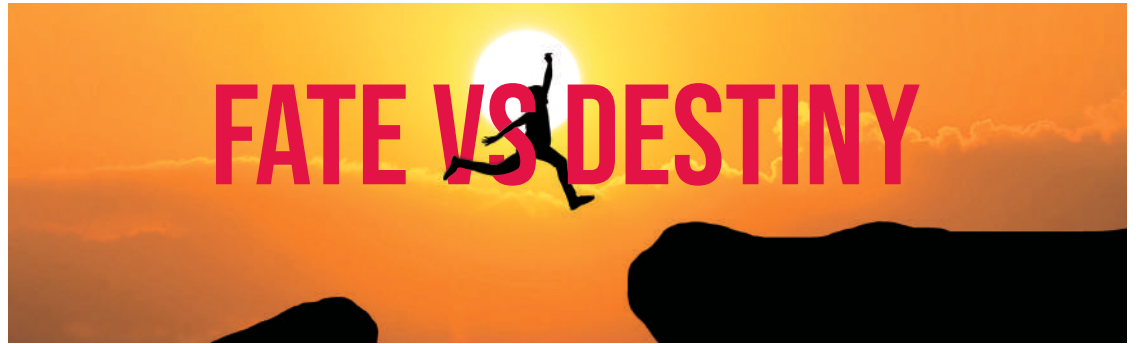


## Principal's Note

Varied are our experiences confronted through our roles; some unsought and some unintended, yet fortunately constructive creating unimaginably a blissful setting. A combination of such memorable and touching moments occurring together fabricating a virtual outcome is serendipity. Horace Walpole defined it as 'the faculty of making happy and unexpected discoveries by accident'. Odds that are experienced are not the ones to be undermined for they have more of disguised delightful surprises to render in life at the end despite the former feelings of deprivation. Though shortsighted the expected returns are at times, the bountiful profits come into being as diving sanction. Though random some encounter seem to be, they often spark off incredible ideas and discoveries even through unpredicted talks initiated elsewhere with strangers that end up in deep conversations some of which, at times, remain solutions to problems. Such results emerging through social interactions cannot happen on their own for they are non-robotic. They rather come to light through initiated interactions of human agents by coming out of their comfort zones to connect with their exotic counterparts and more of such interactions lead to more serendipity resulting in discoveries that become building blocks of innovation. This necessitates a good thinking process for a better understanding of people who meet by chance or work together by chance but nothing without a purpose for everything that comes to pass in the universe we dwell in is purpose-driven. Expanding our understanding of experiences from simply a series of happy accidents to that which can turn out to be prerequisites in our daily lives and organizational processes it's quintessential at this juncture. Looking into how individuals further serendipity in their own lives is incredibly rewarding and there are times that people enter our lives at the exact point of need, want or desire, but it can be a coincidence and most times fate, but whatever it is, it brings us a surprising smile in some moments. All that we ought to do is to give in ourselves to every experience, feel it, breathe it and appreciate it and finally we realize that nothing lasts forever when it's gone, but just remember the fact that it gave us some feeling which was enough. This compels one to know what is quoted by Katori Hall, "Serendipity always rewards the prepared." It's not our choice that would make us feel proud at the end but our positive attitude while focusing on what is in front of us that ultimately makes see serendipity stepping in our lives.

- Ashish Agarwal



It is no novel occurrence to question one's life existence and to ponder over the myriad thoughts that bubble, fizzle, and burst in the cauldron of dreams. 'What does life have in store for me?' Seldom would an ordinary person have the time to spend on such a question, one devoid of any answer, but when life strikes and, mind you, strikes with all its might, the wave of disturbance that so originates from a somewhat minor inconvenience sometimes takes the form of a nightmarish storm that causes your foundations of trust to tremor and brings havoc to the shore of self. That is when you begin to welcome the inviting thoughts that question if it was the doing of fate or destiny?

We use 'destiny' and 'fate' interchangeably and they are similar yet not exactly the same, at least to some extent, because although they have rather overlapping origins, what they mean to people's lives is what makes them entirely separate concepts. Before I list the differences, let me show you why it's popular to confuse the two. Well, it is evident that destiny and fate are both predetermined and presumably decide one's future from or even before birth and are the display of supernatural power. The two are outside the reach of man and cannot be altered. There has been much debate on the spiritual and mythological findings on both and there exist divided views. Let's give it some perspective so that the next time someone's pet cat dies, or someone does really well in an otherwise risky endeavour or if some drastic occurrence happens in your life, you know whom to blame.

Fate is defined as 'the development of events outside a person's control, regarded as predetermined by a supernatural power' or in more specific words, fate is 'set in stone' and usually bears negative connotations. A person is said to be 'bound' by fate, thus it is a limiting structure that was pre-decided and can by no means be cancelled from existence. Greek and Roman mythology, in particular, draw close inferences from the concept of fate and destiny combined. For those unaware, this 'reference' refers to the story of the three Fates, who are popularly known by two names, Moirai in Greek mythology and their Roman equivalents, Parcae. The Fates were three goddesses who spun the thread of human fate

and twisted and turned it to allot misery and suffering to a person. Fate was looked upon as the inevitable, something that has no escape and is bound to occur no matter how much you run away from it.

*"What fates impose, that men must needs abide; It boots not to resist both wind and tide."*

**William Shakespeare**

This means that whatever fate prepares for us, we must endure since it is pointless to resist it.

Destiny, on the other hand, widely has positive connotations because it has more to do with the choices that a person makes for their life rather than a rigid, predetermined path; this offers us some optimism. While fate is said to encompass the past, present and future all together, destiny focuses more on the 'would be' and the 'should be', that is, the future. The distinguishing factor is mainly that destiny is something you can change and shape, or to state it more dramatically, it is something you can rewrite.

Both fate and destiny are predetermined and happen to everybody; it's just that your actions and choices determine destiny more than the higher power that "weaves" your life. All human beings are fated to die but the decisions you make for yourself during the span of your time alive design and shape your destiny.

Choice and opportunity are, quite literally, the "make or break" elements of life and doing nothing too is a choice, one that hands over the reins of your life to the formidable and unforgiving Fate.

Destiny and Fate are intertwined, one cannot exist without the other and their perfect balance makes life what it is. It is the fate of every man to see the sun rise at dawn and set at dusk. You can't change it no matter how much you try while destiny can be seen as a red-hot iron that you can twist and bend however you want. The outcome depends entirely on your willing action. Destiny works with your choices, so choose now and choose well.

*"I am the master of my fate and the captain of my destiny."*

**Nelson Mandela**

- Sanjna Nair (11A)

*"The person born with a talent they are meant to use will find their greatest happiness in using it."*

**Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe**

## Editor's Note

All people are born with an instinctive 'talent', buried deep within, far from the superficial eyes that seek it, sometimes 'talent' remains unbeknownst to the one that carries it as well. Frustrated that the owner himself exhibits ignorance to its presence, 'talent' leaves its trace in every form of art that he performs, in the stories he writes, motions he makes, songs he sings, and in the words he expels. Often, talent slips and pours over its entirety into one skill, that is when its existence is made evident in the eyes of others too. I find that literature houses several such methods of expression, be it stories, novels, poems, or sonnets; each of them being special in their own way and liberating to the person that produces them.

