed their inner child whilst performing on stage. These performances truly made us realise that our teachers are great whether in class or anywhere else.

The Annual Children's Day food fest, a unique treat for us, still maintained its standard as the teachers unravelled their inner chefs and served us a variety of scrumptious dishes. Various exciting games were conducted to make this day all the more exciting and special. At the end of the day, with our bellies full and a wide grin across our faces, we realized the fact that our teachers are one of a kind. Words would not be enough to express our gratitude for taking time from their busy schedule to make the Children's Day special. It truly does mean a lot to us and for that we are ever so grateful.

"Sometimes, the smallest things take up the most space in your heart." - Winnie-the-Pooh.

Thank you for filling our hearts with these precious little moments that will always be cherished.

- Ms Shikha Kurian, IB-1B.



A glimpse into Mauritian cultural dance



'Shiva Thandavam' setting tremor on stage



A nostalgic medley bagpipes presentation by the Band Department



A skit, 'Family', presented by GSFS girls



Dorm parents singing 'Que Sera, Sera'



Middle School teachers performing a fusion dance



Food festival organized on Children's Day



Students enjoying a sumptuous buffet lunch



Students participating in fun games



Boys playing volleyball



Kabaddi in progress

The goblet of Science



Robotics: Students controlling a robot to perform a task

The famous quote by **Thomas Edison**, *'I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work,'* gives us hope and reinforces our belief in ourselves. The students, smitten by the sciences, spent a good amount of their time and energy in materializing their visions by a constant process of trial and error that finally culminated in the **Science Exhibition**.

The exhibition by Middle School students was conducted on 26th February 2019, to commemorate the discovery of the *Raman Effect* by Indian Physicist **Sir Chandrashekhara Venkata Raman** on 28th February 1928. The event was inaugurated by **Dr Udit Prasad**, the Resident Doctor and the inaugural address was given by **Brig Suresh Kumar**, Vice Principal (Administration).

The event displayed an exciting bunch of innovations and models that used scientific phenomena such as variations in the ecosystem, the green environment, conservation of water, radars, cooling jackets, optical illusions, utilization of solar energy, cell models, skeleton model, automatic earthquake alarm and projects on hydraulic effect.

Games that tested the mathematical skills of both teachers and students alike were among the highlights of the Department of Mathematics. The Department of Geography had in its arsenal exhibits that included hill sheep farming, river erosion, renewable sources of energy projects, migration, plate tectonics, and model on rural and urban lifestyle.

The ultimate showstopper was from the Department of Physics as they tried their hands in robotics among myriad others: robots that carried things, that could throw and shoot objects. This marvelled and filled the audience with amazement and curiosity. This feat by Grade 7 students instilled a competitive vibe to the whole event.



Dr Udita Prasad, the Resident Medical Officer, inaugurating the science exhibition



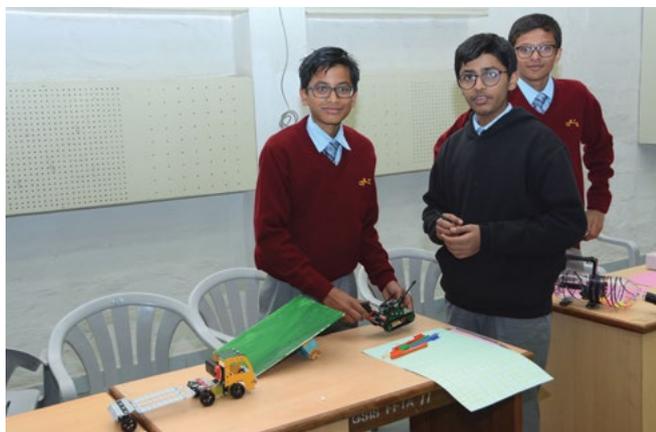
Use of light and solar panels to run a motor



Colourful chemistry experiments: Rainbow fizz



Exhibition chemistry: Chemical cafe



Radio-controlled toy truck



Rainwater harvesting

Anyone can pull off a magic show with some chemicals up the sleeve. This was proved by the Department of Chemistry. 'Artificial blood', 'color changing liquids', golden rain, 'magic beakers and rainbow fizz' among other interesting game shows and models, gripped the fantasy of the audience. The ambience created by the aroma of different elements clothed the exhibition in a magical, glittering aura.

The endeavour instilled a sense of accomplishment and confidence in the young minds. It succeeded in elevating the interest that students have in the sciences through a fun-filled journey. The event cemented the thought of **Franklin D Roosevelt**, "It is common sense to take a method and try it. If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something." Let's keep trying and never stop learning from failures.



Radar sensor: Measuring distance of objects



Making a volcano that erupts



Flying drones



Lava lamp experiment



Kaleidoscope: seeing patterns created by reflections of the objects inside

We thank the Middle School Coordinator, **Mr Dominic Hurst** and all members of staff of the Science, Mathematics and Geography departments for their dedicated support, time and effort.

"Success is a science; if you have the conditions, you get the result."

- Oscar Wilde

NASA Space Camp: Learning about the Past and Future of Space Science

“Hey sky, take off your hat, I’m on my way!”

- Valentina Tereshkova



Our students along with the chaperones



Underwater astronaut training



Ascending the pamper pole

The National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) had more to its camp than one could comprehend - the gist of the military lifestyle extended beyond; a mere description into the experience of life itself. Focusing on the Air Force, the Mach III programme pushes us to our limits while it teaches us to fly and survive.

