

# Snapshot

APL GLOBAL SCHOOL E-MAGAZINE

Issue no 10

*Our school celebrated the week leading up to Independence Day as Swadeshi Week. On this occasion we asked some of our students what they liked about being an Indian.*

CHECK OUT

**SportStar!**

READ THEIR VIEWS IN OPINION . . . .

**WINNING LAURELS  
AT CULTURALS . . . .**

READ MORE IN  
HOT NEWS!

*Synergy  
2014*





# CONTENTS

## 1. EDITORIAL 1

## 2. READERS' RESPONSE 2

## 3. HOT NEWS

- *Winning Laurals at Culturals* 3

- *Announcing CIE Results* 4 - 5

- *Synergy 2014* 6 - 9

- *Independence Day Celebrations* 10

- *Rocking the Stage* 11

- *Campus Bound* 12

## 4. VOICE

- *A Breath of Fresh Air* 13

- *Opinion* 14

## 5. OPEN BOAT

- *On Savouring an Eclairs Chocolate* 15

- *A Lesson Learnt at a Sunday Picnic* 16

- *Books, Books, Books* 17

- *Half a Star* 18-19

- *Photo Corner* 20-21

## 6. SPORTSTAR

- *When Sachin Scores* 22

- *Riding the Wave* 23

## 7. TEACHERSPEAK

- *A True Mathematician* 24

## 8. PARENTSPEAK

- *A Wholesome Approach to Education* 25



# EDITORIAL



We are well into another academic year and are now back with a new issue of SnapShot! The students of 9B have put together everything that's happened in the past three months, and more. It would be great to know what you think about this issue, so do leave us a message in the feedback form - it just might be featured in the Reader's Response section!

In this issue, you will find out how we celebrated Independence Day. If you didn't have the opportunity to attend Synergy '14, don't worry - the highlights of the event are right here. Open Boat, the favourite among students and teachers alike, showcases the literary talents of our student body and is sure to keep you hooked with its unique poems and interesting stories.

Campus Bound will give you an insight into what the alumni of APL think about the school, and where they're going. All in all, we guarantee this will be a good read - so let's not keep you any longer, go ahead and enjoy!

*Rudra Narayan  
Grade 9B*

## **Editorial Team**

**Content:** Students of 9B

**Layout and Design:** Harish, Simha, Poorvesh,  
Vignesh N.

## **Disclaimer:**

We acknowledge that some of the images used are from the internet, modified to suit our educational magazine and not intended for any commercial purposes.

# Readers' Response

The latest issue of SnapShot is good. But there are lots of things and so it is confusing. The best part of the magazine is Hot News, Open Boat, and Junior Corner. And it is a good idea to have Readers' Response as one section. The designs are superb, especially the colour contrast in them, but the Adorable Ads section needs more design than just carrying all the pictures as such.

*Jasmine*  
*Grade 9B*

SnapShot was amazing this time! The sections I liked the most are Hot News, Open Boat, Junior Corner, TeacherSpeak, and ParentSpeak. It was superb but you can do better. The design too was great but you can choose better colours.

*Nityasri*  
*Grade 9B*

The writings in the magazine were really good and interesting. There were lots of interesting topics. The best amongst them is Open Boat, it was just amazing! The magazine's design was not that good as expected because the design was very simple. So it was not that attractive.

*Nishikaa*  
*Grade 9B*

The latest issue of SnapShot was good. I liked Open Boat, Junior Corner, Eco Connect, and APL Zest the most. I found all the articles well-written. There was enough variety in content to hold interest throughout. Kudos to the teachers mentoring the extremely talented set of student editors and writers. I think this issue of SnapShot is by far the best designed so far. Blue is one of my favourite colours and I love the hues of blue used to such good effect!! The designs also reflect a good understanding of the use of colours and fonts to go with the nature of the content.

*Gita Jagannathan,*  
*Managing Director*

# WINNING LAURELS . . .

Students from various grades in our school have been participating in various events in popular culturals in other schools and many of our students have done us proud by winning prizes.

*Arif Nabeel* of grade 11 and *Poorvesh Muthuraman* of grade 9 won 1st Prize in Photography at Vaels International School Culturals (26/08/14).



*Nikitha Sreekant* of grade 10 won 3rd Prize in Fashionista at Sri Sankara Senior School Culturals (7/08/14).



*Maitreyi, Pranaya, Divya, Sadhana, Anushka, Neha, Shwetha and Rudra* of grade 9 won 1st Prize in Western Group Song in GT ALOHA Culturals (6-08-14).



*Surya Vadlamani* of grade 7B won 2nd Prize in Adaptune at GT Aloha Culturals (5-08-14).



*Vidya Shree V.* of grade 12 and *Brinda Manmeet Kaur* of grade 11 won 1st Prize in Salad Making at Vaels International School Culturals (28/8/14).



*Sanjana Ramesh* of grade 11 and *Maitreyi Sundar* of grade 9 both won 2nd Place in Creative Writing at AMM Culturals (18-07-14).



*Aarthi Paranthaman* of grade 8 and *Vidhaan Singhvi and Varun Narayanan* of grade 7 won 1st Place in Quiz L3 - (Prachodya) at AMM Culturals (18-07-14 & 19-07-14).



Our school band Mauve and Lime consisting of *Aditya Sriram, Arjun Gonsalves, Varshita Ramesh, Maitreyi Sundar and Varsha Vadlamani* won 1st Place in Western Music in Sishya Culturals and AMM Culturals.



. . . **AT CULTURALS!**

# Announcing CIE Results June 2014!

## IGCSE level

SARA SUSAN ZACHARIA



A Accounting  
A Business Studies  
A Child Development  
A Economics

VARUN ANAND RAVIKUMAR



A\* Biology  
A\* Chemistry  
A\* Foreign Language French  
A\* Mathematics  
A\* Physics  
A Music