The Billabong Bulletin is that display of expression for me, an attempt at discovering the much evasive and ever elusive 'talent', a rather freeing affair for all students, including me. 'Serendipity' for me, was yet another mysterious life occurrence, it was fascinating yet widely unknown. I wanted to stress the fact that opportunities take many shapes, it takes true ambition to recognise them and that we will most regret the chances we didn't take. I was pleasantly surprised at all the wondrous entries I beheld when I checked my emails each morning. I wish to take this chance to express my gratitude to all the talented students who contributed to this very special edition of the newsletter. Well, I guess it must have been the Universe's message for the New year, a beckoning to take every hurdle as it stands and make the best choices for the 'future me'.

- Sanjna Nair, Editor-in-chief

## Student Editorial Board



**Sanjna Nair**  
Editor-in-Chief



**Lavanya Kapoor**



**Paloma Jain**



**Prashasti Praveen**



**Sania Mirza Baig**





Laughter, love and liveliness marked Children's Day at Billabong High Bhopal this year as our talented teachers left no stone unturned to enthrall the students and show their endless love through power packed performances. The basketball court echoed with unstoppable applaud and cheering for our tremendous teachers who surprised us with their dancing skills, evident in solo as well as group dances. The chucklesome stand-up comedy left everyone in fits of laughter. The event was very entertaining and all the students felt overwhelmed on seeing such delightful performances.



## WORLD FEST

On the 7th of November, 2022, our Sr.KG sweethearts, clad in captivating costumes, showcased their learnings of the seven continents of the world through striking speeches about different countries, performances of various dance forms from across the globe, including India's Bhangda, the Spanish Fiesta, and singing sweet songs. The World Fest was a successful and unique approach to culminate and celebrate the knowledge that our little venturesome voyagers have inculcated on global cultures while reinforcing respect and appreciation for diversity.

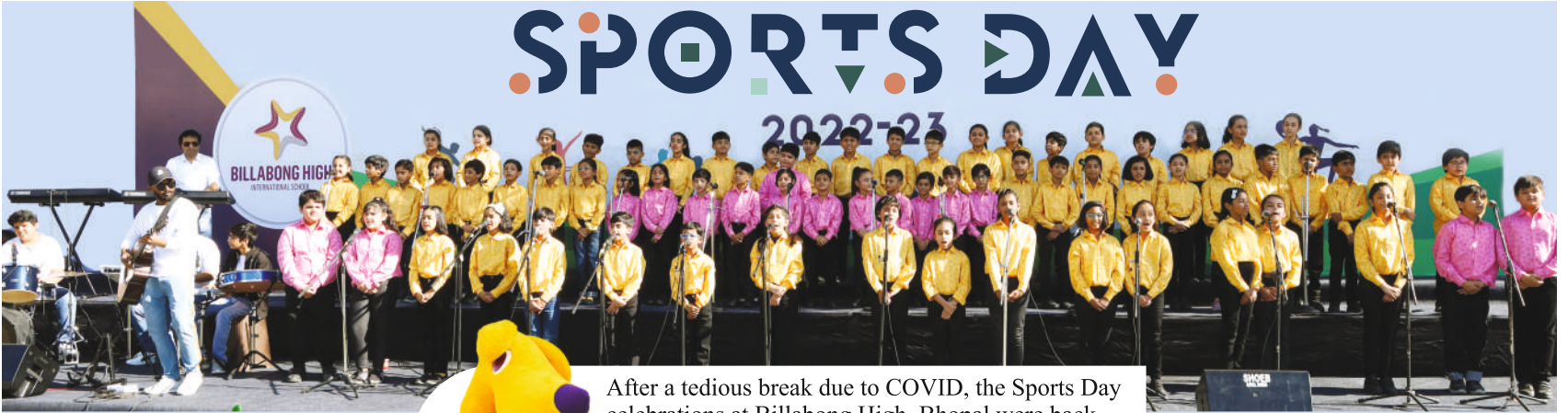






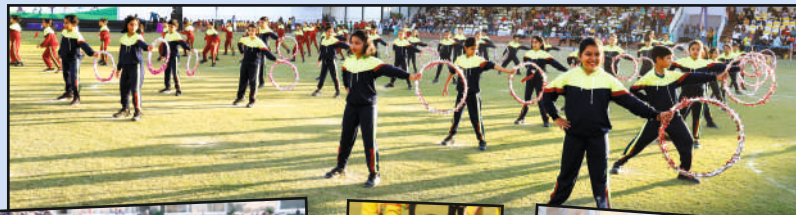
# SPORTS DAY

2022-23



After a tedious break due to COVID, the Sports Day celebrations at Billabong High, Bhopal were back with a bang! On the 17th of December, our marvellous munchkins from Preschool and Primary made us proud by participating in remarkably fun races, a dazzling drill and so much more!

Have a glimpse!



# Inter-House Fireless Cooking Competition



Our young budding chefs exhibited their creativity and calmness in the IH Fireless Cooking Competition, where they had to put their thinking caps on and come up with delicious dishes. The dishes were marked on various criterias. The only challenge was that the dishes had to be prepared without the use of fire! Nevertheless, our young chefs did not cease to surprise us and came up with mouth-watering perfect platters. A jury of seven judges reviewed the delectable dishes and announced the winners.







Image credit: parents.com

Humans are social creatures. We are a part of society, strive to survive and learn almost everything from it. Our surroundings, competition and state of mind determine our actions. By definition, bullying is the behaviour of a person who hurts or frightens someone smaller or less powerful, often forcing that person to do something they do not want to do. Various reasons contribute to the promotion of bullying culture like the pressure to rise the popularity ladder.

Psychologist David McClelland studied how people satisfy their needs. People have motivating drivers that are directly linked to needs regardless of age, gender, culture or race. The four types of motivations needed are the need for achievement, the need for power, the need for affiliation and the need for avoidance. People with a need for power attach great value to status, reputation and recognition. They need to be perceived as important and direct and influence others. This need for power eventually manifests into bullying. In reality, a bully is an insecure person yearning for attention and comfort.

Studies have indicated that adolescents are more likely to prioritize goals over other values like maintaining friendships and academics, and popularity goals are associated with adolescents' relational and overt aggression. We might have often seen the most popular or 'cool' kids turn out to be the most ill-behaved lot who try to put others down. One is ultimately popular when he or she stands out from the others. To suppress the other person, people emotionally and mentally abuse them.

As per Pacer National Bullying Prevention Centre, approximately 20% of students report being bullied, citing issues like being name-called, being the subject of rumours, physical bullying and being left out of social activities.

The issue of workplace bullying affects nearly one-third of all employees at some point in their careers, or 48.6 million Americans every year, as per Workplace Bullying Institute. A 2015 research review of studies in seven European countries and Australia found a workplace bullying rate of about 11%. Studies also show that Asian countries have a higher bullying rate.

Workplace bullies target those having talent or receive a positive response because they either feel inferior or they worry that one is posing a threat to their popularity and social status at work. Research shows that employees may be targeted because of their sex, age, race or faith.

We all are nothing but the slaves of this society and the assumed rules and standards. Our view of human intelligence is far too narrow and our emotions play a greater role in thought, decision-making and individual success than is commonly acknowledged. Bullying is a result of this dimension of our intelligence, controlled by emotions in place of rationality. However, the solution to it is also being kind and compassionate towards ourselves and others.

To conclude, with the pressure to match up expectations, we often unknowingly resort to irrational and immoral means like bullying. We need to evoke the emotional and logical side of our minds and be mindful of our actions.

