



Principal's Note

Indomitable! Indefatigable!

The most befitting adjectives can be appended to the human spirit after an introspection of the last academic year, loaded as it was with angst and intricacies.

Sometimes we indeed fall victim to our vanity and as a result, human endeavour is thrown into jeopardy. But as history is witness, the indefatigable human spirit is much bigger than any peril. It is indisputable that winter cannot stop the arrival of spring, and darkness can never shroud the light of dawn.

Human civilisation has seen menaces before, and we have come out of those dark moments together. Humans do more than survive, however. We thrive. In brief, we humans are blessed in too many ways to count and that is down to one thing: the phenomenal, indomitable spirit within.

Regardless of what may come, in the days ahead, even beyond our worst dreams, we will figure out how to live the unlivable with two mantras: indomitability and indefatigability.

However, great things never come from mediocrity. Quit settling for the average and strive for the extraordinary. Let it be the cynosure of our coming days.



- Ashish Agarwal

How to be Atypical: An Exclusive Guide

In a world of 7.3 billion biologically unique individuals, one finds it rather hard to be truly extraordinary. The struggle to make ourselves superior: faster, smarter, stronger, better is not easily conquered. A diamond's value is determined by how exquisitely rare it is, and in rarity lies its beauty. In a world of 7.3 billion people, how do you include yourself in the smallest percentage? You need to forage no further than this handy and totally exclusive guide to exclusivity.

- **Wait for trends to pass**

When Bridgerton dropped on Netflix, I was immediately interested. A racially inclusive, yet entirely inaccurate period piece? Sign me up! But if one is unable to secure the badge of having discovered a now-popular item, one must let the waves of popularity pass, lest one should be deemed a mingler among common masses. As the less-popular saying goes, if you waited for a show on a streaming platform that has now become famous, wait until its memes become old!

- **Examine and cross-behave**

Gone are the days when you could be brooding and sulky and give off the airs of mystery. Everyone is pouty now, get a new thing! When surrounded by a swarm of like minded people, become unpredictable and exciting by maintaining a countenance opposite to them. While it is not the best trick to earn people's favours, the whole point is to be different!

- **Girlboss, Gaslight, Gatekeep**

Uniqueness is a precious asset and personality traits are a personal commodity. Go on Spotify and find artists with less than

10,000 monthly listeners. Play them on loop and become their top 0.01 listeners. To the untrained eye, these antics may seem desperate and borderline obsessive, but remember that person is a plebeian, an enjoyer of the show F.R.I.E.N.D.S and Ed Sheeran. Their opinions are like their interests: they do not matter.

- **Hyperspecificity is the key**

Being knowledgeable about a particular thing is a great way to flaunt your free time and resources. If you are looking for a place to start, 17th-century Icelandic poetry, radish planting methodology,

Kamen Reider Manga and the early works of Jean Charlot are great places to start. If you would be intimidated by a person with a doctorate in that field, it is the one!

- **Beware — self-aware!**

True remarkability comes from complete candidness. Be charming, witty, talented and pretty, and effortlessly so. Superficiality is but surface-level; in the deepest waters lie mother pearl. One must be unaware of the brilliance one possesses, for narcissism is unbecoming and more incriminatingly: it is quotidian.

Hurrah my special snowflake, you are the prettiest girl at the ball! You the most special, the dearest, coolest, quirkiest, most distinctive person you know. You are so different from the rest of the world, you might as well have your own genetic code. Be the idiot in idiosyncratic! Enjoy life having great taste and ever-correct opinions!

- Hia Sadho (12B)

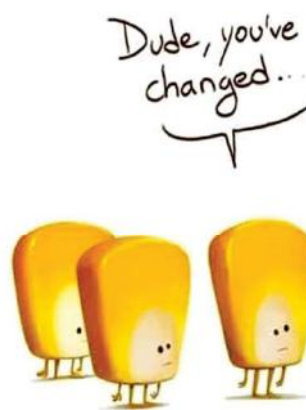


Image credit: pinterest.com

Student Editorial Board



Hia Sadho
Editor-in-chief

Arayna Saxena

Kaashvi Mehta

Paloma Jain

Editor's Note

"Do I dare disturb the universe?" muses T.S. Elliot in 'The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock', as does each artist when they pick up a brush, a pen, a sword. All art is disturbance, all music is irritated gusts of air, each Monet is a scribble. I dedicate this issue to every vandal, hooligan, delinquent, troublemaker, and artist.

As ever we are grateful for the wonderful submissions sent to us; whether they made it to the final draft, or not, they were thoroughly enjoyed through the process. We hope that our efforts to open The Billabong Bulletin as a

platform to voice your opinions, grievances, ideas, and more, were sincerely received. The Editorial Board has developed leaps and bounds, and I am proud of the journey we have made.

My acquaintance with you, dear reader, is through a short letter at the beginning of this newsletter, and this shall be my last. I hope, along with my fellow artists, have caused enough chaos, created enough art, disturbed the universe, and most importantly: pleased you.

I dare. (I hope you do too.)

- Hia Sadho (12B), Editor-in-chief

Theme

Atypical

72nd Republic Day



Shah

Unlike every year, this year Republic Day was celebrated by the Billabong family virtually, in spirit. A live Facebook event was held on this occasion.

The key speakers of the event, Myra Mittal, Freedom house Vice-Captain and Iha Prasad, Peace house Vice-Captain, enthusiastically greeted the audience and talked about the influence of the Indian Constitution on

our national ideology.

Our School

Captain, Shah Hussain, Minister of Cultural Affairs, Hitakshika Suri and School Vice-captain, Sujal Israni, conducted the flag hoisting ceremony. On our 72nd Republic Day, Shah read aloud the Preamble of India, evoking the true sense of patriotism in power-packed words. The event came to an end on a rhythmic note with a live musical medley by the students- Simran Ahuja, Tanvi Khandelwal, Archit Sharma, and teachers - Ms. Anuja Sharma and Ms. Mehak Khan.

While the Student Council members represented the school in its entirety, the absence of the missing members was surely felt!

The Constitution is not a mere lawyer's document, it is a vehicle of life, and its spirit is always the spirit of age." – Dr. B.R. Ambedkar



L to R : Mehak, Simran, Tanvi, Archit, and Anuja



Myra

Iha



Billabong Open Football League

240 Players | 16 Teams | 9 Days | 1 Winner

This year our school hosted the first edition of the Billabong Open Football League (BOFL). This tournament invited players from all over the city across different ages, to come together and play their hearts out. It was a nine-day tournament wherein two hundred and forty players came together to form sixteen teams and compete against each other. There were four pools of four teams each and two teams from each pool qualified for the quarterfinals.

Billabong Open Football League 2021 came to a celebratory closure with players across the clubs displaying their dexterity, pertinacity, and love for this game. A total of thirty-two matches

were played across the tournament, which crowned into a lively closure on Saturday, as the champions of the league, Blue Blasters football club lifted their dazzling trophy, and were honoured with medals, certificates, and a cash prize of Rs. 30,000/-. The occasion was honoured by Mr. Rakesh Sharma, Secretary, Bhopal District Football Association, Mr. Najam Jamal, Chairman, BHIS Bhopal and Mr. Ashish Agarwal, Principal, BHIS, Bhopal. The viewers thoroughly enjoyed the veterans' game between Bhopal Tigers and Arera Seniors where seasoned football players left the gathering awestruck with their fantastic performance.



