

Principal's Note

"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new" - Socrates

We all know for sure that adjusting to change can be challenging. However, be it planned or unplanned, gradual or sudden, change is inevitable, and very much a part of being human. Over the past few months, we have experienced an unprecedented shift in our way of life due to the pandemic.

However, it is the response to the events and not the events, that matter. Something or the other happens every day, sometimes to our liking and sometimes not. Not everything can reconcile, it is enough to struggle with some. The one who sails at sea cannot determine or change the course of the wind. It is the attitude towards opposition rather than opposition. Nothing that happened can be rewritten.

You can correct your attitude towards what happened. Those who make their opponents victorious are those who run in fear rather than those who are exhausted. Nature and God will have respect for the one who is ready to start all over again from where s/he left off. No matter what breaks down, no matter how many times it breaks down, there is something that will never break, the WILL to recover, and the desire to correct.

Let us rise and clasp the change and bear in our mind the words of Robin Sharma -

"Change is hard at first, messy in the middle and gorgeous at the end."



Ashish Agarwal

Be willing to be a beginner every single morning.

- Meister Eckhart

School Captain's Note

Greetings, fellow students! As the newly elected School Captain for the Academic Year 2020-21, it is my privilege to reach out to you through our school's quarterly newsletter.

As we are all aware, the present time is tough; it is mercurial but it is helping us to look within ourselves and find our untapped potential. We, as Billabongers are always up for challenges that help us move forward and teach us new lessons. Trying to continue a regular school year during this pandemic has turned out to be the biggest obstacle the school has ever faced. To transform it into something creative and remarkable, that motivates and inspires others is what each one of us should aspire for.



Image credit: creativitypost.com

We have all heard the age old adage, 'An idle mind is the devil's workshop' and so I, as a leader, with the help of my talented Council Members plan to bring you many fun-filled, interesting events and competitions to eliminate the monotony of 'lockdown life' and keep you engaged and energised. Undoubtedly, this year is filled with unprecedented hurdles but together, with the help of you all and our honourable Principal, Mr. Ashish Agarwal, we will overcome each one of them and make this time a memorable experience.

Friends, I want you to remember that sharing of knowledge is as important as receiving it because without sharing, knowledge ceases to have any value. We must challenge ourselves continuously and try new things in the process; find new ways to do the same task; attempt to solve problems and answer questions. All in all, make life

exciting. Turn these moments into memories that you would want to reminisce in the years to come.

Most of us don't enjoy the online classes and miss the days when we could sit and chat in our own classroom and wander in the school corridors but we need to realise that the school is making every effort to ensure that learning does not suffer and that time is utilised in laying the foundation of our future. The teachers are working very hard to explain concepts and make the online classes interactive and interesting. Our SPA instructors are making sure that we don't lose touch with our favourite activity, boosting our morale and the much needed activity levels. Let's thank all our teachers and instructors for their committed efforts and unflinching contributions.

Often it is the small, seemingly pointless experiences that leave the most lasting and impactful memories. What kind of experiences will you create for yourself during these times? What kind of memories will you make? When things don't go quite as planned, how you handle the disappointments and challenges will determine the experiences and lessons you walk away with.

As Edward Enniful rightly said, "By people getting together, and celebrating this idea of togetherness, great things can happen."

I have full faith that our Billabong High Family will overcome these unprecedented times together as I look forward to leading and helping the student body through them. Together, we can and we will make a difference!

- Shah Hussain (11C)
School Captain

Editor's Note

When the darkest of days come around, and the world halts on its tracks, we turn towards artists. For what is art but hope reflected on a canvas, carved into marble, scribbled across paper? While the nobility of other pursuits is undeniable, it is art that helps us live a little, instead of just survive. While the other disciplines sustain the body, it is art that nourishes the soul. Be it an old photograph or a well-worn book, or a catchy song, art ties us with a familiar hum that resonates within all our souls.

One of Billabong High International School's core principles is the freedom of expression and the Billabong Bulletin strives to reflect that. Through the pieces submitted by an array of writers, artists, and photographers, we promote diversity, creativity, and innovative thinking.

"Every portrait that is painted with feeling is a portrait of the

artist, not of the sitter." - Oscar Wilde. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank every artist, editor and otherwise, who has contributed to this project. I hope you too, can see your portraits all across this newsletter.

Every piece in here has been handpicked, combed through, and carefully placed right where it belongs. This newsletter was compiled with frantic text messages, numerous emails, countless virtual meetings, and much love. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed putting it together for you!

- Hia Sadho (11B)
Editor in Chief

Student Editorial Board



Hia Sadho



Arayna Saxena



Kaashvi Mehta



Paloma Jain



With the rapid adoption of collaborative solutions to keep students connected with the school during this pandemic, the school planned virtual events for students to keep their spirits high by enabling reliable and consistent virtual meeting experiences through a blend of formal and casual events. The first ever Virtual Investiture Ceremony and Inter-House Competitions not only promoted productivity, but also turned out to be quite enjoyable. These events helped break the quarantine monotony and boosted the morale of the students enlivening the house spirit. Here are the most talked about virtual events conducted so far-

Investiture Ceremony 2020-21

Amid the restrictions imposed by the worldwide pandemic, Billabong High International School yet again proved to stand out as it marked the significant beginning of the new academic year, holding online elections to elect the new Student Council.

The anomalous online elections allowed the spirited and ardent students of Grades 9 and 11 to nominate themselves for their dream post and participate in a rare and well laid-out electoral process. It gave them an opportunity to get themselves enlisted as a candidate for the Student Council 2020-21 elections which proves right that "Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality" and bequeaths on students the responsibility of being the visionaries and torchbearers of tomorrow. Following this felicitous event, students elected the most deserving and exemplary leaders to become the voice of the student body through online voting.

We conducted the first-ever, virtual Investiture Ceremony where the newly elected members of the School Council were officially vested with their powers and positions and entrusted with their responsibilities. Speaking on the auspicious occasion, respected Principal, Mr. Ashish Agarwal highlighted the implications of being a leader and its multi-tasking

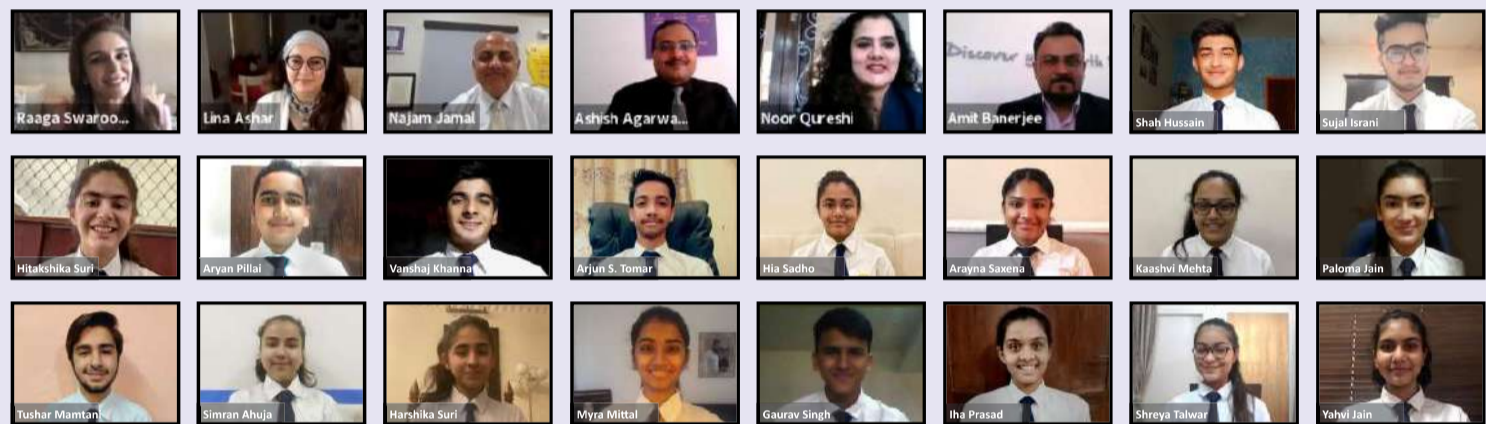
abilities in order to direct individual accomplishments towards organisational objectives and shoulder responsibilities, values, and morals. The esteemed keynote speaker—Ms. Raageshwari Loomba, an actor, singer and Mindfulness Author of 'Building a Happy Family' and our very own special guest; Ms. Lina Ashar, the founder of Kangaroo Kids

The students were left highly invigorated by Ms. Raageshwari's speech, which reiterated on the value of time, to craft a vision, work as a team and walk together to champion execution by celebrating the genius within while appreciating the goodness in others.

Ms. Lina Ashar guided the young student leaders to act with

and excellence. The school captain-Shah Hussain promised his fellow council members a wonderful year ahead and to serve the school whole-heartedly and with complete accountability. It was indeed a moment of exaltation and pride for all.

A one of a kind virtual photo was clicked which will adorn the walls



Education Limited and an education rights activist, graced the solemn ceremony with their beaming presence.

Respected Chairman, Mr. Najam Jamal addressed the ceremony by congratulating the newly elected members of the Students Council 2020-21. He encouraged the students to unlock their full potential and build a synergized atmosphere to perform their duties with commitment ensuring probity in all decisions.

optimism and passion amidst such unprecedented times while emphasising on the values of compassion and integrity that is expected from the council, in order to carry out their duties with moral rigour and creative consciousness. Her personalised address kindled the spirits of the student council members as the leadership team embarked on this journey.

