

# Snapshot

November 2012

Issue 4

APL GLOBAL SCHOOL E-MAGAZINE

See what some of the little ones have  
to say in **JUNIOR CORNER**



**Chennai Model United  
Nations @ AISC!**

An interview with  
youtuber and our very  
own APL student  
**AKASH SABHARWAL**



**VOICE**

**WINDOW**

Get to know the  
Founder and Managing  
Trustee of the  
Aseema Trust,  
**V R Devika**





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# Editorial

Since the last edition of SnapShot, things have calmed down quite a bit. With Synergy over at last, we've been able to take a step back and get in gear academically. Yet even with CIEs and semesters fast approaching, none of us could wait to deliver to you this edition of SnapShot.

This edition of SnapShot will showcase some innovative ideas, alongside several tales of exciting experiences. We've done our best to ensure that the diversity and individuality of our school is well represented in our online magazine.

This time around, you'll get to see another side of some of our students, parents and teachers. Regardless of how it's conveyed, through our poetry, artwork and interviews, SnapShot will be sure to open your mind to new perspectives.

Whether it's about food, social activists or science, as with every previous edition of Snapshot, this magazine will have something to interest everyone.

So sit back, grab a mug of something warm (for this surprisingly chilly weather), and read on!

*Mathura Samaram, Grade 11*

## **Editorial team -**

Content: Kavya Sridharan, Mathura Samaram  
Layout and Design: Sasha Ahuja, Kavya Sridharan

## **Disclaimer:**

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

I heartily congratulate the editorial team of the student magazine, SnapShot, on the quality of the magazine. The content is fresh and layout imaginative. The articles and opinion pieces vividly portray the everyday life of students at the school.

May I also put forth some suggestions here, mainly based on my experiences as a journalist? The potential of the magazine is huge and some exposure to magazine and newspaper writing, and design can make this a publication of excellence. It would also introduce to your students the art of proof reading. I would be very happy to share resources available to me such as style books.

I am looking forward to your future editions.

Regards

R. Krithika,  
Mother of Kiran, Grade 1



Good work by the students of APL. I liked the sections Voice, Dazzling Science, Open Boat, Junior Corner, TeacherSpeak, ParentSpeak, and Expressions Unlimited the most. Just a small suggestion-- it will be great if snapshots of all the project work is put up in the magazine along with the children's photos.

Maria  
Reader



First hand experiences - is a good forum to expose 90+% of APL- ites to "how cool" an inter-school competition can be. Please continue to share about all such events. This will help the entire APL parent community be informed about outside events where APL is a participant.

"The egg in the bottle trick" is an interesting trick to share. It may become even more interesting if a fixed time - may be one assembly period a month or some other appropriate time - a student from the science club / SnapShot team can have a "fun corner" where such tricks are performed and followed by e-sharing in the magazine.

Roopa Narayan  
Faculty, Maths



## READERS' RESPONSE



This issue started well, with a well-rounded Editorial, which reflected the issue as a whole. A majority of the articles were quite sound, giving plenty of information - like in First Hand Experiences. I did miss school badly, when I saw the Synergy section - a lot of exciting stuff does appear to be going on! (I also hope that the Business club keeps people well fed and hearty - and that the counsellor re-lays the foundry road some-time soon!)

I was quite impressed with the poem - An Angel's Wish; the poetry here is of a very high standard. The Amazing Experience, an article by Charan, in the Junior Corner, struck me as very funny - it was complete, but for one small detail, that is - the name of the place they all went to.

The science section was a bit disappointing, though. A trick?? - at the least, there should have been a whole section of magical tricks, where science comes into play. There also could have been more info on the Higgs; it was heavily covered in the press recently. By info, I don't mean its energies and stuff - but about how its discovery could help mankind, the particles beyond Higgs and other things people don't already know.

No need to hurry along the next issue; just work along at the pace that is possible. We readers are patient enough to wait. :)

Harsha  
APL Alumnus





## Cambridge Outstanding Learner Award

Two of our students received the 'Cambridge Outstanding Learner Award, India' certificates for being India topper in the Oct-November 2011 examination session.

**Sanjana Chandrasekhar** achieved this distinction by gaining the highest marks in **AS level Art and Design** and **Sidharth K**, by gaining highest marks in **A level Business Studies**.

Congratulations!! You have done APL proud!

