

## Principal's Note

Myles Munroe said, *"The greatest discovery in life is self-discovery. Until you discover yourself you will always be someone else."*

As you flip through the pages of this bulletin, you will come across several names, not just in the list of achievements and accolades, names of those who may be your peers, seniors or juniors. Have you ever introspected as to why your name is not there? We generally make peace with ourselves by offering ourselves a variety of reasons and justifications. We refuse to consider the possibility that it may be one's own inaction or the fact that we have actually not discovered our own self that accounts as the reason for this. Our past experiences mould us and we are unwilling or hesitant to break out of the self-imposed casing, aka, comfort zone. If we can break through these limitations or self-erected barriers that have enveloped us, each of us can give one's best to this world.

My dear students, waiting for a moment to discover yourself will never bring it about. Now is the time to discover yourself. Use this moment at hand and the moments that follow wisely, and surge ahead to fulfilment, unfazed by the fear of anything.



**Ashish Agarwal**

## Editor's Note

"And all the lives we ever lived and all the lives to be, are full of trees and changing leaves."

– Virginia Woolf

crisp leaves and amazing colours of nature, often leaves us with much to ponder and reflect upon. This is the time of transformation and metamorphosis, of learning from nature the art of 'rising and falling'.

Transformation during school life, especially at Billabong where growth is so conscientiously nurtured, is inevitable. With this edition of The Billabong Bulletin, we strive to provide a platform that not only embodies change, but also provokes it.

We are deeply grateful for the overwhelming number of submissions we received, and for every piece that was selected, there was always a second-best contender. Every write-up, story, poem, artwork, and photograph has

## Another Defence Against COVID-19: Mental Immunity

Before beginning to read this article, take a deep breath. Let us commence this article by talking about you, dear reader. There is no doubt, we all have the mantra of the lockdown memorised: Wash your hands, perform social distancing and wear masks. But, while we work hard to keep our physical health in its optimum form, it is our mental health that has taken a beating.

Nowadays, it is not unusual to feel sad, bored, anxious, numb, angry, irritable, stressed, or generally emotionally disturbed. Stress can lead to poor sleep, high blood pressure, poor cardiovascular health, and lower immunity. This, in turn, leads to difficulty in managing your emotions, remembering information, and following directions. Even if you are home with other family members, the sense of isolation and cabin fever can be quite powerful.

Young children exhibit different signs of emotional distress: excessive crying, irritability, returning to behaviours they have outgrown, and generally acting out. For teenagers, signs are more subtle. Poor school performance or avoiding school, difficulties with attention and concentration, avoidance of activities enjoyed in the past, unexplained headaches or body pain, changes in sleep or eating patterns are symptoms that reflect emotional disturbance.

While some students are thriving through online learning, others have yet to adapt fully and be able to perform as well as they did before. Faculty members, on the other hand, are feeling the huge stress of transforming their physical classes into effective digital classrooms. The additional workload and concomitant anxiety are heaped upon the already multifaceted responsibilities of faculty.

When we feel anxious, we have a natural tendency to affiliate with others. Social contact is such a fundamental human need, that we suffer both

mentally and physically without it. Keeping in touch with friends and family through various social media platforms is a skill that most of us have developed. Talking to others who are going through the same thing can provide a sense of community and empowerment.

Maintaining physical fitness and finding a new hobby are two things that help with keeping mentally healthy. Page nine of the newsletter has some helpful tips!

The best way to return to a sense of normalcy in life is to make a strict routine and to follow it religiously. Moreover, studies have found that dividing the spaces in your house, assigning them to specific tasks, and then doing only the designated task in that space, helps bringing a structure into life that got demolished in the quarantine. A zone for exercise need not be too large, but it should allow you to be sufficiently physically active. The sleep zone should be a sacred place, where no gadgets are allowed to help you get a night of uninterrupted sleep. The work zone is for your daily tasks like attending online classes, tuitions and homework. The creation zone should allow you to indulge in your hobbies and develop your skills, be it crafts, coding, writing, etcetera. It is integral to limit your tasks to these zones to bring balance into life, and if this method is used by other members of your family, everyone will be able to maintain creativity and productivity during these trying times.

I hope this article helped you understand and learn more about mental health in these trying times to make life easier and to come out of the quarantine stronger, happier, and better than you came in!

– Hia Sadho (11B)



Image credit: haesu.asn.au

been meticulously vetted and developed into what is presented before you. I am pleased to share that the Editorial Board too has matured from its frantic texts to more planned emails, and we are eager to learn more.

I dedicate this edition to the beautiful season of Autumn, to growth, and to you, dear reader, for I hope it proves to be more than just that and inspires you: to change!

– Hia Sadho (11B), Editor in Chief

## Student Editorial Board



Hia Sadho



Arayna Saxena



Kaashvi Mehta



Paloma Jain

## Diplomathon Global World Edition

Billabong High International School has always promoted an academic and non-academic growth of analytical skills, cross-cultural knowledge, communication skills, and negotiation skills in students. Such dexterity leads to growth beyond the classroom environment, which empowers students to involve in activities vital to constructive leadership.

Diplomathon Global is a high impact learning platform for school students to participate and reinvent the Diplomat within. Diplomathon Global World Edition, which was held this year by Diplomathon Global, aimed at immersive learning and experiential education for young minds to build real world thinking and global competencies. This online event was attended by middle school and high school students and concluded on September 6. Participants from across nine different countries attended the session. They were a part of over 24 diverse committees like the World

Health Organization (WHO), World Trade Organization (WTO), South Asian Association for Regional

"I learned a lot of things through this platform. I came to know how to put forth my point in front of a crowd. Diplomathon Global World Edition has certainly been one-of-its-kind experience for me." says **Nilotama Singh**.

Cooperation (SAARC) etc. The conference held on September 3, 4 and 5 had agendas that revolved around global issues where students engaged themselves in a conducive debate and formulated blocs to devise efficient solutions for various topics. Participants competed globally on important matters such as tracking progress of the Covid-19 vaccine, plan of action for distribution of the vaccines and other similar issues.

Billabong High International School, Bhopal was ranked amongst the top 10 performing schools at Diplomathon Global World Edition 2020. Warmest congratulations to the participants who have made their school immensely proud.

### Our star performers deserve a special mention



**Best Delegate**  
Nilotama Singh  
NATA, Canada



**High Commendation**  
Iwisha Chand Warivade  
AECAN, Russia



**Special Mention**  
Joshua Gupta  
SAARC, Zambia



**Special Mention**  
Arayna Sakena  
CCC, USA

## 74th Independence Day



Independence may mean different things to different people. For the youth of our country, it may mean a lot of things - to be able to pursue their dreams, to say NO to gender bias, discrimination, and stereotype, and most importantly the right to take their own decisions. Unlike every year, this year, Independence Day 2020 was celebrated by the Billabong family virtually, in spirit. A live Facebook event was held on the glorious occasion of India's 74th Independence Day wherein Ms. Noor Qureshi, our Literary Coordinator, addressed the Billabong family from the school campus. The flag hoisting ceremony was conducted by our honourable Chairman, Mr. Najam Jamal and our respected Principal, Mr. Ashish Agarwal in the presence of Ms. Tanuja Dadhich, school Administrator, and Mr. Virendra Sharma, faculty, Physical Education.

Every year the school hallways are adorned by the cheerful chatter of students as they make their way to the flag post area decked in their traditional tricolored attire. This year, though the school corridors were empty and silent, our hearts were filled with vigour as we witnessed the proud moment of flag hoisting ceremony in our school grounds, from the safety of our homes as we joined the school for the National Anthem.