BOFL CHAMPIONS
BLUE BLASTERS FC



RUNNER-UP
KDPS FC



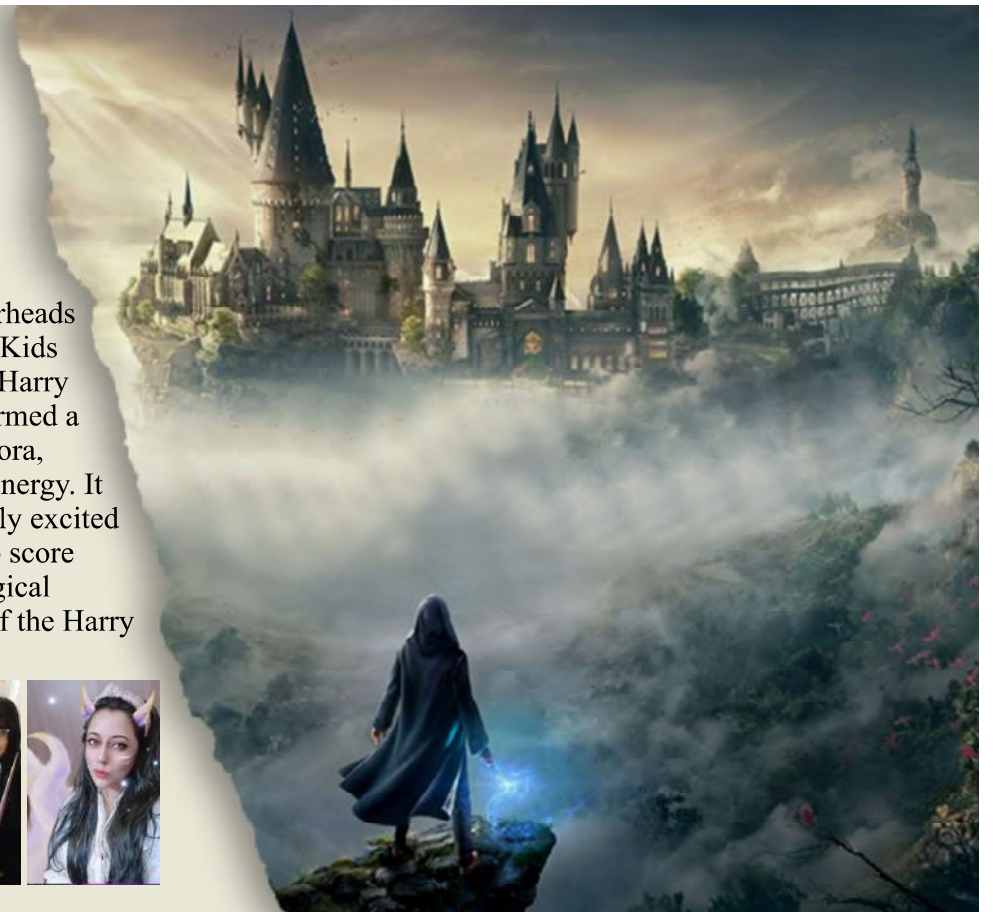
SECOND RUNNER-UP
ELITE GLIDERS FC

Harry Potter Frenzy

We do not need magic to change the world, we carry all the power we need inside ourselves already: we have the power to imagine better.

- J.K. Rowling

The insurmountable love for Harry Potter rubs off on the young and old Potterheads alike! Grade 4 celebrated their Harry Potter Dress-up Day for an entire week. Kids dressed up as their favourite characters- Hermione Granger, Ronald Weasley, Harry Potter, Professor Snape, Professor Dumbledore, Dobby the Elf, etc. and performed a plethora of magical spells like Wingardium Leviosa, Avada Kedavra, Alohomora, Sectumsempra, Accio, Lumos, Obliviate, Riddikulus with much fervour and energy. It was a lively event full of magic and glitterati. The students were extraordinarily excited to be finally sorted into their respective houses, participated in a final battle to score last-minute house points through a wizardry quiz, dressing up in the most magical costumes, collaborative skits, recreating artwork based on magical elements of the Harry Potter world, reliving the magic of Hogwarts.





IT Fest - Innovazione

BHIS students have been matching pace with technology with some exciting IT events and Inter-house competitions across Primary to High School which not only offered them an opportunity to practically implement their learning but also hone their IT skills, preparing them for the tech-savvy world. Here is a list of events and the respective winners across each level-

Winners (Grades 1 and 2)



1st Position -
Ramansh Sharma, Grade 2,
Peace House

2nd Position -
Madeeha Noor, Grade 2,
Freedom House and **Viraj Dighe**,
Grade 1, Freedom House

3rd Position -
Tanish Rajpal, Grade 2, Equality
House and **Aryan Nahar**, Grade
1, Unity House

Winners (Grade 3)



1st Position -
Aayaan Koranne, Grade 3,
Peace House

2nd Position -
Dhairya Krishnani, Grade 3,
Unity House and **Maanveer**
Thakur, Grade 3, Freedom
House

3rd Position -
Gabriella V. Marques, Grade 3,
Unity House and **Dhanvi**
Agarwal, Grade 3, Freedom
House

Winners (Grade 4)



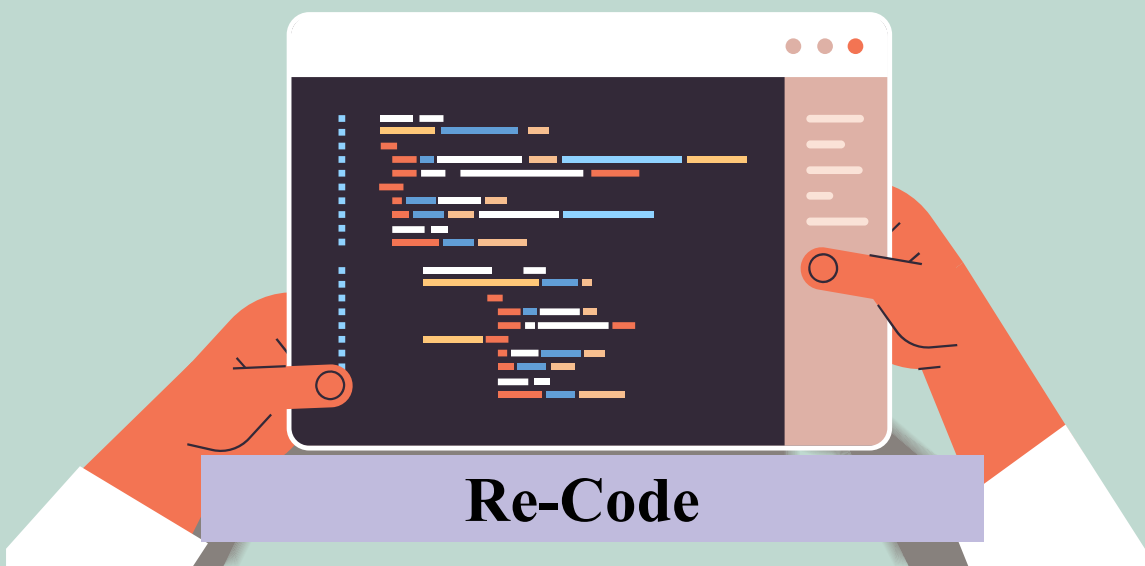
1st Position -
Harnav Kaplish, Grade 4, Peace
House

2nd Position -
Siddhant Dhote, Grade 4,
Equality House

3rd Position -
Arsh Mitna, Grade 4, Unity
House and **Aayushman Nayak**,
Grade 4, Peace House

Digital Design and Creation

Students of Grades 1 to 4 displayed their creativity by submitting refined thematic presentations on eco-friendly Diwali prepared on MS Paint. The refined work entailed their originality, creativity, and deftness for this competition.



