

Metamorphosis

Looking Back at and Beyond the Pandemic



MEET THE TEAM



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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear children,

The pandemic has been a great teacher. We grew better at listening, not assuming that everyone's realities are the same, and focusing on things that truly mattered above all. Remote learning, distance learning, hybrid content delivery, thankfully all these phrases seem to be a jargon of the past.

As we leave behind the two-year mark of the initial wave of pandemic-induced school shutdowns, academic normalcy remains out of reach for most of you, your educators as well as parents. In addition to the surging COVID-19 cases at the end of 2021, schools faced severe staff shortages, high rates of absenteeism and quarantines, and rolling school closures. Furthermore, it's my observation that most of you continue to struggle, even today with mental health challenges, higher rates of bullying, violence and misbehavior, and concerns about lost instructional time.

Research statistics on academic test scores of the past 6 months are alarming and potentially demoralizing, especially given your heroic efforts to learn and educators to teach in incredibly trying times. From my perspective, these test-score drops in no way indicate that your fraternity represents a "lost generation" or that we should give up hope. Most of us have never lived through a pandemic, and there is so much we don't know about your capacity for resiliency in these circumstances and what a timeline for recovery will look like. Nor am I suggesting that teachers are somehow at fault given the achievement drops that occurred between 2020 and 2021; rather, educators had difficult jobs before the pandemic, and now are contending with huge new challenges, many outside their control.

Clearly, however, there's a lot of work to be done. In my opinion, the younger ones seem lost as they have made a huge leap from kindergarten to primary school and lost out on the precious transition years. I see the joy and the twinkle in their eyes missing. The children in the middle school are all raring to go as they want to make up for the lost time. The confident ones are enthusiastic about their participation in every activity whereas some others experiencing the gap in their learning are genuinely suffering. The high school students have been hit the worst as they have lost out on the most precious years of school life where they would have come closer to their friends and bonded with them but on the contrary were locked down with social media and were misled terribly, missing out on the skill of being able to discriminate the good from the bad.

Nevertheless, we all are with you, your teachers and I, to hear about your fears, to soothe your anxieties, to lend you our shoulders and hold your hands. Yes, we can and we will be back on track very soon.

Love,
Nashy Ma'am



EDITOR'S NOTE

“Metamorphosis” is defined as “a complete change of character, appearance, or condition” by the Cambridge Dictionary. And what could be a more fitting name for a magazine based entirely on the theme of looking back at and beyond the pandemic? The COVID-19 pandemic meant different things to different people - for those who thrived in spheres of social interaction, it was a period of sadness, while for those who wished, pre-pandemic, that they had more free time, it was like a dream come true. But no matter who you were, the pandemic undoubtedly functioned as a time to reflect, a time to work on learning new skills, a time to get involved in new communities, and more than anything else, a time for change.

The world today isn't the same world we lived in back in 2019. The world today is a more digital world, a more connected world, while at the same time, it is a world in which people have been pushed away from each other by the constant threat of infection, and even though this threat is slowly receding, this sense of disconnection, of each person living in their own isolated bubble, persists. And it makes sense - I mean, we had two years to form these habits, and it will take much more time than that to break out of them. But we're already on the path to recovery, here at Anand Niketan Satellite - we're all back to school, and have been for the past many months, and we have been organising events and participating in competitions with the same fervour and dedication which we possessed three years ago.



Furthermore, we have continued the tradition of the school magazine, once again, this year. I have worked with a team of editors, designers and writers, over the course of the last few months, to put together a magazine that serves not only as a summary of the events we have organised from the start of the 2022-23 academic year till now, but also as a celebration of our emergence from the pandemic. I would like to take a moment to thank all of the students who have sent in their submissions - we appreciate each and every one of you, even if your content didn't make the final cut.

Anyways, I hope you all enjoy looking through and reading this edition of the magazine, and have fun!

-Aaryan Mehta, Editor-in-Chief

SCHOOL CABINET: 2022-23



ICSE HEAD BOY

Paraj Parikh

Heavy is the head that wears the crown. I am Paraj Parikh from Grade 12 Commerce and my journey from Pre-K to Grade 12, from being the class monitor to the Head Boy, has instilled in me a sense of confidence and responsibility. These formative years in this school have influenced my overall development. The school has always supported my creativity, and this has helped mould me into what I am today. I can safely say that I have quite literally grown up with the school; being born on the same day as the school's maiden day. I shall be taking away a bag full of nostalgic moments from this school as I move on to the next stage in my life.

"Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality."

"Leadership is influence."



ICSE HEAD GIRL

Kaanksha Shah

Looking back at all the time I've spent in the school, what I've learned is that there's nothing you cannot do if you don't put your mind to it. From a shy and timid new kid in Grade 4, to the Head Girl in grade 12, I, Kaanksha Shah from Grade 12 Humanities, have grown not just academically but mentally and emotionally as well. The experiences of this school have taught me more than any book could have ever and helped me prepare to face the challenges that life throws at me. These school corridors are filled with memories and love that I will cherish forever and reminisce fondly wherever I go. Life post-COVID has been hard for us all. We shall work together and re ignite our bonds and connections that were lost on the way when life was in chaos. It is essential for us to not forget the lessons that COVID-19 has taught us and implement them in our lives. Let us all work collectively and make this academic year one for the books!

SCHOOL CABINET: 2022-23



INTL HEAD GIRL

Iva Kothari

Change is the only constant, and what better example to prove that than the pandemic itself. It completely altered the functioning of educational institutions across the world. Undeniably it also modified the way our school had been operating for over 15 years before the pandemic. The pandemic was unlike anything else we had witnessed before. It was a novel experience for everybody, which brought about significant lifestyle and functional amendments. The school as a whole encountered an extreme radical shift when the entire 'student-teacher' interaction was shifted from within the classroom walls to within computer screens. While school from home was a pleasant experience for some students, who enjoyed the lenient school life and the experience of school from one's own bedroom, students, the shift back to offline school was just as demanding and exhausting. Most students had to put in tremendous effort to change sleep schedules, study habits and most importantly to be able to work efficiently at school in absence of their laptops and mobile phones which they had gotten so accustomed to during online school. While returning to the traditional method of education succeeding a two year gap came as a slight shock, the students do seem to be coping very well, as evident by the successful planning of events at school such as the 75th Independence Day celebration. Even though the period of covid was one that most view as inconvenient and unfortunate, it forced us to push educational boundaries beyond the classroom walls. It brought out a new side to teaching, and proved to us that no hurdles can halt education, not even physical barriers.



INTL HEAD BOY

Aadi Malhotra

The pandemic came as a surprise to everyone. The entire world coming to standstill, brought with itself a barrage of changes. All of a sudden- everyone was glued to their screens, waking up 10 mins before class, and cooped up at home. It's unbelievable how we spent 2 years away from normalcy and away from school. For many, it felt like life was on easy mode because we could attend school from the comfort of our houses but really, it took us away from all the things we love about school too. From playing in class, to school events, to beloved sports periods; everything remained locked behind masks and sanitisers for two long years. Now that school is back in full swing, the transition has been evidently tough. Most of us had to wake up sluggishly in the mornings and get used to attending school without our phones. But we're back for good!

