



सा विद्या या विमुक्तये

Dikshant International School

NEWS & VIEWS

Dikshantians taking forward the Beacon of Compassion

My Epitome of Compassion

My compassionate idol is my mother as she teaches underprivileged children, who really have a passion for learning. And, second is Monika mam because I witnessed her helping her colleague when she met with an accident without thinking that she would be late for the school.

-Ryaan Manhas (IV-A)

My Nana and Nani Ji are my compassionate idols because I always saw them full of love and warmth for everyone around them. They both believe in equality and forgiveness. They always remind me to be watchful of my actions and not to hurt anyone with my words or acts.

-Parth (IV-B)

Anmol Kwatra is my compassionate idol because he selflessly helps children in need, particularly those who lack the financial means to receive medical treatment. He runs an NGO called We Don't Accept Money or Things, and till now more than a lakh underprivileged children have been helped so far.

-Gursirat (IV-B)

My best friend Rajeev is my compassionate idol as he helped me when I fell from stairs and also guided me on being watchful of my next step.

-Tabashir (IV-B)

"A helping hand can be a ray of sunshine in a cloudy world," and I wholeheartedly believe in this sentiment. Consequently, my mother frequently assist those in need by providing them with nutritious meals and fresh clothing. Over time, this practice has become an integral part of our lives. We find inner peace and immense joy in meeting their needs to the best of our abilities. The warmth of their outstretched hands, raised in blessings, serves as a constant source of inspiration for us to continue helping those less fortunate and striving to fulfill their needs to the fullest extent possible.

- Aarohi (IV-B)

Compassionate Skit Reflections

Participating in a compassionate skit has significantly contributed to the development of essential life skills, including empathy and conflict resolution, while also positively impacting my overall well-being. This experience has taught me the significance of aiding a classmate in times of need and the importance of refraining from making fun of someone in an unpleasant situation.

-Lavit (IV-A) & Shiva (V-A)

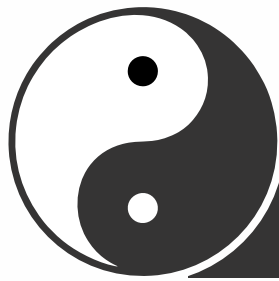
I felt happy and learned that we should always stand by our friends and never ignore them especially when they want to share their feelings and emotions.

-Aparna (V-B)

It was a great experience for me because the activity taught me the way in which we all are connected in our human experience. After doing the act in class, it made me realize that we all want to be loved, to feel content in life, to have a meaningful existence, and sometimes we need help from others to do so. Also, I understood how we can benefit ourselves by showing some kindness, love, and empathy to others.

-Saanvi (IV-B)





The Yin or Yang of Our Future: ChatGPT



YANG

The primary advantage lies in its time-saving capabilities. Chat GPT stands as one of the most valuable learning tools, contributing significantly to the expansion of one's knowledge and understanding. For content creators, Chat GPT adds uniqueness and specificity to their work, providing access to high-quality data. Additionally, it assists educators in crafting comprehensive and precise lesson plans while offering them accurate guidance. As exams approach, Chat GPT can be a valuable resource for students, summarizing class notes with a strong focus on key topics. Homework often poses challenges and stress for students, but Chat GPT simplifies the assignment completion process.

In my opinion, Chat GPT proves immensely helpful when used with precision, ensuring a bright and promising future.

-Aahna Jena (X-A).

ChatGPT plays a pivotal role in shaping a promising future. It serves as a valuable tool for alleviating manual labor across various domains. By expediting research processes, ChatGPT significantly cuts down the time required for investigating topics. Simultaneously, it has the potential to generate numerous job opportunities, bolstering employment within the technology sector. As technology continues to advance, ChatGPT has the capacity to contribute to the betterment of our world.

-Divyansh (X-A)

YIN

While ChatGPT is undoubtedly enjoyable to use and significantly expedites our tasks, it does come with several drawbacks. These limitations include occasional loss of conversational context, the generation of inaccurate responses followed by requests for clarification, occasional omissions due to lack of specific training data, and the fact that its last update was in September 2021, rendering it unable to provide current information. For instance, if one were to inquire, "Who is the current president of India?" ChatGPT would inaccurately respond with "Ram Nath Kovind."

Being a product of human creation, ChatGPT is not infallible, much like humans, it is prone to making errors. This is exemplified by its performance in various exams, such as the UPSC exam (where it scored 54 out of 100), the IIT exam, and the JEE exam (where it scored 359 out of 800). Additionally, it can be frustrating when it encounters an error during answer generation, prompting users to regenerate their queries, which consumes considerable time.

Several countries, including Italy, China, and Russia, has banned the use of ChatGPT due to security reasons. In my opinion, ChatGPT has the potential to lead us down a dark path that we may come to regret in the future. **Arya Singla (VII-B)**

The US-based startup, ChatGPT, is an artificially intelligent program. Given its ability to generate various content, such as stories, poems, and tales, people have started to rely on it, thereby diminishing our capacity for creativity. By handling all our tasks, it is fostering laziness. A report has disclosed that over 100,000 ChatGPT accounts worldwide have suffered hacking incidents. India, among the affected nations, stands at the forefront. This suggests that ChatGPT may not be a prudent option for our future, and we should refrain from relying on it. **-Yashna (VII-B)**

THE WORLD IS CHANGING: SO WE ARE FACING GOD'S WRATH



Following the catastrophic incidents that have occurred since 2020, humanity is confronted with a series of tremendous difficulties that appear almost biblical in origin. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with an economic downturn and exacerbated by a series of natural disasters, has shown the fragility of our existence and the fundamental unity between us and the environment.

The COVID-19 pandemic, a borderless force, has revealed the unavoidable truth of our interconnectedness. As the world battled with the consequences of the virus, the economic edifice crumbled under the weight of a recession, disrupting countless lives and deferring ambitions. Nature unleashed its own

fury in the midst of this chaos.

This chain of events inspires a sense of nature's suffering as well as sadness for human arrogance. The origins of the epidemic serve as a grim reminder of the consequences of infringing on wildlife habitats and exploiting nature's fragile balance. The economic inequities that arose as a result of the crisis indicate the reckless greed that often drives us to deplete resources without regard for the consequences. Natural disasters in India and other regions of the world speak of a world out of balance, groaning from the effects of environmental degradation.

In the face of such adversity, humanity is compelled to rethink its connection with nature.