Eight of our students were selected for Stage 2 (District Level) Science Quiz 2012 – conducted by FIITJEE. **Congratulations to all!**

Grade 8 Ananya Iyer  
Grade 8 Varshini  
Grade 8 P.G. Rahul  
Grade 8 Anirud R.  
Grade 10A Nivasini  
Grade 11 Shriniketh Bharadwaj  
Grade 11 Adithya Sahasranamam

Also a comprehensive analysis of Stage 1 result is available in the quiz website [www.thesciencequiz.com](http://www.thesciencequiz.com)



# Hot News

# FIITJEE

Mohammed Malik of Grade 5, and Sneha Sriram Kannan of Grade 7 are selected for Level-II Examination of **12th SOF National Cyber Olympiad**.  
Keep it going!



# CHEMUN

CHEMUN 2012 was not only one of the most beneficial and enjoyable experiences of my high school years, but it also became an effective platform for students of various cultures and nationalities to share their ideas and thoughts on various issues and events of today's world. About 11 delegates represented our school in the committees and everyone had undoubtedly had a blast in all three days of sessions. Although I must say that one of the main highlights was "the social night" event that was held at the Asiana Hotel, as it was not only an occasion to have fun and dance our limbs off (which I did) but it also became the juncture where all barriers broke down between delegates and all got to know one another a lot better. A highly anticipated "Emergency Situation" took place on the last day and Chennai Model United Nations ended off with everyone going back to their realities of school life, but however, accompanied by several unforgettable memories and the joy of having made great new friends.

Sakshi Krish



# GANDHI JAYANTHI ASSEMBLY

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi, Dr. V. R. Devika, the founder of Aseema Trust, was invited to our school to give a lecture on Gandhi's life. She kept us all alert and craving for more through her lecture which included lots of images and video clippings on Gandhi. She explained how the Mahatma was greatly favoured even by the English when he went travelling to London and Manchester. Gandhiji gave up dressing formally, way back in the 1920s, when he saw his fellow Indians deprived of even basic clothing. When Gopal Krishna Gokhale, his teacher, expired, Gandhiji gave up wearing footwear for a year as a symbol of mourning.

Gandhiji inspired not just Indians but the entire world. There were many famous people around the world who were greatly inspired by his philosophy of Truth and Non-violence. Some among them were Martin Luther King and Charlie Chaplin. Charlie Chaplin was very keen on meeting Gandhiji. When he visited London and attended the meeting, he noted down all that was told by Gandhi. He later made a film named "The Great Dictator" ridiculing Hitler and his ideas. In this movie Chaplin brought in the words spoken by Gandhi during his meeting.

Gandhiji was known for his practice of vow of silence. He would still carry out all his activities through writings on the days of this vow. Devika Ma'am also showed us a Charkha and she actually spun thread on it. She has promised to teach us spinning on a Charkha!



We also saw a video on the Salt Satyagraha undertaken by Gandhiji as a protest against the tax imposed by the British. Finally, we were all moved to tears when we watched the assassination of this great Mahatma by a misguided person named Nathu Ram Godhse. Gandhiji's teachings will ever remain a source of inspiration for all the youngsters in these times of turmoil and violence.



*P.G. Rahul, Grade 8B*

Everyone has their favorite hobbies or extracurricular activities they like to do, such as sports, music, etc. But Akash Sabharwal, of grade 11, has gone the extra mile. He has an interest in visual effects and motion graphics, and so he decided to pursue his passion on a website known to all, YouTube. Two of his other friends, Rahul and Sagar, and he, had started their own channel two years ago. I sat down with Akash to find out a little bit about his experiences and how he got to doing what he loves.

**How did you and your friends come up with the idea of making your own Youtube channel?**

It was a crazy and fun idea we just came up with at that moment, but we were definitely inspired by other channels we've watched.

**Who are some of those inspirations?**

Smpfilms, Niggahigga, Smosh, and Computerner01 are just a few of our inspirations.

**What do you contribute to the channel, what role do you play?**

In most videos I'm the main actor. I also edit all the videos and direct them.

**What are some of your favourite videos and why?**

A: My favourites are Bamboozled, Aerated drinks, CSI: Parody, and Chick Flick Deo (Featuring our very own VarunVinod and Jitthen Kumar. :) I've had the most fun on these videos, there was never a dull moment while shooting!

**How do you go about shooting? Describe a typical day of shooting.**

We usually plan the video we're going to do a week before, to get the scripts and props ready. On the day of shooting we go by the script, maybe add whatever we think would be good, and we just have fun. There's never a serious day of shooting, we have tons of bloopers because we mostly just have fun with what we're doing. Shooting takes at least 1-2 days and editing all the footage takes another 1-2 days.

**Since you and your friends are in different cities, how do you manage to keep the channel going?**

It's not like communication's a problem; we stay in touch through the internet and phone, and discuss our ideas a lot. Since there's three of us, we all come up with some pretty crazy and funny ideas.

**Where do you see your channel in the next year or so?**

I would love to be a partner, which basically means we would get a profit from YouTube whenever someone watches our videos.