The once silent halls now echo with the sound of filled classes breathing life back into the school after 2 gruelling years. The school too, doesn't let this go unnoticed. All of the school's events this year have been organised in an attempt to make them one step above in grandiose, glamour, and fun. This, is only catalysed by the appointment of a cabinet who is working closely with the school to make this session even more fun.

SCHOOL CABINET: 2022-23



SPORTS CAPTAIN

Aryaman Singh

I am a focused and determined communicator, executor and motivator. Along with my academic pursuits I play various sports and have represented our school at the national level. I am also an approachable, adaptable and assiduous leader who is always eager to participate in all the school events, sports, academic and cultural alike.



SPORTS VICE CAPTAIN

Tanay Sanghvi

I am a hardworking and tenacious student, both on and off the sports ground. I have had the honour of representing the state at the national level in the sport of badminton. I am always inclined towards academics, always finding ways to improve myself. Involving myself in various events both sport and academic has helped hone my skill.

AGNI HOUSE CAPTAIN

Anika Garg

Hi! I am Anika, the captain of Agni house. I love economics, basketball and absolutely everything about winning. I am honoured to have this position and ready to do all that is required for us to take the victory lap! May the best house win :)



AGNI HOUSE VICE CAPTAIN

Swayam Shah

I, Swayam Manan Shah a student in grade 11 commerce am a cheerful, helping and a compassionate person who is always exuberant towards aspects like sports, academics and various other activities. My leadership qualities help me support Agni house in their rough time and also ensure that everyone gets a chance to show their skills and talents. I truly understand and value the responsibility of my house and how my decisions can affect them. I am a confident and optimistic student who finds positivity in every situation and uses it as a learning. I hope to fulfil my duties and wish to perform my best in every aspect.

If you believe in yourself and have dedication and pride - and never quit, you'll be a winner.

SCHOOL CABINET: 2022-23



JAL HOUSE CAPTAIN

Devansh Parikh

Hello everyone! I am Devansh Parikh from grade 12 commerce and I am obliged to become the house captain of the finest house of Anand Niketan Satellite - JAL - the flow of spirit. We will work hard together as a team to become the best house of the year and carry the 'JAL' legacy forwards. As Henry Ford rightly said, "If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself." JAL FOR THE WIN!

JAL HOUSE VICE CAPTAIN

Alayna Lalani

I am Alayna Lalani. I am passionate about studying psychology and chemistry. Being a part of the cabinet for the first time, that also with a responsibility of great magnitude, makes me nervous. However, it has made me more diligent. I hope to make the best out of this responsibility and lead my house, under the guidance of my house captain, with grace and dignity in all house activities and competitions!



PRITHVI HOUSE CAPTAIN

Shreeja Mitra

I am Shreeja Mitra and I study in 12th. I am a determined and tenacious person. I absolutely rock at orating and consider it my strength and I hope to win some accolades for Prithvi in that field. Other than that, I like to think that I am an approachable person and would like my house members to approach me whenever they feel like it and I'll try to be there for the house through thick and thin. Prithvi rocks and I hope that we all collectively lift the trophy this year. I can feel it in my bones.



PRITHVI HOUSE VICE CAPTAIN

Mihika Johar

Hey, I am Mihika the Prithvi house vice captain from 11th International! A little gist about myself - I have been in Prithvi for the last 7 years, when it comes to sports periods my go to has to be basketball. Also I am pretty sure Prithvi house will be taking the victory lap on the 26th Jan.



A winner never stops trying.

SCHOOL CABINET: 2022-23



VAAYU HOUSE CAPTAIN

Jayrudra Sharma

Hello everyone, this is the
Vaayu house captain

Jayrudra Sharma from grade 11 explorers. Being the captain of this extraordinary team has been a dream of mine since I understood the meaning of true leadership. A leader always leads from the front and I intend to do that this year for a flawless victory for my house. As Barack Obama said "We are the change we have been waiting for", with the talent and the help of our hardworking and remarkable teachers, I believe we can regain the glory of mighty Vaayu and rejoice as winners once again.

VAAYU HOUSE VICE CAPTAIN

Dhruv Thakarar

I am someone who defines himself by his principles and confidence. As a part of the school cabinet I wish to make a difference in my house and assist with the regulation of the school. I am a person of athletic background who understands how important discipline and responsibility is on and off the court. I will do my very best as I wear my badge



There is not try,
there is only do

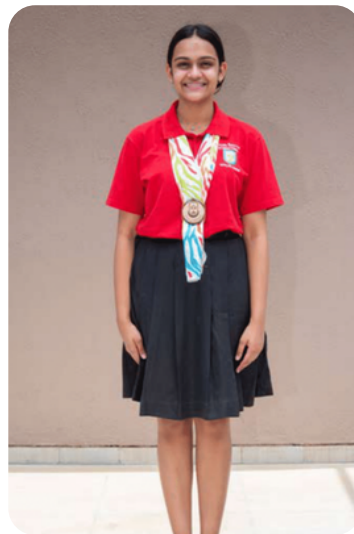
EVENT CONVENERS



Vir Gandhi



Anay Patel



Tithi Patel



Hardee Patel

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

The beginning of the school year brings with it many fun events that vary only in the occasion but not school spirit. One of these numerous events is the Investiture Ceremony, which is more about discipline than fun. It is the declaration and oath-taking ceremony of our school cabinet that forms the link between the students and the teachers. That is why our school celebrated these students by hosting the ceremony on 16 July 2022 in the AV room.

The ceremony began with the oaths of the two head boys and the two head girls and then adorning them with their prestigious badges. The chosen were Aadi Malhotra and Iva Kothari from International and Paraj Parikh and Kaanksha Shah from the ICSE section of the school. They were followed by the two prefects chosen to represent each grade and the sports captain and vice caption along with the house captain and vice house captain from each of the four houses; Agni, Jal, Vaayu and Prithvi. Our new additions to this year's cabinet were the event conveners selected to coordinate events with the teachers and between the two boards themselves. The esteemed director of the school, Nashy Ma'am and the valued trustees were the guests of honour. There is no doubt it was a proud moment for all the attending parents.



Anand Niketan

School
Cabinet

So far, the cabinet continues to help students put their problems across to the teachers. Additionally, the success of the Independence Day program was not only due to the hard work of the teachers involved but also the cabinet for ensuring the smooth running of the function and planning it out weeks before. The program was a fantastic example of coordination between the teachers and the cabinet, which is to be expected in all the upcoming events throughout the rest of the year. Currently, the cabinet is involved in the planning of Teachers' Day and the school expects a great day of honouring teachers.

To end this on the best note possible, the investiture ceremony marked the day of the formation of the school cabinet, which will help us make this year a spectacular one.