As we navigate these challenging times, humble reflection on our actions is essential. The fury of God's acts serves as an alarming reminder that nature's resilience is limitless and that the consequences of our actions resonate far beyond our immediate circumstances.

Let us not only lament but also learn as we confront these issues. It is time to gather our collective strength to rebuild, reset our priorities, and reach out to those who have been most affected. We have an opportunity in this crucible of suffering to cultivate a more compassionate, sustainable, and harmonious relationship with both our fellow humans and the earth we call home.

- Anushka (XII)



Internship Insights

As someone aspiring to pursue a career in psychology, I participated in the psychology internship program at Fortis. I must admit that the one-week session proved immensely beneficial to me. During this time, I gained valuable insights into various psychological conditions, the ethical principles that guide psychologists, and the practical implementation of therapeutic approaches. Additionally, I had the opportunity to engage in a roleplay scenario, which further enhanced my understanding of how to conduct oneself professionally. **-Angel Dhir (XI)**

I had a fantastic experience during my internship at Fortis. Not only did I learn about psychology, but also about various stages of mental health, types of therapies, and how to effectively handle mental disorders, but I also gained insights into the doctor-patient relationship. I thoroughly enjoyed gaining knowledge about psychology, and this internship provided an excellent platform for learning about the subject.

-Shine Thappa & Alankrita Basu (XI)

We got the opportunity to gain insights into the role of a psychologist in a formal setting and how they assist patients in overcoming mental trauma. We engaged in actual role plays where students took on the roles of therapist, patient, and observer.

-Nakshatra Rai (XI)



The psychology internship at Fortis Mohali proved to be both interesting and informative. We delved into therapeutic skills, explored the scope of our knowledge in psychology, and learned how to apply it effectively in the field. The program included discussions on live case studies, providing us with valuable insights.

Throughout the internship, we received detailed explanations about various mental disorders and gained a comprehensive understanding of when and how to conduct psychiatric evaluations and case histories. Additionally, we were introduced to different facets of psychology and learned about influential experiments from the past that continue to shape the field today. The discussions also highlighted the essential skills required by mental health professionals, emphasizing the importance of empathy, active listening, cultural competence, and ethical considerations in providing effective care to individuals dealing with mental health challenges. **- Muskaan Nayak (XI)**

LANDING OF CHANDRAYAAN



There were two specific moments during the livestream that left a strong impact on me. The first moment occurred during the final stage of the mission when, at an altitude of 58 kilometers, the spacecraft unexpectedly gained altitude, reaching 64 kilometers. This increase in altitude caused some anxiety, as the spacecraft needed to descend, and the speed was too high. The second was when Chandrayaan-3 reached this same altitude where Chandrayaan 2 failed, my heart started racing, fearing a similar outcome. But after a few seconds, we witnessed history being made. **Divyansh (XI)**

The moment of Chandrayaan 3's lunar landing was incredibly nerve-wracking for me, as all eyes were on India's moon mission. The Vikram lander initiated its descent from an altitude of 25km, with a velocity of 1.68 km per second. As it began to slow down, its two engines fired, maintaining a horizontal position during the rough braking phase for approximately 11 minutes before transitioning to a vertical orientation. As the sensors detected the moon's surface, the engines shut down, marking a historic and prideful moment for all Indians. India achieved the remarkable feat of being the first country to successfully land on the Southern region of the lunar surface. **Parth (IX-B)**

Chandrayaan 3 was a mission marked by several notable engineering and technological advancements. Notably, the mission exhibited greater flexibility in its choice of landing area, which was considerably larger compared to Chandrayaan 2. Chandrayaan 3 introduced several innovations, such as equipping the Lander Module with solar panels on all sides. Additionally, the mission included a surplus of fuel, serving as a crucial contingency measure in case of emergencies. **- Saatvik (VII B)**



From Festive Hues to Shared Clues: Magnotsav

The Cultural Fest is an event that ignites the competitive spirit throughout the entire school. Students and teachers alike put forth their best efforts to represent their respective houses and deliver a spectacular show. Having been a part of the house cabinet for two years and a member of my house for approximately 12 years, I've gained a comprehensive understanding of the Cultural Fest from every angle. I've witnessed it all, from the rigorous rehearsals and occasional scoldings to the intense competition for the top spot.

Managing the backstage operations on the final day is a formidable task in itself. It involves overseeing everything, from props to audio systems and the chaos in the green room. The main day is even more demanding and stressful for those who work behind the scenes. Despite the challenges, I eagerly anticipate the Cultural Fest every year. I've had the privilege of participating in various roles, from being a participant to working backstage, and I've cherished every aspect of it throughout my journey. **-Muskan Dharwal (XII)**

The IH Cultural Fest in 2023, proved to be a remarkable fusion of performances inspired by mythological concepts. As the head girl, it

demanded considerable effort to effectively manage and cater to the needs of all four houses, ensuring each performance reached its zenith. This involved tasks such as compiling participant lists for each house, gathering prop requirements, and meticulously editing Excel sheets. The entire core team collaborated to plan every detail.

Ensuring the smooth progression of rehearsals, maintaining discipline during run-throughs, and keeping all houses informed of important updates was an exhausting yet exhilarating endeavor. Finally, the culmination of all preparations led to the grand finale on the last day, where the magic of house spirit was brought to life on stage.

Throughout the process, there was an underlying spirit of healthy competition among the four houses. However, as a member of the core cabinet, I learned the importance of maintaining a level playing field, and fostering healthy competition among them. In retrospect, organizing the cultural fest was, as always, an enriching experience. Moreover, it held a special significance as it marked my final fest in the school.

-Manvi Longia (XII)

"The stage serves as the convergence of various art forms, breathing life back into art itself. To rekindle the essence of art, Dikshantians poured their skill and vigor onto the stage, delivering lively and marvelous performances at the Inter-House Cultural Fest on May 26th in Yavanika, Panchkula. The stage radiated with enthusiasm and excitement, as both participants and non-participants contributed to the vibrant atmosphere. The main event commenced with a ceremonial lamp lighting by the chief guest, followed by a captivating welcome dance. Subsequently, music, dance, and theatre performances unfolded, seamlessly blending elements of music, religion, expression, and mythology. A panel of judges diligently evaluated each performance and declared the night's standout performance.