**Does being part of this channel get in the way of your schoolwork?**

At times, when I have to desperately put a video up because of the big gap between the previous video and the current one I am editing, it tends to come in the way, but otherwise no, I find a good balance between the two.

Technology nowadays gives a variety to kids in this generation to display their talents and in a way allows them to practice what they love, opening up many opportunities so they can reach their goals. Akash has taken full advantage of this fact and continues to work hard towards his goal, but he never forgets the most important thing-to always have fun in whatever you do.



**VOICE**

# WINDOW

## My Trip To Kuveshi

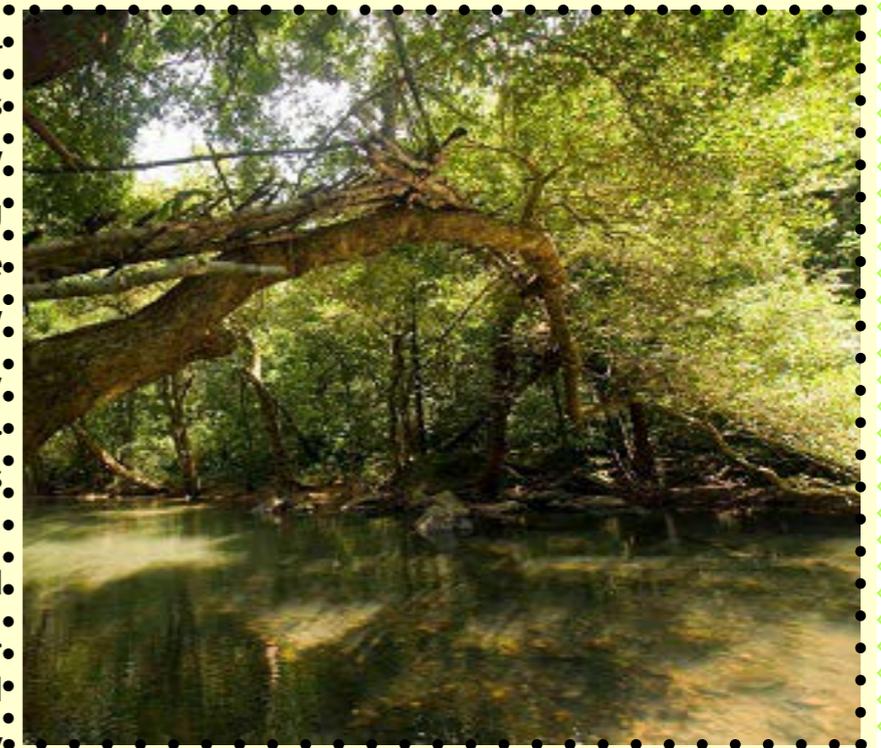
Recently I visited Kuveshi, which is in Karnataka. It is an evergreen forest which is rich in wildlife. This trip was organized by the Madras Crocodile Bank. Only 500 people from around the world were invited, and among the 500, only 12 of us were selected for the trip. Time just flew when I was there, and those four days are unforgettable!

On the first day we were supposed to cross an old riverbed but unfortunately, we couldn't because it was flooded. Instead we crossed a shaky, old wooden bridge, and when I looked down, it seemed like a big fall and suddenly, somebody screamed "DON'T LOOK DOWN." It was a long trek through rain and mud but we finally reached HRS (Hypnale Research Station). HRS is named after the snake Hump Nosed Pit Viper, because the reptile was first discovered there.



After we reached the HRS, we got ready for the first trek. We did not see many reptiles but we did see a baby forest lizard and a few cool insects. We came back to HRS hoping that we might see some more animals in the night trek. We started our night trek and saw a common vine snake, a Malabar Pit Viper, a short nosed vine snake and a swamp eel. We went back to HRS and had a good night's sleep.

The next morning, we woke up at around 7.00 am and got ready for the morning trek. During the trek, we saw another Humpnosed pit viper, a common Red tailed skink, a baby cobra and a scorpion. Sadly, in the dusk and night treks, we hardly saw any animals. The next day, we visited a resort called Canopy. There we saw yet another Hump nosed pit viper, a Striped keel back, and a Travancore Wolf snake. Soon after, we saw a documentary called "One Million Snake Bites" by Romulus Whitaker.



On the last day of the trip, we made our way to a site called Plateau. There was a wealth of animals there. We saw an Indian bull frog, two saw scale vipers, and the greatest thing that I have ever seen – it was a Zebra! At the end of the trip, we went to a wildlife sanctuary and we saw a tarantula, a Travancore wolf snake and a bio-luminous fungus.