- Kanishka Paltani (9B)

## YES NO



The possibility that bullying is brought about by peer pressure and social hierarchy is unreasonable. The primary motives and causes of bullying may differ, but bullies generally have similar traits and partake in specific actions:

**Victims themselves:** a person who partakes in harassment is likely to have been a victim of said harassment themselves, the bully could have been someone close to them, a loved one, or an acquaintance. The experience of being prey causes them to lack empathy and results in them wanting to pay with that negativity.

**The use of bullying to communicate:** Isolation and loneliness are common feelings for a bully. They lack company which results in them prying for attention in any way that they can, despite the consequences of their actions on someone else.

**Envy or contempt:** Bullies might bully a person who is better than them at something, which could be grades, sports, etc. To level the field, the bullies use aggression as a tactic to diminish and undermine another person's talent. As bullies frequently lack psychological well-being, they frequently engage in a head-to-head comparisons, which results in feelings of enmity and frustration.

**Shame:** This happens when the bully is self-conscious and ashamed of their lack of intelligence or ability to succeed in anything. They act aggressively toward the other person as a result of the frustration caused by their failure. Bullies frequently lack the integrity of character as well.

**Gender norms:** Females are typically encouraged to talk about their problems and accept visual emotions, whereas males are typically discouraged from doing so. So in most cases males may revert to aggressive behaviour if they do not have access to an outlet for healthy communication and expressions of emotion.

**Perceived Threats:** When a bully draws their attention to a particular person, they often view them as a threat. The victim likely catches the bully's eyes due to them being unique or distinct. The people that are targeted by bullies are usually seen as a threat to them whether that's academically, mentally, or even socially. It varies from person to person whether being "different" actually poses a threat. Regardless, bullies' actions cannot be justified. Most of the time, bullies don't even realize they view someone as a threat until it's too late.

**Unresolved Past Trauma:** The perpetrators may appear to be powerful, dominant, and in charge at first glance. After closer examination, there are many cases in which bullies have unsettled injuries from their past. No matter how much a person wants them to, personal problems never go away if they aren't dealt with appropriately. As a rule, they lay on pause, underneath the surface, deteriorating and growing more terrible. Eventually, unresolved trauma becomes uncontrollable and begins to take ugly forms. One horrifying manifestation of unresolved trauma is bullying others.

In conclusion, it is quite clear that peer pressure and social hierarchy do not affect how bullies come to be.

- Bhaavani Dehalwar (11B)







# Vincent Van Gogh and The Starry Night

The Starry Night was painted by Vincent Van Gogh on June 18, 1889, in his room at the Saint-Paul-de-Mausole asylum, where he was a voluntary patient.

In modern culture, Vincent van Gogh is typically portrayed as the conventionally crazed tragic artist; however, despite his history of severe manic episodes, he was eloquent and rational the majority of the time.

He endured an attack of acute mania culminating in hallucinations and hearing voices, which led him to mutilate his own ear.

Vincent often wrote to friends that mentioned a starry sky, and it was something he had planned to paint for quite a while.

The Starry Night depicts the view from his asylum window on the upper floor. He had already painted the view an uncountable number of times, but this time it was nocturnal, which meant that he could not paint in the dark; he had to paint it during the day from his studio on the ground floor.

The still images he painted from his

window are all interconnected by a diagonal stroke that comes in from the right and portrays low rolling hills. In truth, the cypress trees were smaller and over the far wall, which enclosed the wheat field.

The Cyprus tree, a new motif for Vincent, is regarded as a symbol of death in Mediterranean culture. The tree shoots up into the sky, linking heaven and earth. Like the impressionists, Vincent had always reiterated his desire to work directly from nature and to keep it real; however, a few months ago, Gauguin had tried

to convince him to paint using his imagination.

The suggestion that Vincent had resisted and refused at that time, however, in the asylum, with its limited freedom and choices, imagination was requisite for maintaining his sanity.

In this exhilarating illustration, he would create in paint something we could not see or touch, something intangible. He used paint to exhibit a sky that is invigorating; that is how we imagine the night sky to be.

- Bhaavani Dehalwar (11B)



Painting by: Vincent Willem van Gogh

# COP27: A step forward or a futile battle against the inevitable fall?

We are witnessing the advent of a barbaric rise in the number of climate disasters that strike us every year. While for most of us, it is a no-

brainer that serious action needs to be taken to at least mitigate the damages caused to the people and the

environment at large, the countries of the world seem to be tangled up in sticky webs of debt, dependence and discord. Now, I don't mean to denigrate the efforts of our world leaders (at least the truly concerned ones), however, one cannot help but wonder if all the measures we take, and often derelict, are truly enough to make a change.

The Annual Conference of the Parties was held this year at Sharm-el-Sheikh in Egypt to plan the future course of action to prevent further environmental damage and free us from our crippling reliance on fossil fuels. This summit was plagued by severe irony as Egypt continues to export enormous amounts of fossil fuels and one of the sponsors of the

event was "Coca-Cola", the worst plastic-polluting corporation worldwide. While the mission to "slowly phase out the use of fossils fuels" remained static (instead of a stricter measure given the urgency, as many hoped for), a truly commenda-

ble feat was the declaration of a "Loss and Damage Fund" for the vulnerable countries that are affected the worst because of the emissions of the larger, more politically prominent countries. Although this proposition had been in the works for a couple of years, it was largely resisted by some of the biggest emitters (looking at you, USA) who were hesitant about the extent of their liability. Half-hearted measure or not, many are hopeful this fund will provide the finances required by developing and vulnerable countries to implement eco-friendly policies and protect the population from being hit with the inordinately increasing number of climate disasters.

- Prashasti Praveen (11B)



Image credit: thehindu.com

## A Sneak Into The SNEAKER Culture

The hobby of collecting and trading sneakers is called Sneaker Collection or the Sneaker Culture. A person who is a part of this community is often called a Sneakerhead.

The origin of sneakers can be traced back to the late 18th century. They were plain utility shoes with no specified left or right sides. About 60 years later, a US rubber company developed canvas rubber soled shoes called Keds. It was said that they were so quiet, that whoever was wearing them could easily sneak up on you, hence the name, sneakers.

The history of the sneaker collection dates way back to the 1970s and 1980s. This culture was highly influenced by sports. In 1985, Michael Jordan released his line of shoes, Air Jordan, when the craze for basketball was extremely high. This had a great impact on the creation of sneaker culture.

The trend of owning Jordan's in particular never died down, giving

rise to counterfeiting markets producing cheaper but similar shoes for profits. The people who could not afford this

high-end footwear seemed to

be drawn to this cheaper alternative. Branded or not, all sorts of shoe manufacturers seemed to have leached off of all supposed "sneakerheads" very quickly.

The growing demand for sneakers globally has given rise to an international resale market, and they are often sold for prices well above their standard retail value — sometimes by a margin of thousands or even tens of thousands of dollars. Sneakerheads have grown accustomed to these overly high prices. Is it unhealthy? Certainly. Do they seem to realise this? Obviously. But do they continue? Yes! Since fashion is like eating, we can't stick to the same menu every day now, can we?

- Tanisha Tiwari (11B)



Image credit: Manasvi Modani (4A)

According to the Oxford Dictionary, Serendipity means "The occurrences and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way".

I asked myself if I had experienced Serendipity, and just after a few minutes of thinking, the answer was yes. A few days ago, I was very hungry and had finished my lunch during the snack break itself. To keep me busy and to not think about my hunger, I took out my English Reader to read and all of a sudden a Rs. 50 note fell from my bag along with the reader! I was ecstatic and super happy since I could buy a snack from the canteen! This for me was an experience of Serendipity.