The students took an oath to uphold the principles of the school and discharge their duties with a strong sense of commitment, dedication,

of Billabong High for many years to come. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks extended by the hosts for the event, Ms. Noor Qureshi (Literary Coordinator) and Mr. Amit Banerjee (High School Faculty, English Department). With the Student Council of 2020-21 all geared up to take up new challenges and contribute to the school spirit, we wish them all the best in their endeavours and hope to see the school reaching greater heights in the times to come.

Inter-House Plank Competition

The Inter-House Plank Competition marked the beginning of the academic year as the first Inter-House Competition to be held in the new academic session, which was also conducted virtually. The outbreak of COVID-19 has disrupted many aspects of our everyday life, bringing an unusual change and exercise routines are no exception. To help Billabongers cope with these times of apathy, anxiety and isolation, this competition was held to ensure the mental wellness and the physical well-being of students.

Students were judged on the duration and perfect posture of the plank as they participated by submitting their videos following the necessary instructions. Here's what Vanshaj Khanna, the Sports Captain, as well as the winner of the High School boys' category of the competition, has to say about

his experience while 'Planking it up'-
 "Plank is an isometric core strength exercise that puts the shoulders, back muscles and the abs to work. The IH plank competition was a unique idea and the need of the hour with everyone losing touch with fitness in these forlorn times. As for me, it was an overwhelming event, and I enjoyed pushing my limits. I had set a target of 8 minutes and was in no mood to give up before that. After I crossed 6 minutes, my body was not in a state to continue, but I kept my will power strong and my target in mind. Having achieved the 8 minutes mark, I was quite content with my performance but was still nervous about the results. The day the results were out, all my nervousness transformed into excitement and joy. I believed I could not get any happier, but the

medal and certificate that came in the mail was the icing on the cake. Among the various competitions I have participated in, this is one of the most memorable one."

The winner in the High School girl's category- Jasmine Chawla says, "It was an innovative and captivating idea and I was thrilled to take part in this unique competition. Honestly, I didn't know if I had the will power and patience required to keep the position for the time I did. When I was done recording my video, I was

in for a pleasant surprise to see my time and felt incredibly proud and overjoyed. The day we got the results, it was a surreal moment for me filled with happiness and bliss. On receiving the medal and certificate, I felt euphoric and was on cloud nine. It was another invaluable experience to receive the awards through mail."

Warmest congratulations to all the winners on their brilliant performance and well-deserved success.



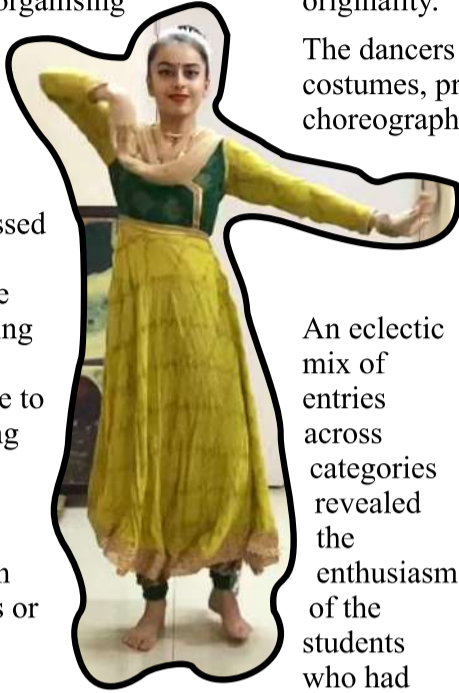
Inter-House Dance Competition

Once again, Team Billabong was successful in adding a spark of excitement amongst the students and sending the House-spirit soaring high by organising the first-ever Virtual Inter-house Solo Dance Competition.

The event witnessed a thunderous response with the participants putting their creativity during quarantine to good use, creating videos on the themes - Depiction of emotions through dance, Opposites or Dance on instrumental western, classical or fusion beats. The students had to

record a three minute video of their performance from the comfort of their homes focusing on creativity, style, artistry, proficiency and originality.

The dancers were judged on costumes, props and makeup, choreography, execution and overall performance.



An eclectic mix of entries across categories revealed the enthusiasm of the students who had used limited resources



ingeniously to express themselves through dance and music.

Heartiest congratulations to all winners! We are so pleased to see you channelising your energy to creative use.



- Arayna Saxena (9B)

Life Skills



“Teaching kids to count is fine, but teaching them what counts is best.”

- Bob Talbert

It is only through the conscientious efforts of our teachers that the holistic growth of the students has continued unobstructed amid this pandemic with online classes being conducted for the same through the Microsoft Teams App.



taught how to become self-dependent by folding their clothes, keeping their cupboards and travelling bags organised and sewing different kinds of buttons on clothing. As June came to an end,

The school has introduced an innovative Life Skills module at the Primary and Middle school level with the thought of enhancing the psychosocial competency of students by making them adaptive, independent, and confident learners. The idea of these lessons was mapped by the Curriculum Director, Ms. Samina Jamal, who envisioned that Billabongers should develop and master such skills that stretch the social, emotional, and cognitive capabilities in an engaging manner.



The plans were prepared in-house and were followed across the primary and middle school grades. In June, life skill classes were conducted once a week. The first being on Environment Day,

students were taught how to plant and nurture saplings. They were made aware of practising the 3 R's (Reduce-Reuse-Recycle). In order to shun the use of plastic bags and practice the art of recycling, students learnt to make paper bags with old newspapers and discarded strings. The theme for this year was 'Time for Nature' and the students enjoyed flaunting their lawns and gardens.

During the second and third week, students were

children from both primary and middle school were taught table etiquette and how to lay a perfect table.

In July, the focus of the life skill sessions shifted to 'Universal brotherhood' and the need to nurture harmony and peace in our immediate society. The feeling of fraternity can come only when there is respect, empathy and kindness. The interactive classes encouraged students to voice their opinions and share personal experiences.

A seminar was conducted for the girls of Grade 5 and 6 stressing upon the importance of Menstrual Hygiene, with advice on the biological and psychological aspects of Menstruation. The students of Grades 4, 5 and 6 were familiarised with the emotional and physical changes during adolescence and how to cope with them during a special session conducted on Puberty. In one of the sessions conducted, students of Grades 7 and 8 participated in a discussion about Gender Equality. They were explained about the roles of Gender and the Gender



stereotypes set in at an early age, pauperising the sentiment of 'Boys will be Boys' and 'Girls will be Girls'.



We applaud all the educators who are putting in so much effort to ensure that our overall growth is not hindered during such aberrant circumstances!

- Paloma Jain (9B)



Who is the real parasite in the award winning movie Parasite?

Warning: Spoilers ahead!

Bong Joon-Ho displayed a brutal satire of wealth disparity in his Oscar-winning 2019 film, Parasite, which conveys its message without much fabrication.

It invokes a question, ‘In the dynamics of the poor and the rich, who or what really is the parasite?’ Is it the rich Park family, profiting off of those less fortunate, is it the Kims who are taking advantage of the trust the Parks place in them, or is it Moon Gwang who is forced to hide her husband Geun-sae, in the Parks’ basement?

Well, to be honest, it is none of them! The real parasite in the movie is poverty, technically that is.

What we observe in the movie is all the supposed parasites either exploit their lack of poverty or are forced to exploit others due to their poverty. It was not the lack of motivation towards hard work that led to them leeching onto the Park family, but the unjust capitalist system that kept them poor. The father had multiple failed businesses, which are hinted to while the Kim family eats in the driver cafeteria, the mother - a failed hammer throwing sportswoman, the son - having failed the university exam four times; all these minor details tell us that the Kim

family has tried to gain higher financial standing all their lives, but cannot due to the system holding them down.

This instability is exploited, unknowingly, by the Park family. They profit off the cheap labour provided by the lower class that is stuck in a rut, which brings us to the third and the most obvious ‘parasite’.

Geun-Sae, feeding off the Parks’ food, living in their home, without his presence being even known to the host; but again, not by choice. He does not wish to live in a basement the rest of

POVERTY

his life, but he accepts that fate due to poverty. Poverty, which led him to fall into irrevocable debt, is the reason behind all his actions.

Director Bong Joon-Ho stated that the film had no ‘bad guys’, just people with sympathetic and villainous qualities. What’s common between these people is poverty, they either exploit it or are driven by it.

- Abdallah Arab (11A)

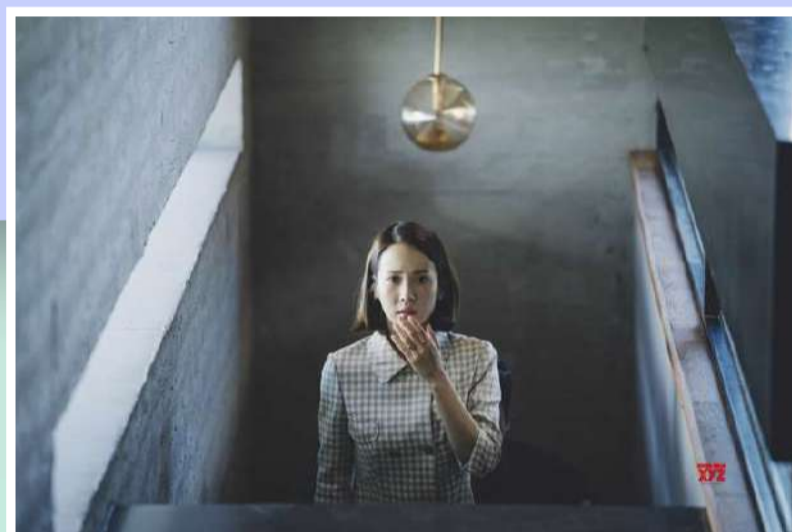


Image credit: imdb.com

“We are the same, we are needy, we have no house, no money, only debts,” Moon-Gwang says, her voice revealing her pain. Chung-Sook deflects the mere idea of them being similar, especially after their newfound job. Yet as the thought sinks in, she knew.