-Nivedita Yadav, 12 International

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

Independence Day is not merely a word; it is a feeling, a symbol of all that was sacrificed in the name of our country, 'Bharat'. As we complete 75 years of freedom, we should take the time to honour and acknowledge our heroes and freedom fighters who fought tooth and nail so that we can all stand tall and proud and call ourselves citizens of a free nation.

The perfect way to start our Independence Day celebration was the hoisting of the Indian Flag, which ignited a nationalistic feeling amongst us all. The celebration was kicked off by moving speeches by Kamal Sir and Vivek Sir, after which it was up to the students to carry on the event and display their love towards the country. Students spoke about not only the past but also their aspirations and visions for the country moving forward, such as what they envisioned India at 100 years as being.



Next came the dances, which were no less riveting. First, International students performed a sequence of wonderfully presented dances with carefully executed stunts, which showcased that the sky is the limit when it comes to the students showcasing their patriotism and choreographing magnificent performances. All of the dances were indeed a soulful display of the students' love for our motherland. The dances were followed by a guitar performance, which showed off some Indian patriotic music.

Further, the students of ICSE staged a skit and educated the audience on the various hues of the Tiranga and how we are to properly honour the Flag that is such an integral part of our culture.

The show stoppers, however, of the entire event were the budding poets of 8th grade, who stole the show with their scintillating and tear-jerking performance of the poem 'Main Tiranga Hun'. Hindustani music is full of melody and expression, as displayed by another group of talented artists singing melodious harmonies from our nation's past, that further sunk into the spirits of one and all present.

To top it all off, we had our grand finale performed by both ICSE and the IGCSE students which showed the unity amongst them and their ability as well as willingness to do something in honour of our homeland. It displayed the pride and ardour our generation holds for the country, which was seen in the relentless work put in, both on and off the stage.

The success of the event was credited to the Principal, Baljit Ma'am, the teachers and of course, the students who put in all the effort they could but what really enabled such a magnanimous show was the undying, passionate, and fiery fervour we feel for our glorious motherland.

-Dhaani Joshi, 10 Nilgiris

NWR PARTICIPATION

The Northwestern Region, lucidly known as the NWR, is a prestigious competition, efficiently organised by an association called the Association of Schools for the Indian School Certificate. Collective ICSE and ISC schools partake in enthusiastic competitions ranging from sports events including basketball, football, tennis, table tennis, volleyball, karate, badminton, etc. to literary events such as declamation, creative writing, quiz, debate, and so on, and also indulging in art.

The multifaceted approach of the NWR not only imparts a myriad of opportunities to not only present oneself but also navigate new interests. It helps showcase one's talents all round the country and enhance one's own calibre. Our school participated in most fields offered, and flourished perennially in events such as:

1. Creative Writing

- Sub-junior category - Riya Agrawal - Second position
- Junior category - Dhaani Joshi - First Position
- Senior category - Sneha Khepar - Second Position

2. Quiz

- Sub-junior category - Hritvikk Kanan, Aditya Jain - First Position

3. Volleyball

- U-19, U-17 (girls) - Third position
- U-19 (boys) - First position
- Aarya Patel, Kashish Hundiya, Viha Vora, Aryan Jani selected for nationals.

4. Football

- Anay Patel and Krish Shah selected for nationals.

5. Basketball

- Diya and Poornima selected for nationals.

6. Chess

- Sub-junior category - Dev Shah - First Position, selected for nationals

7. Karate

- Senior Category - Priya Vennugoppal - First Position, selected for nationals

8. Art

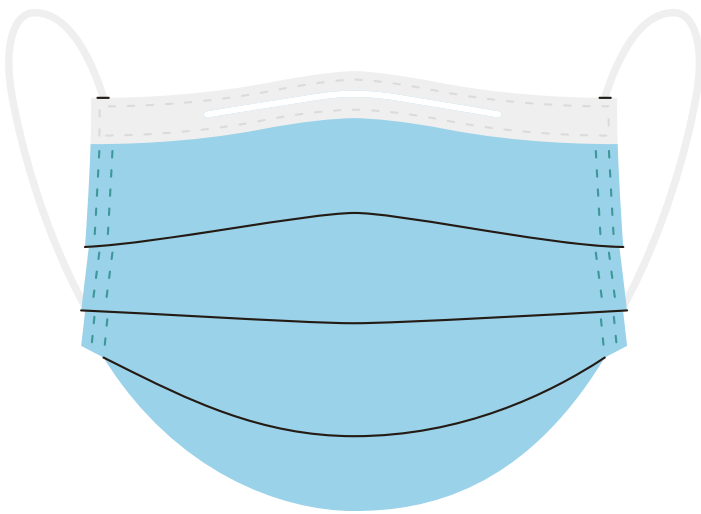
- Avika Mehta - First Position

Our NWR performance was exceptionally good and progressive this year. We would like to congratulate all the podium holders, inclusive of every single participant that put forth efforts.



ACCEPTING THE NEW NORMAL AS STUDENTS

The COVID-19 pandemic was tough for everyone to cope with whether it be teachers or economies. Children, in general, did enjoy spending valuable time with their families watching Ramayana together and playing ludo etc. Although students did miss out a lot. The two years stunted their growth, academics concentration, social interaction, etiquette etc. The students were spoilt during the time of online classes: they could sneak and eat during the class. When they did not have classes got free time in which they were at their home. Discipline surely lacked which made it difficult for teachers to educate once in school. Binge-watching shows thoroughly messed up students' sleep schedules. More exposure to the internet and an increase in screen time had many negative health effects on the students.



Anything peculiar eventually becomes normal. When students were unaware of how to manage those zoom classes and online education. Today's normal is following the covid precautions. Always wearing a mask. Social distancing is a very important measure but very difficult to follow in schools. As friends have so much to catch up after the two years lost in the pandemic.

Another precautionary method is sanitization. The routine to wake up and go to school, which was once normal, suddenly felt abnormal. Students must push themselves to go to school at the time they were used to staying up and watching television. The pandemic gave many of us screen time and social media addictions.

There is a positive change in the education system: online classes persist, and this enables education from any place the only requirement being one internet-enabled device, which is easily attainable with the rise in phone ownership in the world today. For example, Khan sir, who is one of India's best teachers, made his education available to so many deserving students. He teaches students for the over competitive government job entrance such as UPSC with a tuition fee of just two hundred rupees. His teaching style is interactive and easy to understand. This has resulted in many students clearing the entrances. If it hadn't been for online classes students may not have been able to study in remote places with less qualified professors or lack of faculty. This helps students widen their network connections too as they get to talk to students all over the world. Many companies such as BYJU's, Toppr, and Unacademy have been very popular in these times because of their well-developed course material and attainability.

-Aadhya Tak, 11 International

EDUCATION AND THE PANDEMIC

Every crisis brings an opportunity. Whatever obstacles we have faced so far, humanity has always come out on the stronger side. While the pandemic forced students to quit education, technology has triumphed in this period of drastic change in education. Post the pandemic we have learned to live with a hybrid mode. However, this was the tale of those who could afford the luxury of learning from the comfort of their homes. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought drastic changes in the way of education, adversely affecting approximately 2.3 billion students. Mandatory following of Covid protocols has disturbed traditional teaching and learning processes. While the impact of the pandemic on education was felt across the globe, in a country like India where almost 50 per cent of the population is under the age of 25, the closure of educational institutions has had a substantial effect.