I also asked my parents to share

their experiences of Serendipity; My father went to play his favourite sport, golf during a tournament after a long break. He was not expecting to win any prizes and played for the sheer thrill of it. However, he was pleasantly surprised to win not one, but two prizes in the tournament!

My mother was recently taking out our winter clothing and came across an outfit that she had misplaced some days ago. This outfit was very dear to her, that is why she was really happy to have found it.

These experiences sum up my understanding of the word Serendipity.

- Zorawar Singh Hundal (3A)



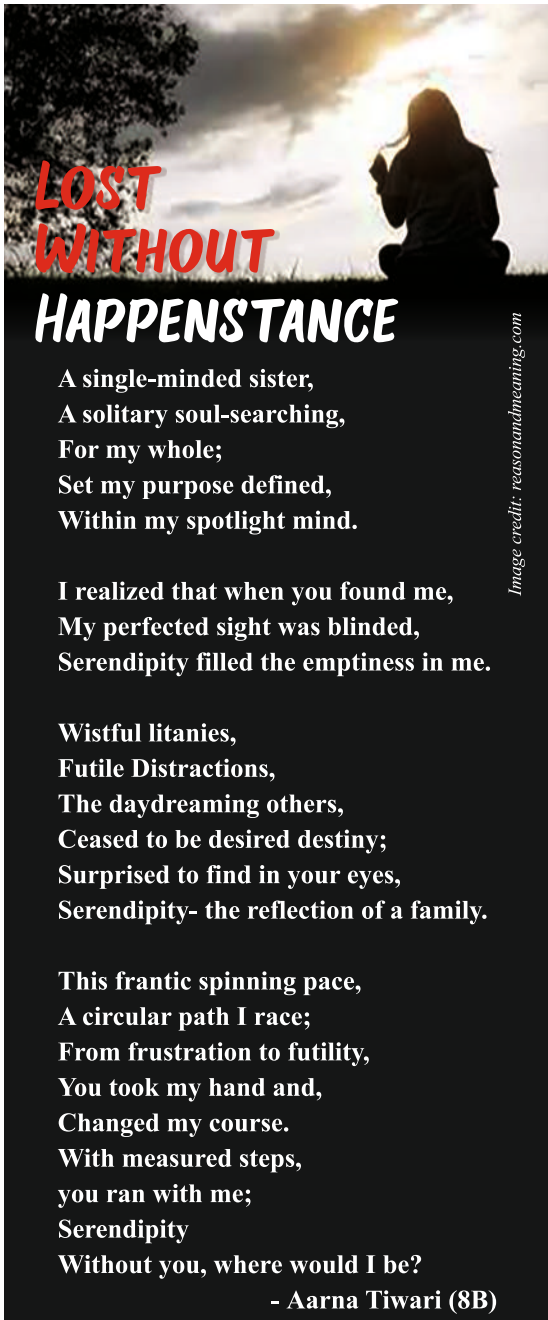


Image credit: reasonandmeaning.com

## LOST WITHOUT HAPPENSTANCE

A single-minded sister,  
A solitary soul-searching,  
For my whole;  
Set my purpose defined,  
Within my spotlight mind.

I realized that when you found me,  
My perfected sight was blinded,  
Serendipity filled the emptiness in me.

Wistful litanies,  
Futile Distractions,  
The daydreaming others,  
Ceased to be desired destiny;  
Surprised to find in your eyes,  
Serendipity- the reflection of a family.

This frantic spinning pace,  
A circular path I race;  
From frustration to futility,  
You took my hand and,  
Changed my course.  
With measured steps,  
you ran with me;  
Serendipity  
Without you, where would I be?

- Aarna Tiwari (8B)



Image credit: weheartit.com

## As lucky as I could get!

It happened once to me,  
I could not see what I wanted to see.  
I was under the weather during my Diwali  
break...  
So, I needed to stay home for my health's sake.  
In my class on the same day,  
I had a presentation to give, a lot to say.  
At my home, lying in my bed,  
I was worried and felt upset.  
The next day, I felt fine but bad,  
Ready to go to school, but a little sad.  
I walked through the corridor to my class,  
Thinking about the presentation I missed, Alas!  
My friend stood in front of me, with a smiling  
cheerful face,  
And told me about the last day's presentation,  
which actually didn't take place.  
I immediately chuckled with glee,  
and was happy to be  
As lucky as I could get.

The other day my teacher was also absent,  
a delightful co-incidence I met.  
I was happy to present my presentation, that I  
prepared,  
With great sigh of relief, this incident I shared.

- Varad Dharkar (5B)



## 10 FINGERS 10 MAGIC

My 10 fingers on my palm,  
make me happy and hold my charm.  
They type, they write,  
They cook for me.  
They help me plant  
beautiful tree.  
They serve my elders,  
And help my friends,  
They help me wear different trends.  
They help me count,  
Difficult sum;  
They take the food to my tum.  
They can colour this wonderful world,  
They pray to God when they are curled.

- Adyot Patel (2F)

## INCOMPLETE

I was a lonely soul,  
Drifting through life to get to my goal.  
Kept my head in my books,  
Never cared about my looks.

Then one day fortuitously,  
I looked up only just slightly,  
Saw your scintillating aura,  
And thought I opened up the box of Pandora.

You were like a band of colours  
At the end of a dark tunnel,  
Like a ray of light,  
In a world of perpetual plight.

Now we rove through life together,  
And I hope this goes on forever,  
Every day we compete,  
And every time I hope what we have isn't left  
incomplete.

- Paloma Jain (11A)



Image credit: ft.com

## It's late

It's late to wander even a single mile,  
So let my mind sleep and soul rest awhile;  
Let me give a last smile on my way,  
For I know sooner or later  
My existence will fade away.  
Let me laugh and cry for the last time  
At mistakes and memories of mine.  
Let me cherish for a few last times,  
When I used to laugh and learn my favourite  
rhymes.  
Let me stop and take a sigh,  
For after a happy journey there's always  
goodbye.  
Let me do what I want  
To give my dreams another chance.

- Rainya Mittal (7E)



Image credit: discovermagazine.com

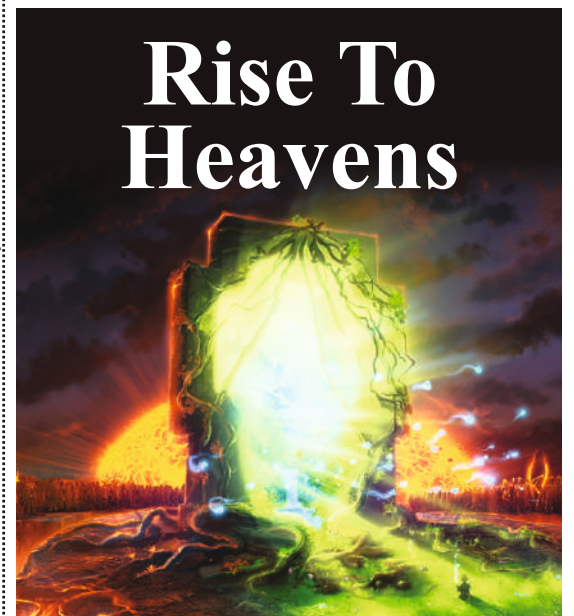


Image credit: peakpx.com

What is luck, but a play of fate,  
We think we need it to enter heaven's gate,  
But luck is a mere stepping stone,  
The journey to heaven you'll have to  
travel alone.