In this piece, I will be exploring the stance that the parasites in the Academy Award-winning movie Parasite, are the Kim family and the Ohs.

A parasite is defined as ‘an organism living in or on another organism by deriving benefits at the other organism’s cost’.

As a refresher, the story begins with the introduction of the Kim family, whose eldest son (Ki-woo aka Kevin)

is offered a job at the wealthy Park family as an English tutor (even though he is not a college student, and barely knows proper English) by his rich friend Min. This marks the family’s entry into the Park household, and they tediously start taking over other jobs of the household: the art teacher of the youngest son, the chauffeur and soon enough the job of the previously mentioned Moon-gwang, the housekeeper, who has lived in the house longer than the Parks themselves.

Parasites usually want their host to do as well as it possibly can under the circumstances because that is often the best-case scenario for the parasite. Which is why the Kims jump through hoops to take over the Parks’ household staff and do their jobs

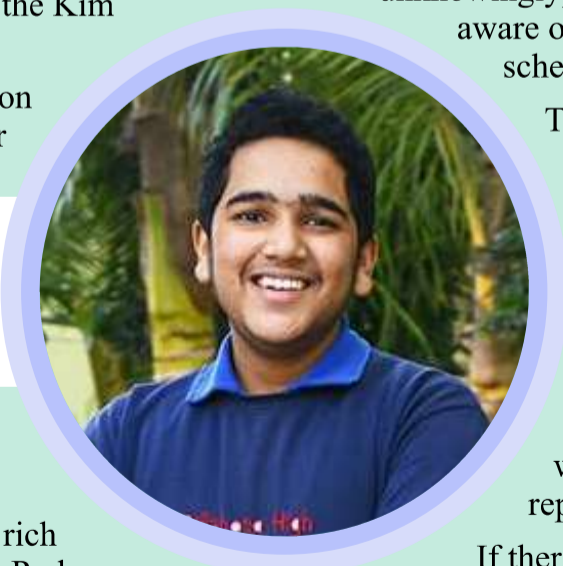
well. Both the Kims and the Ohs seek more from the Parks and their house than the Parks realize; the Kims are employed under false pretences, Moon-gwang gets a place to hide Geun-sae from loan sharks — which is inherently (and also symbolically) parasitic behaviour. Although it is well within the Parks’ capacity to comfortably (albeit unknowingly) support. That is until the Kims and Ohs become aware of each other’s fundamentally incompatible scheming.

This point becomes apparent in the movie when Moon Gwang reveals the secret bunker where her husband resides and who used to survive with the help of his wife who brought him food unbeknownst to the Parks. Also, an instance where the Kims explicitly state their intention of taking over the house is when they are all drinking in the living room of the Parks, when Ki-Woo states, “I plan on asking Da-Hye out when she reaches University.” To which his father replies, “So then this house will also be ours.”

If there is any slight notion of class solidarity between the Ohs and the Kims, it disappears the moment each realizes the threat of exposure (therefore, expulsion) posed by the other, and polite professionalism turns violent with fatal consequences in the blink of an eye. The brutality of their clash feels not just within reason but inevitable when considering it as two parasites struggling over control of a prime host. There are no comrades in Darwinian survival struggles, only competitors.

- Aryan Pillai (11A)

KIM FAMILY & OHS





'Full House': Full Hearts

"Everywhere you go, everywhere you look there's a heart, a hand to hold on to."

These lines basically sum up the essence of the American sitcom 'Full House'.

The storyline of 'Full House' revolves around a sports broadcaster turned morning talk show host Danny Tanner and his three little girls, D.J. (Donna Jo), Stephanie and Michelle Tanner. Before the show begins, Danny Tanner's wife is killed so he needs help raising his three little girls. Knowing nothing about raising kids, he asks his rock musician, 'Elvis' obsessed brother-in-law, Jesse Katsopolis, and his comedian best friend, Joey Gladstone, to move in with them and this is how the saga of the Tanner family begins.

What I love the most about 'Full

House' is how the writers have created characters of different age groups and



mindsets which makes them lifelike and relatable. Personally, whenever I find myself in a difficult situation, Full House always comes to my rescue and assures me that I am not the only one facing these problems.

All the actors of this ensemble have done a commendable job and have done full justice to their roles. For me I found John Stamos playing the role of Danny's brother-in-law and the girls' beloved uncle Jesse, the most remarkable and applaudable. The transition of his character Jesse from a rock and roll, 'Elvis' obsessed and grouchy youngster to the caring, mature, nurturing and



Image credit: MsJojo.com

successful father and uncle is portrayed effortlessly by him. He has such a charismatic personality that it is hard not to like him.

At the end of every 30 minute episode, there is a moral oh-so-subtle but yet having a profound effect. The show doesn't shy away from matters like body shaming, sexism, separation anxiety etcetera and always teaches you to embrace your flaws. It also teaches us that a full house is always better than an empty one, making it a must-watch for not only children but people of all ages.

I would highly recommend this show and rate it a solid 4.5 out of 5.

- Harshika Suri (11A)

Bohemian Rhapsody

Authenticity. Struggle. Fame. Passion. All these words are synonymous with the movie – Bohemian Rhapsody. Perfected and rounded by Rami Malek's Oscar – winning performance of the legend, Freddie Mercury, this movie earned a total of 13 awards, all on acclaimed and renowned platforms. The sheer raw and moving structure of the movie that begins with elements of racism, passion for music and refusal of boundaries makes it one of the most admirable and loved movies worldwide. Bohemian Rhapsody leads us through the pitfall filled life of Freddie Mercury, his Persian-Indian descent, his natural flair for singing and in totality being a legendary performer. Flooded with the songs of Queen used in almost every scene, it's an otherworldly experience for a Queen fan and first-time watchers alike. It keeps you hooked to the very end and the ending in itself with the Live Aid concert is in the simplest of terms, perfect. Plus the almost meteoric rise of the band is a treat to watch, how Queen never stopped being something "that makes people feel belongs to them", how compelled the audience remained in every performance and the most important – how Queen gave way to experimental music by not sticking to the standard rock but involving dynamism and breaking barriers.

- Agrima Chopra (12B)

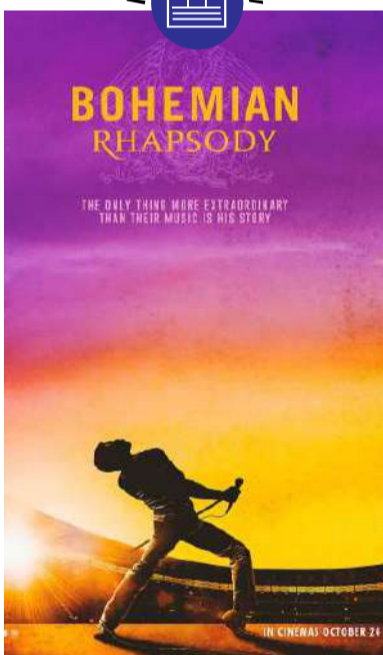


Image credit: imdb.com

The Golden Eagle

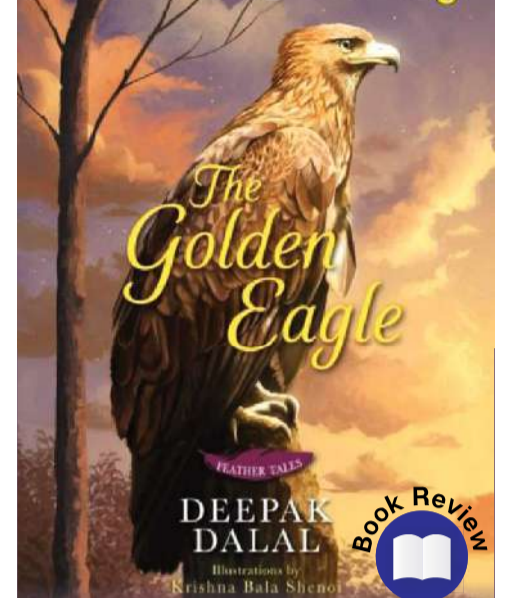


Image credit: Book Cover

The feathery tale of 'The Golden Eagle' revolves around Stork-pur. It encompasses the multidimensional bond of love, compassion, friendship and hunger for freedom. The title of the book talks about an eagle 'Regal' whose kindness helped to secure the freedom of thousands of birds.

Then, the story moves forward with 'Kabul', who despite being a small bird, goes the extra mile to rescue the birds that were kept in cruelty by the horrendous master bird. The captured birds were huddled like prisoners in the darkness of the caves. It further defines that no matter how big or small, we are all equal and have the power to bring about change.

My favourite part of the book is when birds were freed after so many years and they again flew high to touch the horizon. In my opinion, it is a must-read for young readers as it conjures up a picture of free world and in parallel, makes a comparison about the bitterness of slavery and sweetness of freedom.

- Mohammad Danish Khan (5B)

The Last of Us Part II

The Last of Us Part II is a story of misery; it is a story that takes the cliched revenge plot and makes it one that transcends its medium.

The game borrows from the tales of revenge to form a story about the cycles of violence; it demands that you be conflicted, feel miserable, feel the repercussions of your actions. The tale is one about revenge, and while it hangs to the usual tropes of other video games, it is about loss, not just of life, but of community and individual capabilities. But it is also about love and finding one's humanity.

The Last of Us Part II is an astonishing achievement; it is demonstrative proof of how video games rise above other forms of storytelling, involving you into the drama by marrying the narrative with gameplay refined to perfection. You are provided with the wide set of 'tools' to cause harm to others in this zombie-infested world, and the obsessive attention to detail with how they interact with the ones facing them which makes this game the most brutal and gruesome one till date.