## Entrepreneurship Cell

Entrepreneurship is the practical process of creating incremental wealth and innovating things of value that have a bearing on the welfare of an entrepreneur. Billabong High International School looks forward to equipping students with benefits of entrepreneurship learning; to inspire them to think outside the box and nurture unconventional talents and skills. In pursuance of this, we invited students to attend the Start-up and Entrepreneurship Cell, with the speaker for the session being Mr Rajat Shrivastava, Policy Advisor, National Centre for Good Governance, Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, Government of India.

The session incorporated thought-provoking topics which encourage students to brainstorm profound ideas and question the status quo. It also briefed on the transformation in the entrepreneurship landscape in the past five years.

"Due to emerging technologies and changing economic landscape, it is estimated that around 5 million jobs are going to vanish by 2022, but at the same time, around 2 million new job roles will be created, with new skill sets requirements. We are moving into an era where an individual will not be stuck to a single profession all his life - hence there is a need to re-skill and upskill continuously. New Education Policy 2020 emphasises



this and hence aims to encourage more new young entrepreneurs to solve new upcoming challenges with innovative thinking."

The session further educated the students on the initiatives taken by the Indian Government towards increasing entrepreneurship such as collaboration of E-cells with State-sponsored incubation centres of Smart city, NITs, IITs, IIMs etc. and National Entrepreneurship Awards by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Moreover, it suggested solutions for propelling towards a future of

entrepreneurship such as exploring national institutions like EDI Ahmedabad, NIESBUD Noida, NIRDPR Hyderabad etc. for online/offline short-term programmes for budding entrepreneurs and focusing of teachers on enabling 'Learning by Doing' through more questions, problem identification, discussion based on the challenges around them.

One achieves in proportion to what one sets out for and negotiates in life! A burning desire for high achievement by one's effort (like Thomas Alva Edison), capability to transform adversity into opportunity, strategic vision with clearly demarcated long term and short-term goals (like Late Dhirubhai Ambani), foresight, problem identification and innovation are a few skill sets extremely crucial for fostering qualities of entrepreneurship in students.



## Virtual Online High School Debate Competition

Decades of educational analysis have proven that the advantages that accrue as outcomes of participating in a debate are numerous. Debate provides experiences that are conducive to cognitive and presentation skills. In addition, through debate, debaters acquire unique educational benefits as they learn and polish their skills, far beyond what can be learnt in any other setting.

Billabong High International School hosted a Virtual Online Debate

Competition exclusively for High School students.

Two rounds were conducted in this

competition:

1. Elimination round
2. Final round

Four contestants were shortlisted in the Elimination round based on their speech on the topic "Drug use should be treated as a mental health issue rather than a criminal offence." For the Final round, two speakers participated for the motion and two speakers against the motion as they spoke on the topic "Hate speech is not a human right." In each round, two

minutes were dedicated for rebuttal.

In the words of Mannat Kandal, one of the winners of this competition, "Speaking to a camera was indeed a different experience, but the school made it as seamless as possible. Even though it was virtual, every round

was well-planned and it was no less than an in-person debate. The participants, judges and the High School teachers were enthusiastic throughout the event, and it made for a healthy debate with some great arguments."

Hearty congratulations to the winners of this competition!



**Mannat Kandal**  
Best Speaker (for the motion)



**Siya Bhadoria**  
Best Speaker (against the motion)



## Inter-House YOGA Competition (Primary)

The term "yoga" comes from a Sanskrit word meaning "union." Yoga combines physical exercises, mental meditation, and breathing techniques to strengthen the muscles and relieve stress. Yoga has been practiced for thousands of years as a life philosophy to join the individual self with what practitioners call the Divine, Universal Spirit, or Cosmic Consciousness. The Inter-house Virtual Yoga Competition made sure Primary school children keep their practice going from the comfort of their homes.

Divided across four categories, the participants were dedicatedly trained for almost two weeks by Mr. Bharat Singh Bandhewal, our school's Yoga

instructor.

After the training sessions, participants from each category had to record their videos while performing a combination of different Asanas allotted to each category according to their capacity and strengths. Students exhibited a great performance across asanas like Paschimottanasana,



Ustrasana, Uttanapadasana, Vakshasana, Chakrasana, Bhujangasana, and Halasana.

The judgment was based on the perfect execution of the asanas and included recitation of asanas' name, holding the posture for the desired time period, and getting back to the basic posture.

We congratulate all the winners-

### Category 1- Grade 1

#### 1st position:

Agastya Singh Parihar – Equality House

#### 2nd position:

Pahul Kaur Arora - Freedom House

#### 3rd position:

Anaira Qureshi – Equality House

Viraj Dighe – Freedom House

### Category 2 - Grade 2

#### 1st position:

Kanishka Jain – Peace House

#### 2nd position:

Harnoor Sabharwal- Equality House

#### 3rd position:

Pranaya Kaur Chug- Freedom House

### Category 3 - Grade 3

#### 1st position:

Nancy Chawla – Unity House

#### 2nd position:

Ishan Gore- Equality House

#### 3rd position:

Tvisha Jhavar- Equality House

### Category 4 - Grade 4

#### 1st position:

Yuvraj Rao Ghadge- Equality House

#### 2nd position:

Trisha Singh - Equality House

#### 3rd position:

Srishti Dewani - Unity House

Bahul Singh Kukreja – Peace House

## Teachers' Day

It is rightly said that a good teacher not only imparts knowledge to their students but they inspire, encourage, and instill curiosity to find solutions to life's problems. During our young and impressionable years, our teachers play a crucial role; they are our role models, our inspiration, and parent-figures outside our homes who teach us many lessons about life. At times they might be tough on us but, in hindsight, it is only to mould and shape our talents and to work on our weaknesses, helping us become a better version of ourselves.

To honour these remarkable people in our lives, Teachers' Day is celebrated as an important day every year. This year, the student council made this day memorable for all teachers, virtually. Each council member worked quite hard to bring together a virtual gift for all teachers. The council contacted monitors from all sections across Primary, Middle school, and High school and asked them to share short



personalized videos wishing our dear teachers.

Once all videos were received, the Technology head, Arjun Singh Tomar merged them into three different videos, one for each Primary, Middle School, and High School. Other than that, all the council members made a poster with their pictures and a message for teachers. We hope this heartfelt gesture touched our teachers' lives, who have been working relentlessly during these pandemic days.

## Inter-house Virtual Poetry Competition (MS)



"Poetry is boned with ideas, nerved with lyrics, and blooded with emotions, all held together by the delicate, tough skin of words."

- Paul Engle

their poetic skills. They were also taught how to interpret classic poems and the best ways to remodel/rewrite them using their sense of

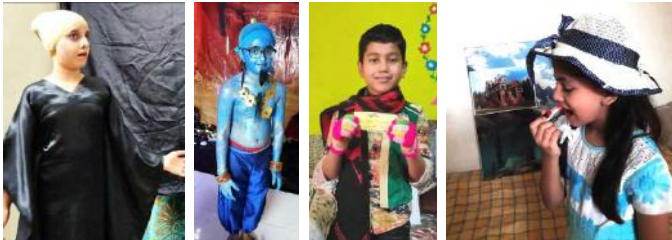
All these emotions were beautifully expressed by the students of Middle school who took part in the Inter-House Virtual Poetry Competition which was based on the theme 'Contemporary Classics'. Students had to compose their version of a classic poetry and give reason for their choice of selection. The

personalization and an element of originality, breathing life to their work.

It was a sheer joy to witness the enthusiasm of budding poets as they trained hard for this competition for almost a month, honing their skills and perception towards poetry. The

## Inter-house Characterization

For the budding thespians of Billabong High, Inter-house Characterization was a big hit where students of Grade 4 brought characters to life with powerful monologues, authentic costumes, and enthusiastic performances.



The competition was held in two stages:

The first was a screening round after which the selected participants moved on to the final round that took place on 17th September 2020.