Programming languages teach us how to communicate and develop logical thinking. Coding has a language of its own. Every letter in the Alphabet has a special formula of 0's and 1's that represent it. These 0's and 1's give the technology around us directions on how to perform and there is no better way to understand why and how the technology around us operates than by learning to code and speaking to the technology around us.

In Recode, an Inter-house Virtual Coding Competition, students from Grades 5 to 12 created programs on various platforms like BlueJ and Code.org. Students of grades 5 and 6 created projects on Scratch on the topic - 'The New Normal Post Covid - 19'. Students of grades 7 and 8 created projects on Code.org and were judged on the criteria of Completed Levels and Lines of code. Students of Grades 9 to 12 took to Java to create projects of their choice.

Winners (Grades 5 and 6)



1st Position -
Parth Jhawar, Grade 5, Freedom House

2nd Position -
Diya Chhabria, Grade 6, Unity House

3rd Position -
Shreen Vital, Grade 6, Unity House

Winners (Grades 7 and 8)



1st Position -
Mehar Batra, Grade 8, Peace House

2nd Position -
Aahish Vijayvargiya, Grade 8,
Equality House

3rd Position -
Mohammad Arshaan Khan, Grade
7, Freedom House

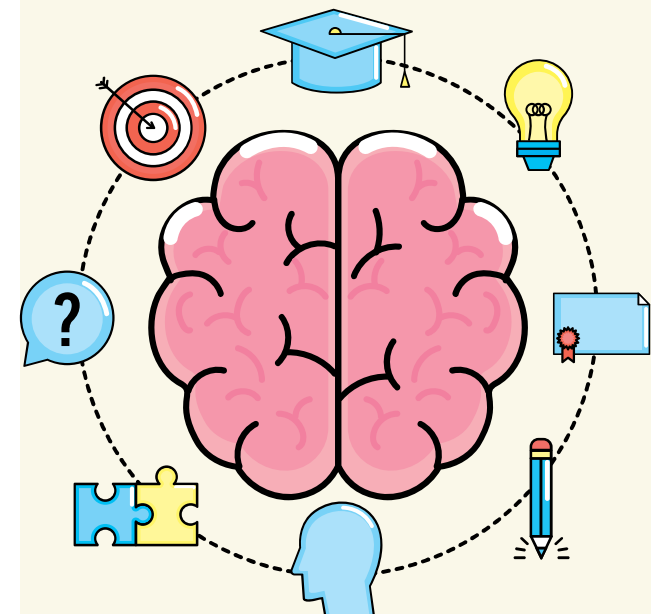
Winners (Grades 9 to 12)



1st Position -
Sarthak Trivedi, Grade 9, Unity
House

2nd Position -
Jaspratap Singh, Grade 9, Equality
House

3rd Position -
Soum Sood, Grade 9, Unity House



Brain Teaser

This Inter-house Online Computer Quiz Competition for the students of Grades 5 and 6 tested them on their knowledge of Computer Science. The first round of the competition was conducted through Quizizz.com and the final round was conducted live on Microsoft Teams.

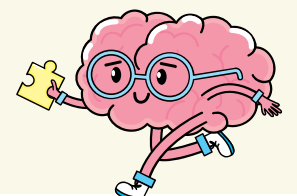
Winners (Grades 5 and 6)



1st Position -
Daksh Agrawal, Grade 6, Freedom House

2nd Position -
Shaurya Tyagi, Grade 5, Unity House

3rd Position -
Soham Shrivastava, Grade 6, Unity House
and **Utkarsh Gupta**, Grade 5B, Equality
House

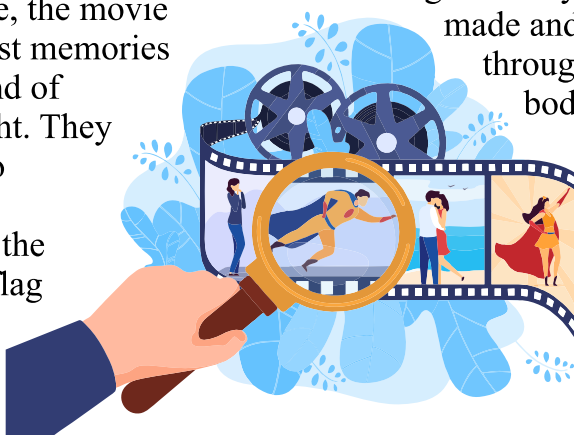


(Grades mentioned are from
previous academic year)



The Misclick: An honest review

The last time I saw Billabong High was over a year ago. Coronavirus and the consequent pandemic removed from me, my classmates and other senior high schools from saying proper goodbyes. Stepping away from that odious note, the movie Mis-click took me right back to some of the best memories I have of school. The plot brings together a band of misfits - all fishes out of water in their own right. They enter an English class, only to be transported to school where an omniscient narrator sets out a series of tasks. The movie is set on campus, so the staples of memory like the assembly area, the flag post and the administration block all appear. The intersections of various forms of performance art, like music and dance performances, gave it a classic Bollywood feel as well. The story was a textbook example - a school adventure that brings together a group of oddballs. That I think is ultimately the beauty of this story, and its physical setting. It captures the distention of knowing of all your classmates, but not



knowing about all of them.

This movie becomes an important one to watch on the 4th of April, marking sixteen years of Billabong Bhopal. Unquestionably well made and heartfelt, the movie looks like a student initiative through and through. As it has in the past, the student body of Billabong introduced a new avenue of creative input and critical thinking with the Mis-click. It is exciting to see more opportunities that students can engage with and thrive on. The movie is even more valuable for the journey it has taken, from the Broadway play written by Simran Shaju and starring Kalyani Shukla and Harshvardhan Rastogi, six years ago on Billabong's decade anniversary to a pandemic production actualising student creativity on the screen. I am so proud to have watched this as an alumna.

- Arya Shukla

BHIS Alumna (Batch 2018-19)



Post-production is where all the magic happens and how different effects, VFX and background music are set to completely enhance the experience of the viewer. It means taking all the raw, acquired ingredients and turning them into the perfect dish. The post-production of "The Misclick" involved dubbing, sequencing, editing and audio aligning.

First, the clips are taken from the equipment and placed in a workstation where they are then sequenced; since a lot of the shots are taken without due consideration of the chronological sequence in the movie. Then the clips are provided to the recording studio for the process of dubbing in which all the emotions and sounds are taken into consideration.

After the audio files are provided to the editing house again, they are aligned and placed over their respective video files and then they go through audio blending, a process in which the dubbed audio files are blended with the original audio which was recorded during the shoot.

After this, we have a bland and normal movie file which then goes through VFX, effects, background music and transitional editing wherein all of the afore-mentioned processes are taken care of. This is the most fragile and lengthy phase since every second of the movie has to be engaging for the viewer and the editing team has to make sure of this. Once this step is completed, Credits are finalised which are an acknowledgement of the efforts of actors, dancers/musicians, editors, producers and the director.

- Gaurav Singh (12A)



BEHIND THE SCENES





Image credit: indianexpress.com

Is the PROTEST for the FARM LAWS justified?

The new agricultural bills passed by the Indian government have been in the spotlight for quite some time now. There have been massive protests against the laws, mainly centred in the Punjab-Haryana region, and they are totally justified. The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce Bill, 2020 allows farmers to directly sell their produce outside APMC Mandis where Mandi tax will not be levied. A market where traders do not have to pay a tax is definitely a more attractive option for them. Once trade inside Mandis is reduced, they will stop getting any revenue and it is justifiable to speculate that it might result in their closure. The issue of MSP is not that the government will stop procuring produce, it is that there is no MSP guarantee outside the Mandis. If trade shifts to the free market, farmers have no option but to sell there. This will only facilitate the entry of big players who may dominate and ultimately force farmers to sell at low prices. Indian landholdings are fragmented. In fact, 86 per cent of farmers are small farmers and have a holding of fewer than 2 hectares. Big companies would prefer to buy goods in bulk, thus small farmers' goods may not be bought in the open market. As a result, the Mandi would be the only way for them to sell their goods, which may not exist anymore. It could render small farmers helpless.