The evening concluded with the recognition of Star Readers and World Scholar's Cup achievers. It was a mesmerizing night that rejuvenated Indian culture through the combined efforts of students and teachers. **-Alankrita (XII)**

Wood Carving



Engaging in wood carving was a truly wonderful experience. It marked my inaugural attempt at this craft, and it has proven to be the most exhilarating activity I've ever undertaken. Throughout the wood carving process, my thoughts were consumed by the creative possibilities the wood held. The texture of the wood itself was captivating, guiding me through a serene and tranquil artistic journey as I fashioned a beautiful piece of art. My hands were constantly occupied. This pursuit is truly remarkable, as it nurtured my creativity, practical skills, and personal growth. **-Kanan Jain (IX-B)**

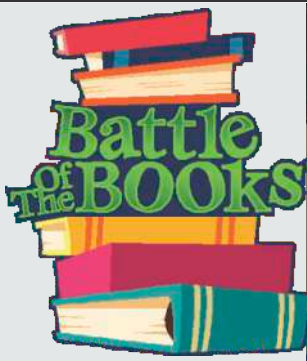
My wood carving experience was truly amazing. It had always been something I yearned to try, but reservations were consistently hard to secure. This time, however, I seized the opportunity, and I absolutely fell in love with it. To be frank, I find the idea of shaping wood with a hammer and wood carving chisel incredibly appealing. Despite the occasional injuries I sustained in the process, my enthusiasm for it never waned. Even



though we only have three days a week dedicated to wood carving, I find the experience consistently captivating. In my view, wood carving is an activity through which we can convey our emotions and sentiments onto the canvas of wood.

- Tanmay Jain & Parth Tyagi (IX-B)

My woodcarving experience was truly enjoyable. I was a beginner when it came to wood carving, but Bibekanand Sir guided me well, shared valuable tips, and taught me the art of creating various wooden structures. I acquired knowledge on using tools to shape and design wood, enhancing its visual appeal. Looking at the final art piece, my interest in wood carving began to grow. **-Lavya Arora (IX-A)**



EXPERIENCES : Students

The whole process was fantastic as it encouraged us to read more books promptly. The most challenging part for me was when I came across the book 'What Maya Saw.' Initially, I thought it would take me a whole year to finish it. However, the books nominated for the Battle of Books were so interesting that I couldn't believe I completed that thick book in just one week. It was a personal achievement for me. I learned that the number of pages, font style, or presence of pictures doesn't determine whether a book is good or boring; what truly matters is the storyline. Now, I've started reading thicker books and no longer seek out smaller ones with pictures. **Mahima VI-A**

The best part of the competition was when we had to solve the crossword. That moment I realized what it means to read books deeply. It was hard but somehow, we managed to solve it. **Aamneen (IV-B) & Tanaash (VI-A)**

I was happy to experience how everyone was given a chance to answer. The most interesting task was reading books of different genres, while the challenging part was finishing all the books before the deadline and outperforming the opposing team. This experience taught me to approach challenges with a positive attitude. **- Aparna (V-B) & Avika (VII-B)**

It was wonderful to witness the enthusiasm in my child for completing books, spending more time with them, and discovering new meanings. I noticed that my child learned to set deadlines for finishing a book and summarizing it in an engaging manner in her notebook. Initially, we had to push her to read and finish books, but she quickly developed a competitive spirit and a genuine interest in reading. She learned to set daily targets for herself and independently achieve them. Overall, it has been a fantastic experience. I want to extend my gratitude to the Dikshant team for providing such valuable opportunities. **Nakul Bhatnagar (Father of Avika Bhatnagar VII-B)**

This competition has instilled a daily reading habit in my child and helped her become an independent reader. It has also contributed to enhancing her writing skills and vocabulary. I often find her looking up the meanings of new words, which is fantastic. Furthermore, this competition has stimulated his critical thinking skills on various topics. My child has thoroughly enjoyed this journey with immense enthusiasm. **Kanchan Sharma (Mother of Shakshit Sharma VI-B)**

Parents

It is because of this competition Mahima has read more books in just Term 1 than she used to. Initially, she would only read one or two books, but now she has found a balance. She dedicates time to both academic books and storybooks daily. **Ramesh Kumar (Father of Mahima Dharwal VI-A)**

She made a dedicated effort to allocate time for book reading. It's a valuable experience for our children to learn how to manage their time between studies and reading, which will be beneficial for their future studies. **Dr. Jagjit Singh (Father of Gitanjali VI-A)**



Attending TEDx helped me gain extensive insights into the area, that the power to change our attitudes and perspectives lies within us. The event had a diverse range of speakers who shared their experiences on overcoming depression, addressing speech impediments, fighting the odds with a positive attitude, and much more. Overall, I had a great time listening and interacting with the speakers. **Yash (XI)**

It was an amazing experience listening to speakers from different backgrounds who are doing an exceptional work to bring about a positive change in our society. **-Vinpreet (IX-A)**

This was the first time I had attended the TEDx event and it was amazing. All the speakers were a source of inspiration for me. Hearing their life stories made me realize that we should never give up because of one unpleasant incident in our lives. I am already looking forward to its fourth edition. **Anwasha, Ananya (VIII-B) & Vatsla (IX-B)**

The experience of attending TEDx this year was very inspiring. All the speakers spoke about their stories and also taught us how to make this world a better place to live. Talks delivered by Mr. Karhun Nanda and Mr. Somveer Singh Anand moved me, I realized the importance of living life to its fullest and not giving up,

no matter what happens to you. His story was very heart-touching. **- Tamanna (XII)**

All the speakers were very inspiring. The three speakers whom I liked the most were Ms. Baby Halder, Mr. Karhun Nanda, and Mr. Somveer Singh Anand. All three of them motivated me to achieve my life's goals because we have only one life to live. The other six speakers motivated me to build a better perspective towards society and to explore different fields like photography, travel, journalism, and space science. I am filled with pride that my school gave me such an amazing opportunity to interact with people who are actually making a positive change in our society. **- Vinamr (XI)**

I have been an active participant in all the events, and the unique aspect I found in this event was the diversity of the speakers from different backgrounds. I was truly captivated by Mr. Karhun Nanda's experience, in which he described the heart-wrenching moment of his life and how, in the end, things turned out for him. The only key takeaway for me was, 'Don't lose hope and fight for yourself until the last moment.' **- Anushka & Muskaan (XII)**