The life at Camp begins by exposing us to the military lifestyle. However, the hardships which came upon us in the days that followed were beyond comprehension. This ranged from bookish theories in classes turning to be vital in the task which followed, to the thrill of flying F-15 in sophisticated simulators, to adrenal rushes as our survival skills were challenged, to feeling thrice as heavy in the centrifugal machine as they exposed us to the experience of a fighter pilot. The military never hold anything back as they test what is taught. The Top Gun challenge and the protection of our own camp from terrorist attacks, belly crawling through forest during patrolling, surviving water crashes were challenges which left us awestruck to the extent the military can go to. The knowledge about survival in the bush, the experience of a pilot, are what aviation challenge leaves one with. Life is a challenge and after all, even the camp is called challenge one, true to its name.

The rest of the trip involved a highly enjoyable visit to the theme parks of Florida, Disneyland, Universal Studios, Aquatica, Busch Garden and the SeaWorld. On the way, we halted for a pizza party organized by **Mr Mark Maloney, Mrs Gay Maloney** and other Rotarians in Decatur at the house of **Mr Tab Bowling**, the Mayor of Decatur. The whole trip ended with our realization that there is much more to learn in life than what we have been through.

- **Master Archit Jitendra Chokhani, FM-4C**



Students at the Space Camp



Pizza lunch organized by the Rotarians in Decatur



SeaWorld



Students in AQUATICA, SeaWorld's water park in Orlando

Practice of Love, Empathy and Compassion

"Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive."

- Dalai Lama



Girls at the Mercy Home



Interactive session with the elderly



The Mercy Home shelters the aged, the destitute and the handicapped adults and children. Besides providing shelter to the neglected members of the society, the Home gives them love, affection, consolation, peace and happiness in their desperate situation.

We are also compassionate. We have that positive can-do attitude and we want to help and support the old people, the orphans and the abandoned children. We wanted to play our own roles to change and make the world a better place to live. We, the girls of IB-1, were offered an amazing opportunity on 15 March 2019 to visit and help those staying in the Mercy Home. After tea, the grade 11 girls boarded the school bus to go to The Mercy Home, a home for the underprivileged. The bus ride was quite short, lasting not more than 15 minutes. At the Mercy Home, we were guided towards a hall, where we waited for the inmates. They came in and they waited for us with lots of anticipation to start interacting with them. There was a language barrier between all of us as they only knew Tamil. The grade 11 girls who knew Tamil became the translators and, as a result, conversing with them became easier. After a while, when we all became comfortable with each other, we all sang and danced together, enjoying ourselves to the fullest. We then shared with them our school baked, delicious treats, cookies and cheesecakes. Afterwards, we all went outside and enjoyed playing a game of kho kho with the younger people. It was incredible to watch the young people running after each other with excitement. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, we had to leave after the game. We all enjoyed ourselves a lot and would like to thank the school for giving us an opportunity to meet them. The moments of joy that we felt being with them left an indelible mark in our memories and experiences. A trip with a different vision and a different objective made it a memorable journey.

We are aware that children who express compassion are loved, valued, and respected. Compassionate children are gentle, considerate, and sympathetic. When they grow up, they serve them well in so many aspects of their lives. They become extraordinary friends, co-workers, spouses and parents.

- Ms Dhairya Purswani, IB-1B

A Crossword Puzzle

Crossword puzzles are fun for students. Suitable words according to clues have to be written in the blanks crossing vertically and horizontally in the grid. Play the crossword game which is interesting, engaging and fun. Enjoy!

After you have completed the crossword puzzle, check your answers in the answer key. Across

1 C					13			
				2	A			
	11							
3	E							
			5		N			
4			T					
			12					15
10		6	I					
U						14		
				7		E		T
	8		O					
			9			T		

Across

1. A young male horse.
2. Edible, juicy fruit.
3. A popular medicinal herb that's been part of traditional remedies that date back almost 5000 years.
4. A fixed amount of money that you pay regularly for the use of a room, house, car, etc. that someone else owns.
5. An item that is generally accepted as payment for goods and services and repayment of debts, such as taxes, in a particular country or socio-economic context.
6. Generous, helpful, and thinking about other people's feelings.
7. A post made on twitter, a social media application.
8. A facility in which all animals are housed within enclosures, displayed to the public, and in which they may also breed.
9. English physicist and mathematician who formulated the law of universal gravitation.

Down

10. Young lion.
11. The basic physical and functional unit of heredity.
12. A large hole in the ground.
13. A large heavily built crow with mainly black plumage, feeding chiefly on carrion.
14. A slight hollow in a hard even surface made by a blow or pressure.
15. A subatomic particle with a positive electric charge.

Answer key:

Across:

1. COLT
2. MANGO
3. NEEM
4. RENT
5. MONEY
6. KIND
7. TWEET
8. ZOO
9. NEWTON

Down:

10. CUB
11. GENE
12. PIT
13. RAVEN
14. DENT
15. PROTON



Master Cherukuri Dhimant

- Master Cherukuri Dhimant, FM-2B

Poems

It is the Little Things

I think, you think,
That meditation is specially for
Semi-naked men,
Clothed in saffron
Attempting to look holy,
With snakes twined around their necks,
And streams pouring out from their hair,
Not forgetting the third eye,
Which serves not one purpose.

I think, you think,
That meditation is,
All about penance,
On glaciers where the cold bites.
Well, to me,
That's eccentric tolerance.

Every second you experience
Experiences meditation.
Every little thing that resists you
Must be given tolerance.
A harmonically tuned life,
Is a life of meditation.
I think, silence is meditation.