The participants enacted different characters from books like Pollyanna, The Harry Potter Series, Matilda, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, etc. All the participants acted with great energy and mind-blowing expressions. They put a lot of effort into arranging the sets, writing their scripts and memorizing their dialogues all of which could be seen in each performance.

All the performances were judged by Theatre teacher- Mr. Praveen Choubey, Preschool faculty- Ms. Ilaina Syed, and Middle School English faculty- Ms. Maryam Salman on the criteria of body language, eye contact, introduction and closure, pacing, poise, voice modulation etc. The participants put up a great show as they brought characters like Ms. Trunchbull, Voldermort, and Genie alive.

### Winners:

1st position: **Kartikya Pratap Singh Chauhan** – Equality House

2nd position: **Rit Sumisha** - Equality House

3rd position: **Harnav Kaplish** - Peace House

competition was divided into two categories: Category 1 for students of grades 5 and 6 and Category 2 for students of grades 7 and 8. Students from both the

categories were specially trained by Mr. Nishant Upadhyay, the winner of GFLIF Poetry (2017) and mentored by Ms. Noor Qureshi, our Literary Coordinator.

During the hourly training sessions for each category, participants were taught how to develop poetic instincts, creative thinking, and an eye for observation as they chiseled

participants sent in videos of them reciting the contemporary poem they wrote that was inspired by a classic poem. Prominent poets- Dr. Athira Gopinathan Nair and Ms. Priyanka Rathore judged the entries based on parameters like content,

creativity, appropriateness of dramatization, voice & articulation, and screen presence. We congratulate the winners who brought rhythm and harmony alive through their magical poetry!

### Category 1 (Grades 5-6)



Aarna Tiwari Shaurya Tyagi Kainaat Kapoor

1st position: Aarna Tiwari - Freedom House  
2nd position: Shaurya Tyagi - Unity House  
3rd position: Kainaat Kapoor - Unity House

### Category 2 (Grades 7-8)



Shambhavi Pethiy Siyona Panvalkar Poorvi Verma

1st position: Shambhavi Pethiya - Peace House  
2nd position: Siyona Panvalkar - Unity House  
3rd position: Poorvi Verma - Equality House



# Is a 'Messy Democracy' superior to a 'Stable Dictatorship'?



**YES**

**NO**

Image credit: leverageedu.com

There is no such thing as a stable dictatorship. Most stable dictatorships only seem so because a whole bunch of people and burning issues are papered over. When instability and revolution finally appear, they are a response to the long-standing issues that had been suppressed. If you have got death squads rounding up your enemies, that is always a mark of instability, even if they're doing an effective job.

In a democracy, people are the ultimate arbiters of a country's goals. From a dictator's perspective, things might be going swimmingly, even though people are starving or dying in a useless war.

Even if we do come across a will happen when this dictator' is gone? will probably be buffoon. democracies share of those, president can replaced. An dictator might power for fifty Dictatorship is Citizens are trampled upon, nature of democracy, however, functioning it is, freedom citizens. At least in law and as



rather benign dictator, what hypothetical "good Sooner or later, he replaced by a Admittedly, elect their fair but a foolish easily be idiotic remain in years. never good. ignored or due to the very dictatorship. In a no matter how ill- is still provided to the stated in the constitutional

Dictatorship essentially curtails dissent and expression, which constitute the basic rights of a human being. Second, since a dictator is supposed to rule forever, there won't be a working mechanism to replace him, in any case, and this would inevitably end in chaos.

If a State forces its will on the people against their wishes, it is never a stable system.

If democracy is not working - usually because it is not democratic enough - make it better, by making it more democratic. This means fighting/changing the capitalist system from within, as a democracy cannot work when the economic system is based on gross inequality when wealth buys degrees of power and freedom.

The solution is not your "strong leader" or whatever the populist demagogues' lies tell you, but a proper democracy, based on fair economic relations and opportunities. If the resources are not equally distributed among citizens, if they aren't given an equal opportunity, even democracy turns into an oligarchy.

Which brings us to the question- if even the democracy is vulnerable to oligarchy, then how could we possibly assume that the citizens under a dictatorship would be treated equally and fairly? The answer is something that we all know.

A dysfunctional and messy democracy can be fixed. A dictator and dictatorship are mercurial.

- Rida Aamir (10A)

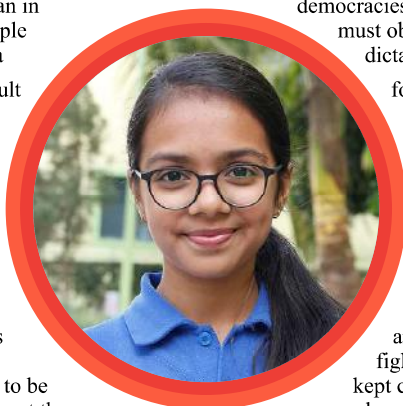
A messy democracy is born out of an unequal distribution of power, which cannot be possible without one person having too much of it. That would mean that a 'messy democracy' is almost a dictatorship with a farce. And in such a world, it is better to have a safe and stable dictatorship than a messy one shrouded in propaganda.

Dictatorship benefits the nation because it enables swift and efficient decision making as the responsibility of making decisions lies in one hand. It ensures the system stays functioning and modernizes as it can arrive at decisions and implement laws that could resolve problems without a time-consuming process which would be required in a democracy.

Dictatorship outperforms democracy in growth and economic development. This is because radical reforms in dictatorship countries have paved the way for economic development and the number of non-economic changes that have benefited the population and provided a decent level of living for the large majority.

Dictatorships control the elements of discipline and order in society better than democracies because they promote a state based on strict policies, personal security and global respect on a community basis. For example, currently, in China, the country where the COVID-19 virus was the first to burst, situations are much more stable than that of India or the USA, the world's largest democracies, because crises are dealt with much better in dictatorships than in democracies. This is because the people must obey the dictatorship.

It is often difficult to agree on or making a such cases country faces solution is the difference democracy. proved by the inclusion in the where there was new advanced France that was to be security reasons yet the personalities insisted on



for a democracy enforcing a law decision. In when the a problem, the delayed due to in opinions of This can be recent Indian Army an addition of fighter planes from kept confidential for popular elected revealing the details.

The resources needed to maintain democratic institutions and regular elections such as the costs of electoral processes, and electoral propaganda, political patronage, the interruption of long-term government plans and projects are a set of huge expenses that developing nations can't fork over. This money can be used for the development of the people of a country instead of developing democracies.

The answer to whether a messy democracy is superior to a stable dictatorship can be concluded by asking instead: is the illusion of unlimited freedom better than the acknowledgement of limited freedom?

- Rishbhi Jawar (9D)



## The Imitation Game

'The Imitation Game' is a dramatic, biopic-style war film on the life of revolutionary British mathematician, Alan Turing (played by Benedict Cumberbatch). The movie wonderfully depicts the tragic genius of Turing, and how his mathematical brilliance helped save as many as two million lives during the final chapters of the Second World War.

Alan Turing was a genius in the highest regard, and even today is considered the father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence. Turing was homosexual, which was not only a great taboo in England back then, but also was illegal. The hate was so unbridled that Turing had to suppress his sexual identity, and had to undergo forced chemical castration and was eventually driven to suicide.

In his lifetime, he accomplished feats which were then unthinkable, using his logic and math flair. One such example is cracking the Enigma Code used by the Nazi military, and The Imitation Game is a riveting retelling of exactly

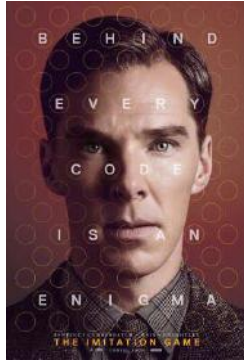


Image credit: imdb.com

that. The movie focuses on Turing's brilliance and his avant-garde approaches to unique problems at Bletchley Park, the headquarters of the British Codebreakers, and threats posed by the relentless Nazi assault on the battlefronts, all the while portraying his inner turmoil regarding his sexuality and the perception of homosexuality in twentieth century English society. The film also features Keira Knightley as Joan Clarke, another savant cryptanalyst who was one of the meagre few who was aware and supportive of Turing being gay.