Aadhithyan G, Grade 8

# Interview with V R Devika

We had the privilege of having V R Devika, Founder and Managing Trustee of the 'ASEEMA' (Without Boundaries) Trust for linking traditional performing arts, education and Mahatma Gandhi, as one of our Chief Guests for our interschool cultural fest Synergy 2012. We caught up with her for an interview, which was quite an eye opener.

Some excerpts:

## **You started the Aseema Trust. How do you link the performing arts and education with Mahatma Gandhi?**

Mahatma Gandhi often said that basic education begins in villages. It is a unit of development, leaving cities affected when people leave from villages to the big cities. So villages must be understood. At the Aseema Trust, we open a window to the villages through education and traditional arts.



## **In your lifetime, you've been to many different countries. Which one is your favourite and why?**

India is my favourite. I'm comfortable here. I know I'm Indian. India's resilience and its colours are my favourite aspects. Admittedly, there is no civic sense (which I find to be very annoying). However, I do still love every country I've been to. The clean streets of Sweden, the vast space In America... these are all things I've loved. Still, India is my home and my favourite place to be.

## **What contributions have you made in the field of the arts?**

I started off as a young school teacher. I saw a lack of opportunity for rural arts. I ended up working with 300-400 schools to try to impress this upon them. This created a ripple effect. At this stage, I have helped 40,000 plus children in rural areas to spread their craft. I've done this through storytelling, power points and other forms of communication.

## **Why do you think cultural events are important?**

Art is a manifestation of culture. All places of worship have art. They are places of congregation. Even the Ajantha caves, which were just meant for the monks to meditate, were filled with art. It's life's breath, for in the instance you create something, you become God for that moment. Our way of dress is different from person to person – it's a part of who we are. Cultural events are important, to showcase an aspect of our identity.

## **What are your thoughts on Synergy?**

I love the interaction, the different kinds of people coming together. It's a window between the various schools and ways of education. It teaches responsibility and event management, which is really important at this age.

*Mathura Samaram, Grade 11 & Vishveshwaran V. Grade 12*

*Photo credits: Sasha Ahuja, Grade 12*



## Do you know?

1. Our Prime Minister said India will send a mission to “Mars” to collect scientific information. What is the name of this mission?
2. Which Indian institute developed a web-based system for advising farmers the right quantity of fertilizers that they should use in their soils for a particular type of crop?
3. On which date in August 2012, did the Ring-planet Saturn and Red planet Mars come together in Western Sky after sunset?
4. Scientists in the second week of August 2012 found a stem cell therapy to prevent which disease?

Charan Krishna Jaikumar, Grade 7 A

Answers: 1. Mars Orbiter Mission 2. Indian Institute of Soil Sciences 3. August 15  
4. Osteoarthritis

## Use Fruit to Generate Electricity for a Light Bulb!

### Fruit Battery:

With a juicy fruit, a couple of zinc and copper nails, and wire, you can generate electricity to turn on a light bulb. Learn how to make a fruit battery. It's fun, safe, and easy.

### Make a Fruit Battery:

- Set the fruit on a table and gently roll it around to soften it up. You want the juice to be flowing inside the fruit without breaking its skin. Alternatively, you can squeeze the fruit with your hands.
- Insert the zinc and copper nails into the fruit such that they are about 2” or 5 cm apart. You don't want them to be touching each other. Avoid puncturing through the end of the fruit.
- Remove enough insulation from the leads of the light (about 1”) so that you can wrap one lead around the zinc nail and one lead around the copper nail. If you like, you can use electrical tape or alligator clips to keep the wire from falling off the nails.
- When you connect the second nail, the light will turn on!



Tharun, Grade 7A

## COLOURS AND SEASONS

You painted my world black,  
Without leaving any white blanks,  
And now I can't stop bleeding red,  
But I still wanna say thanks.

You had given me a pretty pink rose,  
'Cause I cheered you up when you felt yellow,  
And I still wanna say thanks, because,  
Now I can see all the colours show.

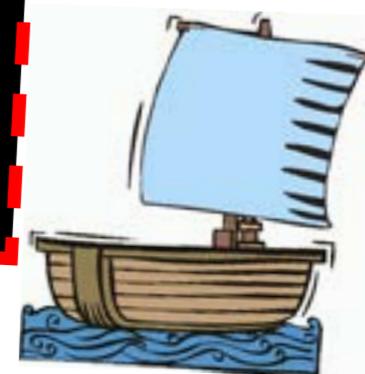
And this vision is beautiful, really.  
I know I'm feeling better now, clearly,  
I wouldn't have it any other way,  
'Cause this is the most positive I can be.