Ms Arya Gopikrishnan

- Ms Arya Gopikrishnan, 10A

“Beauty” Is The Beast

Mirror, mirror on the wall,
Stay true and stay strong.
For all that you see –
Do keep going on!

Being thin isn't a sin,
Looking fat doesn't mean trash
Because eating less –
Doesn't guarantee one's looking best.

A friend of mine ate a bite
Only after putting up a fight.
Looking at her puke at night –
Was an unusually usual sight.

Society isn't always right,
So shut your eyes and sit tight.
Be yourself and learn to fight –
All the haters in your sight.

Eating a feast
Won't make you a beast.
So stop trying to be a tease –
Because the judgement matters the least.

Don't have any doubt,
Stop forcing food out.
You are making loved ones shout.
And this is not going to help you –
Find a way out.



Ms Sasha Athaide

- Ms Sasha Athaide, FM-4B

Prep-Duty Teachers

They come, they see, they conquer!
Students think they intend to torture.
Sometimes their voices echo down the floor,
Which is why we'd prefer closing the doors.

They give you five minutes to get your books;
A second more and you will be slaughtered by their looks.
When they go the other way, students celebrate,
When they return, no sound particles vibrate.

If caught walking, talking or mocking,
To the Coordinator's office, you will be jogging,
Where you will be made to answer,
Making you wish: you had taken good cover.

If they catch you out of your place,
Prepare yourself, for the rage is glowing in their face.
Their veins are bulging out in craze, like they are going to space;
In no time, they are going to take your case.



*Master Joseph Joseph
Parel*

So, this is it!
The time has come
For the sun to set and the stars to shine
Because the battle is at the very brink;
One side: the knives
And the other side: the forks
But the question, still unanswered, is
Who will accept defeat first,
The good and the better or the worse and the worst?

But one thing is for certain
If you're caught, might as well draw the curtain.

- Master Joseph Joseph Parel, FM-4E

The Fault Of An Artist

Hamartia is the bane
Of her Hubris,
And our Catharsis.
Therefore, she dances
Amongst stitched plastic dolls
On the stage.

A stage where
Aristotle lingers eternally.

She moves her feet
Elegantly
For the pleasure of
Sugary words,
Spicy from the inside
That flow like hot honey.

When it all ends,
When her life breaks the wall
She created,
And so she dances.

To calm the constant burn,
To burn the icy fingers
That squeeze the apple
And tear the inside
Of a screaming vein.

She is not broken,
She is torn.
Because stitching is easier,
Easier to tear.

Pull out her heart,
And find a rotten apple
Struggling to live
In a fairy tale



**Master Shaikh Sumair
Ahmed**

Where Pain is just a word
And Life, a broken recorder.
That repeats -
You are a stitched plastic doll
Dancing amongst many
Stitched plastic dolls
On a stage with a
Carpet of needles
To stop your time
And let you bleed,
Easily, until you stop.

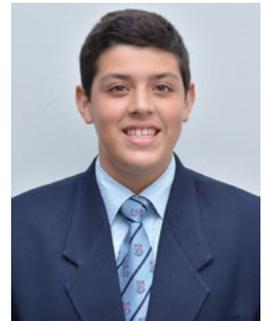
And now she stops dancing.
Her artist cries.
Now life is just a word,
And happiness, a feeling.
Don't believe me?
Pull out her face
And watch her smile!

- Master Shaikh Sumair Ahmed, IB-2D

The Blink

A strange light pierced my eye-
A smell of a foreign man.
Unusual from the warm thick love
And my receptors let go- a cry.
It was wet and the liquid dried fast
In the arms of a person who I didn't know.
All I remember is the smell-
Of Breath,
Unlike the stink of the elastic walls.

The clocks turned and turned-
Hugs turned to just far kisses.
The smell of my corpse poisoning the air.
The wrinkles on my skin pulling myself together.
One more year,
One more day,
One more hour,
And time lapsed in a blink of an eye.
All over at once.



Master Aaryan Luke Mehra

- Master Aaryan Luke Mehra, IB-2D

Know

How do you know that
You've done everything wrong

And everything right
At the same time?
Simple,
When everyone is happy
Cheering for you,
And you look straight
At the one
For acknowledgment with a smile
And they look back.
That they do,
Looking with the stench of disappointment
So clear
That converts everything.
The laugh, the joy
Into the one thing you fear,
Fear.
What you say and feel and
What you show and do

Show the difference
Between what is 'real'
And what is 'true.'
Broke down yesterday,
It's fine.
Nothing uncommon
In particular.
Just taped it up real good.
And for the effect
I put a smile.
That's how you'll know
I'm fine.
How do we manage
To hate something
We so dearly loved
In the times past?
Simple,
We never really hate
The person we love.
It is the changed 'version'



Master Arnob Saha

You grow to hate.
Or
Is it you who changed
Is it.
Is it?

- Master Arnob Saha, IB-2D

Shakespeare from the dead

Me thinks that these people overthink,
Me knows that like fools they do blink.
My well-known scribed work of arts,
Now completely torn apart.

Thou shan't ruin it for the future,
Stop with the analysis, figures and lectures.
When at my abode I had scribed it neatly,
Never had such deep references occur to me.

For men now, fair is foul and foul is fair,

They overturned my dense excellence to frothy thin air.
They are of academic worth,
But the annotations used now make me doubt my own work.

Hath not a dead man rights over works of his own,
Fie! To all thee analyzing souls.
Anyway, I must not mingle in predicaments such as these,
For I am a dead man and must rest in peace.