Your life flashes before your eyes,  
As you ascend, devoid of extra time;  
You wish you had a couple of moments,  
With the loved ones in your life.

Then you remember before you died,  
You were at your family's side,  
That a stroke of luck that was,  
But that was not the cause.

It was serendipity at your side,  
Providing a shoulder for when you cried;  
It allowed for your happy descent,  
Away from this land of torment.

- Agreya Shukla (7C)





# The Serendipity

Aarav, along with his wife, Aarna and six-year-old son, Adwait lived happily in the small village of Rajalpur. Aarav was lazy, and his laziness often disturbed the family's peace. While all the other villagers woke up early in the morning, went to their farms, worked hard and thus earned handsome money to take care of their families, Aarav spent his mornings sleeping in, instead of going to work, although he had much more agricultural land than any other villager. His wife always asked him to go and work but he always ignored her saying, he will sell the land if required.

The family's expenses were met with the money he inherited from his father, which wouldn't last for long. Soon, the family's condition worsened day by day, until one day they did not have food on the table and as usual, Aarav was sleeping calmly. This was the breaking point for his wife. She, along with their son, left the house without telling anyone where she was going. When Aarav woke up, it was already too late. His wife and his son had left him and all his efforts to find them were in vain. This incident drastically changed him. He was determined to correct his mistakes and started working hard.

He worked on his farms and also started a new business. His grief and determination made him forget the difference between day and night as he spent them working away. Years passed and soon he was the richest man in the village, loved by everyone but something was still amiss. The absence of his wife and son was still felt by him and left a void in him. He realised that all his



wealth didn't matter without their presence.

One night as he sat staring at the sky, completely defeated, he remembered that his wife often talked about a shrine in the mountains. He immediately decided to visit and perform a 'langar' for the poor and needy.

Soon all the rituals were completed and the 'langar' started. During the langar, he saw a young boy who seemed very familiar. He went to him and asked him what his name was. "Adwait," he said. Aarav was shocked, it could be his son after all. They started talking and the boy said that he lived in a house in the shrine itself. Aarav got very excited and asked if he could talk to his mother. The boy took Aarav to his mother who was sitting on a bench doing some household chores. He burst out in tears of happiness and was overjoyed to see his family again. He ran and hugged them with all his might. This serendipity was heavenly for him and deepened his belief in the Almighty.

- Atharv Jhavar (8B)

## DREAM COMES TRUE



I love stories. My mom often tells me stories like "Alladin ke Chirag" and "Hen giving golden eggs". But I always feel sad, thinking about why they are not taking place now, and then my mom tells me that good things can happen anytime, we just have to wait for it.

After my 3rd birthday, I came to Bhopal with my mom, as she had to continue her job and my dad was working in Pune. I lived alone with my mum and in her absence, a maid used to take care of me. Sometimes papa visited us for a few days, sometimes we went to Pune for some days.

Then I joined Billabong high, I felt happier in school playing with my friends in toddler town. But at home, I used to miss my papa and feel lonely in my mom's absence. Then covid came and I felt more lonely as I was stuck at home. After a few days, papa also came to Bhopal, as there was a lockdown in Pune.

Then, I got to spend a lot of time with papa while he was working from home, here in Bhopal. One day papa told us that he would work from home for the next few years. I was very very happy to know this. During the lockdown, I was missing my friends and school, but because of my mumma and papa with me, I was not feeling lonely.

Since then my papa has stayed with me and I play and spend time with him every day.

Covid brought this golden opportunity for me, to stay with my papa and mumma, happily.

- Pransh Parija (1C)

## A TREASURE CHEST

Ankush was a little boy who lived with his family in the Himalayan Mountains. One day, while going to school, his sister Rajni was looking for porcupine quills so she could sell them and buy a new notebook with the money. While looking for the quills, she came across a tree and saw bright orange wolfberries hanging on the branches. Rajni loved wolfberries but could never find them and now there was a huge tree full of them in front of her.

On Sundays, their school was closed so they would often play a game invented by them. It was called 'Treasure Hunt'. In this game, one of them would hide something underground and the other had to dig it up. It was Rajni's turn so she hid her notebook underground and Ankush had to find it. He started digging under a tree and came across something unexpected.



It was a treasure chest! They were dumbstruck. They opened it and saw inside. There were many ancient-looking toys. Ankush and Rajni went to their father and told him that they found a treasure chest in their backyard.

Their father said to them that when he was a small boy, he hid it and forgot about it. Their father then told them something very interesting. He said that incidents like

Rajni finding wolfberries while looking for porcupine quills and Ankush finding the treasure chest while looking for the notebook are known as Serendipity.

"What is serendipity?" Asked Ankush.

Their father then explained, "Serendipity is unexpected luck." Ankush and Rajni understood and also taught it to others.

- Mohammad Araish (4E)

## Fortune Smiles

In a small village lived a girl called Nora. Nora was nine years old. Her family was very indigent and could hardly fulfil all their wishes. Her mother used to work on a farm where she watered plants. On a cold afternoon when Nora returned from school, she saw her mother in bed shivering in the cold. Seeing her mother's condition, she quickly asked about her mother's well-being. She said, "Mother, are you feeling fine and why are you in bed?" Her mother told her that she was not in the best of her health and requested Nora if she could visit the farm to water the plants. She readily agreed and went to the farm to complete her mother's duties. While returning she saw her neighbour Mr Sandeep, a kind and wise man. He was surprised to see Nora at that time of the day and was feeling sympathetic as Nora was not dressed appropriately for a cold day. Seeing her plight Mr Sandeep gave his coat to Nora and asked her to take care of her mom. On reaching back home, Nora saw her mom's condition deteriorating. As the cold breeze ran through her, she warmed her hand in her pocket and found a fifty rupee note which put a smile on her face. Nora quickly hurried to the medical store to fetch some medicines for her mom. The following day her mother was feeling much better and they both went to Mr Sandeep to thank him for his much-needed support.



Image credit: wattpad.com

- Pranaya Kaur Chugh (4G)





# The Handbook For The Enterprising Teen

The Handbook For The Enterprising Teen by Veer Dosi is a refreshing change among the spate of 'self-help' books that most of us are all too familiar with. With 146 pages of valuable knowledge based on Veer's personal experience as a striving entrepreneur, the titular handbook is exactly that - a guide to the world of self-making, written in such a manner that anyone can follow along.

What stood out the most to me was Veer's unique take on luck, which he expresses in Chapter 13 of the book. In my opinion, the chapter provides some useful insights on the concept of serendipity and how it can be created. It suggests that there are different types of luck that can be created, including blind luck, luck through motion, prepared luck, and weird luck.

One of the key ideas presented in the chapter is the importance of being proactive and taking action in order to create serendipity. The chapter encourages readers to engage in activities such as creating content, interacting with people, being curious, and taking risks in order to increase their chances of experiencing unexpected and fortunate events. I think this is a valuable perspective, as it suggests that luck is not just a matter of chance, but can also be influenced by one's actions and behaviors.

Additionally, the chapter emphasizes the importance of building a unique personal brand and mindset that can attract luck. By developing a

distinct character and way of thinking, individuals can become "magnetic" and more likely to experience serendipitous events. This is an interesting idea, as it suggests that by developing a strong personal identity, individuals can

increase their chances of attracting luck and opportunities. This idea establishes a clear connection between intrinsic development and how it influences factors around us.