While good graphics and a quality soundtrack are essential to a game, they are never the centre of attention. Regardless, Naughty Dog went further and beyond what was necessary. The visual fidelity is the best we have seen this past decade and is possibly the best we will see until the next

Naughty Dog game, insane considering that the PlayStation 4 came out in 2013. The animations in every moment are at the peak of what games can provide right now- the movement, the expressions, all better than others in the industry.

Naughty Dog brought back Gustavo Santaolalla for the soundtrack, a master of his craft who once again created something that is heartfelt and harrowing at the same time.

The gameplay, graphics and soundtrack all complement the story that Neil Druckmann tells. It will leave you hollow and dismal, and you will love it all the more for it.

- Abdullah Arab (11A)



Image credit: playstation.com



This year, a new twist has been added to the poetry section as we encouraged students to attempt a style of poetry that they have never tried before. Here are some exceptional results from our budding poets!

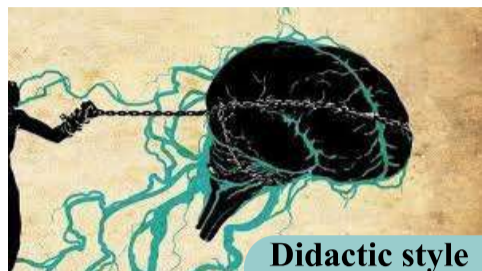
Good Scars

Fear of society's opinions
has never faded away from my
country,
Like stains of oil paint
on an artist's clothes.

Though I think myself to be
fearless,
I am brainwashed to believe,
My existence is for the world,
Not for myself.

I used to imprison my thoughts,
As though they were criminals.
Judgment took away my voice,
Even before I knew I had one.

But it is the way I have been living
all my life,



Didactic style

Image credit: themitpost.com

Being influenced by weak but
strong puppets.

It gave me defined negativity,
making me careful,
Like a thief covering up,
But marked by a tattoo,
Eternal Caution.

Culture never fades away,
Even if you do.

- Lavanya Kapoor (9B)

Tired

of this life that seems so perfect.
But so imperfect when you look closer,
Like a vase rebuilt over and over on hopes
One touch and it cracks even more.

Worn out mind, cause expectations don't work,
Harboured the sadness that came after it.
Mind like a music player, deluded,
Playing with emotions on a loop.

I carry this card of independence,
Fighting all the battles alone,
The warrior inside me is proud,
But I think she's alone.

For others can't see through me,
It's all empty inside.

- Mokshada Marwaha (12B)



Free Verse

Image credit: independent.co.uk

Autumn: My Favourite Season

Autumn is a season dressed in May,
In this season, many people like to play!

One by one, the leaves fall off the tree,
And birds set out migrating freely!

In autumn it gets a little bit chilly,
It is the best time to be silly!

In this season, we can eat roasted peas,
While watching leaves falling off the trees!

Autumn is a season dressed in May, dressed in May!
In this season, many people like to play, like to play!

- Trishit Ghoshal (4B)



Freestyle Couplets

Image credit: pinterest.com

Space Cadet

As pragmatic as this may sound,
I've always wanted to carve my name into the moon.
And I can't help but hope that maybe
I just might be able to very soon.
The stars have told me stories,
Fables old and strange;
And about all the matter in our universe
That hasn't ever really changed.
My dreams revolve around supernovas,
And ominous warning bells ringing.
There's stardust behind my eyelids
And vignettes of herculean heroes unhinging.
I've travelled the cosmos,
Chanced upon blackholes as lonely as me,
Ridden the tails of comets,
And never have I felt freer.
I've lamented and sang dirges,
Created symphonies on my own;
I've busked on every traffic light in existence,
And suffice to say, I have learned and I have grown.
Clouds of dust have helped me sail
In this space so vast
All planets thrum in unison,
But the best sound ever made is by the planet earth.
I'm quite a happy space cadet.
Laughter always bubbling up my throat;
But it's only the helium in my lungs
That is keeping me afloat.



Free Verse

Image credit: pinterest.com

- Rida Aamir (10A)

After You Walked Away...

There is nothing left to say,
Sitting by the windowsill,
I shut my eyes and see you walking away.

Fading into a world of perpetual grey,
My heart is silent and still,
And there is nothing left to say.

I can hear the singing blue jay,
Singing with us as we run downhill,
I shut my eyes and see you walking away.

I fancied you'd return today,
When my heart is silent and still,
And there is nothing left to say.

And now there is not one day,
When the wind blows bleak and still,
I shut my eyes and see you walking away.

All that's left is ruin and decay,
In my heart that sits so still,
And there is nothing left to say,
I shut my eyes and see you walking away.

- Paloma Jain (9B)



Villanelle

Image credit: wattpad.com



From 'FAIR' to 'GLOW'; Changing India's Narrative of Beauty



Late last month, Hindustan Unilever decided to rename its skin - lightening cream, the most profitable in the industry, from "Fair and lovely" to "Glow and lovely", citing inclusivity and the promotion of diversity as the main reasons behind the change. Ignoring the obvious grammatical error made by the company in its rebranding and its claim of innocence by the dropping of one word in its name, it's tough to forgive the company for profiting from the deep-rooted colourism that exists in the country.

Fair and Lovely is India's largest selling skin lightening cream, with 24 billion rupees (\$317m; £256m) in annual revenue. Since its introduction into the Indian market in the 1970s, it has sold millions of tubes, propagating fairness to be the ultimate threshold of beauty, and even the requirement for landing love or a respectable job. Not only that, but it has also roped in a plethora of Bollywood's most reputed celebrities for its promotions, including those of its contemporary 'Fair and handsome.'

With the onset of the #BlackLivesMatter movement in many parts of the world, fairness creams were on the receiving end of truckloads of backlash. Following that, Johnson & Johnson, which owns some of the world's top consumer brands, immediately decided to discontinue two lines of skin care products that referred to "fairness" on its labels. L'Oréal too followed suit and said it would drop words such as white, fair, and light from all its skincare products, in the aftermath of Unilever's announcement.

However, the question remains. Would this cheap marketing gimmick change the identity of fairness creams for Indian consumers? I'm afraid not. Colourism is deeply rooted in India's society, and each of us has been



Image credit: Twitter/@DotwiseD

subjected to the blatant remarks regarding the superiority of a fairer complexion in "normal conversation." It is sad how in a country consisting of a majority of individuals possessing wheatish complexions, we still are obsessed with fair skin, clearly showcasing how insecurities have become the backbone of our beliefs.

As a teenager, it's hard to fathom where these beliefs even originated from, and how skin colour has erupted into a standard which defines one's worth. On reaching adolescence, the time when most young boys and girls begin to notice their looks, flaws are easy to point out. Especially if those around them choose to exploit their appearance in the form of casual jokes. The psychological effects of this can be astronomical, and many youngsters have to bear the brunt of frequent colourism continually. Young girls are also reminded of the fact that in order to find a decent groom, being fair-skinned is of utmost importance; something seen as a top priority in many matrimonial advertisements.

Thankfully, in a lauded move, Shaadi.com, one of India's top matrimonial websites, removed its skin tone filter after receiving flak on social media platforms and petitions on change.org. However, these changes are just attempting to scratch the surface of the main issue. Colourism in India will only come to an end when words like "Kalu" will stop being socially acceptable, and we will realise that one's worth can never be defined by someone else's perception of beauty.

- Mannat Kandal (10B)

'Shoot for The Stars, Aim for The Moon'

'Shoot for The Stars, Aim for The Moon' is the posthumous album by the late Pop Smoke (real name: Bashar Barakah Jackson) who was killed in a home invasion on February 15, 2020. The incomplete album was executive-produced by the rap legend 50 Cent, who was one of Pop Smoke's biggest inspirations, who personally took it upon himself to finish the album for Smoke by calling the featured artists and taking care of the deadlines. Most of the turnover generated from the sales of this album will be put into his foundation of the same name.

Debuting at #1 on the billboard top 200, the album took the hip hop scene by storm. Featuring Roddy Ricch, 50 Cent, Dababy, Tyga and Lil baby among others, it was a commercial success.

This multi-genre masterpiece has been expertly produced with tracks scaling from Hip Hop and trap to RnB and Soul. The album is composed with such finesse that it makes every song unique. Pop Smoke brings a fresh variety of flows to the table that can never be called generic.

I began listening to Pop Smoke about the same time I started listening to hip hop music. He released 'Meet the Woo: 2', his second mixtape and I was in love. I remember listening to 'Invincible' and 'Element' on loop for hours. While the news of Pop Smoke's murder broke my heart, the subsequent news of 50 Cent's announcement of finishing the album made me set the bar impossibly high.

And Pop still managed to exceed my expectations. I remember sitting in an empty room and listening to the intro with my earphones on. I couldn't move for the entirety of the 56 minutes the album lasted. I had a smile plastered on my face. It was so bittersweet that 'The Woo' was gone, but not without giving us a parting gift.

Pop Smoke isn't exactly a soft music artist. He's a gangster and raps about guns and violence. But somewhere between the hard beats and heavy hi-hats, was his memory, his message, his voice. That touched me like no form of music ever has.

The smoke has a very linear flow, yet it is music I love. I remember listening to 'Shoot for The Stars, Aim for The Moon' and smiling in surprise, at the way he played with his flows, played with the beat and I saw his potential. It was tragic how his rise to the top was cut short, but Pop will always be the king for me. 'Shoot for The Stars, Aim for The Moon' is iconic, and I suggest everyone give it a try.