There is uncertainty hovering around the laws, which have sparked protests. The protests are justified, despite the multiple attempts at defaming them. It is normal to fear a massive change in the system, especially when no one knows what might happen next. The farmers are simply raising their voice against what they feel is not right in their line of work. The protests are concentrated in the Punjab-Haryana region because a lot of trade within the Mandis is prevalent in that region, and the law will directly affect them. India has a very diverse geographical landscape and thus there is a lot of variety in agriculture. A 'one-size-fits-all' scenario cannot be applicable in this case. Farmers are protesting together to show that they have a voice, and to express their dissatisfaction with the laws. We live in a democratic country, and therefore, that voice must be heard.

- Juhi Goyal (12A)

YES



NO



The ongoing farmers' protests are against the three farm acts introduced by the Government of India in September 2020. They have attracted a lot of dispute and dissent, but it is a more complicated issue than it appears on the surface level.

The bills give the farmers the freedom to sell their goods outside the APMC market, without the burden of unnecessary tax. It will be easier for farmers to produce costlier crops, which will be an increase in their income. These new farm laws are not going to affect the minimum support price (MSP) at all.

In an interview, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Mr Narendra Singh Tomar asserted- "MSP was, MSP is, and MSP will continue in the future." In case of any dispute arising in such business, the matter will be settled within 30 days by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate which would assist farmers in resolving their disputes more easily.

Farmers fear that traders would be punished for holding stocks that are deemed excess and inflicting losses for the farmers. The amendment to the Essential Commodities Act removes that fear completely. As said by the Agricultural Minister, if these farmers manage to know the fixed price of their produce in advance through any law, they will be able to do profit farming.

The Agricultural Minister also mentioned that around 86% of said farmers are small farmers, which means that this much-disrupted amendment actually benefits the farmers, especially the less fortunate ones.

There will be no restriction on trade within the state or anywhere else in the country, which will profit the farmers in making a better choice of the merchant who will sell their products based on a higher price, more customers, longer working relationship, etc.

Last but not the least, the new farm acts expand the scope of trade areas of farmers' produce from select areas to "any place of production, collection, aggregation", along with allowing electronic trading and e-commerce of scheduled farmers' produce giving the farmers a bigger platform for their trade.

Agriculture is the backbone of our nation, and it is the State's duty to protect and conserve the rights of these farmers. By talking to farmer unions and clearly explaining the benefits of these new laws, I hope that the hardworking farmers can get the benefits they deserve.

- Devyani Sadho (9B)





A space of my home

Image credit: vocal.media

Walking through the timeline,
Of decades, centuries and millennia
I am searching where I come from?

My memory is faded,
And I do not remember my home,
But the heart longs, the soul wails,
And the inside calls along.

I wander in vast expanses,
In limitless trails,
I travel through empty spaces,
And crevices of this galactic dale,
To find there isn't,
A space of my home.

Emerging from elements,
And merging back to them,
I have changed this cloak several times.
How many movies, how many roles,
How many dramas played in a splendid extol.

I paly and play,
Changing attire to attire,
Of the unceasing soul,
Of villains, of heroes,
Of juvenescence, of olds,
Wanting to know,
Who this actor really is?

I probe, I seek,
Into atoms and abysses,
Trees and recesses,
Into every existence,
To look for where I come from.

In continuum,
I just fail to find
A space of my home.

The universe is empty,
The voyage in on,
And I walk alone,
Traversing through light-years,
In desolate search,
Lost in infinity I travel,
And travel... and travel again...

- Mokshda Marwaha (12B)

Three Beautiful Sisters

I see three beautiful sisters,
Creatures carved from light,
Each existing within one-another,
Playing a different role every passing night.

The first one dressed in Black,
Dark but Content,
She kept reminding me,
Of what my forgotten memories meant.

The second one dressed in White,
She is the unknown plight,
She keeps giving hope to go on,
And a reason to fight.

The last one dressed in Gray,
I never caught sight of her until today,
She has a life that goes noticed by none,
She is my now, she is the one,
The present that I have many-a-time shunned.

The first two sisters are confined,
The present is what is truly mine,
She is my happiness, she is my tears,
She is my anger, she is my fears.



Image credit: etsy.com

I have learned to love each sister as my own,
The past, the present and the future sitting on
their thrones,
The past is gone,
The future is not yet here,
The present is the one that I now truly hold
dear.

- Angelika Gahlot (10C)

Dreaming of The Perfect

I dream of a life of only happiness,
But would I appreciate it if I knew no grief?

I dream of a life where I would miss no one,
But would I value the people around me if I had no one to lose?

I dream of a life free of stress,
But would I be satisfied with it if I never knew the feeling of relief?

I dream of a life where I would have all I want,
But then would I ever know the meaning of earning?

I dream of a life where I was on top of the world,
But would I care about being on top if I knew no rock bottom?

I dream of a perfect life,
But would I even know what is perfect if I knew no imperfection?

- Aamya Tuteja (9B)



Image credit: pinterest.com

Joys of Spring

The shivering winter has passed,
And now comes Spring.
The newly hatched baby birds,
Will now fly and sing.

Warm sunlight starts touching us,
Cherry blossoms start to bloom.
Colourful roses will open up,
With a fragrance of perfume.

The wind blows with a peaceful
sound,
Soothes everything on the ground.
The hum of the bees is heard
everywhere,



Image credit: wallpapercave.com

Sucking the nectar and working
together.
The changes in the sky and on the
Earth,
We witness it during March, April
and May.
Everyone loves without rhyme or
reason,
This is the magic of the "SPRING"
season.

- Mohammad Kaab (2G)

A-Typical Spring

Spring is here again
Everything is just the same
But now I can see the change
People covering their faces is strange
We could walk in the spring
And get that fresh whiff
Now everything is marked full of risk
The use of sanitisers and sprays is a must
There's no such thing left as trust
Everything has become a bit clinical
Even the spring is now 'ATYPICAL'

- Gurbani Bhat (3B)





Echoes...

I was married off when I was around 14 because my father was a farmer and we were extremely poor. I have vague memories of having to eat raw chapatis with boiled wheat. I was told I was lucky to have something to eat, and I knew it was true when I witnessed my mother sleep with an empty stomach for countless days. She would reassure me by saying that only a few bites could fit in her stomach because it was smaller than ours. My head was filled with questions but I had been scolded mercilessly for being too curious for a girl so I refrained from asking anything at all. I wanted to ask why mother waited for us to finish eating and had to manage with our leftovers. Why our small, dusty hut with two rooms echoed with voices of my mother writhing in pain after noises of being slapped and kicked was heard when I was pretending to be asleep. Mother and father lived a better life after I was married off, or that's how I like to think of it.

I named my daughter Kalyani and my son Yug. My married life was not as bad as I had thought it would be. My husband was not rich, but could afford to provide me with three whole meals in one day!! I did not talk to him much, for I was afraid I would annoy him and he would take my kids away from me. Mother had warned me a day prior to my marriage that men are like matchsticks, a single spark is enough to ignite the fire in them and that I should worship my husband. I was too young to understand but I knew I needed to be scared of my husband. Times changed when I grew older. When I was around 30, we led a settled life, or that is how my mother would see it if she were alive. My husband managed to earn enough money to move us into the city!! I was very excited but of course, I had to keep it to myself.