Overall, I believe the chapter provides useful insights into the concept of serendipity and how it can be created. While matters like luck, chance, and serendipity are complex, multifaceted and seemingly random concepts, Veer's perception and expression of these abstract topics in such a lucid and simple manner offers a rare glimpse into the nature of luck - he paints an unexpected picture with his writing, depicting luck as something that can be shaped and moulded by us rather than a random force that may shape or mould us.

- Aditya Rajan (12A)



Image credit: playstation.com

Spider-Man PS4 is a game developed by Insomniac Games and published by Sony Interactive Entertainment. Released in 2018, this game has staggering graphics and captures the entire city of New York. This game makes you feel like Spider-Man and you can enjoy swinging across the streets of New York and seeing popular places like Central Park, The Empire State Building, and many more. The swinging mechanics in this game are better than any other Spider-Man game but the webs attach to the buildings and trees instead of the sky (which makes no sense). There are quite a few side missions that keep you occupied if you wish to play something other than the main story.

Besides the gameplay and graphics, this game has an exceptional story that holds up better than most Spider-Man movies. The story tells you that being Spider-Man is not as easy as you think, it requires a lot of sacrifices and struggle. Playing the remastered version of this game on PS5 gives you Ray Tracing and even better performance. Sony just released this game on PCs, so congratulations to the PC gamers! Overall, a 10/10 for me, hands down one of the best games on PlayStation.

- Lakshya Rathore (7E)

Web Series



## THE CROWN

Winning all seven drama categories at the 73rd Prime Time Emmy Awards in 2021, becoming the first series to ever do so, "The Crown" is a real-life story of the staggering monarchy of Great Britain during Queen Elizabeth II's reign. Created by Peter Morgan, this series reveals the precarious existence of the most powerful woman in the world. This television series has received tons of acclaim and positive reviews from critics. This series aims to show how Queen Elizabeth II lived her daily life in an institution based on a patriarchal hierarchy and shows the real nature of a monarchy. Also, we see how she deals with complicated family relationships threatened by her husband, mother, and sister. Looking upon the fierce challenges she faces with her marriage to Prince Phillip, ultimately, we watch how the monarch and the monarchy successfully overcome the problems thrown at her and emerge triumphant.

- Mariya Husain (8D)

Image credit: netflix.com

The movie "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" is a tear-jerker that pays tribute to the late actor, Chadwick Boseman. It marks the ending of Phase 4 of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. The movie compared to any other MCU movie was extremely heart-warming and emotional and it truly showcased how noble and impressive Black Panther really is.

In Wakanda Forever, Queen Ramonda (Angela Bassett), Shuri (Letitia Wright), M'Baku (Winston Duke), Okoye (Danai Gurira) and the Dora Milaje fight to protect their nation from intervening world powers in the wake of King T'Challa's (Chadwick Boseman) death. As the Wakandans strive to embrace the reality of their situation, the heroes must band together with Nakia (Lupita Nyong'o) and Everett Ross (Martin Freeman) to protect their beloved kingdom from Namor (Tenoch Huerta), the flying King of an underwater civilization called Talokan.

Ryan Coogler directed the first Black Panther movie and after Chadwick Boseman's death, the franchise was put into an impossible corner. He almost quit filmmaking after the tragedy but he came back to direct Wakanda Forever and it was obvious that he infused all his grief into the movie which turned it into an emotional rollercoaster. We can all say that Ryan Coogler

did his best to continue the franchise despite the unfortunate circumstances, but even "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" cannot save Phase 4 (the MCU going downhill in Phase 4). The movie hardly had any action scenes but I noticed that the funny elements were introduced at appropriate time intervals in the movie. At first, I found it refreshing to see a new Marvel villain

called Namor (who is basically the MCU version of ocean master), but after watching the life drain out of Queen Ramonda (Angela Bassett), I found Namor's character quite frustrating. I particularly loved Shuri's entrance as Black Panther because it was undeniably phenomenal.

Even though the Black Panther franchise will never be the same without Chadwick Boseman, it is fitting to have King T'Challa's sister, Shuri (Letitia Wright) be the next Black Panther and it is highly probable that she will be followed by Toussaint (Divine Love Konadu-Sun), the beloved

King T'Challa's very own flesh and blood.

This article was written to honour Chadwick Boseman, an inspiration, and an admirable friend to many. Keeping in mind the fact that he may be dead but he is not gone.

- Diksha Nitin Chotrani (9C)



Image credit: imdb.com





# Rainbow Pizza Canapés

## Ingredients:

- Canapés- 6 piece
- Garlic Cheese Spread- 3 Tbsp
- Pizza Mix Seasoning- 1/4 Tbsp
- Pizza Sauce- 1/2 Tbsp
- Vinegar- 1/8 Cup
- Finely Chopped Veggies- Red Bell Pepper, Capsicum, Boiled Salted Corn Kernels, Pickled Black Olives, Pickled Jalapeños

## Method:

1. Apply a little oil with a brush on all sides of the canapés. Bake them in OTG for 5-8 min at 150°C.
2. Soak finely chopped red bell pepper and capsicum in vinegar for some time. Or use pickled ones.

**Dish Type:** Snack

**Preparation Time:** 10 min

**Serves:** 3

3. Take cheese spread in a mixing bowl.
4. Add seasoning and pizza sauce and mix well.
5. Add finely chopped veggies and mix.
6. Take prebaked canapés and fill the mixture in them.
7. Use grated cheese, tomato ketchup, and olives for garnishing and plating.

## Note:

Fill the canapés at the time of serving else they might get soggy.

- Ahaana Goenka (1A)



Image credit: Ahaana Goenka (1A)

## KIDNEY BEAN SALAD



## Ingredients:

- 300 g- Kidney Beans (Rajma)
- 1 medium-sized- pomegranate
- 1 big sized- onion
- Coriander leaves- A bunch (Chopped)
- Coriander powder- 1tsp
- Black pepper powder- 1/2 tsp
- Cumin powder- 1/2 tsp
- Chilli flakes- 1/2 tsp
- Black salt/all salt to taste
- Olive oil- 30ml

## Instructions:

1. Soak the kidney beans overnight.
2. Pressure cook until the kidney beans are completely boiled.
3. Drain the water from the kidney beans.
4. In a bowl, add the above-mentioned ingredients and mix gently.

- Vedika Jaisinghani (8B)

## Fireless Oreo Cake

## Instructions:

- Step 1- Take 50 ml water and 4 teaspoons of sugar and mix.
- Step 2- Take 2 slices of bread (brown/white) and cut off the crust. Dab your sugar water on them making sure that it does not get too soggy.
- Step 3- Take 10 Oreos and separate the filling from the biscuit. Crush the biscuit part of the Oreo into a fine powder.
- Step 4- Add 1 teaspoon of milk and mix. Repeat steps 2 and 3 at least 5 times.
- Step 5- Add your paste on the bread and decorate as per your liking



Image credit: femina.in

- Step 6- Pop it in the refrigerator for 2 and a half hours
- Step 7- Enjoy your yummy Oreo cake

## Pro Tip:

Use the filling to decorate to avoid wastage.