Over 275 million students were affected by pandemic-related school closures at the height of the Covid-19 lockdown. Along with these stats, several problems like devalued academic integrity, gender disparities, and racial disparities have grown. A rise in contract cheating, academic file-sharing, and exam sharing was identified as particularly problematic. With remote learning, cheating has become far easier for students.

There is no feeling of remorse for students who would rather succeed in class than learn. The COVID-19 pandemic has widened the gender gap in education between males and females. Females have been forced to drop out of school and act into traditional roles as caretakers for the family. Racial disparities in online learning during the pandemic have received research worthy attention.

Lack of access to technology or fast, reliable internet access has acted as an obstacle to continued learning for students, especially for children in rural areas and disadvantaged families. Many problems such as lack of labour workforce, public unemployment resulting in fees being unpaid, etc. prevailed. However, with the lifting of the lockdown and reopening of schools again, true education has flourished once again and with better opportunities, since the invention of the hybrid-mode of education.



-Chris Lobo, 11 Commerce

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT



Technological advancement is the foundation of humanity as a species, and it is what defines us, distinguishes us, and is the legacy of our intellect. Our lives and the lives of generations after ours changed their course the very moment Edison invented the light bulb, and when Steve Jobs sat in his garage to form the first macintosh, but the depth with which these devices could alter our lives failed to gather our attention until we gave them a reason to; until we were entirely dependent on them. The pandemic brought us that opportunity and the silver platter necessity. The social lives of everybody in the world who was forced to live in seclusion depended on a hundred per cent of social

media presence. And like Dorothy, when she entered the land of Oz, we began to realise that the only way out is through. But as we learned to our dismay, something we already knew was a greater threat than advertised. Social media caused harm to us in ways we didn't acknowledge, but on the same note, it helped preserve our sanity in the literal sense.

But perhaps the aspect that most dynamically impacted our lives as students was the initiation of online school. A majority of students bear conflicting views on whether the online school was advantageous or not as opposed to a physical school. For many, it was bliss. "Freedom like never before." But some claim that it commanded less concentration than the physical school would, which is why they disapprove of it. or perhaps they just missed sports.

Social media during the lockdown at least was the sole source of interaction that we thrived on, and with the scarcity of physical interaction, we spent more amounts of time on it than we normally would. Prominent corporations such as Instagram learned how to exploit human necessities for their businesses, even to an extent where they couldn't handle the magnitude of the traffic on their servers. But with the help of streaming services such as Netflix in a documentary entitled "the social dilemma," we acknowledged the gravity of the effect social media had on us. The documentary hit over 38 million views within the first 23 days of its release, and it is then that we made feeble attempts at shifting our communication to a new, safer, and more hip app called signal. But we all know how boycotting WhatsApp ended.

Overall, essentially technology was the key to keeping us sane. If looked at in a broader sense, technology is fundamentally a simulation of what it means to be human. It is bred by humans, for humans. We simply did not fathom the extent to which it could alter the worldly conduct of our daily lives. Technology is and will continue to grow for the better, we just need to wait and watch where it will go next.

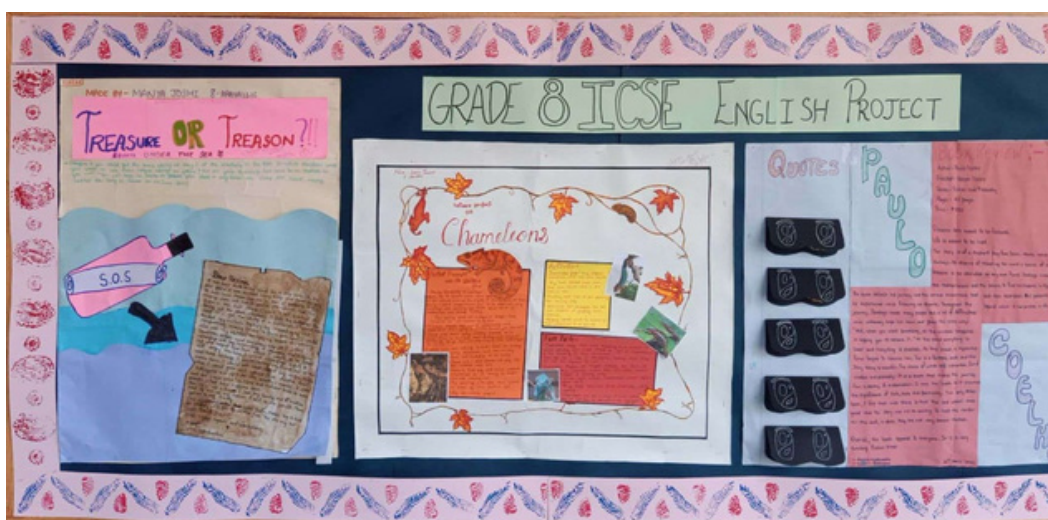
-Ekaagra Thapar, 9 Explorers

8A LITERATURE PROJECT

English projects, ever so thrilling to make! We are glad to present our projects, which convey an important message and are a sign of the excitement, fun and struggles we faced. Our projects speak a story of motivation, encouragement and support of our teacher along with our hard work and determination.

We were assigned two projects: in the first one, we were to select a camouflaging animal of our choice and express our ideas on what we would do with its abilities; and in the second project, we had to present our views on the book 'The Alchemist' by Paulo Coelho in any form of our own accord.

The students showcased their creativity in various aspects with exceptional, out-of-the-box, ideas using the best of their abilities to create informative and eye-catching presentations with humorous quotations to maintain the light-hearted nature of the first project. For example, we had students slapping people with the excessively large tongue of a chameleon to apprise them of colour-changing cells known as chromatophores present in cuttlefish. The endless possibilities of these camouflaging animals were put into view through the work of the students.



The second project on *The Alchemist* enabled students to convey their interpretation of the book through charts, skits, role-plays, parodies etc. Hustle and bustle reigned over the groups as their members discussed and evaluated the complexity of their project resulting to quite a chaotic atmosphere.

Students, possessed by a surge of excitement, were determined to complete the projects and progressively learn many things along the way. The inspiring book encouraged them to follow their dreams and present the best form of themselves along with captivating the audience through knowledge about camouflaging animals and their adaptations to the surrounding world. It took a short while over the span of few weeks to assemble the projects overall which resulted with a few mishaps and shortcomings but ended with quite a good effort from the students.

The students overflowed with pride and satisfaction and they held their completed projects close to themselves, excited to tell the story of their projects' birth.

So rightly said, "When you want something, the entire universe conspires in helping you to achieve it."

- **Saanvi Jaiswal, Vedika Modhwadia, Manya Joshi, Vaidehi Bodiwala**
Special Thanks to Sarbani Ma'am

THE INDIAN ECONOMY

The functioning of an economy is much like the race of a marathon runner: the journey is long and there is plenty of room for both good and bad things to happen. And the Indian economy is running a rather interesting stretch right now.