Pop Smoke can rest easy knowing his legacy is safe.

- Aryaman Shukla (12B)



Image credit: wallpaperun.com

The Everybody Story: My Unconditional Appreciation of Books

I doubt I have to remind you that we are living a pandemic, unable to leave our houses, which is very hard for everyone and I'm sure we all hate lazing around in our PJs and binge-watching all day. As we wonder whether we will be able to come out on top of this disaster or not (very optimistic, I know), we all plan on doing something productive, maybe even learn something new, but let's be real, that's never going to happen.

Although, if you are planning to beat your friend in that workout challenge, you might want to get yourself off the couch first, then we'll talk. And before you all get defensive, there is something that won't require you to get off the couch and won't make you feel guilty about the last 9 episodes of FRIENDS you watched. Again.

Want to know? Thought so. Well, grab a snack, sit down and dun dun dun... read a book! No, no no, don't look so disgusted! I'm serious. Get a good book and start reading, I assure you, it will be better than most of the shows you watch (I am not referring to FRIENDS this time, out of fear for my safety). And I'm not kidding either!

Books are... magical! They transport us to a different world and help us escape our boring lives. Books make us believe that anything is possible and help us tune out the rest of the world. Maybe just for some time, but in that duration, one is not a student, a colleague, or anything we label ourselves as. We are simply ourselves, and anything is possible.

We could be fighting the Battle of Hogwarts, saving the world from an apocalypse, helping Greg Heffley keep up with his family or simply be accompanying Matilda for a hot drink and a great read in her room. So, go read a book, people, and make me proud! Lose yourself in a book and become whoever you wish to be! And when you resurface and realize that you have started to love reading, just remember, that you owe me one! Goodbye!

- Saarah Jose (8C)

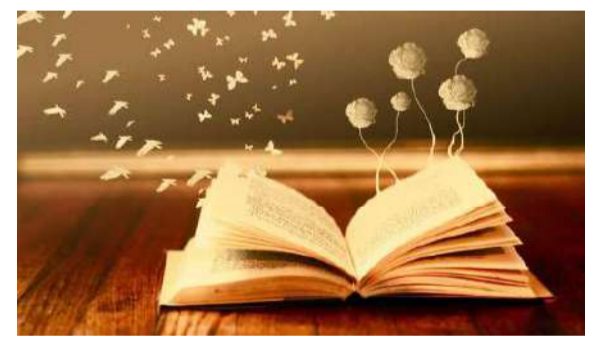


Image credit: desktopbackground.org

Tête-à-Tête with Raageshwari Loomba

From MTV to Mindfulness: A Journey

You signed your first film as an actor in 'Zid'. How was it working as a teenager in the industry?

Working as a teenager can be empowering as you are fearless and raring to go. But sadly, I did not feel free and exhilarated doing films at that stage in my life. I was uncomfortable with the racy clothes, the intimate scenes and the severe speed with which everything was explained. We all had to be 'sexy' which in retrospect seems odd and unwise. We are all different and hence 'casting directors' are key to spot talent according to their strengths, which was not the case then. I doubt back then anybody understood that 'here is a 14-year-old girl who is good in comedy but not good in seduction. Now how can we nurture her and help hone her craft.' but Thankfully, MTV and Channel V rescued me. I also learnt very quickly there as there was no pressure but great camaraderie. I found great comfort in my team - the creativity, my expression and the freedom to write, express myself and the choice to be 'cool rather than sexy!'

You have played diverse roles in your life- actor, VJ, singer, author, homemaker, motivational speaker, and as a parent. Which one has been the most challenging role for you and why?

All great roles they were/are - but remain work in progress. I have always had a 'growth mindset' so that's helped me move away from the highs, but simply enjoy the process, growth and experimenting with diverse platforms. However, parenting remains the most challenging as it's the most insightful experience there can ever be. It's only your child that unlocks your greatest fears, your greatest blocks and observing your true coping mechanisms. Your child shows you the mirror at all times. If you keep your ego and social pressures aside when you bond with your child, then this can be a mindfulness breakthrough. As the rewards will be unprecedented. You will feel liberated, childlike, mindful, free from anxiety all over again. So Samaya has and continues to teach Sudhanshu and me how to live mindfully and in the moment.

What according to you is the path to 'mindfulness'?

At all times in a crisis when you act out, feel nervous, get agitated, question yourself.

- Is this decision based on any past experience?
- Is this decision based on any fear regarding the future?
- Am I anxious due to social pressures?
- Am I forcing someone to be what I want them to be?

Now observe how you feel and how you respond. With practice, you will flow into a being wherein you are this awareness behind your thoughts. You will masterfully pause and reflect. From that point, you will truly enjoy every experience life brings to you. Meditation, gratitude journal, affirmations are wondrous paths to follow that will lead you towards mindfulness.

How do you suggest schools incorporate meditation and mindfulness in their curricula?

Combine mindfulness and mind power to bring intrigue and power to children. Simply making people observe their breath may not be riveting enough. We have to slowly woo these fast-paced minds to fall in love with their inner world. The magic of their thoughts. The power of their thoughts. That is a long-lasting relationship. Then Mindfulness will happen by default. Children especially toddlers are naturally mindful. So, we can always learn from them. But we must inculcate

practices for everyone such as:

- Patience through 'pebbles in puddles' exercises, gardening and pottery.
- Vow of silence through listening and inward chanting.
- Gratitude through journaling.
- Focus through dream boards (explained in my book 'Building A Happy Family').
- Introducing kindness as a culture in the school. Make it an 'only kindness zone'. Now observe how your teachers and children will relax and flourish mentally, emotionally, spiritually and physically.

You have often used the term 'mental pandemic' in your tweets. What exactly is a 'mental pandemic' and how does it affect children?

When we pass on our negative thinking onto someone and they pass it onto others, it sets a chain reaction that can take over the world. That's a mental pandemic. Each thought has a frequency and vibration. We carry this frequency when we think about anything.

Never underestimate the power is within you; the power of one is infinite.

I have seen many families shift paradigms from caustic to calm, from penury to prosperity, from hate to love because one person in the family had started positive thinking.

It is time we realise that we are not separate from the physical, cosmic or spiritual world. When we have a 'thought' it leads to vibrations that make us act a certain way and we get corresponding results. Not just that, today science proves that all of humanity is linked through thoughts. But the sad part is that negative thoughts are equally contagious and research shows that we are more negative than positive. When we think, say and do something negative, we create a chain reaction. We create a mental pandemic.

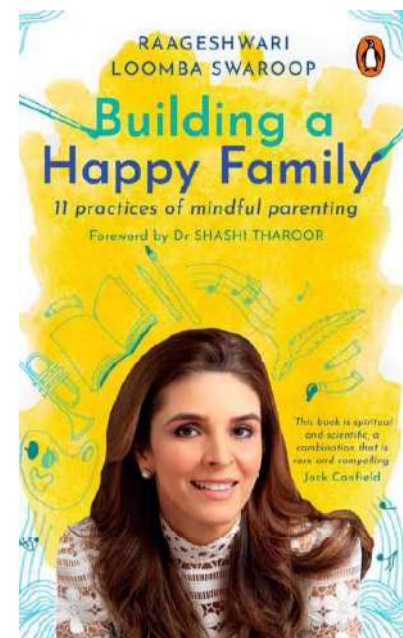
You will fail! You will fall sick! You are no good! You will never get a job! This country will never improve! etc are all lines that have the power to create a mental pandemic. So, we have the choice to create a positive chain reaction. The Global Consciousness Project has always hinted that we collectively have the power to change the world.

If you believe in the philosophy of collective consciousness you will know that we can help soften the force this pandemic has by shifting our mental energy from fear and pain onto thoughts of goodness, people who are recovering, kindness, gratitude, mutual respect, environmental change, empathy and compassion.

I strongly feel the next major shift, the next major event, the next major discovery will be; utilising the power of our minds to change the world!!

'Building a Happy Family', your latest book shares mindfulness philosophies on parenting. Is new age parenting better than the parenting of the past?

My book 'Building A Happy Family' is actually saying that the ancient parenting method was far more mindful. The 'Panchatantra era' or the 'Chanakya Neeti' insights that focus on love and motivation where parenting is concerned are India's true parenting tradition. Bring your awareness to life skills, creativity, resilience, self-worth. This is what our great ancient texts said. This was our education system which changed after the British Raj. So, the modern parenting method must return to innocence accepting our own selves first and then allowing our children to be their authentic selves.



There is a reason the word is 'Parenting' and not 'Childrening'.

Parenting is about bringing up the Parent and not the Child.

Raageshwari

Raageshwari Loomba is an Indian singer, actor, a former MTV VJ and motivational speaker on the power of wellness and mindfulness. Her recovery from facial paralysis at the peak of her career, in the year 2000 was the first step into her journey of mindfulness. She has worked with the legendary Jack Canfield and released India's very first Affirmations series with the path-breaking guru of Affirmations, the late Louise Hay. Raageshwari is one of the most exciting speakers globally on motivation, wellness and mindfulness.

Most of us have grown up as children who were never told that we were perfect the way we were or that we were at the perfect place in our life. (This was subliminal and not conscious through comparisons, schools, academic pressure etc) Be it picking pebbles, simply dreaming, babbling with a stranger's baby or climbing trees; Life was always about getting to another place, a gold medal away, a scholarship away, a good grade away.

Childhood was more about fulfilling a resume and achievements. It was never about self-discovery and maximising one's true potential, it was about parental or teachers' expectations. So, we started to conform and morph into these factory line production creations. All chasing these designed forms of success. We let go of our true selves in order to fit, to belong or be loved. We started seeking 'internal' emotions from the 'external' world.