Ms Abigail Maria Hurst

- Ms Abigail Maria Hurst, 10A

“Poetry is not a turning loose of emotion, but an escape from emotion; it is not the expression of personality, but an escape from personality. But, of course, only those who have personality and emotions know what it means to want to escape from these things.”

- T S Eliot

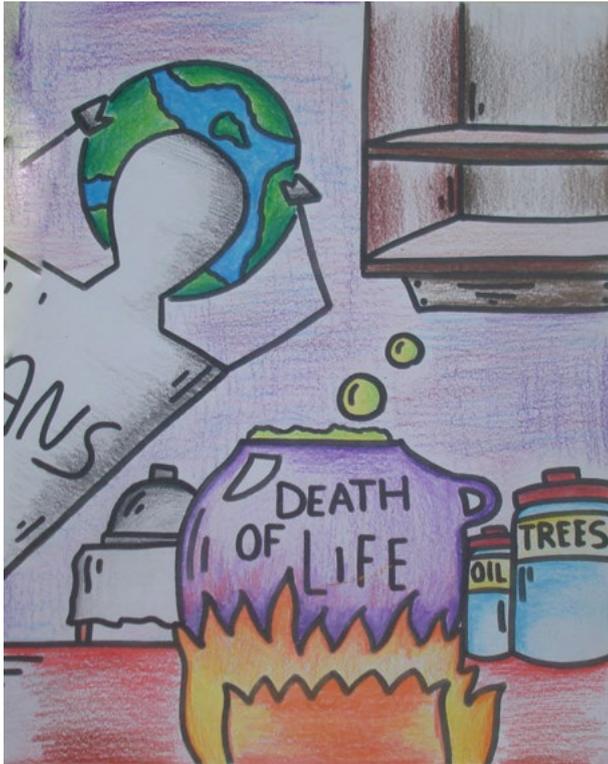
“You can find poetry in your everyday life, your memory, in what people say on the bus, in the news, or just what's in your heart.”

- Carol Ann Duffy

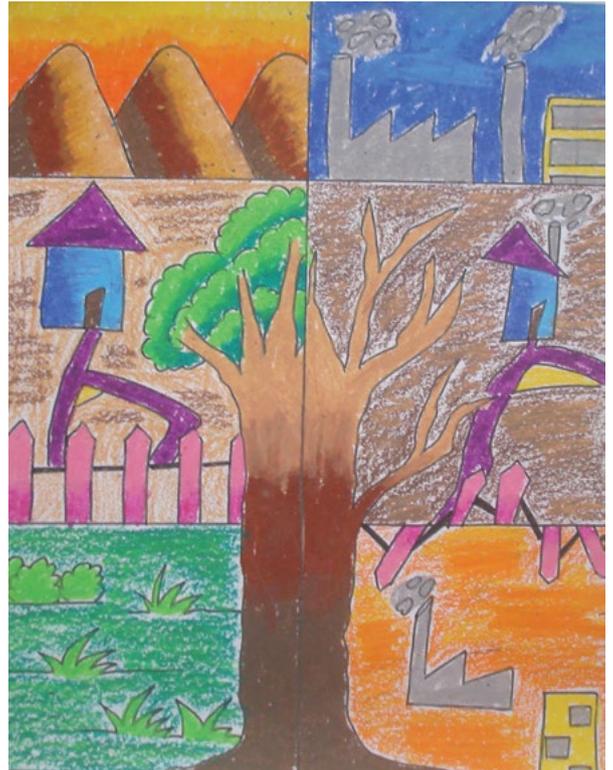
Kaleidoscope of Colours

Each child's drawings are expressions of his or her creativity and are unique to the child. Motor skills of children improve as they manipulate pencils and paintbrushes. Kids feel good with artistic work and it helps boost their self-confidence.

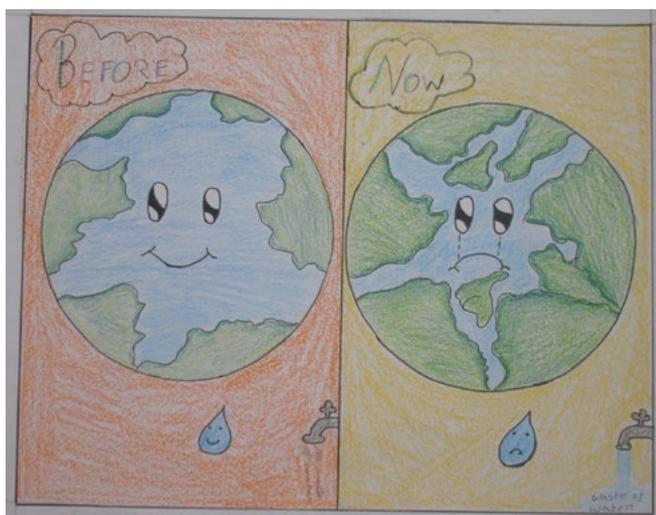
The Departments of Visual Arts, Art & Craft at GSIS offer instruction in drawing, painting (oil colour painting, watercolour painting, acrylic painting, collage painting, pottery painting, glass painting, mural painting, clothes painting & designs), sculpture, ceramics, origami and more. Few of the artistic works created by our students are shown below.