2019. A year before the fateful fall. Things were looking mostly fine as the economy made its way nonchalantly along the fourth quarter. Yes, the economic slowdown from the previous year had dragged on, but it hadn't been a major cause for concern. Besides, inflation had sunk to below 4%, the current account deficit had been halved, and investment had risen like it was strapped to a hot air balloon. The 20's, a new phase to the track, lay just beyond the horizon.

A new decade arrives; the economy continues its merry stroll, until it feels air where there should have been ground. In the economy goes, down a deep fissure. A lockdown.

The economy is dazed, hurt, and stuck. After all, the middle and lower class never had the savings to weather multi-month jobless droughts. Income gap had always been a problem, but never before wide enough to shove a building in. 75 million people were driven to poverty. Inflation was fluttering its wings in the high heavens, at above 6%. Economic growth shared this figure, but in negative. Tourism, Aviation, Automobile, and Oil & Gas were buried with honours. Big pharma didn't mind the situation much, though.

The economy, although discombobulated, begins climbing the steep rock walls slowly. From the bottom, the sky seems a mere crack, slitting the dark depths of the fissure. Economic normalcy is a long way up.

The entirety of 2021 passed in this struggle. But some recovery was evident. Most industries were revived, some Frankenstein-like, a shadow of their previous selves, but revived nonetheless. Businesses were back in business, incomes were flowing, and profits were rolling once more. The economy grew by over 8%, with a net growth of 2% considering last year's contraction. Back to pre-pandemic levels in a large capacity.

The economy hauls itself over the edge of the fissure, onto the ground.

2022 has been a year for the economy to regain its rhythm. So far, economic growth is substantial but still below the quarterly estimates of 16 and 6%. Some industries have overperformed while others have failed to meet expectations. Inflation is still grazing the clouds at over 6%. The economy huffs along the third quarter.

A slightly underwhelming performance. But the marathon is far from over.



-Saksham Mathur, 10 Explorers

EFFECTS OF ONLINE EDUCATION



The effects of online education can be best described as androgynous in nature. It is part evil - part good, part boon - part bane. I remember being in younger grades a few years back and thinking - if only there was a way I could study from the comfort of my home and do away with the menial chores of getting up early from bed and getting dressed. Yet, when that situation did present itself, my thinking had changed. Online education was received by students of two opposite creeds - the ones who embraced it, and the ones who criticised it - and accordingly, the effects differ.

To the latter, the effects were somewhat dire. It resulted in a reduced understanding, and flimsy concentration. Students were easily distracted and often indulged in gaming, chatting and texting during classes. A lot of syllabus was cut to make the transition from offline to online. And here, the students' self-discipline came into the picture. They had the power to study according to their whims and wishes, and the tap of a button could end school for the day. Many students took undue advantage of this new-found freedom.

Thirdly, cheating became routine. The capacity of the student to grasp and learn diminished as they stopped studying and relied on effective means of cheating to pass the tests and exams. Fourthly, there was no external exposure and experimental learning similar to that which takes place in school through interaction and competition. Social skills dwindled and people started relying more and more on social media to find solace and companionship in those trying times. In addition to that, negative health effects also occurred. Eyes were strained, head aches occurred from continuous screen exposure, and a sedentary lifestyle set in.



However, when we talk about the first type of student, those who embraced online learning, there is much to rejoice in. As everything became online, education became accessible to everyone. Vast stores of knowledge and material became available to those who had earlier been unexposed to them. Being home the entire day, they put all of their heart and soul into benefitting from this newfound knowledge. Secondly, those struggling with any concept or theory could watch and relearn as many times as required until it became clear to them. They got a broader global perspective of learning things. To sum it up, the students were in control, and were able to work at their own pace.

There is no space for discrimination and biases in online schooling, and thus online schooling brings all students on the same level. It is free of prejudice. It also resulted in distraction-free learning in some cases, as opposed to the helter-skelter in school. To conclude, the effects of online education have been profound in both negative and positive ways.

-Rini Mehta, 12 Humanities

MY MUSINGS ABOUT THE PANDEMIC

This pandemic came with a bang and will go in a scurry. People will forget the connections they made with nature, will forget the bonding they felt for the family, will forget the sympathy they felt for the home maker and her chores, will forget the empathy they felt for the domestic help, will forget the consciousness for nature, will forget that survival was possible with the basics.

As soon as the lockdown ends, people will be back with a bang to their routines and hit back with a vigor. They will squash the sounds of nature with their honks and engine roars. They will be immersed in graphs and statistics. They will rebuild the walls around them and everyone will start living the way they were used to.

The hardest hit will be the birds and animals, they will be clueless as to what happened? They will get confused on being back to the chaos. Children will be bewildered by changes in the family dynamics. The blue collared ones will be happy to be back in the economy race. The household chores will be forgotten like a bad dream. The sky earth and seas will again get engulfed in gray.



Was the lockdown worth it?

Maybe it helped the administrators keep the numbers down.

Maybe it protected a small number of people.

Maybe it helped mend some broken relations.

Maybe it brought some families together.

Maybe it helped some test their resilience.

Maybe it exposed some fake relations.

Maybe it made some people introspect.

Maybe it surfaced somebody's creativity.

Maybe it made some enterprising people survive.

Maybe... Maybe...

People's memory is short!

- Dipti Pathak, Teacher, International

THE BRIGHTER SIDE OF COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic started in March 2020 in India. Even though the COVID 19 pandemic has been a huge calamity that fell upon the human kind, there are some consequences which have bought positive changes.

People understood the importance of simple life. They limited their social gatherings like parties, big weddings and functions, frequent visits to restaurant etc. Also, the wastage of food and money during such elaborate functions has reduced and can be better utilized to help the poor.

People have become more aware about their surroundings and environment. They were taking great efforts to keep it clean and hygienic. This is a good habit as the overall hygiene standards have improved and can help in curbing other diseases.

During the lockdown major industries and occupations were shut down leading to lesser vehicles on the roads. People enjoyed the pollution free environment and want to continue breathing fresh air. Many people have got into the habit of walking or cycling to work.



Before the pandemic, people had prioritized their work and wealth over their families. The grief of losing the loved ones suddenly made everyone realise how short and unpredicted the life is. People started valuing relationships and spending quality time with their loved ones. Also, people learnt to be less dependent on the household help and the entire family including kids shared the burden of household chores.

One of the remarkable changes is that everyone became technology friendly. From people working in corporates to kids and housewives all adopted to new technology to carry our routine work like online school, online meetings and work from home. With the additional time on hand people were indulging in their hobbies and learning new skills and arts. People also became more fitness conscious and tried to lead a healthy lifestyle.