We lived on rent in a small room in a half-broken building. We didn't even have to go to the other side of the city every morning because this building had its own toilet! I think I loved my husband. I don't know for sure because I might not know

what love exactly is. They make it sound like a wonderful thing on radios though. I even think I was happy back then! When I was around 45, everything changed when my husband died in an accident. He was on his way to his small haircutting shop under the banyan tree across our building when he tripped on something and fell and at that very moment, another car fled past him. My small world had shattered. I think my insides rotted that day and that is where this pungent smell comes from. This smell has been following me ever since that day. I knew I could not raise my

them though? They must have felt so upset and weak, my poor children, that they left me alone. They abandoned me. My left leg stopped working completely. It is very cold these days but I have a woollen sweater I took from another woman the other day. My feet are a little twisted. They look very dusty. I have not removed these sandals for years. My feet are fixed into them. A lady gave me these round spectacles the other day so things are less blurry now. I go from house to house asking for money to feed myself now with my woody stick and this plastic bottle. It is easy to find old sarees to cover my body. I want to ask people who give me just a rupee what is going on in their mind. In my times, it would have been enough but not now! The other day a young girl offered me a water bottle and footwear. I couldn't help but cry. Although I can't remove these sandals I took the ones she wanted to give me. She looked so much like my Kalyani! I told her about my husband, my love. I think her eyes were watery.

The most painful part of the day is going back to the broken building, to my small room and sit there all by myself, with an empty stomach and an even emptier heart. I fell across the road that day. I had to get 5 stitches but now I can't afford to get them opened. If my husband was alive, he would hold my hand in front of everyone and protect me. He would yell at that man who keeps telling me to go away from this street. He would caress my stitches and feed me. If he was alive my kids would be by my side and I would not have been waiting, praying for death. Today, as I sit in this empty small room, I can't help but think of the times when I would pretend to be asleep in my hut in the village and how the house would echo of my mother yelling and wailing out of pain. Today, this room echoes my misery, my sorrow and my pain.

- Sania Mirza Baig (10D)



children all by myself but I could not convince my conscience to marry another man at this old age. I could not send my children to school or college; I could barely feed them.

I started working as a maid but all my life, ever since I was 14, I had been working and I felt tired. Not physically but mentally. I worked for countless days, scrubbing tables, sweeping dirty yellow marble floors, washing vessels for a tiny amount that could only pay off the rent and feed us 2 times a day. My children had grown up, but they seemed to have given up way too early. Can I really blame





Image credit: lezwatchtv.com

This is a heartfelt comedy-drama and an educational Netflix series at the same time. It stars Keir Gilchrist as Sam, an 18-year-old teenager who suffers from autism spectrum (difficulty in interacting and communicating). He announces that he wants to start dating girls after some advice from his therapist Julia. In order to date and find his love, he needs to be more independent which indirectly sends his overprotective mom- Elsa, played by Jennifer Leigh, on her own life-changing path. While Sam is on a funny yet emotional journey of self-discovery, his family struggles to understand what it means to be normal. Netflix stars Brigette Lundy-Paine as a scrappy sister and Michael Rapport as Doug, a father who seeks to have a better understanding of

his son's life. Atypical is created by Robia Rashid, an American television writer and producer. In one of her interviews, she explains her inspiration for the story and I quote, "You have seen the story of somebody looking for independence and looking for love before, but not from that specific point of view." Michelle Dean, an autism consultant is also a part of this journey by contributing to help in the making of the series. She came to the sets and helped the cast understand their roles. This show is for everyone who wants to know what it takes to deal with autism. Wrapped in comedy, it is entertaining and insightful. It helps the viewers to understand something sensitive which most of us would not have been otherwise exposed to; yet the fact is that there are some people out there who are actually living with it in the real world. I recommend this show to 17-year-olds and above. Some parts of the show contain profanity, violence, alcohol, drugs, and trafficking but an IMDB rating of 8.2/10 means something!

- Janhavi Singh (10C)



WandaVision kick-started phase four of Marvel Cinematic Universe lucratively. It is centred on two Avengers- Wanda Maximoff and the Vision (a synthezoid) and it is the first series to have been produced by Marvel Studios which is available on Disney+ to stream.

The series has been called a six-hour or so long movie divided into nine episodes of more or less thirty minutes with the last two episodes being a bit closer to forty-five minutes.

The series starts as a 1950s sitcom and ends as a terrific Marvel movie. The show progresses in different sitcom eras and pays homage to classic TV shows like 'The Dick Van Dyke Show', 'Bewitched', 'The Brady Bunch', 'Family Ties', 'Full House', 'Malcolm in the Middle', 'The Office', 'Modern Family' and many more.



Image credit: Marvel Studios

Darcy Lewis from Thor, Agent Jimmy Woo from Ant-man and the Wasp, Monica Rambeau from Captain Marvel, taking their stories forward along with the central characters of Wanda, a grieving avenger with reality-bending powers, Vision, who is supposed to be dead since Thanos ripped the mind stone off of his "indestructible head" in Infinity War. Also the characters like Agnes, who is not what she says she is and Evan Peters' Pietro Maximoff, who is supposed to be Wanda's dead twin brother who was played by a different actor (Aaron Taylor Johnson) in Age of Ultron, are other characters that make WandaVision more eerie and suspenseful. An interesting point to note is that Evan Peters played a different version of Pietro Maximoff (Quicksilver) in Fox Studios' X-men.

The direction is 'Marvel-lous' and so are the well-written scripts. The background score and the sitcom-inspired intro-songs befitting each era the episode is set in are beyond phenomenal. The acting, the slapstick humour, drama, action, a bit of history and a lot of CHAOS makes WandaVision exceedingly fantastic and magical to watch.

- Ira Fatima Khan (12C)



Image credit: netflixlife.com

A brightly-coloured indisputably predictable show - "Emily in Paris"

Emily in Paris is a gripping story. It keeps you hooked, keeps you anticipating how the show and the unfailingly clichéd Emily will disappoint you next. In the first episode, scepticism arises, how a marketing agent in one fell swoop lands a job in Paris and leaves her supposedly quaint Chicago life behind. Emily is (as mentioned by her numerous times in the show), an American point of view in a French marketing firm. She is seen darting comments about the French culture, language, layout of Paris and is so stereotypical an image of an American girl that it borders on the offensive. Emily is a portrait of foreigner obliviousness as she makes no effort to learn French and the writer, Darren Star, shields the viewers from the real experiences encountered while living abroad and makes it overly cutesy. But mostly, it is a thoroughly bad experience because it is by no means a fulfilling story. The numerous loose ends, the confusingly luxurious Chanel attire for workout and everyday wear, and her blatantly bad social media skills for a marketing executive are only made tolerable through the charming views of Paris. Not only is the main character's story unrealistic, but the relations she forms in the show are also difficult to like. Her dalliance with Gabriel, the love interest, is problematic and portrays her as a bad friend and a bad woman at the core. These seemingly minuscule details make it extremely hard to root for Emily or expect any righteousness from her story or her life. The complete lack of character development paired with arrogance in her ignorance makes her an unlikeable protagonist, and the show is completely unaware of it. In the normal Netflix fashion, the show is all set to appear for a second season wherein Emily, in all surety, will continue her tangled tale of bad decisions.