Topic : Climate change
Master Poorvash Muthumaheswara, FM-3D



Topic : Conservation of Nature
Ms Riya Hitesh Gala, FM-2A



Topic : Water Wastage
Master Sai Rishi Yerramorusu, FM-2A



Topic : Destruction of Nature
Master Pratham Lingadalli, FM-2B



Topic : Space travel
Ms Deeya Rajesh Dulhani, FM-2B



Topic : Save Earth
Ms Tejaswani Vardhan, 8A



Topic : Cleanliness campaign
Ms Kanupriya Vinkle Chawla, FM-3A



Topic : Republic Day Celebrations
Ms Shreevarshini Ramasamy, FM-3A



Topic : Save the girl child
Ms Nikita Ann Anthony, IB-1B



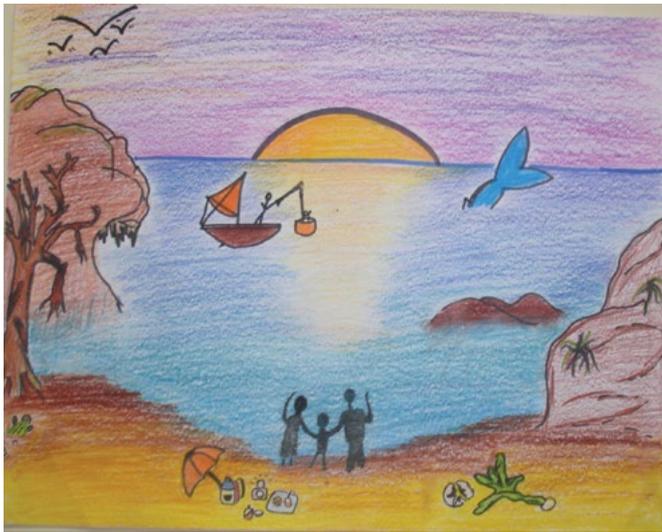
Topic : Conservation of Nature
Ms Thithira Tikkapanyakul, FM-1A



Topic : Countryside
Ms Devanshi Agrawal, FM-3A



Topic : Empower the girl child
Ms Surangkana Srichantamit, IB-1B



Topic : Seaside
Ms Gayatri Dinesan, IB-1B



Topic : Cityscape
Ms Norah Bagchi, 7A



Topic : Mother Earth
Ms Ashley R S, 7A



Topic : Sea shore
Master Sreesyam Sasindran, ISC-1A



Topic : Stop child labour
Ms Bhaanavi Haresh Mirpuri, IB-1A



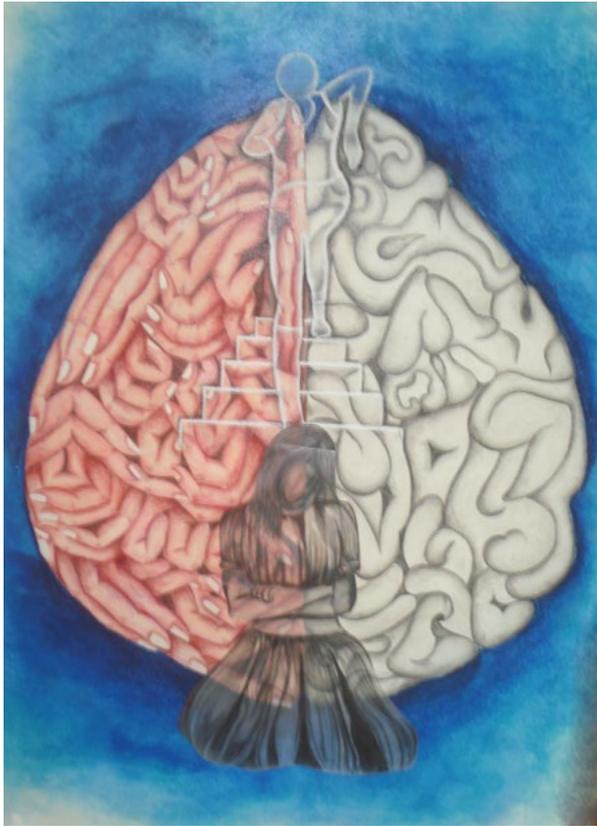
Topic : Stop child labour
Master Siddharth Jha, IB-1B



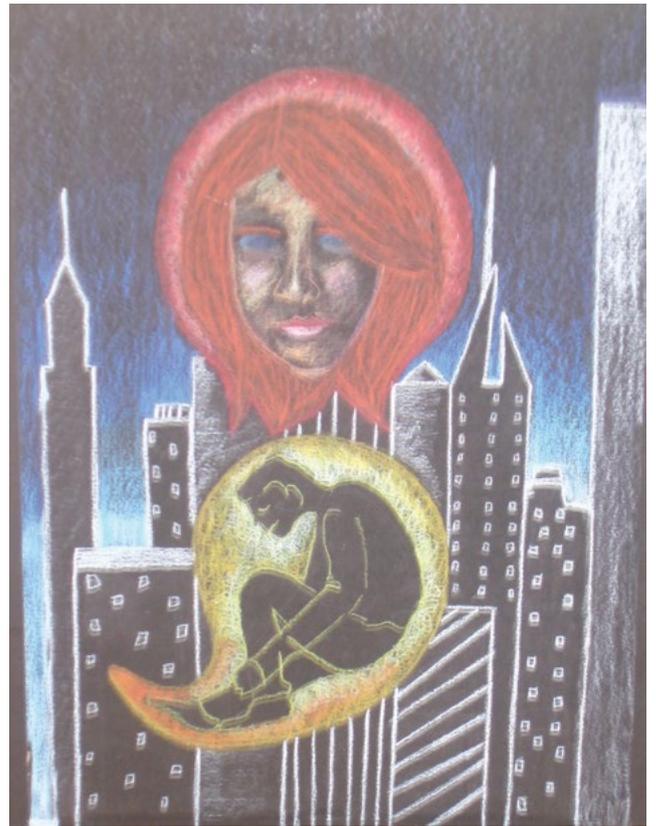
Topic : Save the girl child
Ms Momena Aamer, IB-1A