This was my first experience at TEDx Dikshant School. The one thing

that I really liked and found quite moving was that there is no right time to do something big, and it will never come to us; we have to create opportunities for ourselves. If we want to do something good or big, then we should push ourselves for it. No one will do it for us. **- Anmoldeep (XI)**

TEDxDikshantSchool is one event that I would like to attend again and again because the insights shared by speakers from diverse fields transported me to their respective domains and provoked thoughts and emotions of all kinds at the same time, which makes it an event one of a kind. The most significant part is that these people are ordinary people with extraordinary courage, determination, and confidence in their own way. I too dream of becoming a TEDx speaker one day. **- Sonal Singh (Educator)**

It was a remarkable experience listening to all the speakers, each one of them inspired me in their own unique way. After listening to Mr. Karhun Nanda, me and my husband decided to register ourselves for organ donation after our death as we can be alive even after our death and can save 16 lives. Thank you so much to my extended Dikshant family who gave me a chance to attend such an exceptional event. **- Rohini (Educator)**



the World Scholar's Cup®

WSC Globals 2023 was a major highlight on my calendar this year. The journey, from qualifying in regionals to preparing for the global round, has been exciting, challenging, yet profoundly insightful. My key takeaway from this experience is that once you step out of your comfort zone, that's when your actual growth begins. Preparing for such an event, which brings together exceptional students from around the world, planning to visit a foreign country at the age of 17 without parents, and making all the individual decisions required—WSC has been a tremendous learning journey.

Representing my nation on a global platform is the best opportunity I could have ever asked for. The atmosphere during those 5 days of the event is unique, encouraging, and magical. Meeting new people, making friends from different countries, sharing each other's cultures, and competing against one another is a blessed opportunity to have in life. The 5 days were filled with various activities, including the opening ceremony, scavenger hunt

day, debates, scholar's challenge and bowl, scholar's show, and the cultural fair. I can honestly say that every single moment was worth it.

● After days of hard work and practice, I secured the 254th rank in Individual Debate out of thousands of students and earned 3 team medals. I am grateful to my teachers for providing me with such an opportunity and parents for being my greatest support. I can say without a doubt that I lived through one of the best times of my life. **Manvi Longia (XII)**

● World Scholar's Cup is like no other competition in the sense that it departs from the traditional and monotonous school syllabus and opens us up to an awe-inspiring history of the world we live in. From qualifying for the Global Round in Bangkok to actually representing your Nation at this prestigious international competition taught me several things and gave me numerous beautiful memories to reminisce.

● Going through the four rounds of debate, writing, scholar's challenge, and bowl really improved my



management, teamwork, and research. There are thousands of students participating from over 40 countries and the competition is eminently tough. Over there you run against a large gamut so you step out of your comfort zone to stand and compete among other contenders. I secured 116th rank in Individual Debate and 348th in Writing along with three team medals.

Winning laurels at this stage boosted my self-confidence immensely. However, the friends I made and the exposure I got are what I will cherish forever.

The World Scholar's Cup was the most valuable addition to my portfolio. I am extremely grateful to my teachers and parents for providing me with this wonderful opportunity and once in a lifetime experience. **-Shreya (XI)**

the art corner

SPACE ART



Sunbir (V-A)



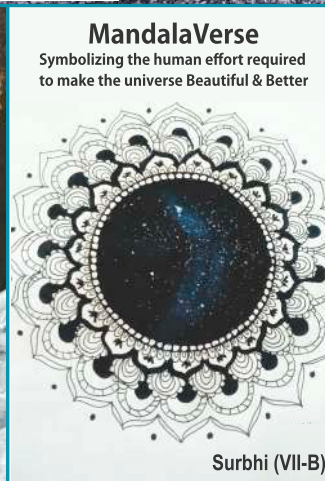
Ahaan (IV-A)



Shubh (V-A)



Rhythm (VIII-B)



Surbhi (VII-B)

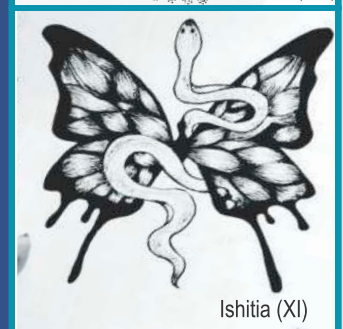
FREE STYLE



Rishika (X-B)



Rishika (X-B)



Ishitia (XI)

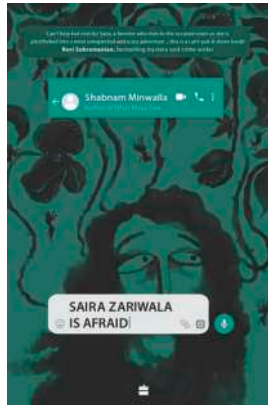
Between the Lines: Unveiling Our Latest Book Reviews

Saira Zariwala is Afraid

by Shabnam Minwalla

'Saira Zariwala is Afraid'. a book by Shabnam Minwalla is a captivating mysterious tale that will keep you hooked till the end.

Saira is thrilled to get her phone. What she's not so thrilled about is that most of the messages that arrive on it are for someone called Akaash. So, ideas and irritation give way to curiosity. Who is Akaash? How has he completely disappeared that even his friends and family don't know where he is? Is he connected to the horrors happening in a fancy Mumbai building? Saira and her friends try to be detectives and solve the mystery despite all the odds that come their way. Urban teens will surely relate to this cryptic work having a bunch of punch lines that will make you laugh also, leaving you surprised and scared. One might develop a lifelong terror for dolls. Do give it a read. (Yashna-VIIA)



The Sweet Shop Wars

by Chatura Rao

is a tale of two sweet shops that stand adjacent to each other. One is Best Sweets-new, bright and beautiful and the other one is Indian Sweets-old and has dirty walls. Equations between the owners change when their daughters Aasma and Firoza become friends and offer each other sweets to try from their shops followed by their discussion and plans to expand their business.

This story makes a strong case for the idea that people should value friendship, community, and togetherness while simultaneously fostering an atmosphere devoid of animosity.