This was thanks to our environment and our 'well-meaning' parents and 'well-meaning' teachers, who did the best they could, simply unaware and unmindful that these navigations and comparisons would steal an individual of their 'pure potentiality'; a power that surfaces only when one is wholly present and wholly celebrates oneself.

Children naturally possess the power of 'pure potentiality.' Children are naturally Mindful. Just the fact that they are so unaware of the separation and division between people, or how effortlessly they forgive, or how naturally they follow their bliss and how magically they turn their emotions from pain to glory. We adults can learn immensely from them. Hence, mindful parenting from my perspective is simply awakening our own inner child.

Recognising our childhood patterns, accepting oneself for who we authentically are. Because only when we truly accept ourselves will we allow our children to be their authentic selves. In doing that we will stop this unconscious generation of parenting baggage that we are unnecessarily carrying forward.



Beyond the e-classroom

The pandemic has been a blessing in disguise, in a way where teachers have become tech-savvy overnight. The transformation was a necessity and the change, inevitable. The online classes solely depend on the availability of devices like laptop/mobile phone and internet connectivity. Generally, we teachers login through both our laptop and mobile devices so that in case of a technical glitch in the laptop, we can continue to teach through our mobile phones, till the glitch is resolved. Also, this helps us to see the participants and their raised hands and chats which is not possible if we are sharing our presentation on a full screen. But this also means that if our own children have their online classes at the same time, they need to compromise and attend their classes through their mobile devices. Making illustrated PowerPoint presentations or GIFs enhances the learning experience of children and helps us simplify topics that are too abstract for them to understand. We try to devise ways to make the online lesson interactive. I miss the physical presence of my students, their gleaming faces, their interactions, and the fun that we used to have in our classrooms. Yet, I feel that the online classes that are being conducted in our school are quite effective and the positive feedback that we are getting from the parents is a testimony to this. I would like to request my students to stay strong and positive during these hardships as no matter how difficult this time is, it will eventually pass. Make productive use of this time and strike a fine balance between academics and pursuing a hobby of your choice.



Mrinal Gadre (Teacher)

It is ok to feel for life's little moments that have temporarily fallen by the wayside. We, humans, thrive on predictability and routine. Life, without the kids around me, has left me feeling anxious and unmoored. Overall, I miss my kids and everyday life of certainty. We are all in this together and I am sure I am not the only one who is feeling lonely and nostalgic!

I would like to urge everyone to continue taking more vitamin C in their daily diet as good vitamins and minerals will help boost immunity and safeguard us through the pandemic. Some suggestions would be to consume sources rich in vitamin C like amla, strawberry, lemonade, or orange juice. I would also recommend everyone to wash their vegetables and fruits in warm saltwater.

What I miss the most are smiling faces and the chatter around the 'Nutrizon' area where students swarmed like bees to relish their favorite snacks and savories, hygienically prepared for them with a lot of love. The pandemic has demonstrated the interconnected nature of our worlds and that no one is safe until everyone is safe. Only by acting in solidarity can communities save lives and overcome the devastating socio-economic impacts of this virus. We are all going through the same hardships and we will collectively come out stronger as one world, more than ever before. Can't wait to serve our children some tasty treats again!



Kiran Agarwal (F&B In-charge)



The lockdown has brought in a different scenario in the education system and for me. It's very fascinating to see how the kids learn. Both my kids have different timings and different approaches to learning, and I love to sneak in and learn myself when the classes are on. By the grace of God, my children are pretty responsible and proactive. Hence, I don't have to go after them to study or complete the assignments. I have made sure that my kids spend the evening on the terrace or the lawn so that they can get some much-needed fresh air and physical exercise as well. This gives the eyes some rest and calms the mind. I have ensured that both my kids have a separate room and a study table with no one to disturb them during their classes. It's a different world. It's scary and you need to be alert and active. The importance of good health and being alive has brought the families together. Though, as a parent, I feel protective, in a way I have been able to teach my kids how to adapt and accept change. Having two teenagers at home 24/7 is tough but it's an amazing feeling too. We have been doing household chores, gardening, some baking, and loads of dancing and fighting together. They learned some life skills, explored new ways of living their life by valuing what they have, and how to be at home, and still enjoy. It was amazing to see how there could be schooling without an actual classroom!

This lockdown has really helped each child grow in his/her own way. It has allowed them to think and not take things for granted- be it health or freedom. It has taught them to respect and appreciate what they have by making the most of it, and yes, taught them that change is the new mantra of life.

Ramandeep Kandal (Parent)

As students, we are well aware of the hardships faced during online schooling. Yet, we know little about how online schooling has affected the experience of our valuable stakeholders like teachers, parents, food and beverage in-charge, and support staff. To facilitate better communication during the times of social distancing, we decided to connect with our valuable members from different walks of life, to know what they are going through as they adapt to the changing times and yearn for the normal course of school functioning to return.

मैं लगभग १४ वर्षों से विलावाँग में काम कर रही हूँ। यह कहते हुए खुशी भी हो रही है कि मैं इस स्कूल के शुरूआती दिनों से ही जुड़ी हुई हूँ। यह पहली बार है कि स्कूल इस तरह से इतने लम्बे समय से बंद है, ऐसा होते हुए मैंने पहले नहीं देखा। मैं प्रायमरी की बिल्डिंग में साफ-सफाई रखने के लिए काम करती हूँ। स्कूल की यह बिल्डिंग

बच्चों के बिना बहुत सूनी लगती है। जब स्कूल खुला था तो प्रायमरी के कई बच्चे मेरे पास अपनी छोटी समस्याएँ लेकर भी आ जाते थे, जैसे- "दीदी, ये पानी की बॉटल का ढक्कन नहीं खुल रहा, आप खोल दीजिए", "ये शू-लेस नहीं बंध रहा, आप हैल्प कर दोगे, प्लीज़।"

इस महामारी ने मेरे जीवन को भी प्रभावित किया है पर मजबूरी है कि हम इसका कुछ कर नहीं सकते। स्कूल के बच्चों और टीचर्स के बिना स्कूल, स्कूल नहीं लगता। मैं उस दिन का इंतज़ार कर रही हूँ जब स्कूल फिर से खुल जाएगा और बच्चे वापस आएंगे, क्योंकि यहाँ इतने

सालों तक काम करने के बाद हम सब एक परिवार के जैसे हो गए हैं, अभी ये परिवार अधूरा है। पर जब सब आ जाएंगे तो अकेलापन दूर हो जाएगा। मैं स्कूल को साफ सुथरा रखने के लिए काम कर रही हूँ, ताकि जब सब वापस आएँ तो उन्हें स्कूल वैसा ही साफ मिले जैसा था।

शबनम दीदी (सफाई कर्मचारी)





Perseverance 2020: What NASA's Mars Mission means for the future of space exploration

“Curiosity, InSight, Spirit, Opportunity. If you think about it, all of these names of past Mars rovers are qualities we possess as humans. But if rovers are to be the qualities of us as a race, we missed the most important thing. Perseverance.”

This quote by Alex Mathers, winner of NASA's 2020 Mars Rover naming contest, truly embodies the scientific spirit that is the foundation of NASA's endeavors. The Mars 2020 mission represents the beginning of many new chapters in the field of science, particularly astrobiology. The highlight of the mission is, of course, the aptly named Perseverance rover. After about six long years of engineering, rendering, designing, and redesigning, Perseverance is finally ready to take to the stars.

The Perseverance mission was launched on July 29th this year and will reach Mars on February 18, 2021 (planned). Upon landing on Mars' surface, Perseverance will traverse the Red Planet, collecting samples that could help scientists confirm both the

prospect of sustainable life on Mars and also the presence of past microbial life on Mars. In fact, the rover possesses a unique drill, that can collect prime rock and mineral samples and actually store them in a 'cache' for later use. This 'cache' can be returned to Earth for further inspection. Equipped with seven key scientific instruments, twenty-three cameras, and two microphones, Perseverance is fairly similar structurally to its predecessor, Curiosity. However, one striking, and frankly revolutionary difference is the addition of Ingenuity, a helicopter. Ingenuity will be the first unmanned, powered flight on another planet, a feat previously only accomplished by CGI departments of films like the Star Wars saga! Perseverance is also equipped with next-level imaging equipment and cameras (one of which is called SHERLOC), and chemical experiments such as MOXIE (Mars Oxygen ISRU Experiment. Wow! NASA is really good at acronyms.) which will produce small amounts of oxygen from Martian atmospheric carbon dioxide. A large scale version



Image credit: mars.nasa.gov

of this machine could produce enough oxygen to potentially create a life-supporting atmosphere someday!

This upcoming Mars mission holds a plethora of prospects for the future of humanity, from scientific advancements to preparing for life on Mars. Endeavors like these, fueled by the incessant curiosity of the human race, are what help define our inventive, avant-garde approach to problem-solving. Despite all the setbacks, inconveniences, problems, and failures humankind has faced, this mission helps us remind of one thing that has kept going- our perseverance.

- Aditya Rajan (10B)

Dummy's Guide to Robotics

All of you reading this article must have, at some point, wondered, what is Robotics? Why is it so special, and what is 'AI'? Robotics, at its most simplified, is the technology that deals with the construction and application of robots. A robot is a machine capable of carrying out a complex series of actions, similar to a human. Robotics is very important and special because it is very likely to be present in nearly every aspect of life in the future. Hence, it is important to understand how to work with it.

One's mind instinctively wanders to humanoid machines when the word 'robot' comes up, but they are more varied than that. A Mechanical Arm also counts as a robot. MIT University has designed a robot named Spot which is a dog. A humanoid robot is called an android. A household appliance such as a washing machine is not a robot, it is an automaton. An automaton is a machine that carries out a specific set of instructions that is hardwired into it. A robot can be easily programmed and its given instructions can be changed, differentiating it from an automaton.