Topic : An Indian festival
Master Sidhant Sinha, FM-1A



Topic : Grit
Ms Rhea Jain, IB-2B



Topic : The semicolon
Ms Prakriti Goel, IB-2A



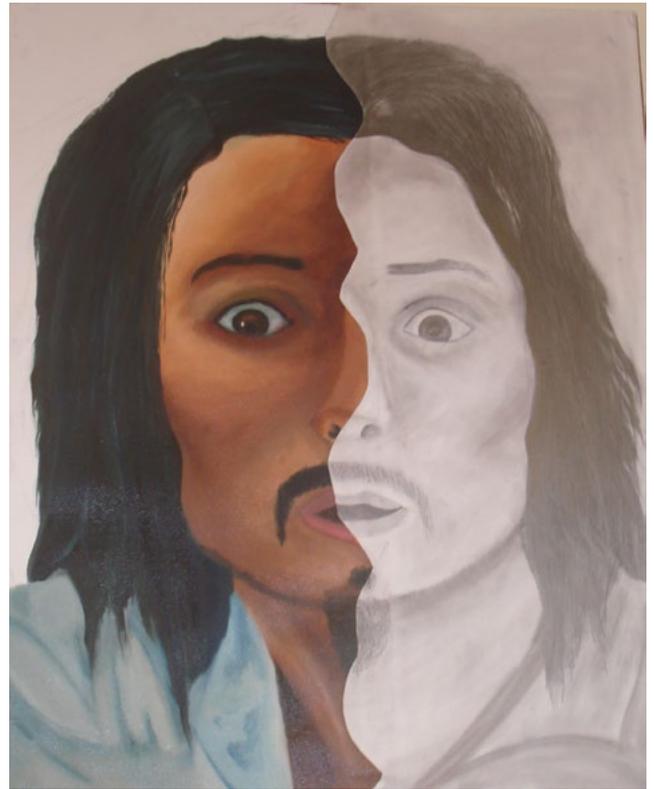
Topic : Submissive Silence
Master Khush Vardhan Saraf, IB-2D



Topic : Gnōthi seauton (Know thyself)
Ms Rhea Jain, IB-2B



Topic : Stuck in traffic
Ms Rhea Jain, IB-2B



Topic : Advertencia
Ms Gayatri Madan Lund, IB-2A



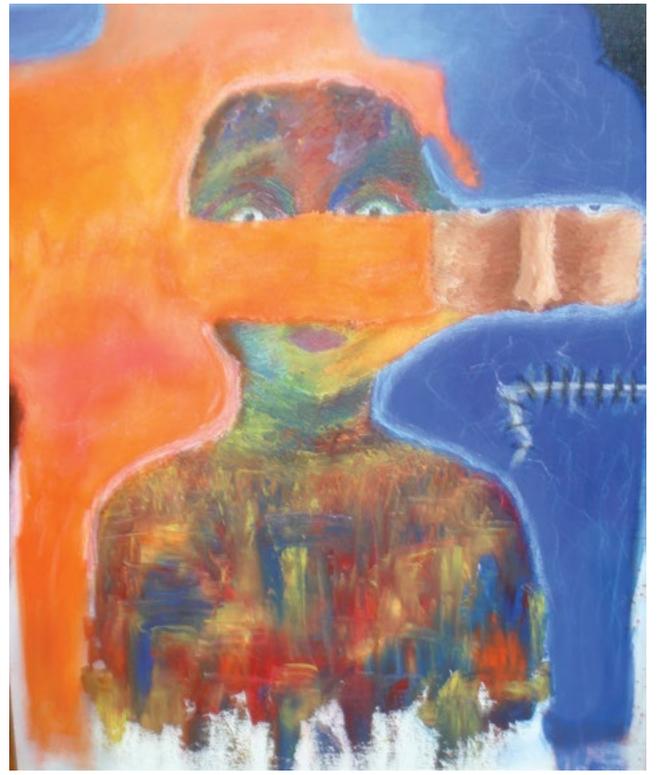
Topic : Checkmate
Ms Rhea Jain, IB-2B



Topic : Selfie
Mr Raju Dubey, Art Teacher



Topic : Dimensions
Ms Nishtha Goel, IB-2A



Topic : Facade
Ms Leesha Agarwal, IB-2A



Topic : We are in touch
Ms Rhea Jain, IB-2B



Topic : Another in the making
Ms Citra Thulaseedharan Pillai, IB-2A



Topic : Zoomania
Ms Ishwa Bharat Patel, IB-2B

"Painting is silent poetry, and poetry is painting that speaks."

- Plutarch

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up."

- Pablo Picasso

"A picture is a poem without words"

- Horace

"Curiosity about life in all of its aspects, I think, is still the secret of great creative people"

- Leo Burnett

"You see things; and you say, 'Why?' But I dream things that never were; and I say, 'Why not?'"

- George Bernard Shaw

"Life is the art of drawing without an eraser."

- John W Gardner

Inter House Classical Dance Competition 2018

High School & Higher Secondary School

Indian classical dances are exclusively of Indian origin and are traditionally regional expressive drama-dance form of religious performance art. All of them include music and recitation in local language or Sanskrit, and they represent a unity of core ideas in a diversity of styles, costumes and expression. *Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi, Odissi, Kathakali, Sattriya, Manipuri and Mohiniyattam* are a few recognized Indian classical dances.