TANYA GUPTA



A\* Chemistry  
A\* First Language English  
A\* ICT  
A Mathematics  
A Physics

RUTHU HULIKAL

ROOPA RAGHUNATH



A\* First Language English

ELAKIYA . M



A Biology

VARSHA VADLAMANI



A Accounting  
A First Language English  
A Mathematics  
A Music

SOPHIA JACKSON



A Mathematics  
A Physics

REBEKAH JOHN PETER



A\* First Language English

L. MADONNA JENIFER



A\* Accounting  
A\* Economics  
A\* Mathematics

VARSHITA RAMESH



A\* First Language English  
A English Literature  
A Music

ADHEEKA ASHOK



A Biology  
A Physics

YU SHIN PARK



A Art & Design  
A Mathematics

ASHWIN BADRINATH



A Biology

SHIBI PRAHALAD SADASIVAM



A\* Chemistry  
A\* ICT  
A\* Mathematics  
A\* Physics

# CIE Results June 2014

## AS & A level

KOJOONHO



A Art & Design

SHWETHA SAIRAM



A Biology  
A Chemistry  
A Math  
A Physics  
a^ English Language

SANGITHA SARA HARMSEN



a^ Economics  
a^ Chemistry  
a^ Math  
a^ Physics

PRIYA VARATHARAJAN



a^ Chemistry

SHRINIKETH KANNAN BHARADWAJ



A Applied ICT  
A Physics

DILAN PIYUSH THAKRAR



a^ Computing  
a^ Mathematics

RAKSHITA ARVIND



a^ Mathematics

ABHISHEK DASH



a^ Mathematics  
a^ Chemistry  
a^ Computing

SUKIRTI VINOD HARITH



a^ Psychology

JEONG MO KOO



A\* Mathematics

# Synergy 2014

***On August 21-22, our school was abuzz with the annual cultural it hosts—Synergy. Students from various schools in Chennai, including Yagappa International School from Thanjavur --- came to our school to participate in a wide range of events. Much of the happenings on those two eventful days of Synergy 14 were covered in our newsletter Synergy Bytes. Here too, we have captured glimpses of some of the events.***

## Cakophonix

As always, this year too in Synergy, APL hosted Cacophonix, an event that gives children an opportunity to show their talents in playing instruments. The event was judged by Ms. Snigtha Chandra, a playback singer, and Ms. Chaitanya Sravanthi, a freelance composer and a lyricist. This was their first experience in being a judge at Synergy. The participants from grades 3 - 5 were very enthusiastic. Some performed well, while the rest were extremely talented. The First Prize was won by Varun Mohan of Shishya OMR, the Runner Up being Manoj Kumar K.V.S. of Sunshine Chennai Senior Secondary School.

*Brinda Manmeet Kaur, Grade 11A*

Cakophonix, an event where instruments are played. The 9 participants from grades 6 to 12 entertained the audience and proved their talent to the judges – Ms. Ranganayaki, (who has learnt vocals and veena from her childhood, and is teaching music in “The School of Music” in Adyar) and Mr. Bhaskar Bharadwaj Bhuyan – (who plays the guitar, piano and tabla, and is our music teacher). It was evident that the participants are well trained in their respective instrument. The audience were clapping, jumping and shouting in the auditorium to encourage the participants. The whole hour was a fun filled entertainment. The piano, drums, violin and veena were the instruments played. The prizes were given to the very students who rocked the stage- Sudharshanan Balaji, 1st from The PSBB Millennium School and Shreyansh, 2nd from Schram Academy.

*M. Elakiya, Grade 11*





## Block and Tackle

Block and Tackle is a spontaneous event that involves the skills of quick thinking and being able to present both sides of an argument. This highly anticipated event kick-started with challenging and interesting topics like “We are better off without technology”. The contestants spoke skilfully and countered their own points in a very efficient way. For the limited time (2 minutes -preparation and verbal communication) given they did an excellent job. The judges, Mr. Lakshman, who manages construction projects, and Ms Subhashree who teaches at APL, had to answer the most important question of the occasion. Three contestants proved to be real winners in debating and bagged the honours. They were Sobhana (PSBB, Winner), Angeline (Schram Academy, Runner-Up) and Karthik (Sunshine Senior Secondary School, (Runner-Up).

*Sneha B, Grade 9*



## Floor Art Rangoli

8 schools participated in this event for grades 9-12. The topic was “Explosion of Colours”. The event lived up to its name as the whole assembly area was splashed with beautiful colours. Several contestants made majestic peacocks; the common use of the national bird helped emphasise the traditional feel of the event. Some students created amazing contrasts by the use of more modern techniques like hand-printing and flower margins to complement the rangoli powder. The effort of the students was exemplary as they produced striking artwork which was visually very pleasing. The huge amount of talent on display was obvious. One group of talented artists showed refreshing creativity by lighting oil lamps in all 4 corners to provide natural light and more colour to their artwork. Pravalika and Divyashri (grade 9) from G T Aloha were the Winners, while Adithi Prabhurai and Drishti Daga from PSBB Millenium were the Runners-Up.

*Shivesh, Grade 12*



## Question Breakers

The 30 minute long written round opened the event, where the intelligent primary school students answered questions on sports, athletics and technology. After racking up extraordinary scores of 25/30, 4 schools moved on to the oral round. This round tested their knowledge of movies, animals and world capitals, amongst others. Finally, PSBB Millenium came First, while Al Qamar finished in the Second place.

*Shivesh, Grade 12*



## Out Loud- Elocution (English)

Elocution was judged by APL's experienced English teachers, Ms Fiza and Ms Padmini. This year, the participants from grades 3-5 discussed why Earth is the best planet and why adults should remember their youth more often. The judges were extremely impressed with the participants' content, which included both scientific and emotional responses; "They were very persuasive," said Ms. Fiza. Ultimately, Niveditha Nair of Sunshine Chennai came First while Nishanth P of PSBB Millenium came Second.

*Priya, Grade 12*

Elocution is a competition where the contestants need to give an interesting speech on a given topic. On August 22nd exciting elocution was present in the competition, Out Loud Elocution (English). All the contestants from grades 6 to 8 presented great talent in elocution. They displayed so much energy and imagination while speaking on the topic, "I wish grown-ups would remember what it was like when they were young" and "Why I am glad I'm not on another planet." Their speeches listed so many true and exciting reasons. Everyone performed amazingly and thought out of the box. The tough call was to decide who wins. The judges Ms Padmini and Ms Fiza, English teachers at APL, finally decided that the best speeches were by Alifia of Schram Academy (1st place) and Mariam of Unity Public School (2nd place)!