I'm hurt, but you must've had a reason  
It was expected; it's the heartbreak season,  
I'll just play some John Mayer, singing the blues,  
And just sit back, head held high, and listen.

So if there was one last thing I could ask you,  
It would be your feelings, if you were in my shoes,  
But still, I'd rather not have it any other way,  
With all these pretty colours running loose.

*Ayesha Mitra, Grade 11*

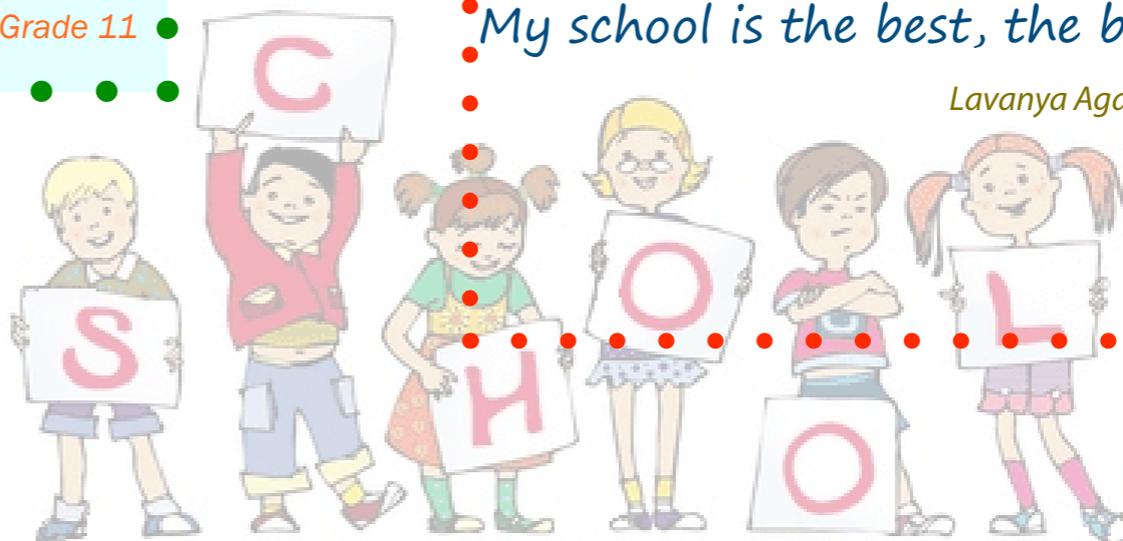
## Open Boat



## I Love My School

I love my school  
because it is beautiful  
It is fine, it is yours, it is mine  
All classes full of toys  
All the six days full of joys  
Friends are jolly, good and neat  
Teachers are able, wise and sweet  
Our principal is great and kind  
She has care and love in mind  
My school is the best, the best of all.

*Lavanya Agarwal, Grade 6A*



## La semaine

Lundi, je vais à l'école.

Mardi, je vais au cirque.

Mercredi, j'ai surfer sur l'internet.

Jeudi, je joue au football.

Vendredi, je baigne mon chien

Samedi, je vais à mon lit et je rêve

Dimanche, je me couche

et c'est à la fin de la semaine.

S. Girish, Grade 7 B



1ST  
PLACE

A large, light blue award ribbon with a scalloped edge. The words "1ST PLACE" are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The ribbon is attached to a purple, star-shaped base.

### A Day I Felt Happy

I felt happy when I got an award for my thinking skills. When I was in sixth grade, I was studying in an IB (International Baccalaureate) school. They follow 10 learner profile traits. They are: Caring, Reflective, Risk-Taker, Balanced, Knowledgeable, Thinker, Inquirer, Communicator, Principled and Open-Minded. All the sixth grade teachers thoughtfully vote on the students and those students are recognized on Awards Day. Each student is carefully watched and judged during the entire school year. Out of 200 students, two are picked for each trait and are presented with awards. I was chosen for the "Thinker" trait. A Thinker is someone who applies thinking skills critically and creatively to solve complex problems. Every child would have the aim to get this award but it comes along only with hard work and confidence. It was my first year in the school and I felt happy that I was recognized before leaving the school!

Sneha Kannan, Grade 7A



## How I made an owl

1. I used two coconuts, bottle caps, and scissors.
2. I stuck the bottle cap on the top of the coconut.
3. I cut out the eyes, nose, mouth, and I stuck it on the shell.

It looked nice and beautiful. Ma'am taught me to do this. I was very happy, and it was great fun.

Song, Grade 2

# JUNIOR Corner

## How to make a duck

### Materials:

1. Paint
2. Paper plate
3. Paper

### Steps:

1. Take a paper plate.
2. Paint it yellow.
3. Fold it, and cut it.
4. Cut the paper in the shape of feet.
5. Stick it to the plate.
6. Cut the paper again in the shape of a head.
7. Stick that to the plate.
8. The duck is ready!