Ishana Bhardwaj (IV-A)

The Six Spellmakers of Dorabji Street

by Shabnam Minwalla



Nivi, a 12-year-old girl, has shifted to a grey building in Mumbai, named Cosy Castle. She was warmly greeted by all the people staying in the building, except for Mrs. Braganza and Mrs. Kotadia. The two ladies were enemies but had one thing in common; they both hated the children and enjoyed disrupting the peace in Cosy Castle. They saw an opportunity when the boys in Cosy Castle were playing cricket, and the ball went onto Mrs. Kotadia's balcony. This incident led to the cutting down of the Bimbli

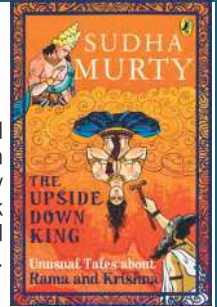
trees that Nivi, Sarita, Venu, Vijay, Nikhil, and Rehaan loved. The trees were being cut because when the children played in the ground, it created a lot of nuisance. These two ladies became friends to go against the children in Cosy Castle.

The children began researching how to stop the cutting down of the trees. They found a website that said, "Mail us, and we will find a solution for your problem." However, the solution provided to the children didn't work. Nivi's mother knew an astrologer who wrote horoscopes in the newspaper. They went to meet him and requested that he add a line stating, "Tomorrow, you should not touch the axe." They had it written because the two ladies read the horoscope and believed in it. They postponed the tree-cutting, and everyone eventually forgot about it. The children's summer vacation ended, and they started going to school. The boys resumed playing cricket, and the girls sat on the branches of the beautiful Bimbli trees in the evening.

I liked Nivi the most because she solved the problem and saved the Bimbli trees from being cut down. Do read about these six imaginative spell-makers who came out with amazing solutions to their problems. -Shakshit (VI-B)

The Upside Down King

by Sudha Murthy



This book revolves around the two most popular avatars of Lord Vishnu - Rama and Krishna - and their lineages. It throws light on origin of things and legends, such as the one about Valmiki's early life and the origins of his given name. The anecdotes in this book regarding Rama and Krishna are genuinely extraordinary and unheard of. For those who enjoy mythology, it is a must-read.

Alankrita Basu (XI)

Looking for Alaska

by John Green



Miles Halter is followed during his first year at Alabama's Culver Creek Preparatory High School in "Looking for Alaska," a best-selling book by acclaimed American author John Green.

I assumed that "Looking for Alaska" would center on a high school romance based on the book's synopsis, but it turned out to be much more than that.

Miles is not your typical junior in high school from the get-go. His obsession with researching and curiosity about people's last words inspired him to write. Because he is aware that he does not fit in at the high school in his hometown, he begs his parents to send him to Culver Creek. Miles is quickly accepted into the impulsive, adventurous lives of his roommate Chip Martin (better known as "the Colonel") and the Colonel's close friend Alaska Young.

Miles is kidnapped on his first night at the boarding school by the "Weekday Warriors," the wealthiest kids on campus, and dumped into a neighbouring lake as part of a prank war that began long before Miles joined Culver Creek. Alaska, Miles, and the Colonel go after the Weekday Warriors for their wrongdoing.

What kept me reading was, Alaska's character. She is volatile, impulsive, and passionate. Throughout the course of the book, many parts of the puzzle are disclosed, and it seems that every one of Alaska's pals knows a distinct aspect of her.

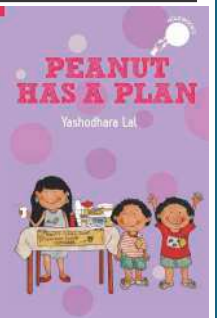
Near the book's conclusion, tragedy happens, and Miles loses contact with his Culver Creek pals. The finale raises numerous issues, and none of them are sure how to approach the situation.

"Looking for Alaska" is a terrific book for everyone who enjoys adventure and a little bit of heartbreak, not just young readers. Angel Dhir (XI)

PEANUT HAS A PLAN

by Yashodhara Lal

a tale about empathy towards animals, potential, and courage. I got attracted towards the book looking at the cover page, showing Peanut putting up a lemonade stall with her siblings Pickle and Papad. The author Yashodhara Lal has beautifully penned Peanut's craziness and stubbornness in executing different plans that came to a halt by a challenge in the form of her mum her brothers or her neighbours and how ultimately she wins over everyone with her sheer grit and determination, and successfully raise money for making a shelter for puppies. Navya Gupta (VI-A)



Tokyo Ghoul

Ken Kaneki is a normal college student until a violent encounter turns him into the first half-human, half-ghoul hybrid. Trapped between two worlds, he must survive Ghoul turf wars, learn more about the ghoul society, and master his new powers.

My thoughts on the book:

I really enjoyed the focus this volume had on the CCG. I have been following Kaneki and the Ghouls for eight volumes. This is a nice change of scenery and perspective. I get to see both sides of the same war and something about this volume makes it different from

the last time. The investigators are shown as people who are striving for a safer society and who want the same things the Ghouls want – peace, safety, and prosperity. Despite this, neither side realizes that they both have the same goals in mind. Amon sees the one-eyed Ghoul as someone who needs to be brought to justice, without understanding that the Ghoul has morals and is doing what he needs to do to survive. I could see this in the previous volumes, but it really resonates in volume 9. I also enjoyed seeing Amon's promotion to Senior Investigator and his first experiences with having a subordinate. It was a nice twist that his subordinate would be the daughter of his deceased mentor and senior partner – which opens up old wounds for him while reminding readers of Mado's history with the CCG. I am looking forward to seeing more of young Mado in the series. -Arpita Matharu (XI)

D POETRIES

Whispers of the Soul

Here Comes The Rain

Aaliya Khan
(VII-A)

Such pleasant sounds,
Such pleasant views.
When the refreshing fragrance of grass abounds,
And looking at the sky's grey and white hues.

The winds and the drops of water,
Are somehow making me feel gleeful.
A great opportunity to write a poem,
Which captures the scene, so beautiful.

The thundering lights roar like a brave Lion,
In the dark night skies.
Our surroundings go silent,
When the storm starts getting violent.

Sometimes, I question myself what did I do wrong.
I wonder if I was really wrong.
My life has just become a sad song,
Which is on repeat.

Was it a leak,
Was it a hit,
Was it a miss?
No one ever really knew,
Was it for people above six?
No maybe I was wrong,
But could no one understand the lyrics,
To understand the agony or was it just fun?
I love you, I said, and it was funny;
I love you, I said, but no one cared
I love you, I said, could you not understand my feelings?
The lyrics were desperate, and I was too,
I just want to know what you thought too.