*Neha Vasudevan, Grade 9*





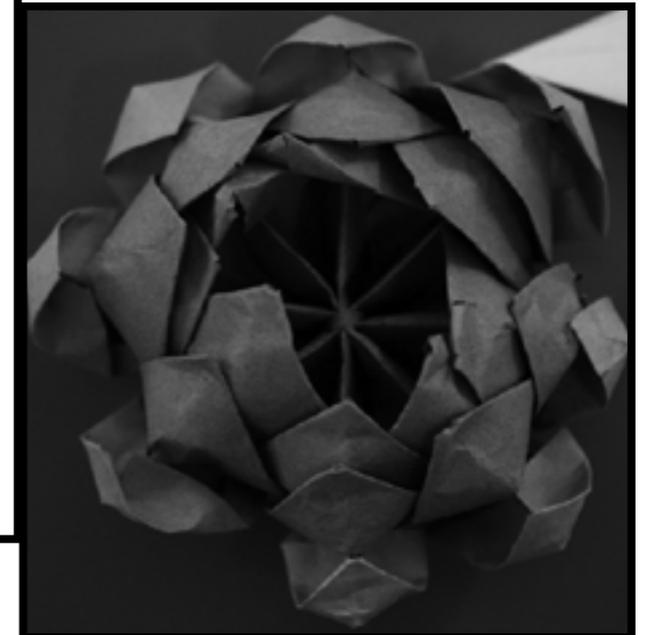
## Paper Artize: Origami

The event, judged by veteran Synergy experts Ms. Vaidehi and Mr. Michael, began with no delay. Although the students, aged 8-10, were a bit confused at first, asking for glue and scissors, they soon got the hang of it and came up with several innovative designs. All participants expressed their love for art, which was reflected in their designs of boats, lotuses, airplanes and birds. In the end, Rithwik from Vael Vidyashram came First, while both Prithwin Raj from Sunshine Chennai Senior Secondary School and Jacob from Unity Public School came a close Second.

*Priya, Grade 12*

A dozen students participated in this event judged by our art teacher Ms. Vaidehi and Mr. George. Participants from grades 6-8 were given different coloured origami sheets and were asked to use their creativity and make figures. It was quite interesting to watch because they made different, unique types of figures. Some made reptiles like lizards, tortoises and snakes. A few other made other wild animals and also modes of transport like yachts and cars. It was quite an event! The deserving Winner was Sagar from G T Aloha and the Runners Up were Tarun from Sunshine Chennai Senior Secondary School and Lingeshwar M from BVM Global Perungudi.

*Balaji Kannan, Grade 11*





## *Independence Day Celebrations*

APL's Independence Day celebrations started off with the school prayer and flag hoisting. We hoisted our gleaming flag, created by freedom fighter, Pingali Venkayya, into the sky. Our flag hoisting was followed by our national anthem. Then we listened to our lovely school song performed by our school band. We watched an inspiring skit by the middle school which showed us the perseverance of our Indian leaders in guiding us towards freedom. Then, our school band performed VandeMataram, Senthamizh Nadu and Saar Re Jahan Se Achcha.

Our Principal Ms Kiran Merchant gave a motivating speech about the economic freedom our generation needs to achieve for our country. Ms Gita Jagannathan, our Managing Director, gave us a thought-provoking speech about our generation's dependence on other countries (USA,UK) and the importance of inclusion while acknowledging our Indian identity. She urged us to reflect on what it means to us to be Indians.

At the end of the celebration, we watched a moving patriotic video of disabled children performing the national anthem. We were given the Indian flags which we proudly pinned onto our uniform as a mark of our commitment to make the country a better place.

*Sneha B & Neha  
Grade 9*

# Rocking the Stage

**Mauve and Lime is a name known to many, and nothing felt better than walking into a school we'd never been to before and having students from everywhere appreciate our music before we even set foot on stage. No doubt, victory is a beautiful thing. We never let it get to our heads, but we're confident about how we sound and how we present, and nothing is more reassuring than being comfortable in your own skin.**

**Recently we played at AMM – where we bagged first place again. This time we had another vocalist sharing the stage with us. It was an interesting experience, since we'd never really had anyone else with us when we performed. Even though our bassist and drummer had left school, we managed – and quite beautifully too. Varun – who was initially the violinist realized he had a flair for the bass, and Aditya – a student a year younger than the rest of us was a drummer – and we never even knew!**

**With just about 2 days of practice, we got on stage and played our song, and right when we were done – check this – the ENTIRE crowd was cheering and hooting for us. There wasn't a single pair of hands that wasn't clapping or a single face that wasn't smiling.**

**APL is a school with loads of incredibly academically talented students, but at the same time – it is one that nourishes creativity. With every cultural event we win, we build our confidence and self esteem! Music is a wonderful thing-- it's what keeps you on ground and reminds you of who you are – but it's way better when it's shared.**

Varshita Ramesh  
Grade 11

# CAMPUS BOUND

Many of our students have left their alma mater to pursue higher studies and we are happy to say that quite a few of them have already got placed in the institutions of their choice. Meanwhile, some of our 12th graders have already started thinking of what it would be like to step out of this cozy school nest and enter the campus world. Here is a short piece of fiction along those lines.

There I lay as the sun set slowly, while I waited and waited. It seemed like an excruciatingly long time since I had argued with my parents about attending city college... Well, I have always been strong in my ways and so was I this time.

Suddenly, in the pitch dark, as night fell hard, I heard the doorbell ring as loud as ever. I jumped up in excitement from the bench I was sitting on and rushed as fast as my feet could carry me towards the door. My eyes widened in sheer happiness as I saw the postman hand over a letter. And there was an even bigger grin when I saw the words "Admission Granted to South City College" on the letter he gave me. (Ha, well, I just got into college, y'all.)

I packed my belongings, and it didn't seem like too long as I jumped into the bus and was on my way to my first day at the city college. I took a step into the auditorium, looked around cautiously for a while, and then breathed in heavily and sighed. Well, the people here were just...

I sighed again, wearing tattoos, coloured hair, funky clothes and what not. They were probably the 'cool' people. They don't belong here, they belong in MTV. I stopped and hesitated, I looked again at myself-- plain top, plain pants, well, I was just Plain Jane.

Who would want to be with Plain Jane? Never would anyone want to hang out with ME. Sigh. But maybe, looks don't matter after all. With that thought in mind...I took another confident step into the auditorium, stepping into a new life.

Nikhil M M  
Grade 12



Interview by Rudra &  
Namratha,  
Grade 9B

*Some of our students have made their choices of where to go and have found good placement.*

Amritha Suresh is happy that she has got admission into the University of Liverpool, UK and can pursue higher studies in the subject of her choice - Genetics. Her twin Varshini has got placed in Business Studies in the same college. Closer home, Hariti is pursuing Travel & Tourism & History in our very own Chennai.

*What do they miss about APL?* Amritha fondly recalls the friendly teachers. Hariti and Varshini are quick to agree. Varshini adds that she would also miss the free environment.