All in all, The Imitation Game is a wonderful story of a tortured genius, his journey through his tumultuous life and his valiant service in the war which saved lives on the frontlines, while away from the frontlines. Paired with Cumberbatch's excellent acting, The Imitation Game is an amazing movie, complete with action, thrill, information and sorrow, and is definitely worth a watch.

- Aditya Rajan (10B)

## Apashe carries Electronic Music to new heights with 'Renaissance'



Image credit: edm.com

"The album is really about epic, classical music, mixed with heavy bass lines, hip-hop, and what I call majestic", Apashe (real name: John De Buck) said about his then-upcoming project.

Tired of how repetitive the 'Bass Music' scene got, Apashe took it upon himself to reinvent the genre; and so, after composing classical music, hiring a 64-piece orchestra to perform said compositions and spending months in fine-tuning his work, Apashe released Renaissance. When one thinks of electronic music, one thinks of harsh sounds and heavy beats, - those are here too, but oddly complemented by a classical orchestra to perfection.

"Classical music is so pure, and electronic music is so raw," says Apashe in a press release. "I have always loved to fuse them together. For this album, I tried to do what has barely been done before in the electronic music scene: Compose with a symphonic orchestra, extract its epicness and delicacy, then blend it with something big and rough."

This is exactly what he did, 'Renaissance' is that weird blend of genres that would generally be deemed impossible, but Apashe gets them to work to great lengths. This fusion is especially clear on tracks like 'Distance', 'Green Crack' and 'Lord and Master'. Hip Hop influences are also present on tracks like 'Insane', 'Legend' and 'Work' with high profile artists like 'TechN9ne' and 'Slumber Jack' making appearances.

"And now, I rise above you", says a mysterious voice on the track, 'Good News' as if aware of the fact that Apashe carried this album to highs other EDM artists can only dream of reaching. He delivers on his words, the sensational purity of classical music, and the grimy raw electronic bass, combined into what can only be called an experience; but I digress, it is not the quality or the features that make this project my favorite electronic album, but how easy it would have been to mess it up. Classical and electronic music do not go together, but Apashe makes them go together and makes it sound great - a herculean achievement.

Apashe's 'Renaissance' makes a great case for the 'Ed.M. Album of The Year' and possibly, of all time.

- Abdullah Arab (11A)



## Heroes of Olympus

'Heroes of Olympus', the sequel to the 'Percy Jackson' book series, is about seven Greek and Roman demigods who save the world from the awakening of the Earth goddess, Gaia while facing many obstacles in the way. The Seven, through their adventures and misadventures, learn to trust each other and bond as friends. I would recommend reading the Percy Jackson series for understanding several references before reading these books.

The books are rich in detail and provide vivid imagery, which makes it play like a movie, especially the action scenes. The plotlines are complex and delicately crafted, even though it seems like a big mess of storylines webbing through the series, eventually, everything falls into place and it comes together as an emotional, yet funny, action-packed dream. The humour in these books makes the characters feel more human, given that they are part god. It is family-friendly, yet endlessly amusing. Not only do these books teach you Greek and Roman mythology, but also a lot of interesting and niche history, is certainly a lot of random trivia!

One of my favourite things about this book is that the



Image credit: theodyseyonline.com

point of view changes between chapters. This clearly maps out a character's development and helps me understand his personality. It is also very interesting to see the difference between the perceptions of two characters towards a single scene.

This series is very special to me because it was recommended to me by my sibling. Now, we casually reference mythology to each other, and it almost feels like we are part of the Seven.

Each chapter in this series will leave you bewildered, mesmerized, petrified, annoyed, shocked, awestricken and even heartbroken but these emotions will not quench your thirst for more.

- Devyani Sadho (8E)

## The Palace of Illusions

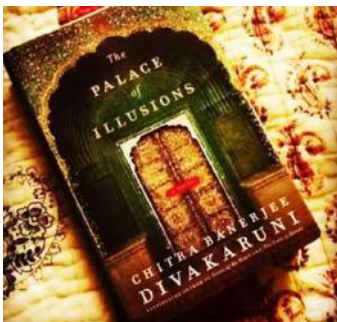


Image credit: indiacityblog.com

'The Palace of Illusions' is a definite page-turner, not only for fans of the epics but also for anyone who wishes to hear untold stories of the Mahabharata. Most of us have grown up listening to the tales of the heroic Yudhishtira, Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadeva but seldom we hear the other side of the story.

The Mahabharat mainly discusses the hardships of royal life and the war heroes. But in this book, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni celebrates the tale of the powerful and fiery Draupadi. It is the 'Panchali's' side of the story; how she dealt with the norms of the patriarchal society and her struggles throughout. It answers the questions you never knew you had. Why was Panchali blamed for the Pandava's catastrophe? Were they actually the heroes? Was Kunti really the saintly mother she was portrayed to be? The author not only deals with her but all the complex characters that, despite having a crucial part in the turn of events, were barely given importance.

Personally, what makes this story so fascinating to me is its depiction of the infamous villain, Karna. His story is truly the most heart wrenching and tragic one. It made me realize how vulnerable and complex his character is.

This is the story of Panchali, the story of Lord Krishna and his wisdom, of Karna and his struggles in life and of what was never told to you. This book is a true masterpiece not because it is a "what could be" version of this epic, but because it is a beautiful story of life, which makes it a must-read.

- Myra Mittal (9E)



## Picture Perfect



Image credit: Judith Yates

As near the nights of December  
The fireplace is reignited with embers  
Then everyone cuddles together  
To enjoy the serenity of the weather

On the ground, is a soft layer of white  
Sieving through branches shine the moonlight  
Admiring the peace hops by a bunny  
Expecting the quick arrival of days sunny

The snow sparkles like the stars overhead  
Which throughout the sky are known to tread  
The tree also illuminate in the glorious night  
Fill the atmosphere with gentle delight

The pines wear a softer coat  
And in their silence often quote  
"What peace a night has brought us,  
To perform a task later thus!"

And so the lights are finally blown  
For journeys to be made to lands unknown  
Waiting earnestly for the warm sunrise  
Patiently are the little innocent eyes.

- Ashna Azeem (10B)

## Here Comes Autumn

Red, orange and brown  
Looks like a scarlet gown.  
Dressed on a tree or a plant  
And then they fall, like a dance.

I see the leaves that are underfoot  
They crunch with every step I put.  
I love the saffron colour everywhere  
While animals hibernate here and there.

It is the magical time of the year  
Halloween and Thanksgiving are near.  
While I thank those who mean much to me  
I also remember those in my memories.

'Tis the time for harvesting the crops  
It's also the time for party and props.  
While farmers bring the grains and fruits  
We get ready for the season and put on our boots.