I Question Myself

-Shipra (X-A)



I Can do anything for pizza.
It's my favorite snack, Lisa.
My next favorite is French fries.
I always see them with drenched eyes.
What if it's served with a dip.
My eyes always make flip.
All I can say it's a yummy treat.
And it makes my day really sweet.

- Ishana Bhardwaj (IV-A)



तिरंगा जो लहराता था भारत भूमि पर,
अब लहराएगा धरती के चाँद पर।
धरती और चाँद की दूरी को
पार किया मुश्किलें लाघं कर।

चाँद पर कैसे दिखेगा तिरंगा
जब चंद्रयान-1 और 2 चाँद पर खो गया ।
ये ख्याल मन में जरूर आया,
लेकिन अपना सपना पूरा करने को ISRO ने
चंद्रयान-3 बनाया ।
अपनी प्रतिभा से पूरी दुनिया को दिखाया,
अब भारत किसी से कम नहीं,
भारत जैसा किसी में दम नहीं ।
चाँद पर तो गए थे अमेरिका, चीन, रूस भी,
पर उसमें वह वो बात न थी ।

पर जब भारत में अपना मिशन चलाया
वैज्ञानिकों के साथ- साथ, 140 करोड़ सांसो ने उड़ाया ।
140 करोड़ दिल धड़के जब भारत ने soft landing कर डाली,
करोड़ों दिलों में बस आई feeling भारत वाली ।
चाँद पर थे तो अमेरिका, चीन, रूस के भी झंडे,
पर जब हमने तिरंगा वहाँ डाला,
तो पूरी दुनिया को बता डाला ।

ये भारत का समय है ये भारत की घड़ी है,
चाँद को तो जीत लिया अब मंगल और सूर्य पर आन पड़ी है ।
दुनिया को यह बात पक्की लगने लगी है,
दशमलव न देता भारत तो,
मुश्किल था चाँद पर जाना,

मुश्किल था अपना परचम अपना तिरंगा वहाँ लहराना ।
पर यह नया भारत है इसकी बात निराली है,
मामा के घर पहुँच गए ये बात सिर्फ
भारत वाली है ।

The Gleaming Moon Above the Red Roses



In the dark forest primeval,
flowed a river mystical.
Holding all the sorcery.
Whether it be pure, or wicked.
Was truly the red rose among the thorns.

She was different from all other magicians,
as if her blood ran purer than the rest,
like a nightingale entered crow's nest,
was truly the red rose among the thorns.
Lightening emerged from her legendary sword,
as gods and demons knelt in front of the not-so-coward.
With a strike of light,

the gloomy grove turned into an enchanted forest,
very pristine, but with magic that cannot be granted.
And converted the remarkable brook into a moat,
spreading all the magic in the universe,
sacrifice is a part of life and is something to aspire to,
was truly the thorn among the red roses.

With a thud, I opened my tired eyes.
A new girl within me smiled,
With the aim to become,
the gleaming moon above the red roses,
shimmering in the twilight.

-Nilakshi (VIII-A)

Navigating Through Troubled Waters

Stories of Resilience Amidst Floods

● On the 10th of July 2023, I woke up to a distressing situation: the accumulation of water all around our house due to heavy rains. As I checked my phone, I noticed numerous notifications. To my dismay, I learned that the neighbouring society, 'Gulmohar City Extension,' where many of my friends lived, was flooded. The water had risen to the first floor, and cars were floating in the water. Some boats had been sent to the society to rescue the people trapped there.

Fortunately, our house hadn't suffered much damage, but a considerable amount of water had entered my home too. When we considered opening the drain, we discovered that it was already filled. So, my brother, mother, and I grabbed wipers and started removing the water. Meanwhile, my father and uncle filled sacks with soil to create a barrier and protect our home from the rising water.

I also assisted my neighbours by donating water bottles and refreshments. While I had always enjoyed pleasant rains in the past, this rain was the complete opposite. Instead of the usual joy, everyone was tensed and praying for the rain to stop. -Parth (IV-B)

● I live in Gulmohar City Extension. On 10th July at 6 o'clock in the morning, our neighbour alerted us about the flood caused by the breached boundary wall. I witnessed a massive flood, with water levels reaching up to 13 feet. The situation was really very scary, for about two days we faced challenges that included a shortage of food, an absence of clean drinking water, and no electricity. It was with the help of our neighbours that we survived those two difficult days. -Akshat (IX-B)



Aftermath of the Tempest

After every storm, the sun does repair
Amidst the grey shroud of heavy clouds,
Nature wept with sorrow, the rain pouring down,
A deluge unleashed, relentless and fierce,
Bringing forth devastation, despair, and tears.

Once gentle streams turned into raging rivers,
Overflowing their banks, swallowing all that withers,
Homes and hopes, washed away in a blink,
As the heavens wept, in torrents, they did sink.

The land, once lush, now a desolate sight,
As fields and forests drowned, lost in the night,
Mighty trees toppled, their roots upturned,
As the tempest roared, their fate confirmed.

The echoes of anguish, the cries of pain,
Resound in the hearts of those left in disdain,
Families displaced, their lives upended,

By the merciless rain that seemed never to be mended.

Communities unite, a resilient hand they extend,
Helping one another, the broken hearts they mend,
In the face of adversity, they find strength anew,
Rebuilding what was lost, their spirits ever true.

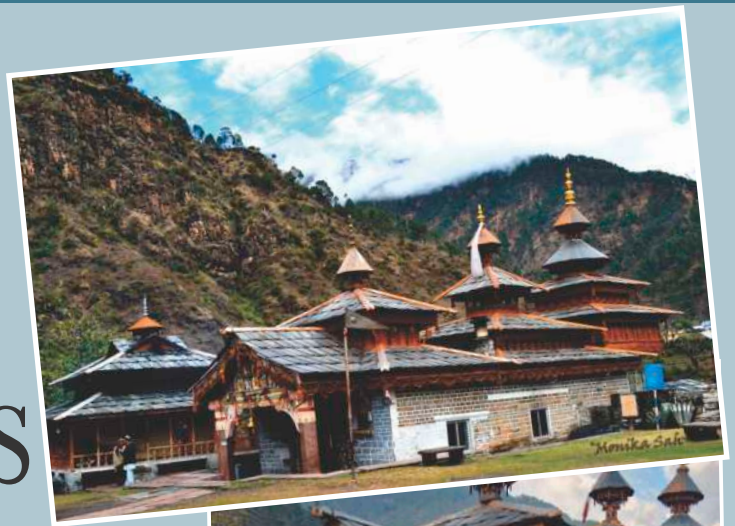
For from the darkest clouds, a silver lining gleams,
A reminder of hope, of possibilities, and dreams,
Though the rain brings sorrow, it also cleanses the land,
Nurturing new life, holding promise in its hand.