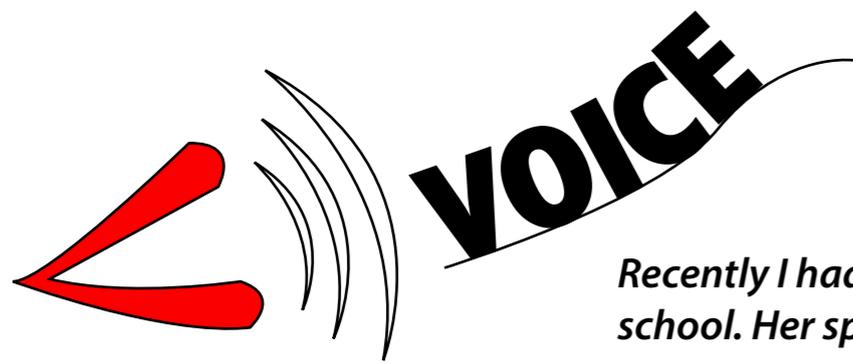
On their favourite subject, Amritha says it was ICT, it was Biology for Varshini, and for Hariti, understandably, it was Travel & Tourism.

*What were the responsibilities they took up as seniors in APL?*

Amritha and Varshini cherish their experience of working towards the Annual Day performance as scriptwriters and assistant directors.

Amritha and Hariti talk of how they enjoyed working at the ever popular food stalls in Synergy.

We wish them an equally enriching campus experience and hope they come out with flying colours in all their endeavours.



## A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

*Recently I had the privilege of interviewing Shristi of grade 7 A who is one of the gifted autistic children of our school. Her spontaneous and heartfelt responses really endeared her to me. Excerpts from the interview:*



**What is the best thing you like about this school?**

I like all of my friends.

**Who is your best friend?**

My best friends are Samyukta, Janani, and Tejaswini.

**What do you usually do in your free time?**

I revise for my PLP, chat with my friends and watch television.

**I heard you like art; tell me all about it.**

I love acrylic painting and I prefer to paint festivals, landscapes and houses. It is my passion for art that has made me choose it over music!

**You chose Tamil as a subject although it isn't your mother tongue, why?**

There are 3 reasons. First, I like learning new languages. Second, I feel that I can make more friends if I know Tamil. People around here respect you better if you do well in a Tamil PLP. The third reason is that I want to be able to communicate with people who don't know the languages that I speak, English and Hindi.

**If I asked you to invent something, what would it be and why?**

I want to invent a cure for autism; I want to feel and behave the way other children do. Whenever I think of people with autism, myself included, I feel that I have to do something about it. If there was a cure for autism, people would talk to me and treat me better.

**Would you like to say anything to your friends and classmates?**

I would like to tell everyone that I have other friends who actually respect me and like me. Plus, I never got a chance to get to know everyone. I really want to know about you; all I know are your names and your birthdays.

*Interview by Ananya,  
Grade 9B*

**Our school celebrated the week leading up to Independence Day as Swadeshi Week. On this occasion we asked some of our students what they liked about being an Indian. Here are some responses:**



I like to be an Indian because of the traditions we follow in our country

**Amritha, Grade 8**

I like the fact that I was brought up as an Indian remembering the ancient moralities and the traditions which were benchmarked by great personalities.

**Pooja, 9C**

I like to belong to a landmass with such diverse cultures. I especially enjoy the fact that no matter how poor a household may be, there is always a sense of hospitality.

**Maithreyi S, 9A**

I am proud to be an Indian as there are so many great personalities from this country like Aryabhata and Am-bani.

**Zulaikha A, 9D**

I am proud to be an Indian as I am a part of a diverse country with delicious cuisines and nice people.

**Anushka, 9D**

I really appreciate the vast number of festivals we celebrate as Indians.

**Namrata D,**

I like to be an Indian because we respect our flag more than any other country.

**Anirudh, Grade 8**

I like being an Indian because of the rich history and our wonderful culture and traditions.

**Sneha K, 9D**

I am proud to be an Indian because of the wonderful horse-riders from this country.

**Pranaya, 9B**

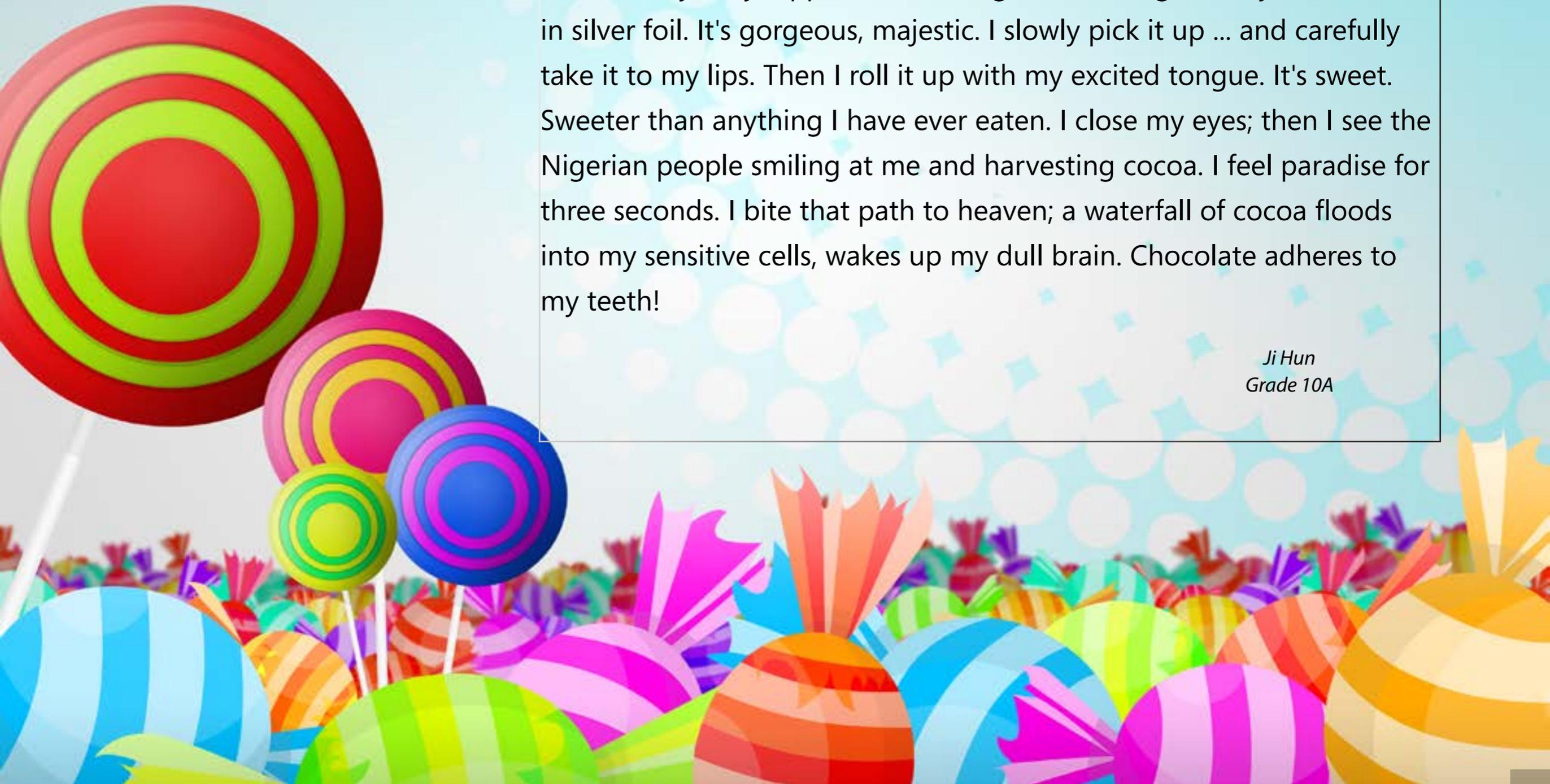
I like that I can have Indian food and listen to Indian music.