'AI' stands for Artificial Intelligence, which means that a robot is able to think independently, as a human. Machine

Learning, which is often mentioned along with AI, means that instead of providing a robot with intelligence directly, you teach it using its surroundings. Common robots include the Lego NXT and EV3. These robots are what we primarily work within the Roboclub, as you can program them to do what you want and affix different motors and sensors to them. However, they are not artificially intelligent.

I hope that this article has inspired you to perhaps try your hand at robotics, which is, indeed, quite an interesting and fascinating technology.

- Pranav Prakash (8B)

Technology



The Viral Spread of Trailblazing Technology

With the awakening of the COVID-19 Virus, technological consciousness has also accelerated. "Technology cannot prevent the onset of the pandemics; however, it can help prevent the spread, educate, warn, and empower those on the ground to be aware of the situation, and noticeably lessen the impact." says the Economic Times.

Today, with converging technologies like mobile, high-speed internet, robotics, it has become possible to test several innovative ways as a response to the pandemic. It has been proved that the expansion of digital services is helping mitigate the impact of COVID-19 by fighting misinformation, increasing traceability and transparency by sharing data and enabling Contact-less movement and deliveries through autonomous vehicles, drones, and robots. Academically, it has allowed the impartation of education to continue efficiently even during this crisis, through various online platforms like Zoom, Microsoft teams, Google meet, etc. by online teaching.

Here are a few events, our Tech Head- Arjun S. Tomar has

planned to keep Billabongers in a competitive mode and engage them in more technology-related activities.

- 1) WebcaZine: Students are required to design a website using HTML/CSS in Dreamweaver or Notepad, which will be submitted via email along with a code to ensure there is no plagiarism. The final judgment criteria will be based on their creativity as well as the relevance to the topic.
- 2) Animate it: Students are required to make an animation or short video using Flash, Scratch, or Adobe Character Animator or any other video maker, they find suitable. The topic will be "Prevention of COVID-19". The judgment criteria will be based on their creativity, originality, and relevance to the topic.

- Arayna Saxena (9B) & Arjun Tomar (11A)



Image credit: Forbes

ASTRONOMY

“Man must rise above the Earth—to the top of the atmosphere and beyond—for only thus will he fully understand the world in which he lives.”

– Socrates, Philosopher

For all the astronomy enthusiasts, we have listed down astronomical events to look forward to in the months of August and September. Hope this Astronomy calendar comes in handy as you gear up for some notable celestial events and planetary citings!

Astronomy Calendar

3rd August - Full Moon

The moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This phase occurs at 15:59 UTC. This is also known as the Sturgeon Moon.

11th and 12th August - Perseids Meteor Shower

The Perseids are famous for producing a large number of bright meteors. The shower runs annually from July 17 to August 24. It peaks this year on the night of the 11th and morning of the 12th.

13th August - Venus as Greatest Western Elongation

It is the best time to view Venus since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the morning sky. One should look at the Eastern sky before sunrise. It will be the third brightest object after the Sun and the Moon.

19th August - New Moon

The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 02:42 UTC.

2nd September - Full Moon

The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This phase occurs at 05:23 UTC.

11th September - Neptune at Opposition

The blue giant planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long.

17th September - New Moon

The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 11:00 UTC.

22nd September - September Equinox

The September equinox occurs at 13:30 UTC. The Sun will shine directly on the equator and there will be nearly equal amounts of day and night throughout the world.

Source: <http://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2020.html>

- Kaashvi Mehta (9E)



To break the academic monotony, a photography competition was held for the photography enthusiasts of the high school. The theme 'Isolation' has been interpreted by our young shutterbugs in their own way. Here are the photographs that stood out from the pack!

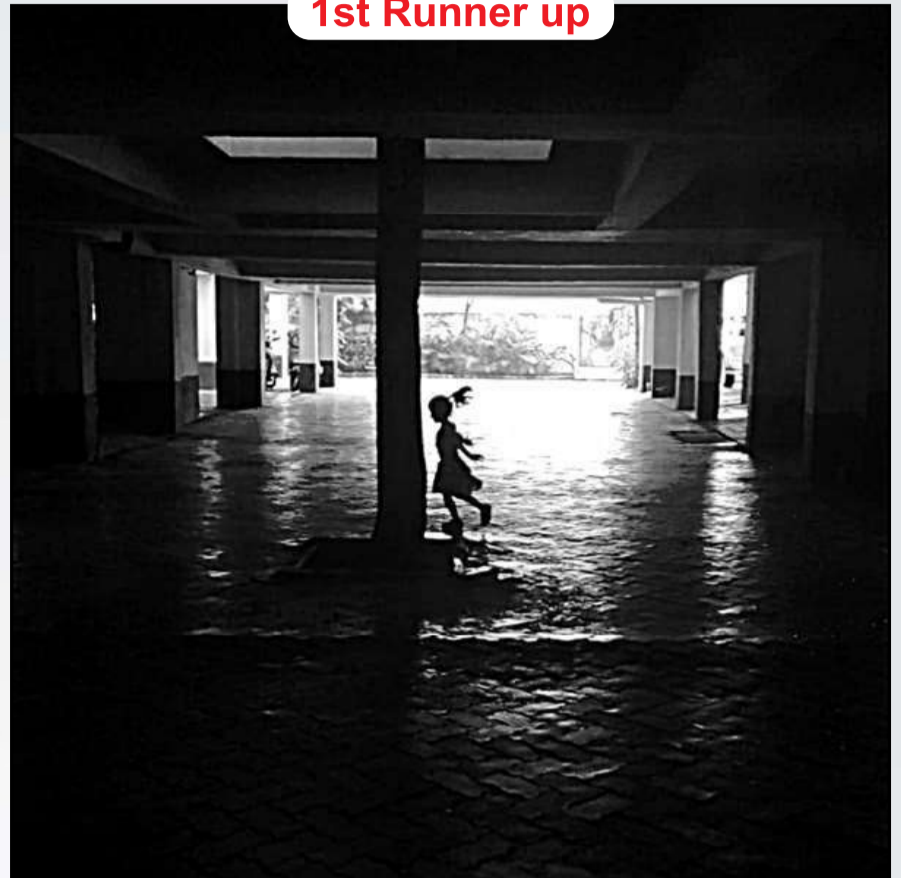
Winner



The Wait

Ridhima Dwivedi (10C)

1st Runner up



Light always shines through

Charul Jhawar (11A)

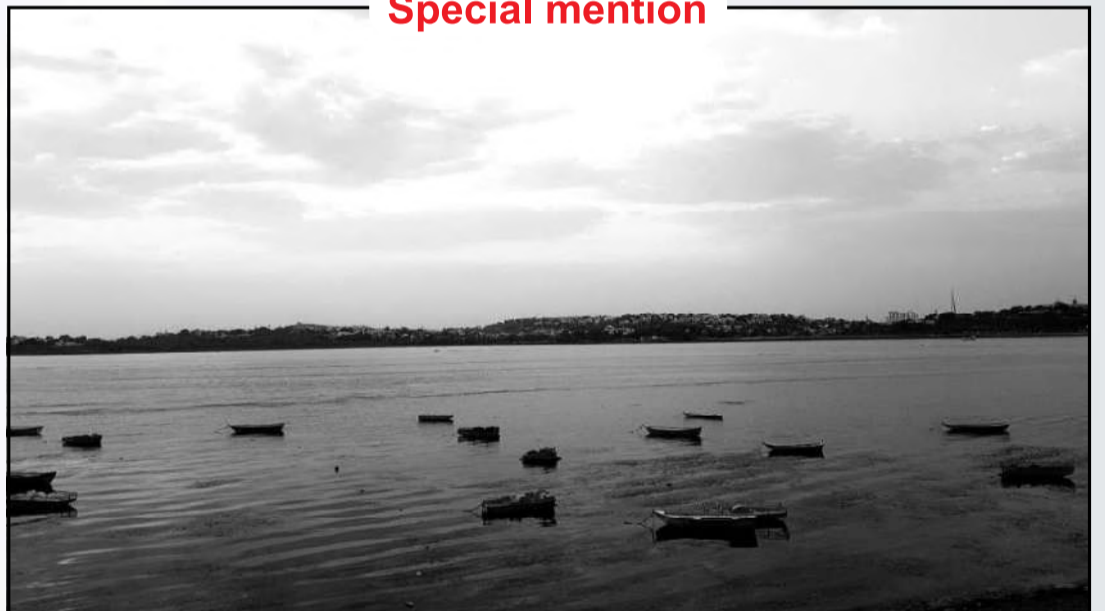
2nd Runner up



The Usuals

Jayesh Rajani (12A)

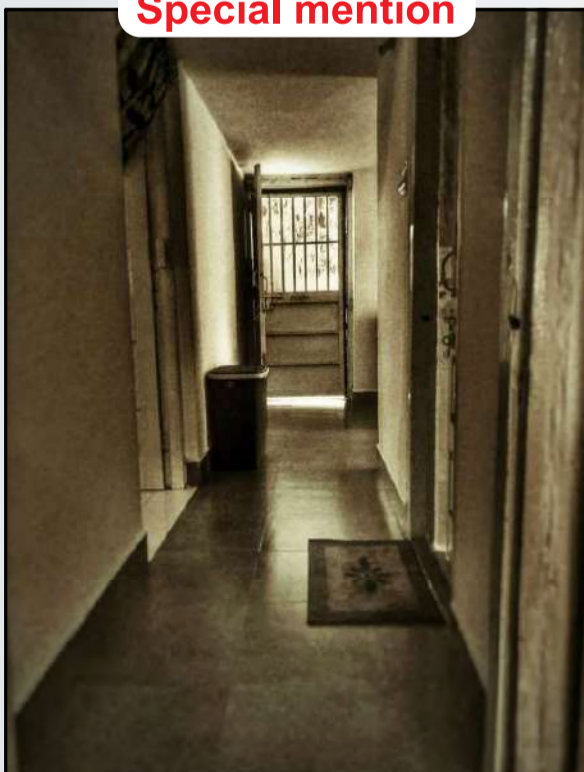
Special mention



There is a rapture on the lonely shore

Prashasti Praveen (9D)