Let us remember, in the wake of despair,
That after every storm, the sun does repair,
And together we'll rise, stronger than before,
United by compassion, forevermore.

-Devanshi (IX-B)

Travelogue

A Trip to the LAND OF GODS

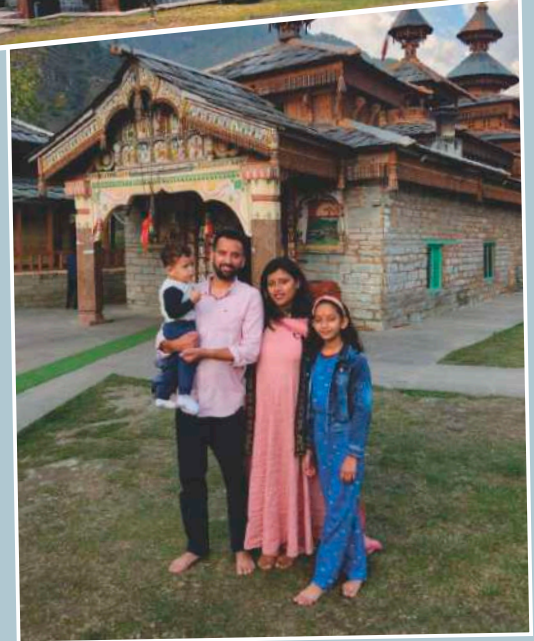


During my vacation this year, my parents planned a trip to our maternal side, Devta's Shrine. We started our journey at 6:00 am in the morning and visited three different places in Uttarakhand on the same day. The main shrine of Mahasu Devta is in Hanol, but the visit is considered complete only when all three of his shrines, Lakhwad, Thena, and Hanol, are visited. So, we visited all three temples on the same day.

All the temples are beautifully made and have intricate woodwork. They are located in the remote interior parts of Uttarakhand, which are almost untouched by city life. The roads are very narrow, but the natural beauty around is mesmerizing.

Hanol temple is an ancient architecture, dating back to the time of the Pandavas. On the temple ground, there are two stones famously called Bheem's Kanche. They may seem small, but there is a saying that only a person with a pure heart and unwavering faith in God can pick these stones from the ground. The location of the temple is incredibly beautiful and peaceful. It was a tiring journey, but we thoroughly enjoyed the beauty of Devbhoomi.

- Nysha Arora (IV-A)



CAFE REVIEW

Sip, Savour & Smile @Johnson Cafe



During our summer vacation, my family and I embarked on a delightful trip to Himachal and there I visited a cafe named Johnson Cafe, nestled amidst the breathtaking mountains of Himachal Pradesh. This quaint cafe in Manali opened its doors in 1998 and has remained a beloved destination for over two decades. As a nine-year-old, I was filled with excitement to explore this new and enchanting place. The warm and inviting ambiance and its rustic decor created an atmosphere that instantly made us feel at home. We indulged in delectable local cuisine and savored hot chocolate while basking in the refreshing mountain breeze. The traditional Himachali music playing softly in the background and the charming garden adorned with plum and pear trees added to the overall charm of the place. **Amaya (IV-B)**

Mastering New Skills



Learning वैदिक गणित

I dedicated my vocations to learning Vedic mathematics, which significantly improved my calculation speed. I acquired skills in addition and subtraction techniques using the friend method, multiplication using the IXI method, and division through Nikhilam and Dhawjanka techniques.

This ancient system is rooted in the Atharvaveda and comprises 16 main sutras and subsutras. Additionally, I also attended a robotics class and proudly earned the title of Best Student. - **Ryaan (IV-A)**



TALK TO ME IN KOREAN

This summer, the idea of learning a new language crossed my mind. I had noticed over the past few months that people were quite enthralled by Korean culture, so I decided to embark on the journey of learning the Korean language. Initially, I started by grasping the fundamentals of the Korean language, such as the alphabet [ㄱ ㅋ ㄴ ㄷ ㄹ ㅁ ㅂ ㅅ ㅇ ㅈ ㅊ ㅌ ㅍ ㅎ], numbers Hana, Dul, Set, Net, Dasot Yosot, Ilgop, Yodel, Ahop, Yol followed by learning basic words for example- HELLO- ANYEONG, NO- ANIYO, YES- NE. Overall, delving into the Korean language and culture during my vacation was an enriching and rewarding experience for me. - **Diva (VI-B)**

Dear son,
One day you might
become a doctor, a teacher,
a lawyer, an engineer
or any officer.

I know you are capable,
I know you have the potential.
I know you can do it,
I know you will reach the zenith.

You are a confident child
making us proud every day.
You will get what you want
as you toil for it night and day.

But here I want to say-
No matter what you score,
'coz marks are just a number,
I will always love you more and more.

Don't take the pressure too seriously.
Yes, be passionate about your goal
and put your best foot forward to nail it,
but don't let it swallow your soul.

You will be in different roles,
in the days to come.
You will meet many expectations
and you might fail some.

All this is perfectly alright
and perfection is not a big deal.
Always be yourself,
'coz real life is different from reel.

Be respectful towards the women.
One brought you on this earth,
many nurtured you with love and care,
and many will help you realise your worth.

Cry if you need to,
don't hold those tears back.
Who said, 'Boys don't cry'?
In no one, these emotions lack.

I am always with you,
No matter if you lose or succeed.
But I will win as a mother,
if you become a good human being.

Diary of a Mother



Anjali Singla
Mother of
Arya Singla (VII-B)

Drowning in Sorrow

Havoc, havoc, widespread everywhere,
my beautiful land filled with water, sand, and wood logs here and there.
My heaven was full of beauty and the sound of pious mantras enchanting,
Now people's screams and sorrows can be heard with the monsoon ending.
Pleasant weather and earthy scent were the people's attraction,
What a curse my land got, or it's a result of man's corruption.
A pool of rain and cloudburst poured out my land's foundation,
Trees and hills were not able to save my earth's erosion.
Sleepless nights with lightning and thundering, people scared,
Homes vanished, family missing and not even a single belonging was spared.
Nightmares turned into truth for many, some spent their days praying,
God save my heaven, save my people, save their earnings.
Everything disappeared like a fairytale for some,
some lost their roof, and some their loved ones always praying for rain not to come.
Monsoon left a big shock, can't be soon raised.
God knows wonders, bless my people who are still in the scary nature's cage.