On Monday, 26 November 2018, the **Inter House Classical Dance Competition** for girls of High School and Higher Secondary School was held in the Palada Campus auditorium of GSIS. The results in the various categories are mentioned below:

Grade 9 : Classical Group Dance

Names of students	House	Position
Diyansha Magesh	Autumn	I
Devanshi Agrawal		
Jhanavi Sahu		
Kristi Shadija		
Mangalam Karuppiah	Winter	II
Reanne Kurien		
Kashvi Agarwal		
Nitya Nilesh Dhanani		
Akshita Muthukumar	Summer	III
Vibhuti Nitinbhai Hapani		
Ravina Jaywant Patil		
Rajvi Vilish Patel		



Autumn House



Winter House



Summer House

Grade 11 : Classical Group Dance

Names of students	House	Position
Aastha Dinesh Dulhani	Autumn	I
Gayatri Dinesan		
Krupa Dharmesh Mehta		
Jasneel Kaur Anchan		
Harina Ashish Amin	Spring	II
Varsha John Gaddala		
Shivangi Agarwal		
S Saaikirana		
R R Varshitha	Winter	III
P Nikitha		
R Abinaya		
Nikita Ann Anthony		



Autumn House



Spring House



Winter House

Dressed in their brilliant colourful clothing, the dancers enthralled the spectators with their graceful movements and facial expressions, relating the stories. The dancers showcased how Indian classical dance is a performative art form, featuring classical music and displaying different emotions.

Congratulations to the winners!

Inter House Dramatics Competition 2018

Middle School



Scenes from the play, 'The Little Prince'



A scene from the play, 'The night that changed it all'



A scene from the play, 'Moana'

The **Inter House Dramatics Competition** for students of Middle School was held on Friday, 23 November 2018. The results are as mentioned below:

Best Play : **'The Little Prince'** by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (by Autumn House)

'The Little Prince' is the most famous work of French aristocrat, writer, poet, and pioneering aviator Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. This short novel is one of the best-selling books in publishing history. The play tells the story of a child, the little prince, who travels the universe gaining wisdom.

Second Best Play : **'The night that changed it all'** – An adaptation of **Black Comedy** by Peter Shaffer (by Winter House)

Third Best Play : **'Moana'** by Ron Clements & John Musker (by Spring House)

Best Actor : **Master Teerapat Sripiboonpanich** (Autumn House)

Best Supporting Actor : **Master Taher Tambawala** (Autumn House)

Best Actress : **Ms Angelinaashita Ashish Rajwadi** (Autumn House)

Best Supporting Actress : **Ms Megha Elizebeth Stephen** (Autumn House)

Congratulations to the winners and all the participants!

Annual Inter House Cross-Country Championship 2019

Abhilash Patnaik Memorial Rolling Trophy

"It doesn't matter whether you come in first, in the middle of the pack, or last. You can say, 'I have finished.' There is a lot of satisfaction in that."

- Fred Lebow



Autumn House: Winners of the Cross-Country Trophy



Athletes being flagged off during the cross-country race

Cross country running is a sport in which individuals and teams run a race on open-air courses over natural terrain. The **Annual Inter House Cross-country race** was held at GSIS on Saturday, 27 April 2019.

The race was organized separately for boys and girls under different divisions. The boys' divisions had nine students from each of the four houses and in the girls' divisions there were six students in inter girls category and nine students each in senior girls and super senior girls category from each of the four houses. The course took them through tall grass, the trees, muddy puddle, flat ground, gravel road, up a hill and across open fields. The results are as follows:

Grade 7 Inter Boys:
Individual Champion : **Kavin Singh Charoenvorawat** (Summer House)
Team Championship : **Summer House**



The cross-country race in progress

Grade 8 Inter Boys:

Individual Champion : **Ryan George Jiju** (Autumn House)

Team Championship : **Summer House**

Senior Boys:

Individual Champion : **Darshil Kedia** (Autumn House)

Team Championship : **Winter House**

Super Senior Boys:

Individual Champion : **C Sandeep Sudharsan** (Summer House)

Team Championship : **Autumn House**

Inter Girls:

Individual Champion : **Hashini Prakalya Krishnakumar** (Spring House)

Team Championship : **Autumn House**

Senior Girls:

Individual Champion : **Aswathi Ravishankar** (Autumn House)

Team Championship : **Summer House & Autumn House**

Super Senior Girls:

Individual Champion : **Surangkana Srichantamit** (Winter House)

Team Championship : **Winter House**

Cross-country Trophy (Overall 1st Place) : Autumn House

2nd Place : Summer House

Health is your greatest wealth. The experience of running a cross-country race and seeing what you're capable of is really special. It requires a lot of strength, stamina, endurance, courage and resolve to complete the race. It was great running by the boys and the girls. For many of them, running a cross-country race is about setting goals, extracting the most out of life, never giving up and coming through the other side stronger than ever before. They all enjoyed the experience and look forward to participate in the competition next year as well.



Kavin Singh Charoenvorawat



Ryan George Jiju



Darshil Kedia



C Sandeep Sudharsan



Hashini Prakalya Krishnakumar



Aswathi Ravishankar



Surangkana Srichantamit

Congratulations to the winners!

Inter House Symphony Competition 2019

Annual Inter House Symphony Competition was held at GSIS on Wednesday, 03 April 2019. The competition was organized in two categories – Symphonic Orchestra and Rock Band musical presentations.