- Tia Gaurav Rege (5A)

## Herbal Blue Tea

## Ingredients:

- Blue Pea flowers (Shankpushpi)- 2-3 nos.
- Lemon- Few drops
- Water- 1 cup
- Honey- 1 tsp

## Instructions:

Take 1 cup of water and bring it to a boil. After a few minutes, add blue pea flowers into the boiling water. Let it simmer for a couple of minutes and then turn the flame off. Strain the

decoction in a cup. Add honey and lemon juice. Enjoy your herbal blue tea in the morning for the best detox routine.

- Pragyan Singh (4A)



Image credit: Pragyan Singh (4A)

Winners of Mystery Word Puzzle and SUDOKU  
(Published in October issue)

**Congratulations!**

1. Diya Chhabria (8B)
2. Diksha Nitin Chotrani (9C)
3. Amayera Mishra (4A)





Tête-à-Tête with

# Lina Ashar



BILLABONG HIGH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS



*The Editorial Board was privileged to interact and spend time with a captivating personality, the founder emeritus of Kangaroo Kids Preschool and Billabong High International Schools and founder of Dreamtime Learning, Ms. Lina Ashar. Her charismatic persona and ability to engage people with her words kept all of us drawn till the very end of the interview. She has inspired us to reflect and look within ourselves and usher in self-improvement and self-development for greater happiness in our lives.*

## Excerpts from the Interview

**Q As you strive constantly to better the world for the sake of children like us, of the nation and the world, who is the one person you felt most connected to as a child? A person you sought when you faced a boulder in your path too heavy for you to tackle alone?**

A lot of people inspired me, so it is difficult to name just one person. My father, for one, inspired me with his leadership qualities and the way he commanded respect, never demanded it. Einstein continues to inspire me with his connection of science and spirituality. I am even inspired by people like Hilter, shockingly, because of his leadership capabilities. Everyone who makes a difference in the world inspires me. Each one of us has a spark that can inspire others so it would be sad for me to name just one person.

**Q You have mentioned through your Instagram posts that schools need to go from a "ME" curriculum to a "WE" curriculum. What is a "ME" curriculum in school? Why should schools adopt a "WE" curriculum instead?**

So the first question is, why should schools exist? Schools exist for the sake of humanity as a whole. We need to understand each other and move away from competition. And increasingly in this world, we will see that the way forward is through collaboration, not competition. We have ended up in a culture where competing with each other is great and it has become very convoluted and these people of great influence have become our idols.

The world is not about ME, it is about WE. It is only by contributing to each other that we can lift human consciousness as a whole. It is only if we raise each other that we will find abundance for everyone on the planet. In a physical sense, education is still extremely expensive. It frightens me that only around 10% of the world's population holds 90% of the wealth. It is a human tendency to hoard more than we need, and in that effect, we allow other people to lose out. Moving forward, you will see that creativity is actually the way forward, consuming is not.

**Q Why should educational institutions constantly reinvent themselves? How much importance does 'dedication to learning' hold for an educational institution, and how do the teacher and the learner benefit from each other?**

The problem with schools is that the consumer and the customer are two different people. The parents pay the fees, and the students are the consumers. If you all were consumers in the real world, chances are, you would not go to a school which did not constantly reinvent itself. Everything in this world has changed and I argue why when adults feel entitled to use technology since it eases their lives, are students not allowed to do the same? It is fine in India if schools do not reinvent themselves since there is so much more demand than there is supply at the moment. I have been trying to give more supply than you could ever need. Teachers have to keep on embracing change. In fact, the new schools I am setting up are not going to have teachers. I am going to have young professionals who are excited about teaching and the future of the world. If you are interested in learning, then why can't I reward you and give you the learning you want?

**Q Why is it essential for students to have strong soft skills? How do they help a child navigate through life? What impact does rote learning have on these skills?**

The way forward in this world is not standardized learning or testing. These concepts are based on rote learning. Going forward in the world with AI, technology is bound to replace most of the jobs as we know them. There are four types of people who are going to be valued moving forward: the ones with a very high IQ, the ones with a very innovative mindset, the ones with a unique subset, and the ones with specialised skills in a particular field. Soft skills like persistence, determination, and optimism are not a result of rote learning and are actually the skills that should be taught first. Schools do not allow us to go deep into learning a particular area. Everyone is told to do everything. With technology, we can use personalised learning to go forward, and we should.



**Q You began your career as a teacher in Melbourne and eventually took a year-long sabbatical to come to India to teach. Have you observed any stark differences between the education systems of these places and have any of them contributed to the birth of Kangaroo Kids?**

Every single experience I have ever had has contributed to it. I learned a lot in Australia because I was teaching in senior school. How are they going to be interested in democracy unless I make it come alive for them? I just learned as a teacher that I have to create an active learning environment because you all want to create your own learning. Once you create that understanding with the knowledge on your own, you will own it.

Who am I to tell you what to think? My job is to throw out the possibilities for you to come onto it on your own.

**Q What I admire most about you is your passion and drive, to keep going towards the attainment of your goal, however small or big. What advice would you like to offer to us students to help us accurately find a meaningful purpose in our lives as you did and pursue it successfully?**

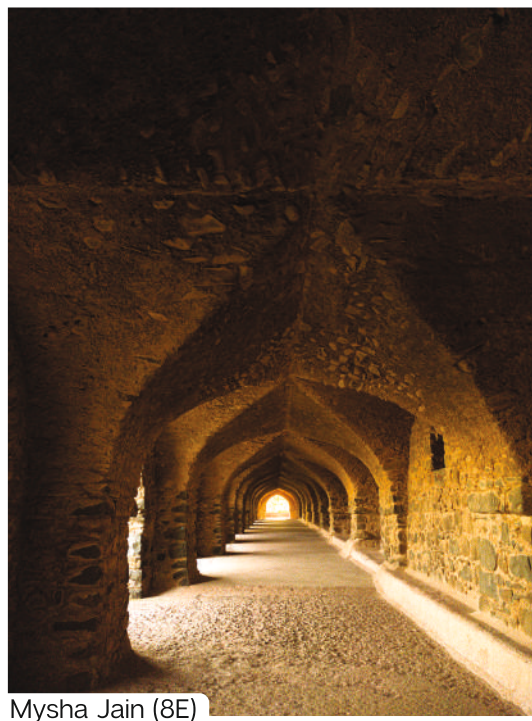
Who am I to give advice? I will tell you this though: Do not admire anyone. When you put someone on a pedestal, you minimize yourself. The qualities you see in me are already in you. The only thing I will tell you is that put a lot of time into self-development. That is what is going to take you anywhere and everywhere. Your exam results will take you nowhere. Spend time mastering your inner-self and once you do, your outer-life will shine beautifully.





“PHOTOGRAPHY IS AN AUSTERE AND BLAZING POETRY OF THE REAL.”