Akhil W, Grade 2



# Crafts Corner...

# Rain in the Primary Campus



Recently there have been heavy rains in the APL primary campus! It is affecting our school in quite some ways. When we are having our lessons the rain comes crashing down on our roof, and we can barely hear our teachers speak! It is also making the campus muddy and is forming huge puddles. All the mud and dirty water, makes my shoes very dirty! It is also affecting the preparations for Grandparents' Day. The stage is really wet, so now we don't know where we're going to have the show, but we're going to have the show anyway. You know what they say, "The show must go on."

*-Aishwarya Alla, Grade 5A*

On Thursday there was a lot of heavy rain, this distracted most of the APL students. This didn't allow them to write their science exam very well! Some students even lost their stationery because of the rain. The heavy rain has made APL primary school a lake.

*-Sahna Kurra, Grade 5*

APL primary campus has been flooded since the monsoon season has started! Monsoon season has been tough for all the children in APL. One student said, "I like the rain, but my shoes get wet and cold." While another student agreed, "I don't like it, because I am not able to write my exams properly, when the thunder hits it disturbs me." The rain is bad at this time, because it is almost Grandparents' Day, and we are all worried because we all prepared very hard for that day.

*-Simran Sabharwal, Grade 5A*

Heavy rain lashes down in the APL primary campus. The field is full to the brim with water; the whole place is like a giant swimming pool! The rain kept pouring, while the students were having the time of their lives! All most of the students could think about was Grandparents' Day! We all hoped the rain in Chennai would stop by then.

*-Tharun, Grade 5A*



# Moving to the New Block

Moving to the main block sounds happy because we get together with other grades! The classrooms will be bigger and there'll be 3 floors, and the road will be good. The great part is, we will have a smart board, 2 ACs, and the cafeteria is on the second floor! There will also be a big library! We will also have a computer! The best part is, we all get to make many new friends!

Pranav P. Grade 4B

I feel happy because the building is big and new. I want the new building to have big rooms and a really big playground like the one we have in our primary school. I also want there to be more lights. I want everything that was in the primary campus to be in the new school.

Darshini, Grade 4A

Fathima, Grade 4A

Moving to the new school is exciting for me. We are all eager to know how it will look like. Our class is very boring without any chart paper on the walls, but the new class will be full of colour with our new charts. I hope our class won't have chalkboards though. I also hope we have science, math, and all other types of labs!

The one thing I am happy about in the new building is the auditorium. We will have our very own auditorium, especially for annual day! I am also very happy that there is a big playground!

Sairam , Grade: 4B

I feel good about moving to the new building. It will be a good change. I think I will like the new building just as I did the old. What I want in the new building is the regular things that were in the old building. Such as classrooms, computer lab, a sand court, assembly hall, and a cafeteria. The new block is very good; it is easy to get around. I think it'll be good to move to a new campus. Goodbye, old block!

Varsha, Grade 4



# A basic risotto recipe

## Ingredients

- approx 1.1 litres stock (chicken, fish or vegetable as appropriate)
- 1 knob of butter
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic, finely chopped
- ½ a head of celery, finely chopped
- 400g risotto rice
- 2 wine glasses of dry white vermouth (dry Martini or Noilly Prat) or dry white wine
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 70g butter
- 115g freshly grated Parmesan cheese

## Method

This is a great recipe for making risotto. You want it to be smooth, creamy and oozy, not thick and stodgy.

### Stage 1

Heat the stock. In a separate pan, heat the olive oil and butter, add the onions, garlic and celery, and fry very slowly for about 15 minutes without colouring. When the vegetables have softened, add the rice and turn up the heat.