**Rudha, 9B**

# On Savouring an Eclairs Chocolate

As soon as I open it, the sound of thunder is beating in my eardrums. Like a shiny ruby dipped inside the ground, a bright milky relic hidden in silver foil. It's gorgeous, majestic. I slowly pick it up ... and carefully take it to my lips. Then I roll it up with my excited tongue. It's sweet. Sweeter than anything I have ever eaten. I close my eyes; then I see the Nigerian people smiling at me and harvesting cocoa. I feel paradise for three seconds. I bite that path to heaven; a waterfall of cocoa floods into my sensitive cells, wakes up my dull brain. Chocolate adheres to my teeth!

*Ji Hun  
Grade 10A*



# A Lesson Learnt at a Sunday Picnic

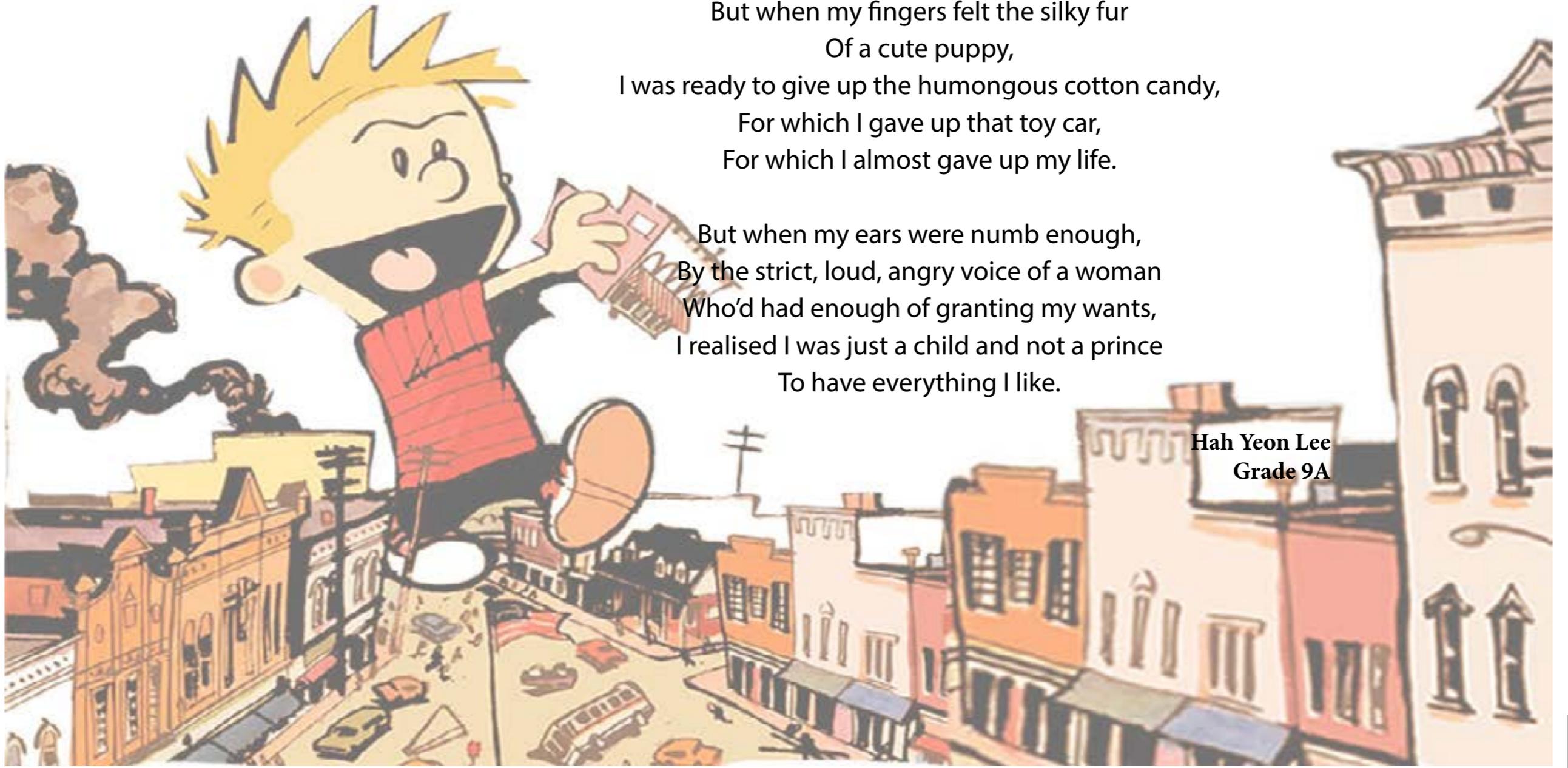
When my eyes were hooked by that toy car,  
I almost gave up my life to get it  
And when my hands held it up  
I felt as if I was flying in the air with glee-----  
until I saw a humongous cotton candy.

Now I could give up that toy car,  
For which I almost gave up my life  
And when my lips were sticky enough  
With a humongous cotton candy,  
I felt as if I was lying on cushy, cozy clouds---- if they could hold me.

But when my fingers felt the silky fur  
Of a cute puppy,  
I was ready to give up the humongous cotton candy,  
For which I gave up that toy car,  
For which I almost gave up my life.

But when my ears were numb enough,  
By the strict, loud, angry voice of a woman  
Who'd had enough of granting my wants,  
I realised I was just a child and not a prince  
To have everything I like.

Hah Yeon Lee  
Grade 9A



# BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS



In the majestic world of Books,  
In every corner and nook,  
There lies paper, ink and words;  
What do you think lies in this trio?