Special mention



Empty Corridor

Sarthak Kumar (10C)

Special mention



Caged

Devansh Kumar Sahu (9A)

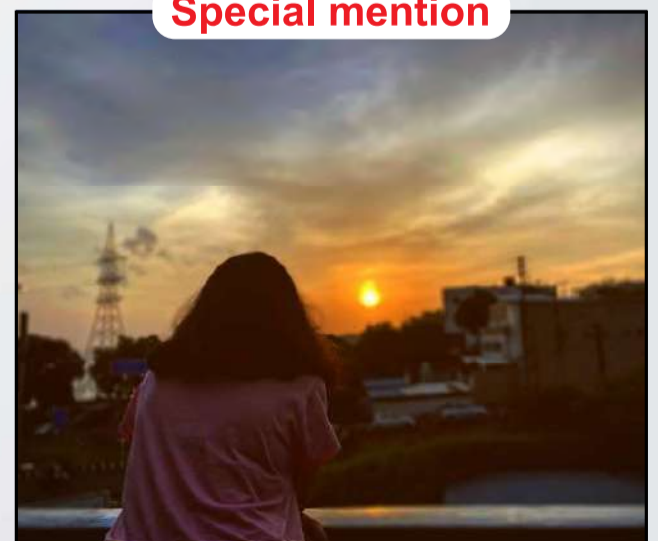
Special mention



Unclipped Wings

Anjaneesh Airen (11A)

Special mention

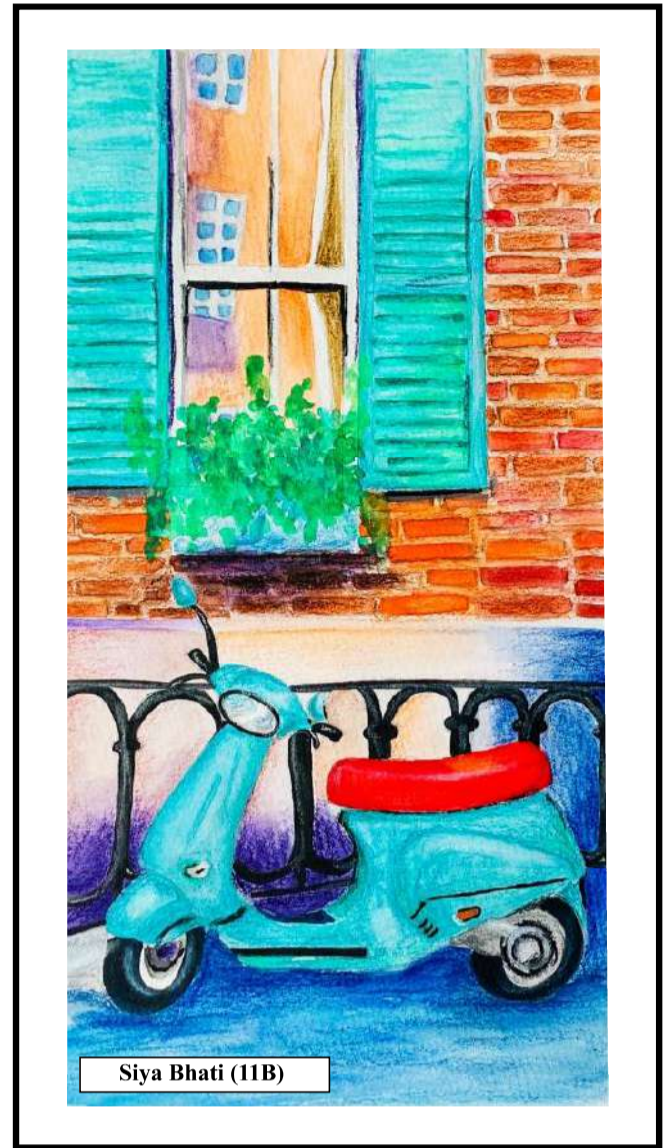


Reminiscent

Faiza Sultan (11C)



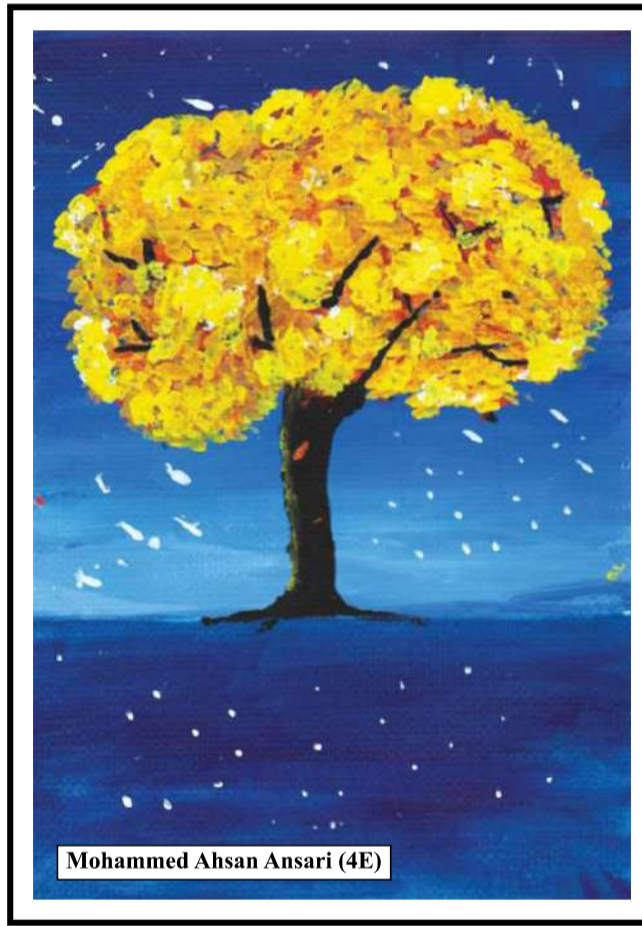
Sneha Sinha (10B)



Siya Bhati (11B)



Ali Haider (Sr.KG C)



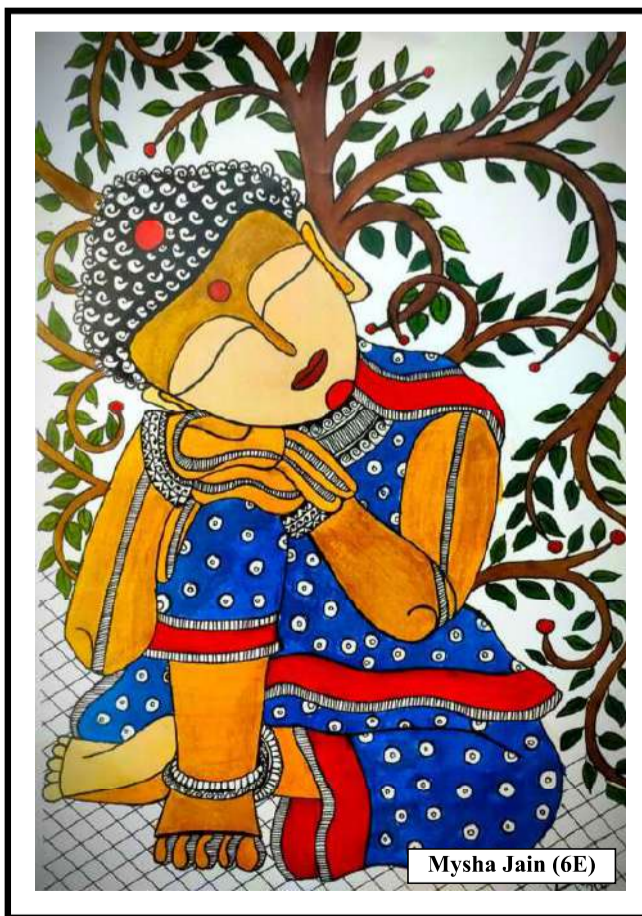
Mohammed Ahsan Ansari (4E)



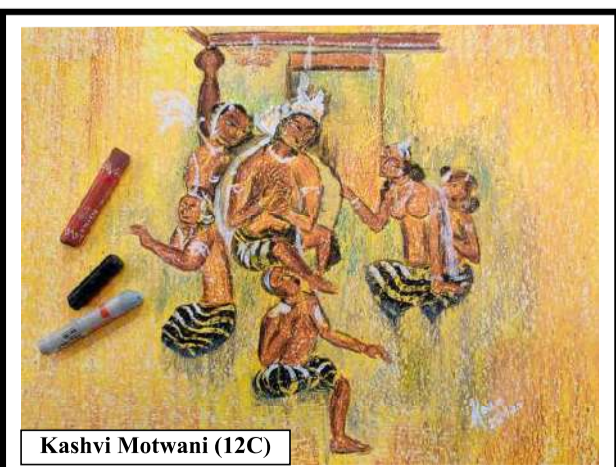
Vithika Mishra (12C)



Laveesha Balwani (12C)



Mysha Jain (6E)



Kashvi Motwani (12C)



Madeeha Noor (2A)