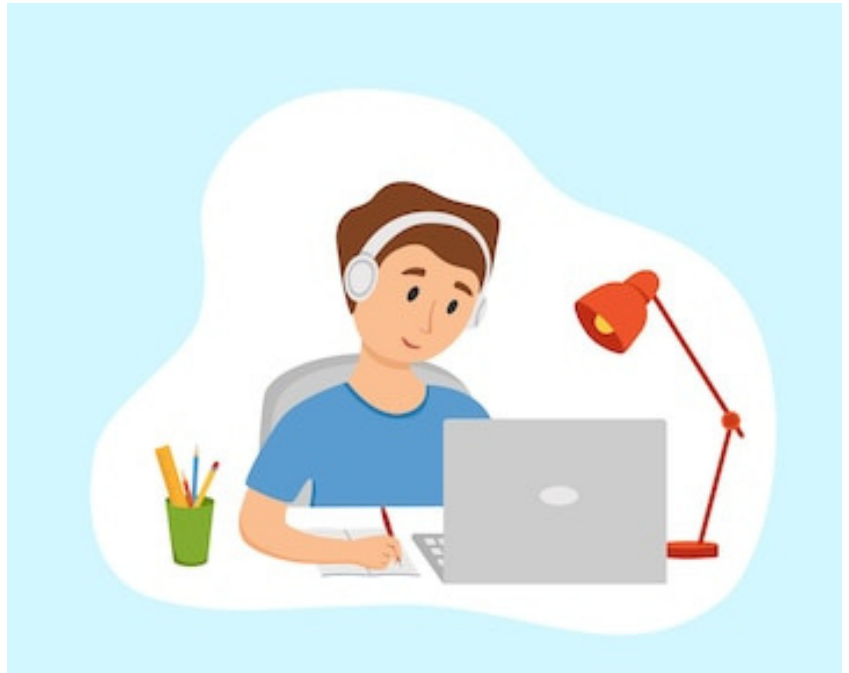
Lots of people showed kindness and compassion towards the next and poor by distributing food and helping them to return to their villages.

Hence, we can say that there are many positive outcomes from the very difficult period of pandemic and every cloud has a silver lining.

- Priyakankshi Shukla, 6 Explorers

WHAT COVID-19 MEANT TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE

The pandemic was a stressful time for all of us. We went through so much but now the world is back again. Schools have started, businesses have opened and restaurants and stores are working again. During the pandemic, it felt like someone had clipped our wings but now we have finally opened our wings again. From a different perspective, the pandemic wasn't extremely bad for everyone because we got to spend time with our family, and friends and also learn new things and new experiences such as online classes.



Online classes taught us so much, we learnt how to deal and manage with all of the stress we had been through, we could not go to school and we had to do everything on one tiny little screen. We had two whole years of our school experience taken away but we made the best out of it and enjoyed it online. We are back once again, raising the school spirit and ready to fight whatever comes our way. Not to mention the studies, but we also celebrated festivals online like Independence Day, Christmas, Navratri and much more, although this year we celebrated Independence Day in our school assembly hall.

The classes of grades 5, 6 and 7 came up with a patriotic performance where each class came up with something special to salute our motherland. It has been a tough phase but we got through it together, it was a time when we hold hands and walked together to go through this pandemic.

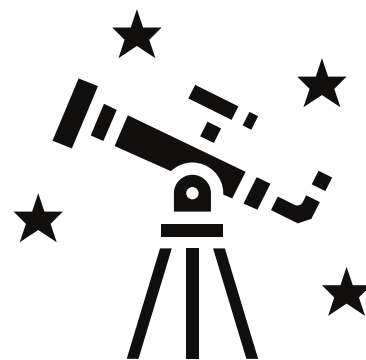
- Omaira Bagga, 6 Explorers

STARGAZING

Eyes are a mirror of the cosmos. When we look at the stars, our pupils dilate and our irises start to glimmer; it's almost as if millennia of watching the stars and the stars watching over us have ceded some amount of celestial significance to our otherwise mundane corpus. As industrialization and modernity reconstituted society, we gradually stopped looking up at the sky and focused on looking forward. While no doubt utilitarian, this cessation disrupted the eternal romance that humans inherently had for the stars.

Looking back at the COVID-19 pandemic, it was undoubtedly a tribulation that resulted in a myriad of socio-economic, political and medical crises, but there was one thin silver lining weaving through all the misfortunes: it halted the ever-increasing pragmatism and realism. People had no choice but to take a break, stay home and do nothing all day. It was only natural that, given the conjuncture of times and circumstances under which we were bound, we would revert back to our natural instincts and start looking back up again. The pandemic may have eclipsed many things but stargazing still brightened up the dark nights. Earlier, ambient artificial lighting used to leach out and flood the sky, reducing the darkness and causing glare, but because of the pandemic and the prodigious measures taken against it, one of the sharpest declines in light pollution was observed. Ergo, the novel virus had served as a harbinger of luminosity and increased the visibility of stars in the sky manifold.

As observed by astronomers, before the pandemic, the average denizen of Ahmedabad could observe roughly ten to twelve stars through the lens of his naked eye; after the virus, astral clarity reached its zenith. Not only could more than forty stars be observed on a clear dark night, but the sky could also now boast of a plethora of the elysian constellations that can be seen in the Northern Hemisphere; most notably in Ahmedabad, people could glance up and behold Ursa Major, the great bear of Callisto and Orion the Hunter, the giant huntsman and one of the most cognizable constellations which lies on the celestial equator.



People bow down to different gods, but they look up at the same stars. It is humbling to think how our ancestors, us, and our descendants, all our graves will lie under the aegis of the same firmament. The pandemic provided to us a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reconnect to this aeonic heritage that the realm of outer space had endowed humans with.

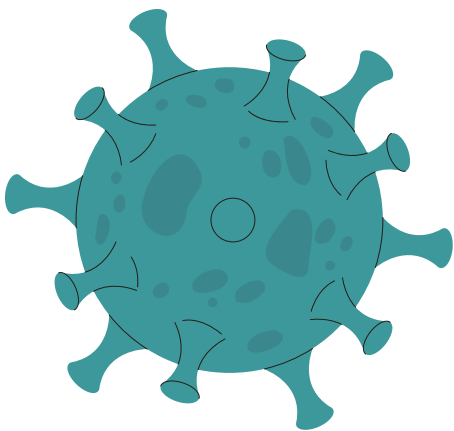
Looking beyond, I can only hope that more people understand what the eminence of stars is, and effective steps are affected to vivify our night sight. Hitherto, our bond with the stars had been growing faint, but we stumbled upon a chance to replenish it. Now, the onus is on us to keep ameliorating this bond and to keep cherishing it. Tackling rapid urbanisation and modernization, proliferating our everlasting adoration for stars and mitigating the efficacy of light pollution are major challenges, but it is imperative we all take initiatives to address them, for the furtherance and betterment of all the people who look up at night to see the stars. You need to inevitably see your stars; only then can you chase them.

-Stavan Mehta, 12H

COVID VIEWS

The recent infectious disease, called Corona, began around November 2019. This began so suddenly and surprised us all by spreading into huge pandemic. It was difficult to grasp its nature till it overtook most countries in the world. Be they politicians, doctors, scientists, healthcare specialists or even Olympic committee leaders, all felt short in measuring the scale and damage the pandemic was to make. Not knowing where to start, some focused on sanitation, others on mask - cleanliness and almost all on social distancing and the like.