- Gurbani Bhat (2A)

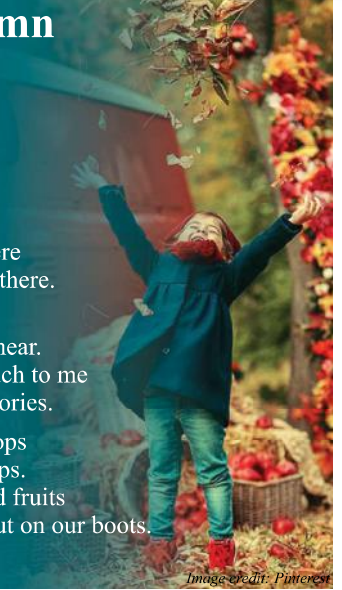


Image credit: Pinterest

## पल पल से समय



Image credit: justintime

पल पल से समय बने  
पर पल उससे बलवान  
एक पल के खेल में  
बंधा है इंसान  
एक पल में ही जहाँ उजड़े  
और जीवन बिखर जाए  
एक पल में बिजली आए  
और घर उजला जाए  
एक पल में कोई चिड़ी  
रोक दे सांसों को  
एक पल में कोई चिड़ी  
खोले नए रास्तों को  
एक पल में वो इंसान  
जो था अब नहीं रहा  
एक पल में जो ना दिखा

वो सामने आ खड़ा  
एक पल सब शुरू हुआ  
एक पल सब अंत  
एक पल सब चल रहा  
एक पल सब थम  
में भी तो इन पलों के  
हार्थों में हूँ नाच रही  
कल कहां थी  
और आज कहां पर हूँ खड़ी  
इतनी बड़ी दुनिया में  
अपनी पहचान बनाने को  
मेहनत का हाथ थाम कर खड़ी हूँ  
बस एक पल मिले तो।

- Mehar Batra (8E)

## Autumn Bliss

The first leaf fades away,  
With lengthening night and shortening day.  
Every fluttering leaf of the tree,  
Speaks bliss to me,  
As it twirls by the window pane,  
Along with a thousand others down the lane.  
I love to see the wreaths of snow,  
Blossoming where the roses grow.  
I love to see the sparrows chirp till the end of the eve,  
As they spread happiness and take away the grief.  
Sitting in a circle, up in the vale,  
Around the autumn bonfire, we see the smoke trail.  
We sing a song of seasons, something bright in all,  
Flowers in the summer and fires in the fall.

- Paloma Jain (9D)



Image credit: Ganteri

## Good Scars



Image credit: neectarthought.blogspot.com

Fear of society  
has never faded away from my  
country,  
Like stains of oil paint  
on an artist's clothes.  
Even though I think of myself as  
fearless,  
I am brainwashed to believe,  
My existence is for the world,  
Not for myself.

I used to prison my thoughts,  
Even if they were not criminals.  
Judgment took away my voice,  
Even before I knew I had one.  
But it is the way I have been living  
all my life,  
Being influenced by weak but  
strong puppets.

It gave me a positive negativity,  
making me careful,  
Like a thief clearing up,  
but marking a tattoo,  
Eternal Caution.

Culture never fades away,  
Even if you do.

- Lavanya Kapoor (9B)



# Life on the Hottest Planet?

On September 14th, a team of scientists at Cardiff University in Wales spotted traces of phosphine gas (PH<sub>3</sub>) in Venus' atmosphere. Phosphine is a biomarker; it indicates some sort of biological activity taking place. The gas was spotted by the Japanese satellite Akatsuki ('dawn' in English) and a corresponding ground team, using methods like ground observation and atmosphere spectroscopy. On Earth, phosphine is primarily released as a product of microbial life processes, but what about Venus?

Now, this find opens up a world of possibilities, but one must keep in mind two things, first: the phosphine detection was unstable (and the chemistry behind it is obscure) and could be explained as a product of natural geological phenomena (like volcanoes) happening on the surface of Venus. Second, even if this discovery spells the prospect of an alien life form, don't expect green people to be walking around Venus. The immense pressure exerted by the atmosphere of Venus on the surface

(about 75 to 100 times that of Earth's!) would essentially flatten any human or humanoid. In reality, phosphine might have been produced by microbes and microorganisms, which might have been living in the clouds of the rocky planet.

However, this discovery is particularly curious because the level of phosphine found is much higher than what was expected, according to astrobiologists. The data suggest that the gas may be present at concentrations of 20 parts per billion (ppb), at an altitude of 53 km above the surface. Of course, 20 ppb sounds like a ridiculously small amount, which it is, but the shocker is that there shouldn't even be that much! Considering the super-acidic conditions in the atmosphere of Venus, one molecule of phosphine should last for about 16 minutes on average. To counteract this relentless

destruction, there must be a steady and abundant source of the gas. Phosphorus rich minerals could be one such source, but they aren't likely to waft up high in the

atmosphere. Photochemical reactions are a plausible explanation, but they can't produce this much of the gas.

Volcanoes on Earth spew very small amounts of phosphine, but there'd need to be about 200 times as much volcanic activity on Venus to account for the levels seen there.

When it comes to explanations, microbial life holds the upper hand, and this prospect is undeniably a fascinating and exciting feat of science.

- Aditya Rajan (10B)

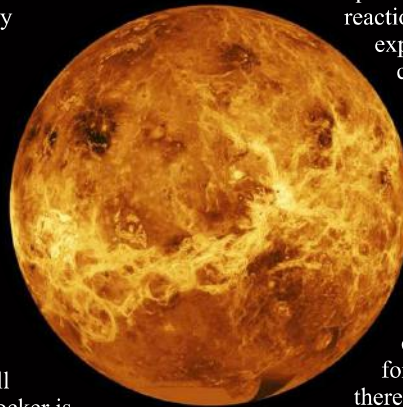


Image credit: cnn.com

## Can the Aviation Industry bounce back?

"Aviation is the proof that when given the will, we have the capacity to achieve the impossible."

- Edward Bernon Rickenbacker

The airline industry has faced many crises before – the 9/11 attacks and the 2010 Icelandic volcano eruption, for example. But these are pale in comparison to the economic hit that airlines are currently facing. Some are asking: can it recover? Is this a financial crisis that could reshape how we travel and live? Or will it turn out to be more of a pause, before returning to business as usual? What role does the climate crisis play in all this – how will sustainability figure in rebooting the industry going forward?

There have been big shocks to the Indian Economy over the last four years: Demonetization, the transition to GST, and now the Pandemic induced lockdowns.

COVID-19 virus has spread worldwide without acknowledging borders. It has impacted all industries, all sectors and all aspects of people's lives with devastating economic losses and significant uncertainties. A fallout has arrested economic momentum.

The Civil Aviation industry has been adversely impacted by the pandemic. The business has seen a total revenue loss of around USD 419 Billion. The lockdowns have led to a dramatic 23.9 % plunge in GDP in the April-June quarter. The Indian Government is struggling to afford bailouts to air shuttles. Airlines are going bankrupt, compelling them to fire their employees. The flag carrier Air India decided to implement a 10% cut in the allowances of all its employees until May and then unwisely fired 49 of its employees overnight, who put their,



Image credit: thenewsmarket.com

as well as their families' lives in danger and flew the Vande Bharat Missions to bring back stranded Indians home.

The uneven lifting of restrictions across India has improved things. However, it is unlikely that we will see a swift recovery. Not only did the quarantine measures strike an already stressed economy of India, but also removed a potential source of early recovery. It leaves the government as the only player in the game with the potential to catalyse a reversal.

On the demand side, once borders reopen, there could be a short-term travel 'boom' as the postponed flights will be rebooked and stranded people will fly home. But even after an official 'COVID all clear', those considering a holiday or vacation may think twice before sharing cramped plane cabins with strangers. Business travellers, crucial to airline profits, may find that they have got so used to using Zoom, that they don't need to always fly to meetings in person. To bring the Civil Aviation industry back to life the first and foremost step will be to restore consumer confidence and for that, airlines will have to come up with attractive passenger and public incentives that would invite passengers for a safe, secure and hygienic inflight experience.

- Nilotama Singh (8B)

## Autumn for Me

"Autumn, the year's last, loveliest smile."

- William Cullen Bryant

Autumn encompasses a special temperament of its own which makes it wanted and treasured by everyone. If I were to describe Fall in one word, it would be 'extravagant'. It is the time of the year where people go out and enjoy the last few days of sun and warmth, listen to the crisp and tranquil sound of dried leaves below their feet, go for early morning walks and runs, and taste the flavour of nature and all that it has to offer. Fall is celebrated in the western world by making pumpkin spiced lattes, apple pies and plenty of other things.