Dr. Heena Sheikh Khan
(Mother of Aaliya Khan, VII-A and Inaya Khan, KG-A)

यूँ तो माँ तेरी ममता का एहसास पहले भी,
होता था मुझको।
पर जब से खुद माँ बनी हूँ,
हर पल एहसासों को जीने लगी हूँ मैं।

देखने की कोशिश करती हूँ मैं जब भी,
बचपन की आँखों से माँ तेरा रूप।
वो धुंधली सी यादें लगती है मुझको,
सर्दी के मौसम में खिली हुई सी धूप।

माँ अब मैं महसूस कर सकती हूँ कि,
कैसा होगा वो लम्हा
जब मैं रोई और तू मुस्काई होगी,
अपने ही अक्स को गोद में ले
तू कितनी हर्षाई होगी।

मेरी हर सिसकी पर लोरी की थाप तू,
बन जाती होगी।
और मेरे हस देने पर जीवन के सारे,
दुख-सुख भूल जाती होगी।
कैसे मुझे सूखे बिस्तर पर सुला,
तू गीले में ही सो जाती होगी।
और मेरे भविष्य के सपने बुनने में ही,
तेरी हर सुबह हो जाती होगी।

Priya Dhiman
Mother of Aaradhya (Kg-C)

माँ



कर्ण की व्यथा

**Pooja Saroch Mother of
Paavni Bakshi (III-B)**

क्या कहें उसे वीर को, जिसका जीवन ही संघर्ष था,
सूर्य अंश होते हुए भी ,वह अधिरथ का वंश था
जन्म से माता ने त्याग ,जिसका कुंती नाम था,
दुर्वासा से वरदान पाया, जन्म जिसका अंजाम था,
सूर्य के आवाहन से , वायुसेना नाम पड़ा ,
जन्म से सूत्र पुत्र कहलाया, हृदय पीड़ा से भरा
जन्म से प्राप्त पीड़ा को, जिसने था हर पल सहा,
शक्तिशाली वह योद्धा था, जो हर पल पीड़ा में रहा
क्या कहें उसे वीर को, जिसका जीवन ही संघर्ष था,

सूर्य अंश होते हुए भी ,वह अधिरथ का वंश था।
एकमात्र मित्र जिसका दुर्योधन नाम था,
सदा मित्र सहयोग करना उसका प्रिय कर्म था।
जिसने था कर्ण को अंगराज नाम दिया,
उसने मात्र न नाम दिया, अपितु राज्य भी दे दिया।
मित्र प्रेम कारण ही, कर्ण प्रतिज्ञा से भरा,
अन्याय को जानकर भी, मित्र साथ कभी ना तजा।
क्या कहें उसे वीर को, जिसका जीवन ही संघर्ष था।
सूर्य अंश होते हुए भी ,वह अधिरथ का वंश था।

Travel Tales by Parents

Discovering Raipur Maidan (Nangal)



This year in summer vacations we planned a short trip to Raipur Maidan near Nangal. Initially, my daughter and I were skeptical about how this trip would turn out because it was not a famous tourist place. However, when we started driving along the roads by the side of Gobind Sagar Lake, we were mesmerized by the beauty of this place. Our hotel had a beautiful lawn with swings and a swimming pool. There were jackfruit trees, mango trees, and ducks roaming around. We also visited the famous Shiv Temple and took a ride on a speed boat in Gobind Sagar Lake. We enjoyed this trip a lot, and my father promised to bring us back to this place during the next holidays.

Gurpreet Saini (Mother of Guneet Kaur, III-A)

From Deserts to Palaces: Rajasthan Revealed



A modest family getaway to Rajasthan was taken to rejuvenate ourselves from our daily routines. It was an exceptionally memorable and treasured experience. Every time those moments come to mind, a broad smile graces my face.

Rajasthan is famous for its historical forts, palaces, art, and culture. Jaisalmer, known as the 'Golden City,' is located close to the Pakistan border and is a prominent mark of the Sonar Qila. We had a great time exploring the city. The second day, sunrise brought us to the desert safari, an adventure like no other.

Rajasthan's renown extends beyond its forts to encompass its deep religious heritage, particularly its Jain temples. These temples are celebrated for their exquisite and artistic marble carvings. During our visit, we explored sites such as Ranakpur, Nakodaji Tirth, and the Baba Ramdev Temple. Another highlight, and my personal favourite, was the Rajasthani Marwadi food. It was super awesome, with different kinds of dishes like Gulabjamun Sabji, Gatte ki Sabji, Daal Pakwan, and many more. Rajasthani people are so kind and loveable towards tourists. I have been to many places, but Rajasthan stands out as one great trip for my family, where we had a fantastic time. **Anu Jain (Mother of Khushbu Jain, Kg-C)**

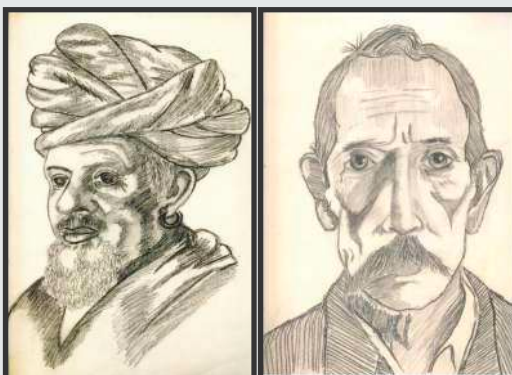
Masterpieces from Parents & Teachers



Harman Kaur
(Mother of Seerat-Nur B)



Shalini Bhayana (Mother of Samarth, VI-B)



Palak Seth (Pre Primary Educator)

Verses of our Educator

Dear Mother
You are my
heart to
me

You are my heartbeat
So you are too close to me
As you are my heart to me
As far as you are to me
That much nearer you are to me
As you are my heart to me
how much you loved me in my childhood
More than that, I love you today
As you are my heart to me
How much u cared me
The value I realize now
Coz you are my heart to me
You're everything to me
As I feel the warmth between you and me
You are my heart to me.

-Alka Bhatnagar (Educator)