First, we found out how to test the infected person. Next, the doctors tried on various medicines. This led to speedy research on vaccination also. Now, so many countries have invented vaccines and India tops them all. The stagnation and damage happened everywhere. Halt of necessary activities was the first casualty by lockdowns. Earning slowed down and economic activities suffered hugely. Job loss added much to social and family maintenance. On the other side, positives like work from home, online education, coaching, business conferences and so on started as new ways to run human requirements. The society also took up and mastered advanced routes such as digital transactions, net banking and contact less work systems. The order and payment of pizza is simpler today.



Moving ahead, we now have better cleanliness, effective prevention system, higher immunity, and safer lifestyle. This is because of the steps we have taken to counter the pandemic. Education and work are, now, growing faster and at many places by new communication systems developed recently. Newly introduced medical processes and extra care approach in hospitals and in Government will prevent many other diseases in addition to COVID 19. All this gives safer lifestyle and will result in increased productivity as also mental wellbeing. The cooperation among many countries and between various agencies has increased during the pandemic. This will help in boosting the economic growth as a welcome byproduct. It seems, we and our society are placed hopefully at a new, nice, advantageous turning point.

- Kanvi Modi, 3 Cuckoos

DOCTOR INTERVIEW

We recently invited Doctor Yogesh Gupta to our school for an interview regarding the pandemic. He is an MD physician with Sterling Hospital. We asked him some popular questions regarding COVID-19 and the pandemic in general, such as where the pandemic originated from, what shocked him the most about the pandemic, and whether or not vaccines are as effective as they claim to be.

In response to where the pandemic came from, he stated “we know that it started in China”. He proceeded to explain that even if it had started in India, people would have claimed that China was responsible, because Wuhan, the capital of a Chinese province, is home to the world's biggest laboratory that holds biological warfare viruses. He then explained to us why COVID is called the Novel Coronavirus by saying that the Coronavirus has existed for years, but COVID-19 was a part of it that had never been researched before.



When we asked what shocked him the most about the pandemic, his response was, “People from the same family were admitted to different hospitals. Shockingly, patients were admitted even in the dressing rooms, the HR rooms, and the billing rooms because there was no place.”

When questioned regarding the efficiency of the COVID-19 vaccine, he stated that they are, in fact, effective. In his mind, they were put to the test during this pandemic and had passed with flying colours. They were proven to be effective as more people got the vaccines.

He stated that “People did not get killed by the Delta wave, they got killed by hoarding,” before adding, “There are two words people of your age should know and understand, hoarding and triage.” He explained that people hoarded RTPCR kits and Remdesivir in their houses, leading to many deaths due to people who needed them not getting them in time.

Overall, interviewing Dr Yogesh Gupta gave us a deeper insight into the inner workings of hospitals and doctors' roles during the pandemic.

-Shyamolie Parekh, 11 International

STUDENTS SPEAK

When the COVID pandemic hit us, I was very sad. I could not meet my teachers and friends, and was scared of stepping out of the house. I would wash my hands and sanitize my surroundings frequently, which I realize has become a good habit now. However, I stayed strong and believed in God that everything would be fine soon. I started spending more time with my family, especially my father. He would usually spend the day at his office, but now he spent a lot of time with me. We used to play cricket, football, and watch movies. I also loved helping my mom with her chores and would sometimes cook delicious meals with her. I learnt how to make sandwiches and Chocolate Oreo milkshake at home. I also spent a lot of time in the garden playing with a stray cat whom I named Bubbles. I am also thankful for Zoom as it helped me connect with my friends and teachers. I would also often video call my sisters who were staying in US during the pandemic. I am happy that my family and I are safe from the pandemic, and thankful for all the time we got together.

-Reyaansh Jain, 3E



During the pandemic, I was initially happy because there were online classes but after sometime I got bored of being home all the time. One day in grade 2, I saw one of my classmates riding a cycle in the five minute break so me and my dad got so surprised. I was so sad because I could not see people's faces. Me and my brother made a huge tent out of bedsheets on holidays. I started kick boxing class and I had lots of fun. After sometime my dad and mom had an idea of making a monkey bar so I could stay fit. Soon I became a gymnast. I was stretching my body like a rubber band. Sometimes when I get bored I made craft out of paper. Me and my brother made dream catchers with pom-poms, paper and glitter. I loved making those arts and crafts. Later when covid cases reduces my mom invited my socity friends at my house. We all made a group and played together. Me and my friends played in the trampoline. We also played on the monkey bar. We got pet love birds for some days. Later, we flew them in the sky.

-Rahini Pandya, 3E

HOBBIES

The pandemic was a time of freedom, a time of boredom, but above all, a time of creativity. In their quest to pass time, many people, children and adults alike, picked up new hobbies or continued old ones. It was almost like everyone around us was suddenly an author, artist, baker, or chef. These hobbies and their impacts on people played a very important role in getting us through the pandemic. The following few pages are a curated celebration of the many hobbies that Anand Niketan students picked up during the spare time they had in the pandemic, from gardening to artistry.



-Aaryan Mehta, Editor-in-Chief

WRITING

When faced with adversaries, we all react or cope in different ways. COVID-19 and the lockdown was a challenge we all faced and eventually overcame on our own. For me, it was writing, at a time when there were so few people you could talk to because of the curfews, it was a pen and a paper that helped me sort through everything I was feeling and thus know more about who I was, which is something most people struggle with and take a long time to figure out. Writing, mainly poems, was what made sure I survived the lockdown and isolation. As something I had started religiously only in the lockdown, it was extremely insightful as it also helped me decide what I wanted to pursue in the future. This is a homage to writing, which was there for me when no one was and has all my heart for being what abled me to find happiness on isolated days.

-Dhaani Joshi, 10N



ART

Art in any and every form is poetic. It is not about what you can see in a portrait but instead how you feel after seeing one. A canvas with nothing but gradients of white can be perceived as a thousand different things, loneliness, calm and whatnot. Art is an incredibly beautiful form of escapism. Artists transfer their emotions from their bodies to the tip of their paintbrush. Art says so much about a person.



Paintings with closed doors, a vibrant muddle of colours, and scenes capturing the beauty of nature, all teleport us to the artist's mind and the sympathy only increases. Many a time, people are afraid to draw or paint because of how bad they might be at it. But simply starting with a pencil in your hand and a sheet of paper on your desk, you might even become the next Picasso. Every imperfection and disfigured drawing is just another step forward to perfection. Art truly is food for the soul, of the soul and by the soul.