The orange and yellow hues of leaves scattered on the ground, the cold fall breeze and the freshness and the newness of this season create a serene and picturesque scenery. Autumn is also very nostalgic as people remember the happy memories they've made, which makes them feel excited for what the future season has to offer before it's even formally begun. During this season, animals prepare for the winter by storing food and creating cozy and comfortable hibernation spaces.

Fall is a transition from wet to cold and dry and so it has a refreshing aura. The superimposed speciality of this season is the different festivities and celebrations which are filled with continuous enjoyment and exhilaration. As India is understood by its various cultures, religions and ethics, Fall is made especially memorable through festivals and festivities. Throughout this season, folks with perhaps friends and family in tow, opt for quiet weekend getaways and revel in the last few days of sun and heat, as the year bit

by bit draws to a close.

People make peace through reminiscences and with a clearer and a happier heart, welcome the new year with open arms. When the trees shed their leaves, Autumn embellishes the art of letting go and living in the present.

- Kaashvi Mehta (9E)



Image credit: pinterest.com



# Let me be free

The delicate mist called for bold, homely yet earthy flavours pleasing the carpets of red and gold; old yet keeping their promise of holding on to their aura proving their loyalty; bidding goodbye as they kiss the trees surrendering



Image credit: Leonid Afremov Studio

into their patient slumber. Those few moments as they cling onto the last breeze that passes, bring their freedom slowly parting with them with an earthbound gift. The breeze sounds of the soul of nature as it beholds within it real art; fostering the autumn spirit, soaring beyond any limitations. It is a gift from the old to the new assuring guidance, affection and enriching their love as a family for the seeds that lay peacefully in the warm quilt of the soil.

Each breath fills one with freshly calm air and the earthy aroma- the pure fragrance of protection. The trees bathed in the candles of daylight requesting for a last dance before their restless souls are lulled to ecstatic dreams celebrating those who departed and awaiting those who are to arrive. Soon the existence of those who left will dim into a fading memory.

An artist's pallet could never be merrier as he perfected his strokes and painted his story all over again on the corpse of old canvas. It knew the miracle of time and resignation to fate, it knew of affliction and jubilation, yet it settled the differences keeping in mind that time isn't a prisoner of anyone. He summarised his painting with dark as well as soft, joyful colours, which could be seen by only those who searched for them. Even if it didn't appeal much, it gave the most comforting feeling as if the unfair and fair deeds of life were united.

Through that painting, he spoke of his life with its one part missing, never assuring him of complete happiness and reminding him that it was the part of him he hid from the world, that felt the most. The sense of something missing was driving him crazy, and so he was given another hint. The moist soil bore footsteps that never returned. As the flames of insecurity lit

bright inside him, he decided he couldn't love anymore.

So, he wrote in his journal- "More powerful than the feeling of having faith in someone is the pain when they leave you making sure every memory that was sweet once would torment you forever. It's this overwhelming change that expectations bring that hurts the most. I am no longer searching for an opportunity, all I want to do is rest." As he observed the leaves bidding adieu, he felt deeply connected. There were colourful messages hidden for those who care to find them just like in his paintings. The trees let go of their leaves, which they nourished for weeks because they knew something better awaited them and so remained gleeful even though they lost the most.

And so, he realized that he had lost his spirit to be alive as vibrant as the colours he adores, because it wasn't his time to surrender yet. He picked a fragile golden leaf glowing with memories as it brought him the ambrosial scent of love and adventure. He said, "I shall live in such a manner that such a smell shall cling onto me when I part my ways with the earth."

- Arayna Saxena (9B)



Image credit: Mal Burton

The first time she saw him, he was a few seats ahead of her on the bus she took every day. Black hoodie, messy hair, and a somewhat dark presence. Her first thought about him? Damn, he is cute!

She saw him there daily, day after day on the same seat, always alone, never talking to anyone. She didn't see this as weird or strange in any way. Neither should you. At least not now.

Now, you see, she had developed a crush on him. And she wasn't sure if he'd ever like her back. Nevertheless, she imagined how it would be like to have him feel the same way for her. She daydreamed of him, of being his girlfriend, of holding his hand, of falling in love with him, of marrying him some day. This daydreaming went on for a few days until she finally built-up the courage to go say 'hi'.

She didn't know what exactly she was expecting when she walked up to his seat and sat down next to him. But she sure as hell wasn't expecting this-

"Hi," She said.

He turned to her, with his face losing all colour, horror in her eyes, as he slowly whispered "How can you see me? You shouldn't be able to see me."

- Akshita Hunka (11B)

## Down and Away

Forests- a superlative place with thousands of trees! One such tree in a small forest stood alone in the crowd of loneliness. The leaves of this tree danced together as the cold winds greeted them, without knowing that soon they would be apart. One such leaf was worried as



Image credit: desktopbackground.org

she had heard that leaves fall in autumn and autumn was approaching. Soon came the season of delight and comfort. That leaf was a little worried, but she kept talking to her friends. Suddenly, one of the leaves felt a loose grip and descended towards the ground. There was now a tense environment and murmurs of perplexity everywhere. Suddenly, that leaf also fell off the tree. It kept wailing as some more leaves fell off the tree. Unexpectedly there was a huge gust of wind that blew the leaf away. She glided and landed near a pond. There, she met many kind and gentle leaves on the ground. No sooner had she become a member of the 'felling family' than she rejoiced that her days on the tree had come to an end. Now she remembered her father saying - "Nature is a gift, my child. The more you respect it, the more joy it will give you".

- Yatharth Singh (7E)





# The Ultimate Autumn Essentials Guide

"I am so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers." - L.M. Montgomery

Even though we all cannot step out and avail ourselves the voluptuousness and placidity autumn offers, a few of us Billabongers got together to create an ultimate guide so that we all can bring the aura, ambience and resemblance of fall to our homes. Comfort is powerfully symbolized by fall. This season is

prime time for seeking solace amid the dropping temperatures. Creating a serene and comfortable space is one among the simplest perks of autumn, after all.

Here's to autumn indulgence so you can take a quick dive into this long list of seasonal recipe ideas and projects, entirely carved out for you.

Of course, everything will be topped off with classic books for fall reading and a cup of hot tea or latte. Talk about a dream come true!

(Don't forget to share your pictures at [editorialboardbhis@gmail.com](mailto:editorialboardbhis@gmail.com))



Image credit: The coconut mama

## October Bucket List

### Make Pumpkin Spice Latte

(A magical mess)

While making a PSL sounds like such a cliché, things are popular for a reason: they are amazing! Add 2 tablespoons pumpkin puree, 2 tablespoons sweetened condensed milk, 1/2 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice, and 1 cup milk in a saucepan and heat on medium-low, whisking to combine the ingredients. Once the mixture begins to bubble, add 1 cup coffee (strong brewed) and reduce heat to simmer. Continue to whisk until hot and steamy. Pour into a

mug and top it with 1/4 cup whipped cream and additional pumpkin pie spice for that extra flavour!

### Run through a pile of leaves

Embrace your inner child and jump in!

### Bake a treat

There is nothing more soothing than a delicious treat on a cool Autumn day! Take a look at the recipe for chocolate chip cookies!

### Air out your house with crisp, fall fragrance

Before the weather gets too cold, let that wonderful autumn air into your home. We love how the spicy scents of ginger, clove, and

cinnamon make the house feel warm and cosy while the woody notes of fir and juniper remind us of a walk through the leaves.

Light autumn-scented candles. One thing we're sure of is that there's no shortage of fall-scented candles out there. Pick some up now, make your own, or spruce up your old vanilla candles with a layer of cinnamon sticks or sprigs of rosemary.



Image credit: theindianspot.com

### Decorate your house for fall

Changing up your home's decor is the fun way to embrace the season and your crafty side. Try some of the DIY fall decorating ideas and don't forget to share pictures with us.