### Stage 2

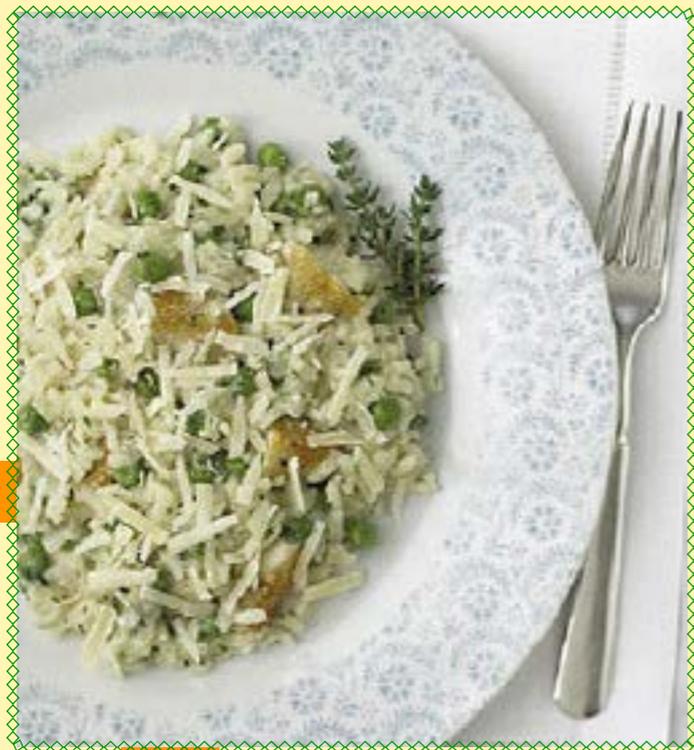
The rice will now begin to lightly fry, so keep stirring it. After a minute it will look slightly translucent. Add the vermouth or wine and keep stirring — it will smell fantastic. Any harsh alcohol flavours will evaporate and leave the rice with a tasty essence.

### Stage 3

Remove from the heat and add the butter and Parmesan. Stir well. Place a lid on the pan and allow to sit for 2 minutes. This is the most important part of making the perfect risotto, as this is when it becomes outrageously creamy and oozy like it should be. Eat it as soon as possible, while the risotto retains its beautiful texture.

### Stage 4

Once the vermouth or wine has cooked into the rice, add your first ladle of hot stock and a good pinch of salt. Turn down the heat to a simmer so the rice doesn't cook too quickly on the outside. Keep adding ladlefuls of stock, stirring and almost massaging the creamy starch out of the rice, allowing each ladleful to be absorbed before adding the next. This will take around 15 minutes. Taste the rice — is it cooked? Carry on adding stock until the rice is soft but with a slight bite. Don't forget to check the seasoning carefully. If you run out of stock before the rice is cooked, add some boiling water. If you take care of all this, your risotto will be yummy!



# POTPOURRI

? ??

## GUESS WHAT?

1. The Hindi word for “a delicacy” or “to lick” is a very popular snack variety in India. What is the snack called?
2. Americans call it a faucet. What do we call it in India?
3. Which English word is derived from the Greek word *scholeio*?
4. What do you call a village that does not have a church?

Answers: 1. Chaat 2. Tap 3. School 4. Hamlet

## Just for fun!

1. WHAT DO YOU GET FROM A PAMPERED COW?

2. WHAT DID THE WATER SAY TO THE BOAT?

3. WHAT DID THE JUDGE SAY WHEN THE SKUNK WALKED IN THE COURT ROOM?

4. WHY DID THE TOMATO TURN RED?

Answers: 1. Spoiled milk 2. Nothing, it just waved 3. Odour in the court 4. It saw the salad dressing

Sasha Ahuja, Grade 11

Janavi Ahuja, Grade 11

# Daughter Woman

You brought the world alive to me  
with your new born limbs and blink-staring eyes  
My body changed shape, contours felt soft and swollen  
as you grew from me  
Your baby flesh, soft clinging arms all moulded,  
flowing in and out of me  
The cord stretched and loosened,  
sometimes felt like a snap  
I received with a pang  
Years fluttered by  
like a swift bird in the sky  
You baby-girl, now young woman stand  
Stepping out on the threshold  
leaving your caresses in gray  
strands adorning my thinning hair  
My world, your world, where end, where begin  
Deep in the comfort of my home  
I traverse vast spaces  
through your youth adventure steps  
Distances dissolve  
I am renewed  
Abundance rushes in, I  
Snap open, vulnerable.

*Usha K R, Faculty- English Language & Literature*



TEACHERSPEAK



APL was represented at TED x Chennai by 12 students shining like knights in their uniforms. It was a pleasure to be present in the conference not just for the intellectual shower but to watch the efficiency of volunteers in organizing the event. Over 1000 people, food, seating, registration, time management - all very effectively done. The event began bang on time explaining TED as a non-profit venture run by an ex- Wall Street entrepreneur Chris Anderson. It was an interesting reflection by the Indian ambassador for TED x that TED gained its popularity in the last 5 years after it was declared a non-profit venture. For youngsters it is an important learning to recognize that money follows good intentions and not the other way round.