In the paper, words and ink,  
Lie all the thoughts that authors think.

A book is easy to read and admire;  
But it actually contains more than satire;  
A book is something that brings you peace  
And we discover things with ease.

No one in the world can ever be lonely;  
A book is not just a book only,  
But also a great friend to thee.

A book, like no friend has ever been,  
Can be a great source of friendship, in times lean.

If I am questioned where I would  
Go to have a wonderful time,  
I would indeed say the library for a dime.  
A book, a story, a novella or paragraph;  
Can get me hooked for an hour and a half.

No matter how talentless one can be,  
A book is always there to read.

A book can be bought with money,  
But nothing like it when it's funny;  
Every book has a story,  
Which moves by swift and fast;  
And it indeed reflects the author's past.

I love books and I always will;  
And the pleasure I receive is never nil;  
I read books and I always will;  
Never let my guard down, even if I'm ill.

# HALF A STAR

Tara wakes up before the sun every morning. She joins the women of her village on the long walk to the nearest well. The path is bumpy beneath her feet and she clutches her mother's kurta, so that they do not get separated. When they reach the well they stand in line with the other women and children. Their turn comes eventually and her mother pulls bucket after bucket of water, filling the earthen and steel pots they've brought. The bucket makes a delightful splashing sound every time it hits the water. Eventually, all the pots are filled, save for a small one. Tara's mother allows her to pull the rope in order to pull the bucket up. The rope is coarse beneath her finger and bites her skin. Nevertheless, she giggles as the bucket finally emerges at the mouth of the well. Her mother takes the bucket and fills the final pot.

They go back home to find that Tara's aunt and Grandmother have started cooking. Tara's mother rushes to help as Tara stands in the corner of the kitchen, too small to be useful. Her family doesn't let her feel useless though. They allow her to carry vessels to the dining mat and taste the food. She listens to the whistle of the pressure and the sizzle of the stove. Eventually, the kitchen becomes very hot. Tara's face beads with sweat and her throat constricts. The heat stings her skin and her mouth becomes dry. Tara's grandmother notices her flushed face and ushers her out.

Tara feels her way to the front room where she bumps into her eldest brother, who's 17. He steadies her and tells her to be careful. She smiles and thanks him. When she turns away he gives his head a small shake, sadly. Tara is the pet of the family, the youngest. Everyone dotes on her. No, she isn't spoiled. After all, what is there to spoil her with? They are a family of farmers and provide barely enough to support the joint family and so they can't afford to spend money on frivolous expenses. Tara is too sweet to be spoiled. She is kind, helpful and smart as a whip. Even if they offer her something she'd always turn it down or hand it to someone else. Then again, the worst things always happen to the best people.

Tara continues to wander aimlessly around the house until her mother calls for breakfast. She sits next to her father on the dining mat and her aunt, grandmother and mother serve food. She eats her food eagerly and listens to the conversation around her. Her brothers and cousins are talking about the cricket match about to commence at school; her sister and female cousins are talking about school; her father, uncle and grandfather are talking about buying a new tractor. She imagines a tractor in her head. A big machine that towers above her and exhales foul smelling fumes that fill her nostrils. In her head the tractor seems like a scary monster, one her grandmother tells stories about. But her father explains that the tractor would be very helpful in the field.

Tara's siblings and cousins leave for school. Her uncle, grandfather and father leave for the field. She sends them off with a smile. Then she goes inside and sits on her grandmother's lap. Tara dozes off as her grandmother fills her head with stories of talking forest animals and far off princesses. A while later, Tara's mother calls her. They are to go give lunch to her father, uncle and grandfather. Tara holds her mother's hand and skips to the wheat field. She plays among the tall stalks of wheat. The sweet smell of the stalks fills her senses. The wheat is stiff and some are even taller than her. Everyone knows and adores Tara. When on break, the men feed her sweet treats and play with her. After a while her mother calls her again. It's time to go home. She says goodbye and walks home with her mother.

Tara wanders through the market. The smell of sweets and snacks envelopes her and occasionally the shopkeepers give her a taste of this or that. She holds some of the toys on display there. She holds them carefully and her sensitive fingers search the toys. Her mother says they are coloured brightly and so they sell faster.

After a few hours of walking through the village, she rushes to the village centre. There she meets her friends and they play catch-catch and hide and seek. Tara is a fast runner. The only problem is that she has to take special care so that she doesn't fall. Her brother comes a while later to call her for dinner. She waves goodbye to her friends and runs off with her brother.

At home she eats dinner with her family, chatting animatedly. Her cousin brothers and brothers make her laugh and her sisters and cousins tell her about their day. After dinner, Tara's parents and Tara head to bed. Tara sleeps between her parents. Her parents talk in hushed tones about going to the city for Tara's treatment.

You see, Tara isn't like other children. She doesn't know the shape of the well she sees daily. She doesn't know what a tractor looks like despite seeing it in others' fields. She doesn't know the colour of the wheat stalks she plays in. She doesn't know the colours of the toys she holds.

Tara sees by touching objects.

She sees by smelling things.

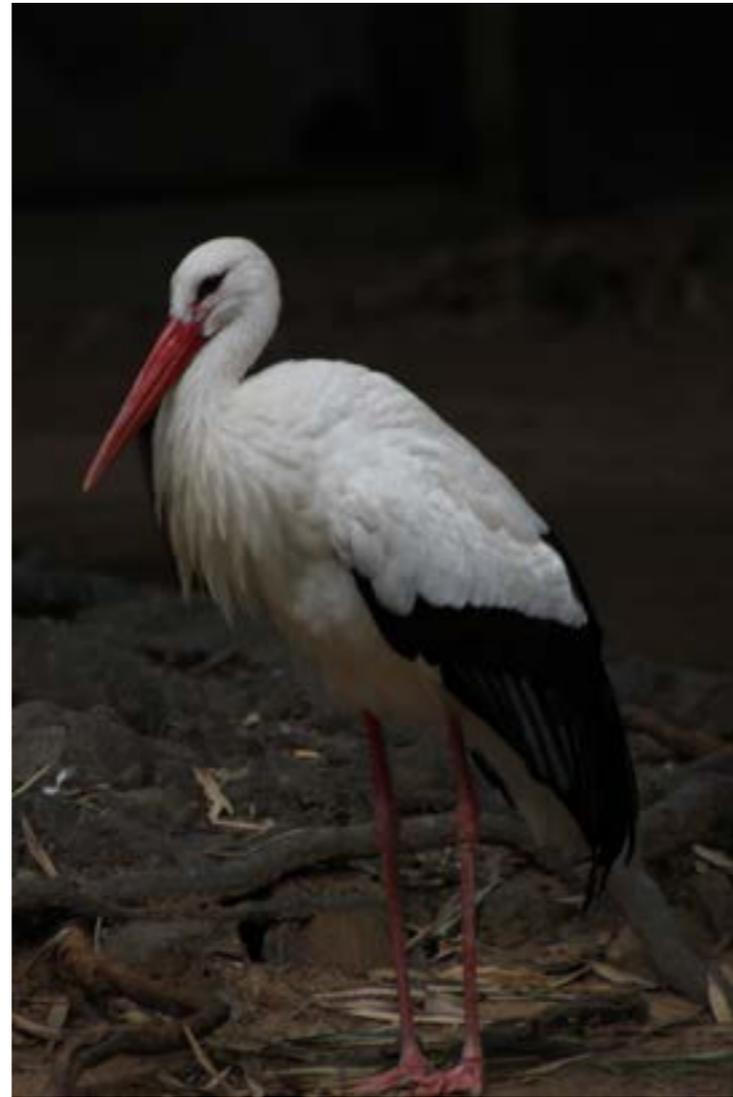
She sees by hearing sounds.