Symphonic Orchestra presentations: A typical **Symphony Orchestra** uses related musical instruments, namely the woodwinds, brass, percussion and strings. It offers a wide range of music including film concerts, family concerts and other special presentations.

The results of the inter-house symphonic orchestra competition are as follows:

First place : **Autumn House**

Second place : Winter House



Symphonic Orchestra presentation of Autumn House



Symphonic Orchestra presentation of Winter House

The students of the Autumn House orchestra performed the theme song, *Manners maketh man* from the 2014 movie, **Kingsman: The Secret Service**. Composed by **Henry Jackman** and **Matthew Margeson**, the music opens with percussive bass accompanying the melodic theme, with dissonances accentuating some beats. It then pauses briefly, after which a faster second part begins. Meanwhile the bass still plays percussive rhythmic patterns and two contrasting themes are presented in concord. The first one is a fast-moving three-note motif played on the rhythmic pattern of two semiquavers and quavers. The second theme is an elaboration of the opening melodic theme. The music climaxes with one single rhythmic and melodic theme which is based on the E-minor chord, after which a big crescendo on trilled notes brings the music to a loud end.

The Winter House orchestra played music from **Coco**, a 2017 American 3D computer-animated fantasy film produced by Pixar Animation Studios and released by Walt Disney Pictures. The purpose of music is to generate a response from the listener. Combined with film, it can be argued that music serves the purpose of guiding us towards a certain mindset and feeling. **Coco** is a movie that tells the story of a sprightly young boy who wants to be a musician. Without music, **Coco** would not have been able to tell the story it did in such a powerful, heart wrenching way. The music of Disney/Pixar's **Coco** takes us to places both familiar and new, tells us what the characters feel and experience throughout the course of the film and ultimately make us connect and feel powerful emotions. The Winter house orchestra brought to us that very art experience.

Rock Band musical presentations:

Rock Band music is normally centered on the electric guitar, usually as part of a rock group with electric bass, drums, and one or more singers. Its lyrics often stress romantic love but also address a wide variety of other themes that are frequently social or political.

The results of the inter-house rock band competition are as follows:

First place : **Spring House**

Second place : Winter House



Rock Band - Spring House



Rock Band - Winter House

Spring House presented *Aces High*, a song by the English heavy metal band, **Iron Maiden**. *Aces High* is one of Iron Maiden's most popular songs, and has been performed numerous times. The song was written by the band's bassist, **Steve Harris**. It is Iron Maiden's eleventh single release and the second from their fifth studio album, *Powerslave*. The song's lyrics are written from the viewpoint of a British RAF pilot fighting during the Battle of Britain, the first military engagement to be fought entirely with aircraft. The artwork depicts the band's mascot, Eddie the Head, in the cockpit of a Supermarine Spitfire, one of the principal aircrafts to participate in that battle.

Winter House presented *Space Truckin'*, a song by British hard rock band **Deep Purple**. It is the seventh and final track on the *Machine Head* album and its lyrics talk of space travel. When it was first performed live, the band appended an instrumental that was originally part of the song, *Mandrake Root*, from their first album but gradually evolved it into a showcase for Jon Lord's Hammond organ and Ritchie Blackmore's guitar solos.

Congratulations to the winners!

Special Awards & Prizes (2018 – 2019)



Best All-rounder [Boy]: Master Prabhraj Singh Bhatia, IB-2D



Best All-rounder [Girl]: Ms Yashvi Navneetbhai Vadalia



Best in Academics [Grade XII, ISC - Science]: Ms Brindhaa S, ISC-2A



Best in Academics [Grade XII, ISC - Commerce]: Ms S Rooshni, ISC-2B



Best in Academics [Grade XII, IB - Science]: Master Khushin Nilesh Patel, IB-2D



Best in Academics [Grade XII, IB - Commerce] : Master Aarya Robin Goenka, IB-2C



Best in Sports [Boys]: Master L Sibi Saran, ISC-2A



Best in Sports [Girls] : Ms Khushi Bhavin Parikh, IB-2B



Best Prefect [Boy] : Master Shanmuganathan, IB-2C



Best Prefect [Girl] : Ms Khushi Gupta, IB-2A



Best Dancer : Ms S Ashmath, IB-2B



Best Musician : Master Sirasit Sachdev, IB-2C



Best Singer [Boy] : Master Mir Patel, IB-2D



Best Singer [Girl] : Ms Rachel Nangrime Nengminja Sangma, IB-2B



Best Sea Cadet [Boy]: Master Eapen Benny, IB-2C



Best Sea Cadet [Girl]: Ms Nairuti Vishnubhai Patel, IB-2B



Special Appreciation Award for Positivity and Fortitude : Ms Rhea Jain, IB-2B

“The starting point of all achievement is desire.”

- Napoleon Hill

“Trust yourself. Create the kind of self that you will be happy to live with all your life. Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny, inner sparks of possibility into flames of achievement.”

- Golda Meir

“Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort.”

- Franklin D Roosevelt

“The discipline you learn and character you build from setting and achieving a goal can be more valuable than the achievement of the goal itself.”

- Bo Bennett

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- The International Award for Young People (IAYP)
- Rotaract Membership



REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN

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20 January, 2020 to 20 April, 2020

9 Months: 16 July, 2019 to 16 April, 2020

6 Weeks : 19 April, 2020 to 31 May, 2020

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 - Cambridge Primary : Grades II to VI
- Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations [CISCE] - ICSE Grades (II to X) and ISC Grades (XI & XII).



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