- Agrima Chopra (12B)

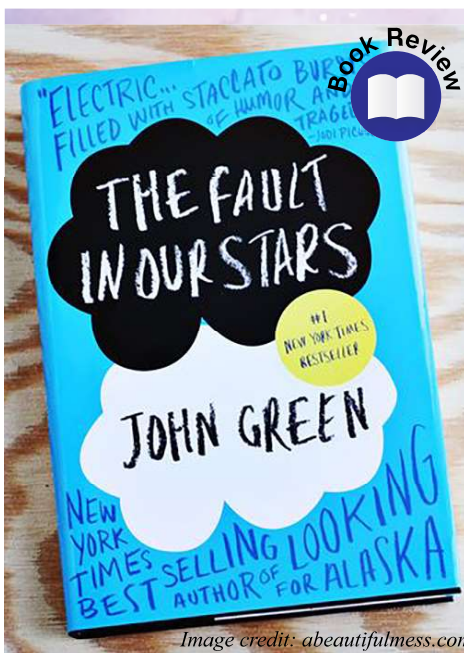


Image credit: abeautifulmess.com

"You gave me a forever within the numbered days and, I cannot tell you how thankful I am for our little universe. I am forever grateful." – John Green

The Fault in Our Stars is authored by John Green, New York Times bestselling author. It is his fourth solo novel that straight away strikes a chord with the youth. This young adult fiction is inspired by Act 1, Scene 2 of Shakespeare's play Julius Caesar, in which the nobleman Cassius says to Brutus: "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings." (Wikipedia)

The story is narrated by Hazel Grace Lancaster, a 16-year-old girl with thyroid cancer that has affected her lungs. Hazel is forced by her parents to attend a support group where she meets and subsequently falls in love with 17-year-old Augustus

Waters, an ex-basketball player and an amputee.

As soon as they meet, they share their thoughts, connect with each other's interests, and get exposed to each other's all-time favourite movies and books. Hazel's favourite book "An Imperial Affliction" written by Peter Van Houten, forms the central idea of this mesmerizing novel. For Hazel, being with Augustus was both an unexpected destination and a long-needed journey, pushing her to re-examine how sickness and health, life and death, will define her and the legacy that everyone leaves behind. This story reveals the complexities of each character and shares their personality beyond their illnesses, which people usually define them by.

I could see the ending coming but I thought that everything would happen in the way I wanted it to be, but it most certainly did not.

Simple yet profound, this book plucked my heart out, juiced it like lemon and then placed it back where it belonged, for safer means. The book stirred different emotions and changed the meaning of love for me. It made me sad and happy at the same time. It helped me know myself and the wonders that I cater to in my soul. It made a cut in my heart that could only be sewed back with love and compassion.

"The marks humans leave are too often scars." – John Green

- Nilotama Singh (9B)





Bewitching Beauty of

Bhopali Batuas



Since time immemorial, the tradition of relishing a 'paan' has stayed with the royal families belonging to the cities owing their existence to Nawabi culture. What started as a necessity to carry beetlenuts, cardamoms, cloves, and spices for paan, soon became a style statement - The Bhopali Batuas. The artisans have kept the precious tradition alive in this city of lakes for over two centuries, with the richness of the delicate zari-zardozi embroidered beautifully on velvet, silk, and satin 'batuas'/ purses. The handicraft adorning the narrow alleys of the crowded city market oozes vibrance. The technique involved in crafting these exquisite purses using gold and silver threads,



Image credit: deccanherald.com

pearls, sequins, and beads require considerable amount of hard work, which make them all the more valued. So, next time you think of gifting someone a memorabilia from your city, support this dying art by including 'Bhopali Batuas' to make your loved ones feel 'royal'.



Image credit: thedesigncart

Heading Image credit: fashionpro.me

Vanilla Tea Cake



Nothing says 'home' like the smell of a freshly baked cake straight out of the oven. Here is an evergreen tea cake recipe which will add delight to your table spread -

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of all-purpose-flour
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup of sugar
- ¾ cup oil/salted butter
- 2 tsp baking powder
- ½ cup milk
- 1 tsp. of vanilla extract
- ½ tbsp. of chopped almonds/walnuts or any nut of your choice

Instructions:

1. Preheat your oven at 180 degrees Celsius.
2. In a bowl, add baking powder and flour and mix them with a wooden spoon.
3. Take a separate bowl and add powdered sugar and oil. Mix them with an electric mixer or electric hand whisk at high

speed till the mixture appears to be light.

4. Now add eggs to the mixture and beat them one at a time.
5. Add vanilla extract and combine all the ingredients.
6. Now add milk to the mixture and give it a good stir.
7. Add leftover ingredients and mix vigorously till no lumps remain.
8. Gently add the almonds to the prepared batter.
9. Transfer the batter to an 8' inch cake pan lined with parchment paper. Bake at 180 degrees C for 35-40 minutes or until a skewer inserted comes out clean.
10. Let it rest before you unmould it. Enjoy with your favourite- tea or coffee.

- Chahek Dawani (10B)

Strawberry Lemonade

Sip on a refreshing drink that helps you stay hydrated while offering you a rich dose of Vitamin C to boost your immune system. Here is a quick recipe-



Image credit: cdkitchen.com

Ingredients:

- 1 cup Frozen Strawberries
- ½ cup Lemon Juice
- Fresh Mint Leaves
- ¾ cup Powdered White Sugar
- 1 + ½ cup Water
- Ice cubes

Instructions:

1. Blend the frozen strawberries with ½ cup of water and ¾ cup powdered white sugar.
2. Add the lemon juice and the rest of the water.
3. Crush the mint leaves and stir them in.
4. Serve with ice cubes and beat the heat!



Handmade Flower Crown

No picnic is complete without aesthetically pleasing flower crowns! Here is how you can make your own:

1. Choose the flowers you would like to arrange first.
2. Cut the stems of the flowers in a way that they are 1 1/2 inches long.
3. Measure your head and cut the wire twice the length of your head.
4. Create a loop from the wire, making sure it is the size of your head and wrap the extra wire to provide stability.
5. Place one of the flowers at the center on the loop and use floral tape to attach it to the wire.
6. Place the other flower behind the flower at the center and use floral tape to attach its stem to the wire.
7. Continue this process till this side of the wire is complete. Then, place another flower at the center next to the previous one and complete this side as well. Continue this process by going down the wire and make sure the flowers face each other.
8. Cover the exposed part of your wire either with more flowers or a floral tape.
9. You are done!





Tête-à-Tête with Piyuli Ghosh

The Editorial Board, along with students from the Organic Farming and Cooking club got to meet the eco-warrior, Piyuli Ghosh, co-founder of Anant Mandi and Life School. Anant Mandi is a youth initiative that is

aimed at promoting the culture of sustainable living practices by building a community of eco-conscious people in the city. As a part of this, they run two projects – One is an Organic Farmers' and Local Artisans' Market

(Anant Mandi) that is put up twice every month in Gandhi Bhawan, Bhopal. Another is a community farming experiment on a 15,000 sq. feet land in Neelbad. Here are the excerpts from this interview-

What was that one moment that inspired you to take the first step?

My friend and I started this initiative and we had one objective which was to build the culture of a sustainable lifestyle in the city which also brings about a change in our lifestyle to becoming more sustainable. We wanted to connect with like-minded people who felt a lack of sustainable alternatives. We started with food because it is so central to our lives. If we look at our Indian society, food is something that brings people together, it builds cultures, so our approach was always focused on community building. Food being such an important part of our lives, festivals, celebrations, and everyday conversations, became an obvious choice. We noticed that there were dialogues around sustainability and environmental conservation in Bhopal but those were always limited to not cutting trees or not using plastic but if we talk about sustainability, it is a lot more.