### Here is the DIY beauty recipe for the "Coffee Exfoliating Scrub" to give you the autumn glow!

This homemade antioxidant coffee body scrub exfoliates the skin, helps reduce the appearance of cellulite and moisturises the skin with coconut oil.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup ground organic coffee
- 1 cup organic sugar or salt
- 1/2 cup organic coconut oil
- 1/2 tablespoon cinnamon (optional)
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract (optional)

#### Instructions:

- Melt coconut oil and allow it to cool but not solidify.
- Mix all ingredients together and store in an airtight container or mason jar.
- Use 1-2 times a week (or every day if you like).

How to use: Use 1-2 tablespoons of the coffee body scrub to exfoliate your skin. Make sure to rinse off thoroughly.

## Fitter, Healthier, Happier



2020, the year of the Tokyo Olympics, the year we were all waiting for has kept us locked in our homes. The schools, gyms, soccer parks, basketball courts, cricket fields, swimming pools, tennis courts etc. are all shut down because of the Covid-19. During this lockdown period fitness has been adversely affected, sleeping schedules have been disturbed, screen time and sitting hours have increased, physical activity has almost ceased and there is a striking rise in unhealthiness.

In lieu of the current times, especially to maintain a strong immunity, physical fitness is a must. The lack of areas to play and work out should be viewed as a challenge rather than an adversity. A seemingly endless number of workout videos are available on the internet, and so are countless articles about diet plans, the only thing needed is a determination!

This lockdown period can be very efficiently utilised for leading a healthy lifestyle, but you need not dramatically change your life. Small changes go a long way. The 15-minute breaks in the online classes can be used to stretch your body instead of surfing through your Instagram feed! While we all love to binge-watch, cutting down an episode and using that time to do a workout would be great for your body! Having a bowl of Maggi as a midnight munch sounds fun, but substitute it with a healthy snack and you get both a delicious treat and a better diet!

The difference lies in dedication and not in paucity of time, and excuses sound best to the person who is making them up. Take advantage of the time, the opportunity you have in hand and use it to the fullest. This time and this opportunity will not be returned, so soak up every second, every moment you have. It's game on!

- Vanshaj Khanna, Sports Captain (11A)

## Choco Chip Cookies

I am sure most of us have experimented in the kitchen during this quarantine period. While sometimes it resulted in a luscious delicacy, the rest of the times we had to sit back and look at the monstrosity we had just created. Or is it just me?

Well, we can't deny that chocolate chip cookies are the ultimate comfort food and everyone needs a classic cookie recipe in their lives. I mean, who would refuse a warm, gooey, and delicious cookie? Not me, for sure. This cookie recipe ticks all the boxes of what a cookie should be and makes for a perfect fall food when relished along with a cup of coffee (or a pumpkin spiced latte if you want to go all out). Anyway, here it goes:



#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup softened butter
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- a pinch of salt
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 2 + 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp corn flour
- 4 tbsp. milk
- 1/4 cup + 2 tbsp chocolate chunks (feel free to add a little extra)

#### Process:

Cream the butter and sugar (white and brown) together till fluffy and add the vanilla.

In a separate bowl, sift all the dry ingredients and incorporate it into the wet ingredients (do not overmix).

Fold in the chocolate chunks. Cover and chill for 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven at 180 degrees Celsius. Scoop out the cookie dough and top it with a few chocolate chunks. Bake for about 10 - 12 minutes. Do not bake for more than 15 minutes, instead leave them in the switched off oven to cook in the remaining heat.

(Try to let them cool but if you burn your mouth while trying to eat a fresh cookie straight from the oven, I won't judge!)

- Prashasti Praveen (9D)

# Tête-à-Tête with Tarun Thakral

## A Transmission about Transport

The Editorial Board was beyond honoured to have got the valuable opportunity of interviewing Mr. Tarun Thakral, Founder and Managing Trustee of the Heritage Transport Museum. Owing to his love for vintage cars and classic vehicles, Mr. Thakral set up the first private Heritage Transport Museum for India to call its own.

While it is a pleasure to interact with guests face-to-face, interviewing Mr. Thakral over a Microsoft Teams session was not the ordeal we had imagined it to be. His responses to our questions made it all so interesting and relatable that we felt welcomed. We could not help but witness his ebullience as he radiated an unmatched passion for vintage cars. Here are the excerpts from the interview-

**You set out to be a hotelier, a field in which you did a tremendous job, but you found your calling elsewhere. What led you to this change in your line of work?**

I still continue to be a hotelier. My bread and butter and my earnings come from the hotel. I continue to work at the Le Méridien hotel in New Delhi, where I am the Executive Director as of today. I could move ahead with my passion while I continued with my job. Just to give you a quick background: I joined this hotel in 1989 as a trainee and in 1990 I got a French Government scholarship to pursue my MBA in Hospitality Management from France. I came back in '93 after my education there. On one of my holiday trips to Rajasthan, I came across a vintage car; for me it was love at first sight with that car! I got it home, repaired it for almost two years and finally restored it. That is what triggered in me the passion of collecting Vintage Motor Transport. That one car led to many more and then other modes of transport. So, in 2003, I opened the Heritage Transport Museum, which is India's only transport museum as of today. Furthermore, it has got more than 3500 objects, both large and small, and it is recognized as one of the world's best transport museums ever made on a limited budget.

**What is your favourite part about running India's first and only Heritage Transport Museum?**

Well, it is definitely when I see so much excitement in the eyes of children (like you) who visit the museum, sometimes accompanied by their parents. Parents take great pleasure in explaining to their little ones: 'you know, in our time this is how we used to travel, this is what used to happen during our times.' The museum is not only about cars, it is also about palanquins, carriages, aeroplanes, steam engines, and trams - we have all

these objects there! So invariably, 99% of the people get very excited because they get to see something unique, they see a different design element, how spacious the cars used to be, and they also wonder how one could fit into a palanquin. The experience is incredible since they relive a gamut of emotions. While transportation is associated with mechanics yet one gets emotionally connected. "My first scooter, my first motorcycle, my first car" - that is something one always remembers. So, when the visitors share their stories about vehicles they see in the museum, it builds an instant connect and that is our most significant success!

**If we were to visit the museum, which objects/artefacts would you like to show us first and why?**

The first object that I would like to show you would be the 1500BC toy cart on wheels. That is where the museum starts its journey. During the Harappan civilization or the Indus Valley period, the wheel had already started to appear. One cannot imagine transportation without wheels. Even today, our cars, airplanes, or trains cannot do without them. So, the importance of the wheel is the starting point for us, and that is why we have this original piece from the Indus Valley civilization, which is a small bird cart on wheels. We have preserved it so that children like you can understand the importance of the wheel.

The next thing that I would like to show you is the only Indian flag that has gone to the moon and back. In the Apollo 15 mission of the United States Apollo program, in 1971, three astronauts took flags (6 inches by 4 inches) of all the countries that belonged to the United Nations at that time. About ten years back these flags were auctioned in the United States. We won it, brought it back, and displayed it in the Heritage Transport Museum. You may wonder why a transport museum would feature an Indian flag that had gone to the moon? The biggest reason is that the future of travel is now space travel. This flag will serve as an inspiration to all those youngsters who dream of travelling to space.

**What does the school program in your museum aim to teach children?**

We have different programs designed for various age groups. We have a museum trail for kids up to Grade 6. So, you walk around the museum, and

then you identify and correlate whatever you see, on a trail sheet. There are also quizzes to check if one has understood the object that is being displayed. One of the main reasons why many schools visit our museum is that the students and

think that's the biggest spirit. We do not provide cars for renting out for special occasions because we want these cars to be preserved in the museum. The more we use them, the more chances of wear and tear and it is difficult to find the



the teachers find the museum very accessible and knowledgeable at the same time, just as a learning environment should be. For students who are above Grade 6, we have a discovery section at the museum where we have parts of engine which help them learn how engines really work, how the movement of these engines take place, and children can actually go there and play around with the equipment that is kept there. So, one can actually drive a shaft by pressing a wheel, or turn the steering wheel of a vehicle to see what goes on inside the steering box and how the wheel turns.