-Aditi Negi, 9A

BAKING

Towel-wrapped hands enter the oven, ignoring the heat that envelopes the arm and cheeks, and then lift the tray from the heat, holding the tray of freshly baked goods with the same reverence one might reserve for the king's crown. After hours of hard work of weighing, mixing, kneading, rolling dough, whisking and simmering streamy egg yolks, when the good is finally ready to be eaten, the sense of completion and success is unparalleled. The art of baking has many meanings to the pâtissier - some may find it therapeutic despite the long hours of hard work involved, and others find it a form of expression. Baking helps a person become a patient and persistent perfectionist. The subject of math also helps to create your favourite confectionery. Ratio, proportion and time management are just some examples. More free time during the Covid 19 pandemic aided many people in revisiting their beloved hobby, baking.

-Aadhya Tak, 11 International



COOKING

Ever since the lockdown began, overnight, every second person on the gram turned into a chef! With home pages filled with images to serve as proof of their skills, and WhatsApp stories reflecting recipes, cooking was the new 'in' thing. This is an effective stress buster. There was an unforeseeable rise in cooking. Since people were at home and had a lot of free time, they had a reason to experiment in the kitchen. Both men and women had their interests inclined in cooking during the lockdown. For some, it has been a way to pass their time productively, and for others, it has ignited a passion for cooking. Several home businesses flourished in this period. People started baking and cooking from home and provided delivery services. What a wonderful way to make money from your hobby! Talking about cooking and baking during the lockdown, how can one forget to talk about the internet sensation "Dalgonia Coffee". A fancy-looking coffee drink which can be simply made in 2 minutes! If you haven't tried, then what are you waiting for?

-Chris Lobo , 11H



GARDENING

During the lockdown, when everything looked so bleak, one of the main things that brought colour in our lives was flowers. Flowers have been the subject of songs and poems, beautiful works of nature that bloom all around us. Therefore, when everybody felt trapped in their own homes, it was no wonder they chose to escape to nature. Finally free from their hectic schedules people looked around and saw their balconies and backyards with a new perspective. Social media blew up with people asking for tips to grow various plants and with aesthetic photo shoots of plants and flowers.



The reason gardening rose in popularity in the lockdown was that tending to plants gave people the satisfaction of doing something that blossomed with beautiful results. Even now, so long after the lockdown has ended, people still tend to the plants that were their source of comfort during the most boring but challenging time of their lives. It seems we as humans fall back to the basic comforts of life when we are lost as we were in the lockdown.

-Nivedita Yadav, 12 International

MUSIC

Sound is a very interesting thing. It is how our brain interprets the orderly jostling of particles, but this jostling can be so varied that there is an infinite number of possible sounds. If the right sounds are paired together, they can be a great pleasure to listen to. This is music.

Music is a powerful force. Anyone who has felt an overwhelming sense of triumph at the thundering of trumpets, or a quiet melancholy at the mellow bumbling of a piano, or a joyous warmth at the harmonious chorus of voices knows. It is incredible how sound, mere sound, can draw such visceral reactions from us.

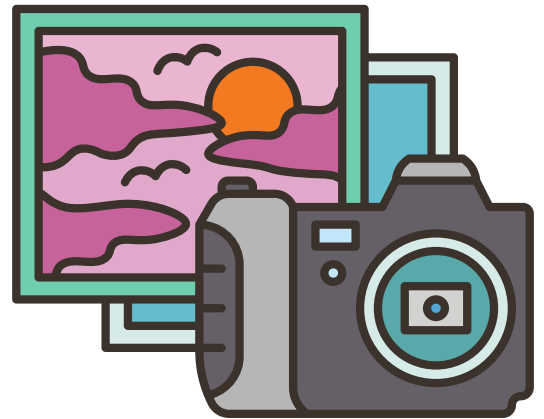


When humans first learned to wield sound to make music millions of years ago, we truly discovered something special: a way to express human emotion in all its abstractness, and something that would transcend all language, culture and ideology in the millennia to come.

Humans and music have become inextricably intertwined since then. And it certainly has been a fruitful relationship.

- Saksham Mathur, 10E

PHOTOGRAPHY



I had read somewhere that photographs are a document of a moment in time; looking at their scaffolds enables conversation about the past. To me, it's an oxymoron: still, lifeless, unmoving yet full of life, meaning & depth. The act and after-product, both induce feelings of calm and joy in the doer. During the pandemic, when life was at a standstill, with theatres closed, vacations ceasing to happen and a cloud of loneliness, and forlorn darkness hovered above, people wanted something bigger than themselves, to do away with their sorrow. Photography was precisely that. A happy place. While talking to other people about how they felt when indulged in photography during COVID times, I got a lot of different replies and yet, the essence remained the same. The essence of hope, tranquillity, serenity and beyond. It made the suffering around them and the feelings within tangible, coupled with a sense of happiness, to be able to capture raw emotions and immortalize them. All of these things together strengthened people's beliefs of a better time to come & acted as a ray of sunshine in those dark days.

-Rini Mehta, 12H

STUDENT POETRY

“
We hate
As Covid is in our fate
Going out with a mask
Is a task
If you are wise
Then you will always sanitize
Don't have the doctors criticise
If you've got Covid then
immediately isolate
Otherwise it will be too late
If you get a positive in the test
Then you have to surely rest
So let's get an injection
And you're in the safe section
”

-Vihaan Agarwal - 5E



“
Before the virus, I went to school, and everything was happy.
Now I see people with face masks and few cars
but I am happier to have more time with my mom and I have more
days to play.
I'm afraid that my family and friends will get sick.
I miss playing with my friends at school.
I miss visiting my grandparents at their house.
I dream about seeing my best friend and then us going to the beach.
While this lockdown happens, I draw pictures, I play and I do
homework.
I hope that this ends so I can go back to seeing my friends.
When all this ends, I will go to the park to skate.
All this will pass, and we will be fine, if we take care of ourselves and
wash our hands, the virus will die.
Stay at home so we can go out.
”

-Venika Patel - 6C

STUDENT POETRY



“

Looking back at Covid

I don't want to look back I
cannot look back
All those lives lost; I don't want
to go down that track
China started that war
Now we have a cure

Can't live without a mask
anymore
Goodbyes I wish farewell, even
though there will be many
more
When I heard the door creak
that day
I was free as a jay

That strand joined yet once
more
We could hear the roar
Animals roam freely
While we dance happily

Locked down showed us the
way
Locked in might have just been
a hooray
We stayed safe
Away from covid's ways

-Reyaan Shah - 6I

”

“

Covid is a nuisance
An example is that it cut of our
tuitions
It lasted for three years
And brought some people tears
But then came the vaccine
Which for covid was a toxin
But unfortunately covid still exists
in the air
And I think it's just not fair.

-Prasham Shah -5E

”

Student Art



Aashay Mehta - 6E



Samaira Jain - 2L-B



Jay Maheta - 2N-A

The Artist sees what
others catch only a
glimpse of

Art is not what you
see, but what you
make others see



Jiya Bhatia - 6E



Mihika Goyal - 3C



Pransh Patel - 4E



Vihan Kedia - 2C-B

Student Photography



Hiya Chotalia - 10A

"In photography there is a reality so subtle that it becomes more real than reality."



Vanaalika Mohapatra - 10V



Helik Shah - 12S

ANTS at Work



Aayan Diwanji - 10I