- Ansel Adams



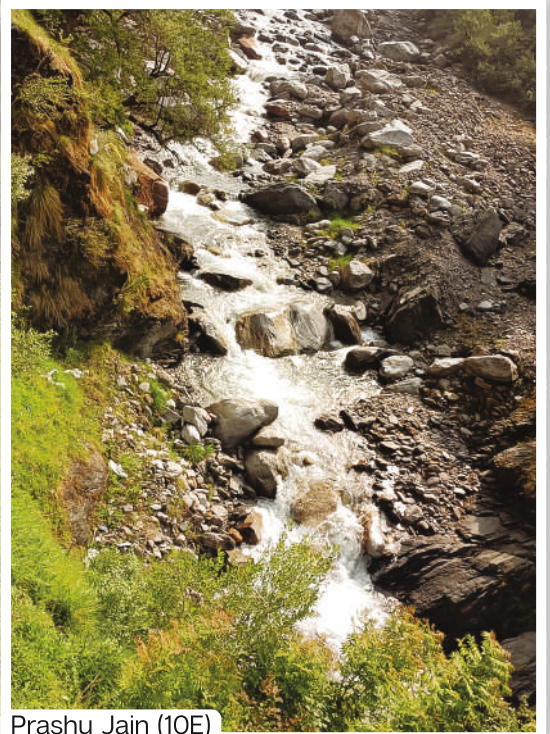
Mysha Jain (8E)



Vedvit Tiwari (2C)



Hanzla Khan (9E)



Prashu Jain (10E)



Sarthak Kumar (12B)



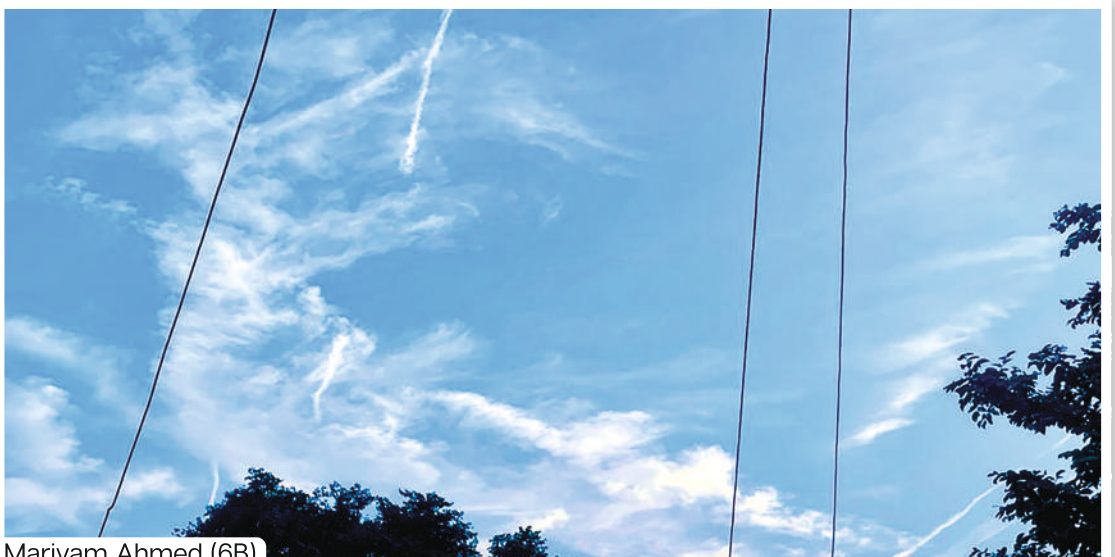
Nancy Chawla (5A)



Roopsi Chawla (9C)



Sahir Saxena (1C)

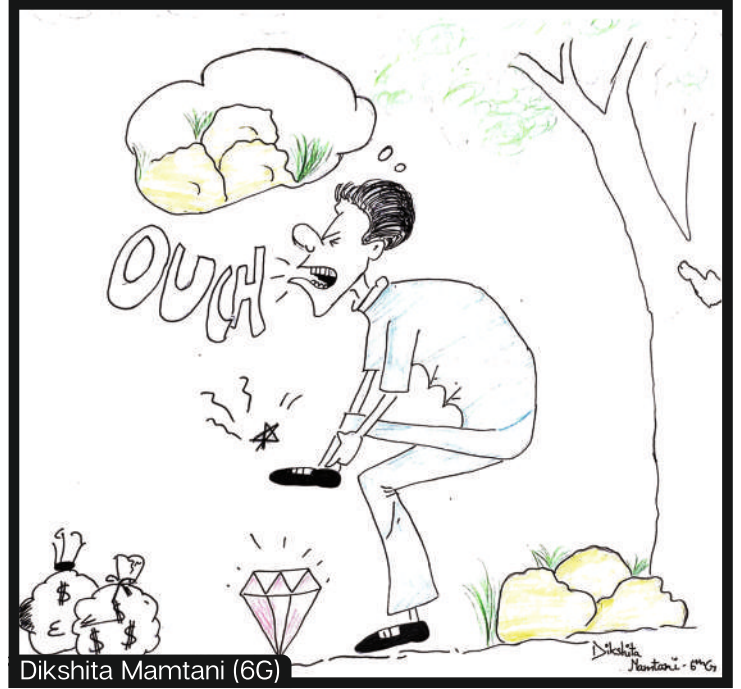


Mariyam Ahmed (6B)





Jiya Nagpal (7D)



Dikshita Mamtani (6G)



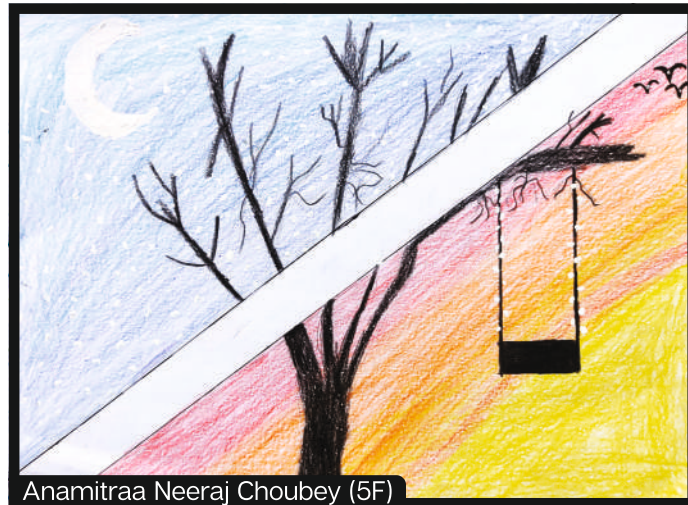
Tavish Kotgirwar (4G)



Aesha Sood (10B)



Simran Ahuja (11B)



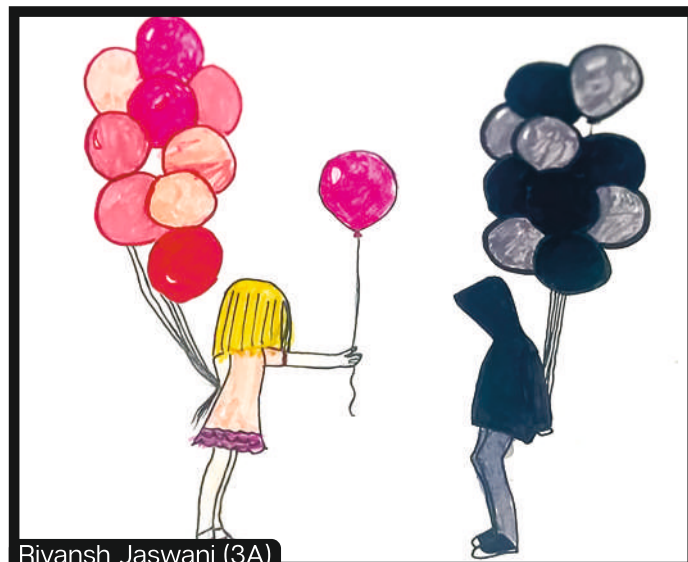
Anamitraa Neeraj Choubey (5F)



Mysya Jain (8E)



Farha Ali (5D)



Riyansh Jaswani (3A)



Joanna M John (2F)