Piyuli Ghosh
Co-founder, Anant Mandi

chemicals which were added to the soil, destroyed it and it wasn't a sustainable practice. Organic farming will give you lesser yield but will retain the natural properties of the soil hence it is better for farmers in the longer run. Since the hybrid seeds cost a lot, the farmers go into debts as they invest a lot of money on this but in biodiverse organic farming, the farmer's farm waste becomes the input for their farm. Consumers also get to eat fresh, healthy, and organic products rich in nutritional value. From an environmental point of view, there is a decrease in pollution. Focusing on proper utilization and disposal of waste can help us look at using this treasure judiciously. Hence, we would stop generating plastic waste, which is neither bio-degradable nor beneficial.

Why is it essential to build a community of eco-conscious people? What sort of challenges do you face while educating them about community farming?

The world is facing all sorts of crisis - social, economic, financial. I feel that the ecological crisis is at the center. If we play with nature and degrade the resources, the deprivation of resources would cause other types of crisis to emerge. If we start focusing on this problem, a lot of other problems will gradually be solved. There are a lot of small components in an ecosystem and they are all interdependent. In a community-building way, people work together with harmony and without a sense of exploiting one another. The farmer's market is also a community of people where different individuals add varied components to the community. As for challenges, people are a bit irregular because they have still not realized about the criticality of taking up community farming. They also fail to recognize the crisis. So, explaining people the reason behind this crisis and the necessary steps to be taken have been a challenge but we will surely spread the word. People are also not ready to invest a lot of time as farming is time-consuming but the end result is fruitful.

What is the best way to convince the youth or appeal to them in a way that they choose to switch to organic and sustainable farming rather than indulging in highly processed unhealthy food?

First, we have to become responsible consumers, and then farming is the second step. We have to get our food from the right sources where it is grown organically. I would like to share a recent experience where I came across a woman who puts up her stall at ANANT MANDI. One day she brought these yummy muffins that had flax seeds. I asked her why did she add flax seeds to which she replied that her son refused to consume flax seeds in normal course, but when she added them to the muffins, it not only elevated the taste but her son got interested in it too. So these are simple innovations which we can experiment with, to make our food organic and ecologically sustainable by making food attractive and tempting to consume. It is also about changing the choices. We are trying to make healthier choices but we need more youngsters to think about it and spread the word. Little innovations can collectively bring about a huge change.

Why is it important for farmers and buyers to interact?

We eat food 3-4 times a day, but we don't even know where the food is coming from, it is just served to us on a plate and we eat it but we don't know how it is grown, where it is grown or how long it takes to grow. This interaction between farmers and buyers is important so that we get closer to knowing our source of food and it becomes more valuable. So, when I start growing any vegetable, I would know what it takes to grow it. The time, resources, money, and energy spent while growing that vegetable will ultimately create a level of consciousness. Then as a youth, I would start thinking that I should not waste it as I know what it takes to grow the plant. We start putting more value to something as simple as food, hence the interaction between buyers and farmers is quintessential.

What is your take on the recent bills introduced for farmers? What impact can it have on farming in the long run?

If we look at the recent bills, it's prioritizing the entire agricultural sector, and this has always increased more competition among people and in the market which has led to fights between the people, and them being insecure. Moreover, the recent bills will affect the small farmers a lot and increase more competition in the market, which is not a sustainable thing. Privatization in that sense is wrong, and I don't support it. Farmers growing produce through chemical farming are affected, as they need to earn a certain MSP to buy seeds and fertilizers. You are anyway dependent on a certain market for food but that is becoming competitive and you also have to invest in seeds and fertilizers. But if there is a transition to organic farming, they would not have to depend on the system. This is another perspective to think about farmers. These bills will have an impact on the farmers but they can also begin to change their practice of farming and not depend on the system for their needs. The government needs to subsidise organic fertilisers like cow dung manure.



L to R : Anant Hingorani (9C), Noor Qureshi (Literary Coordinator), Hia Sadho (12B), Piyuli Ghosh (Co-founder, Anant Mandi), and Pranav Prakash (9B)

What are the benefits of bio-diverse organic farming to both farmers and consumers? Please suggest a few alternatives that everyone should seriously consider.

This type of farming has a lot to do with how you work with the soil in which you are farming. Biodiverse organic farming enriches the soil and makes it more sustainable. A few decades after the Green Revolution, farmers realized that the number of pests had increased and the soil needed much more water. So in the longer run, the extra





“Photography takes an instant out of time, altering life by holding it still.”

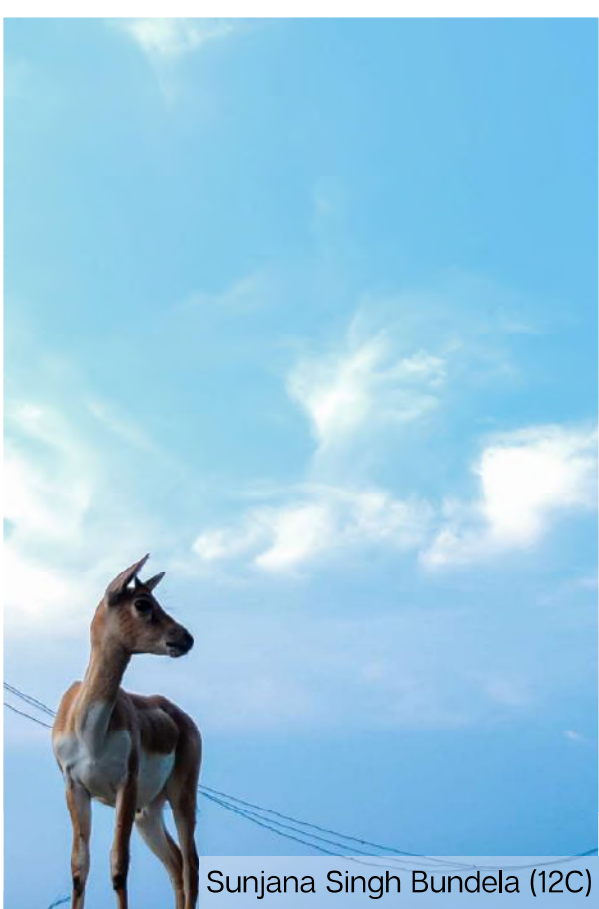
- Dorothea Lange



Ashna Khanna (6E)



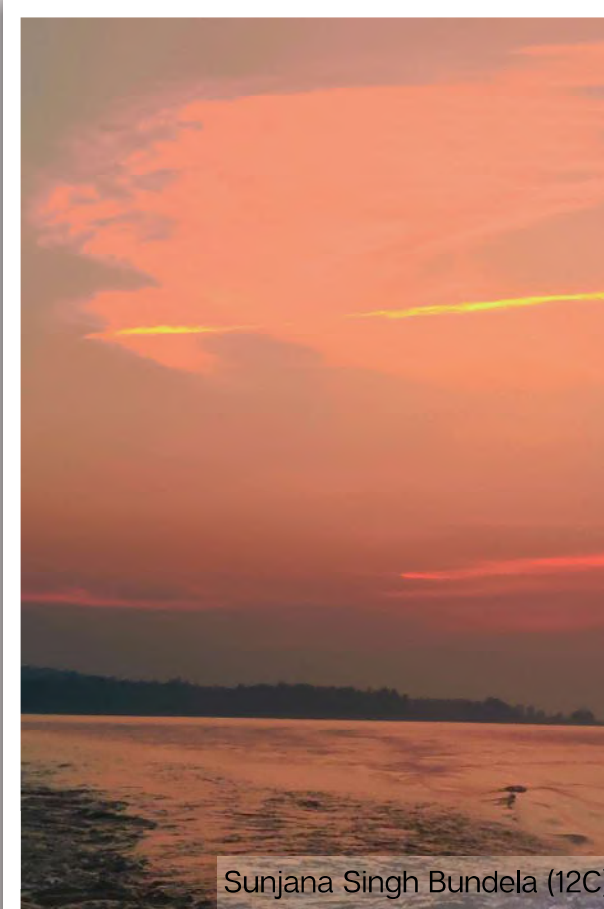
Saayalee Anand Aphale (9A)