She sees by tasting stuff.

She sees but can't ever see.

Because Tara is blind.

*Devika Catori Dixit*  
*Grade 8 A*



# Photo corner

Aanya, Grade 10

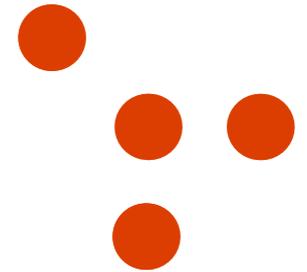




← Aanya, Grade 10 →



Sai Ajeeth, Grade 10

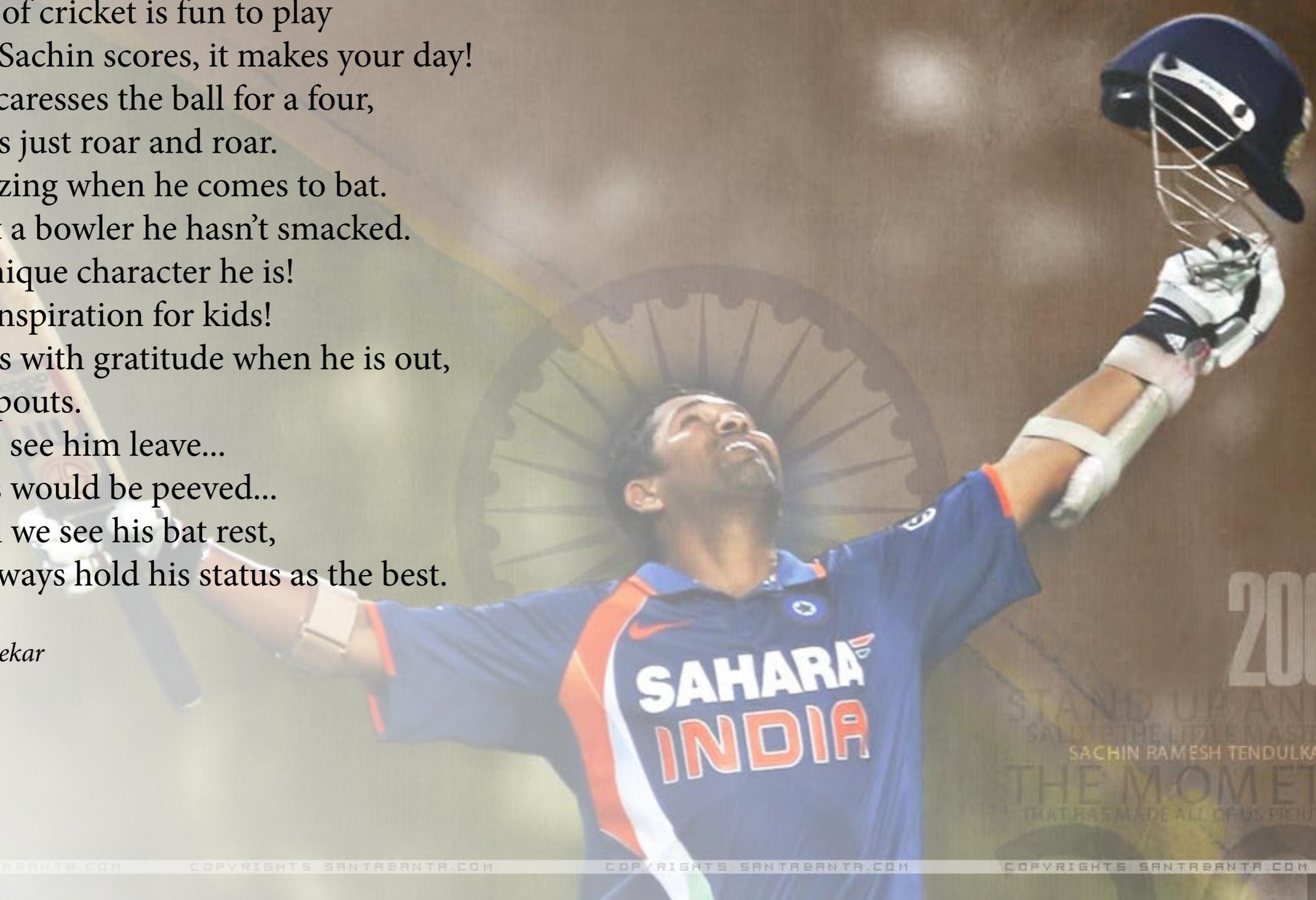


# SportStar

## When Sachin Scores

The game of cricket is fun to play  
but when Sachin scores, it makes your day!  
When he caresses the ball for a four,  
the crowds just roar and roar.  
He is amazing when he comes to bat.  
There isn't a bowler he hasn't smacked.  
What a unique character he is!  
What an inspiration for kids!  
He departs with gratitude when he is out,  
He never pouts.  
It is sad to see him leave...  
Some fans would be peeved...  
Never will we see his bat rest,  
We will always hold his status as the best.

*Tharun Rajasekar*  
*Alumnus*



200  
STAND UP AND  
SAY THE MASTER  
SACHIN RAMESH TENDULKAR  
THE MOMENT!  
TRUTHS MAKE ALL OF US FRIEND

# Riding the Wave

I am a really small person. Just about reaching 5'3", and weighing 40 kilograms, I never expected myself to gather enough courage to get both my feet on a surfboard! A member of my band, and a pretty close friend, who's studying medicine at the moment is very fond of driving to the blissful beaches of ECR every weekend. All the stress and trouble that builds up the five working days of his week, he surfs away at Covelong Point whenever he has the time.