The knowledge that such school programs offer especially for the younger generation, leads way to inquisitiveness and creativity. We hope that by looking at a museum which is so creatively designed, something in you sparks: that initiative which can assist you in your careers in the future.

**How do you interpret the evolution of transportation that is presented in the museum? Do you show up at work in a vintage car?**

No, [chuckles] I don't show up to work in a vintage car (laughs) because Delhi traffic is awful. Commuting to work in such cars will put a lot of strain on these vehicles and of course they do not provide you with the modern-day comfort in terms of air conditioning or quicker braking mechanisms because during those times, there were hardly any vehicles on the road. There was limited traffic and the size of the roads was small but today we have big roads and lots of vehicles on the road. We do take these cars out on an occasional drive to keep them running. And yes of course, when the weather is nice, I do occasionally drive them around. I have two little boys your age and they love that experience and for me as a father, I

parts these days, to get them back into running condition.

**How can one make room for passion in such a competitive world where acquiring wealth and fame are considered synonymous with success?**

Let me tell you a story, because that will answer your question.

In our times we used to have simple hobbies like stamp collection, coin collection or matchbox collection. In India, the moment children grow up, the pressure of studies becomes so much that such hobbies take a back seat. So while you're in the mad rush of scoring 95% in your board exams, getting admission in a good college, finding the right job, or a partner to settle with, you lose sight of your interests.

We don't get time to spend on ourselves. We forget that as individuals, we deserve 'me-time' too. So that's how this thing works. I had a friend in Paris, my roommate, who used to collect souvenir eggs. While we would study for our MBA and like typical Indian students, go through our books all the time, he used to open his cupboard and clean those eggs calmly. I would ask him, "What are you doing? Why don't you study?" and he would reply, "This is my time where I am relaxing. Now I can leave everything aside, including whatever happened in the classroom, for one hour and spend time on myself."

When we enter the corporate world, we are hard-pressed for time. We are so busy thinking about our future that we forget about taking care of the present. All of us need this 'me-time'. Hence, we must always try to do something constructive which would eventually make us happy. It could be something as small as a postcard collection. As long as it is meaningful, I would recommend people of every age group to do so.





“Photography is an art of observation. It has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them.”

- Elliott Erwitt



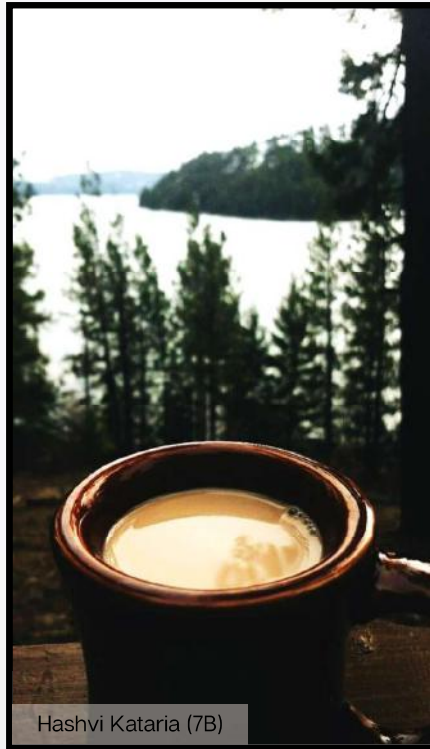
Daksh Agrawal (6A)



Hitakshika and Harshika Suri (11B)



Faiza Sultan (11C)



Hashvi Kataria (7B)



Jayesh Rajani (12A)



Jayesh Rajani (12A)

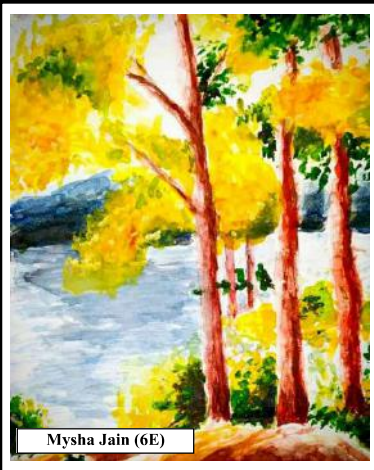


Jayesh Rajani (12A)

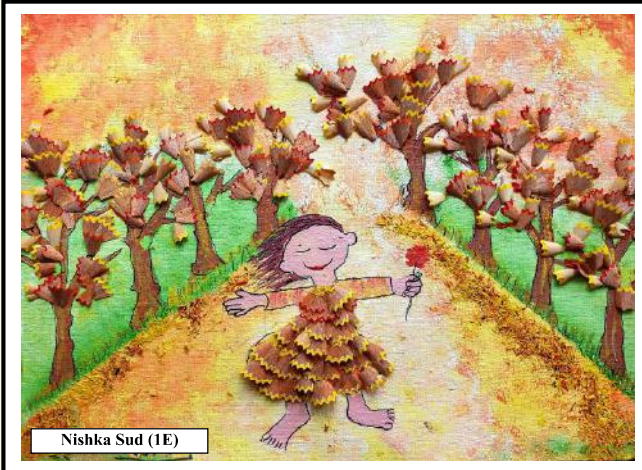


Faiza Sultan (11C)





Mysha Jain (6E)



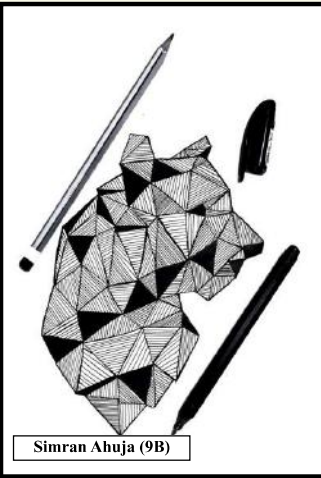
Nishka Sud (1E)



Shreen Goyal (6A)



Hashvi Kataria (7B)



Simran Ahuja (9B)



Tushar Mamtani (11C)



Tanishqa Jalori (7B)



Aarushi Bhagat (5A)



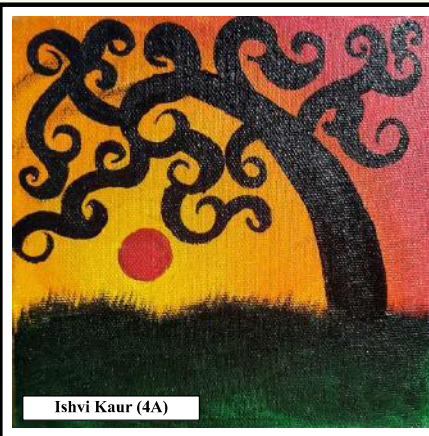
Anika Rout (2C)



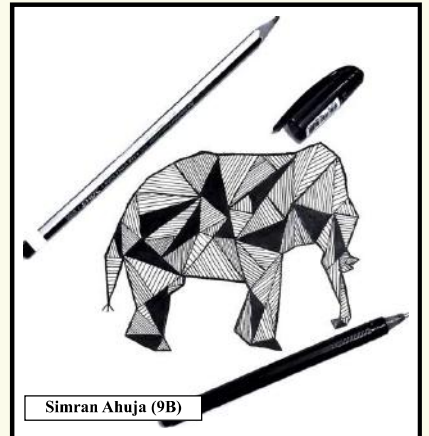
Kimaya Tarte (2F)



Sidesh Jain (6E)



Ishvi Kaur (4A)



Simran Ahuja (9B)