Sunjana Singh Bundela (12C)



Prashasti Praveen (10C)



Sunjana Singh Bundela (12C)



Faiza Sultan Khan (12C)

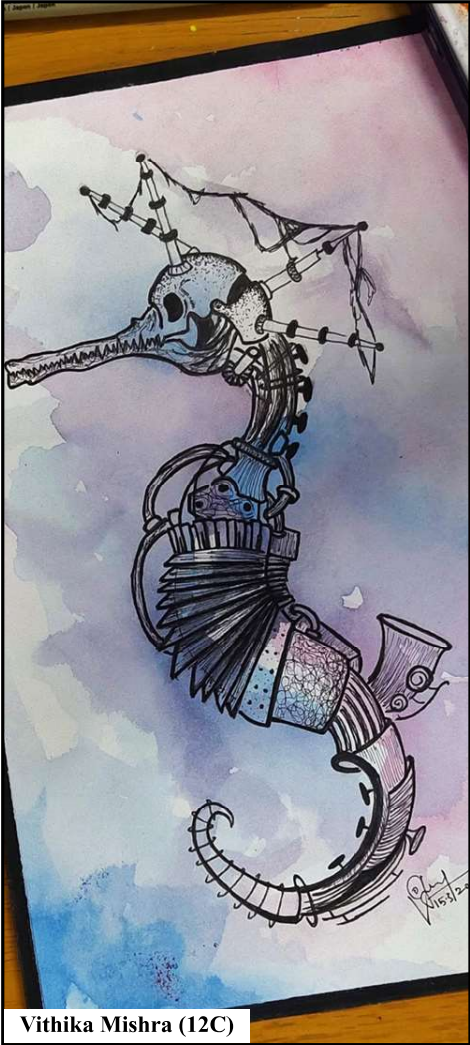


Charul Jhavar (12A)



Roopsi Chawla (8B)

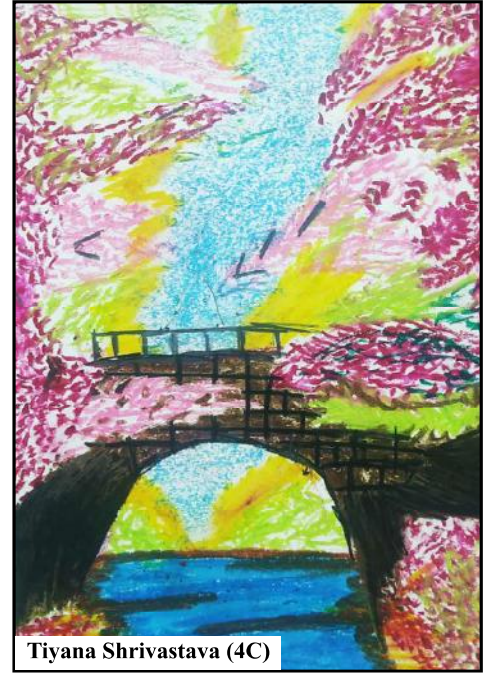




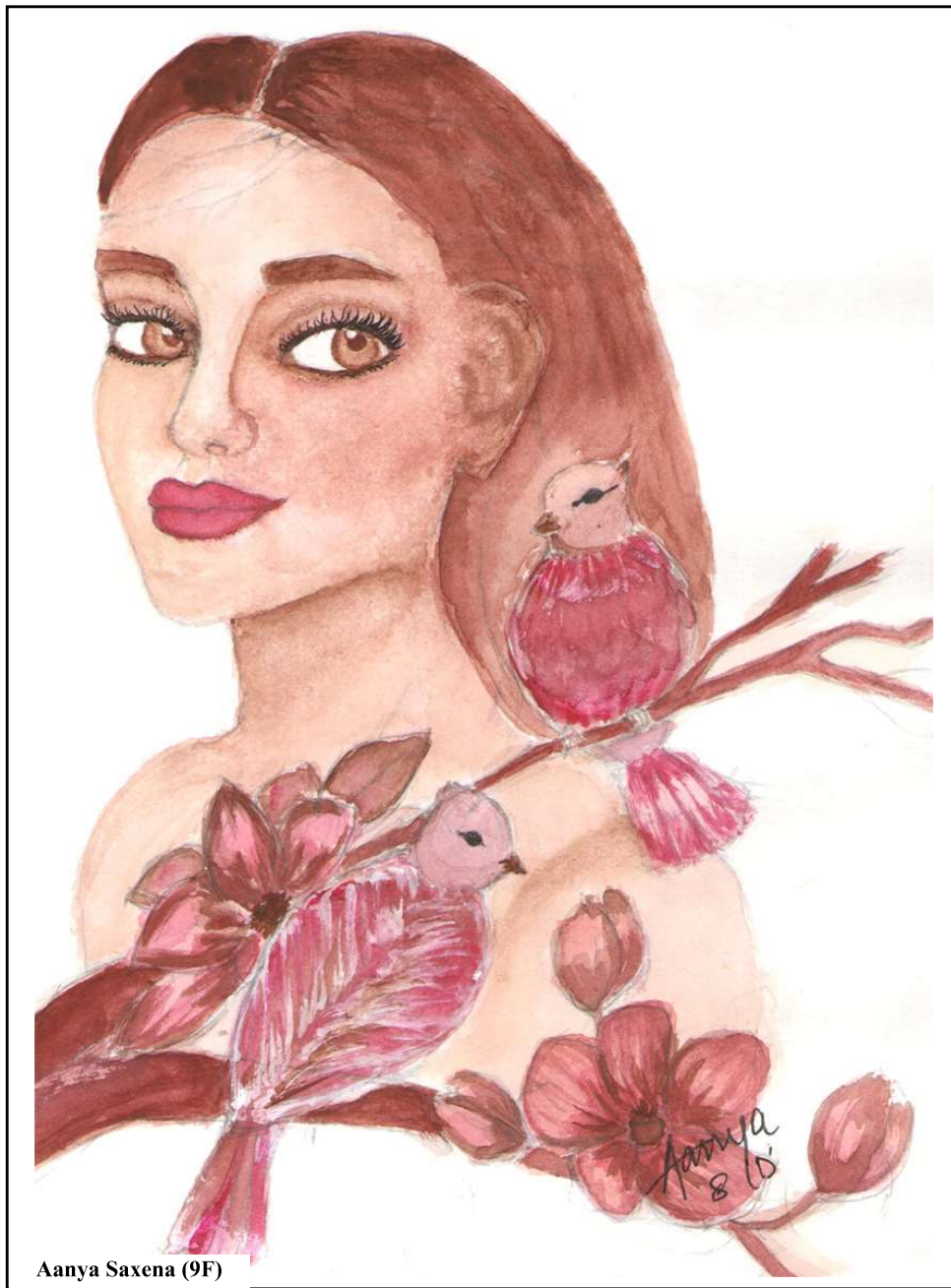
Vithika Mishra (12C)



Dakshita Dehalwar (12C)



Tiyana Shrivastava (4C)



Aanya Saxena (9F)



Mysha Jain (7E)



Bhawishya Achary (9C)



Mariya Husain (7D)



Aarnav Patre (7B)



Simran Ahuja (10B)



Mishti Jain (5D)