We had a day off last week, for Eid - and after weeks and weeks of cancelling plans, I decided to give surfing a shot. This was completely new to me, because the only other thing I've ever surfed was the internet! My parents giggled at the thought of me getting wiped out by waves twice as tall as I was, but felt a little insecure about the safety measures that would be taken. Being convinced and reassured by my friend's mother, I got into the car with three other people, jamming to blues with a bunch of extra clothes and my camera in my bag pack.

Needless to say, the beach was the definition of beautiful. The weather was perfect, the skies just the loveliest shade of blue, and the waves gentle and graceful. As I felt the wetness of the water beneath my feet and the soft texture of the yellow sand, I could almost see everything that occupied all the space in my mind just...disappear! I was so submerged by the beauty of what was in front of me, all I wanted to do was spend hours and hours in the waves of the beautiful sea.

After a quick surf lesson, I was pushed along with my surfboard to face the challenges that rushed towards me (literally!) and I laughed nervously, hoping I didn't look too ridiculous falling off my board every five minutes. Before I knew it, I was getting ready to catch my first wave, and very, very surprisingly, I actually maintained my balance for more than two seconds! Of course - the fall that followed wasn't pretty - but it was totally worth it!

Suddenly I felt so much positivity, and emotion and strength fill my bones and I smiled like I hadn't in weeks. I spent just a couple of hours floating around on a surfboard, running my fingertips inside the blue-green water - but those couple of hours brought more happiness to me than anything did in the past few months.

Sometimes, all you need is a break - a simple getaway, something to shake you up, and put you out of your stressful routine! Surfing not only makes you active and teaches you to get over your fear of the ocean, but it is a definite eye opener about all the beautiful things Mother Earth has to offer.

So the next time you feel like you just need a break, take a quick road trip to Cove Long Point, ECR - and surf those troubles away!

*Varshitha Ramesh, Grade 10*



# TeacherSpeak

## A True Mathematician

**Mr. Vijay is our teacher and has opened up the world of Mathematics to us, but only during a frank conversation with him did we learn how much Mathematics means to him.**

### **Why do you like Maths?**

I was interested in Maths from childhood as it doesn't require much reading. Only thing needed is to solve. I love to write rather than to read. Also learning Maths makes sense as it involves logic, concepts and thinking.

### **If you were not a Maths teacher what would you have become and why?**

My father wanted me to become an engineer and he passed away in my early childhood while I was in the 7th standard. I wanted to fulfil his wish and I got an opportunity to do a chemical engineering course. I got opportunities in the engineering sector from far locations, but I wanted to take care of my family members, my mom and my sisters, and I thought of doing something else for a living. Then I thought teaching Maths is very easy and comfortable for me, and so I decided to become a mathematician.

### **What inspired you to take up Maths?**

When I was in the 7th or 8th grade, I saw a boy reading a book with the picture of a not-so-goodlooking man on its cover. I was wondering why that person's image was on the cover page of all the Maths text books of that grade. I asked my teacher who that person was. He told me it was Srinivasa Ramanujan. Then I was very curious to know about him, I read his autobiography and got inspired by this great mathematician. Now I am not practising Math to teach my students. In fact, I am living with it. Maths has become a part of my life not just for the sake of my profession but it's in me and I guess will be till my last breath.

### **Please share with us your experiences in your journey as a mathematician.**

I have had to undergo a lot of pressure from my mom and sisters who insisted that I do not shift to Maths from being a chemical engineer. But as I was already impressed with Sri Srinivasa Ramanujam who is my chosen Guru, I felt I should stick to Maths and live with it. I faced difficulties in getting jobs in various sectors of educational institutions as I did not have a B.Ed and was not qualified, even though I have a good command of the subject. Also, I have not been able to share my research work with a good mathematician as I was told my work might be stolen by them. I felt that my work is a gift given by God and taught by my guru Sri Ramanujan and so it should be valuable and I cannot leave it to the wrong hands. One day I am sure my work will be awarded and I will be one among the great Mathematicians of the world. I want to be one among them and see my name somewhere underneath them in the list of those great Mathematicians across the globe.



# ParentSpeak

- *where parents share their views and experience*

We moved to India just about two years ago, after spending 12 years in Bangkok. Varshita had just finished 8th grade, and had to find a school immediately to continue with her IGCSE. However, initially – we didn't find a single school that met our tastes, and we ended up putting her in music school for a year. Though that gave her quite a lot of experience in the music industry, she most definitely had to graduate high school. She'd missed an entire year of school and we weren't sure if there was a school that would allow her to continue with the rest of the people her age and go directly to grade 10.

Then we found out about APL through a friend whose son had gone to the school. "It's a very flexible school. They're all about academics as well as creativity and I feel they're very balanced," she'd said. I'm glad to say she wasn't wrong. Varshita was given a month to revise a few chapters she would've done in her previous year if she was in school, and allowed to write an exam that would decide whether she could avoid repeating a year or not. With the help of some of the teachers from APL itself, she managed to get through and started school in July, last year.

What I like best about the school is the variety of subjects it offers. There are no fixed sciences or business streams you're forced to follow and students can study subjects they're actually interested in. For students like my daughter, who are more artistic than academic, this is a wonderful thing. She studied Music, Literature, English, Biology and Math last year, and did pretty well in her boards, even though she'd missed the first half of her IGCSE. She has never complained about her teachers and has always been quite comfortable around them – and that's good for an upcoming school like APL. It's good that they have a balance between having fun and discipline, as there are lots of cases when there's just too much of one. I'm happy with the school and what it's doing for its students. Good going, APL, best of luck!

*Prabha Ramesh,  
Mother of Varshita of Grade 11*

## ***A Wholesome Approach to Education***







**Readers,  
Want to share your thoughts and ideas?**

**Send us your articles, stories, poems, jokes, artwork, photographs or whatever you feel is interesting. (150-300 words)**

**We would love to have your feedback too!  
Write to us at [editorial@apl.edu.in](mailto:editorial@apl.edu.in) or  
Click on the link below and leave your comments:**

**[https://docs.google.com/a/apl.edu.in/spreadsheet/viewform?usp=drive\\_web&formkey=dGx3aVA0cnFsbHloNnh0cnFPbEd1b2c6MQ#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/a/apl.edu.in/spreadsheet/viewform?usp=drive_web&formkey=dGx3aVA0cnFsbHloNnh0cnFPbEd1b2c6MQ#gid=0)**