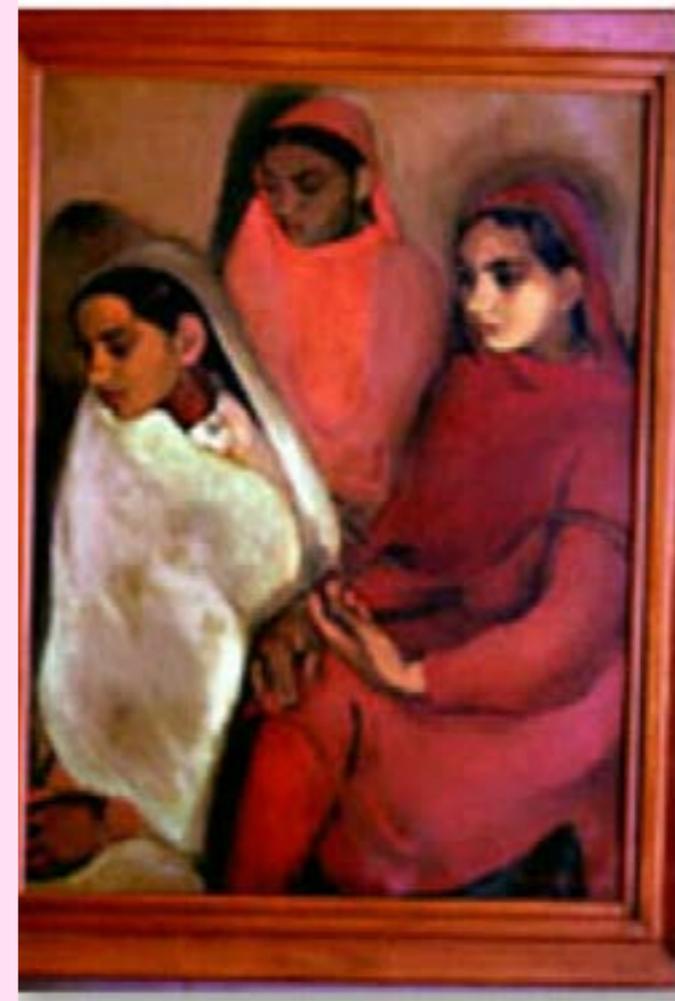
There were over 15 speakers from several countries and my favourite was Sergio Sedas Gersay – Robotics Expert and Motivational Speaker (Mexico), holding a Ph.D from Carnegie Mellon University, where he worked on developing Dante, the first robot in history to enter an active volcano in Antarctica. He focused on motivating and inspiring youth to learn. It felt like I was back at APL where we adopt methods to motivate our young learning community. He gave amazing examples of how youngsters built robots by experimenting with real stuff and were in a position to help much younger kids do the same. So dear all, when your teachers ask you to do a scientific enquiry or a project based learning, remember you are the biggest gainer.

*Roopa Narayan, Faculty, Maths*

# HOPE STAR

Three women stood side by side,  
with feelings that had no place to hide.  
Looking lost and in despair,  
at the sky in the cool night air.  
"Why"? cried the mother, "Why me and for  
what reason?"  
She grieved.  
The others stood like rock,  
still reeling from the shock.  
They gazed at the moon,  
so quiet and cool.  
Impassive and distant,  
it seemed like the only constant.  
Day after day,  
Night after night.  
They had waited for their little angel.  
She did appear, like an answer  
to a fervent prayer.  
A delicate beauty,  
who left soon,  
despite the mother's entreaty.  
The middle sister, strong and patient  
gazed at the moon  
with dewdrops in her lovely eyes,  
a silent question and sadness.

For it was she who held dreams in her eyes  
for the youngest sister who she loved with  
great tenderness.  
The eldest of them,  
no stranger to loss of some measure,  
said to them with love and learned composure,  
"She will come, my dears.  
She will come to you.  
In the right season,  
like a little homing pigeon.  
"This is life sometimes,  
a disjointed puzzle at times."  
"After we put all the pieces together,  
we will see the big picture."  
"Do not fret,  
hope yet.  
For the law of Nature says  
that when one door closes,  
another will open.  
Till that day, we will wait."  
As the sisters,  
bonded heart and soul,  
gazed at the night sky,  
a twinkling little star came upon them  
and startled them like a sudden little cry.  
"Oh mothers", said a dulcet little voice,  
heard by them over the city's noise.  
"I am here always,  
and you will see me in time.  
"I will come to you,  
now it is not yet time,"  
the little voice promised.  
"Like day follows night, Mother,  
I will follow your path."



"I will make my presence in your heart."  
'Be happy, be patient,  
Be a constant for the one by your side,  
for he looks at you with his heart in his eyes.  
I look at him and you, and know that love is  
Omniscient."  
The lovely little star shone her Divine light,  
and the mothers looked on in delight.  
For now they understood,  
what is an age old truth,  
that where there is Love,  
there is always Hope.

*Padmini Vijayan*

*Mother of Rahul, Grade 7 & Arjun Rambhatla, Grade 1*





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