



31st August & 1st September, 2017

## Inauguration



“Let us MARCH ahead to the future.”

Synergy, the annual interschool event hosted by APL Global School, brings together a multitude of schools from all over Chennai. This year’s theme was Science Fiction - a metaphorical representation of the future and about getting a step closer to our dreams.

The program commenced on a traditional note, with our director Ms. Gita Jagannathan lighting the kuthuvilakku. In the twinkling of an eye, Amrita, Shrinidhi, Meghna, and Srinidhi, the talented dancers of APL, brightened up the stage with an energetic and dynamic Bharatanatyam piece.

Our guest speaker, Mr. Sujith Kumar, was then welcomed with a bouquet. He kept the audience in splits with his humorous and enriching speech which had many strong messages to convey. To quote Mr. Sujith, “Strength is not something which you are good at. Weakness is not something which you are bad at, either. Rather, your strength is something which you thoroughly enjoy. So, focus on your strength, not on your weakness.” To support these words were various anecdotes. With the hour long inauguration coming to an end, it was time for students to showcase their talent and give every event their all.

- Sanjana SS & Haemil, Gr 10/12

Photo Credit- Abhishek & Aaditya, Gr 12

## Principal’s Inspiring Words

In her inspirational and motivational speech, Ms. Kiran Merchant, Principal of APL Global School, rightly defined what Synergy means, by saying, “Synergy is the coming together of creative minds and provides an opportunity for all students to unleash their potential to the fullest”. She said, “Our students have put their heart and soul to put together the event, ideating on the theme and planning every bit”. She added, “Planning and setting goals are the oxygen to our dreams.”

Sanjana SS & Haemil, Gr 10/12



## Words from the Heads of School

When asked about Synergy’s defining characteristic... “Synergy is all about creativity. As a student-steered event, the most beautiful aspect of Synergy is that everything from the theme and ideas to the magazine and compering the script was born out of the students’ creativity.” “Synergy allows its students to plan, organize, and execute a formal event. This teaches them valuable life skills – ones that will be used in their future careers.”

When asked about how Synergy impacts the student body... “APL believes in providing opportunities. We greatly value participation, and Synergy allows all APL students to showcase their talents and abilities – whether it is through the Food House, Synergy Bytes, or event planning. This event encourages inclusion and has created in our students a sense of belonging and school spirit.” “APL’s main objective is holistic growth. Synergy plays a major role in ensuring that its students are prepared for life after school, by learning from their mistakes and working together.”

- Shwetha Nagarajan, Gr 12

## Editorial Team

**Writers:** Shwetha, Sneha B, Saleema, Sanjana, Sharanya, Nusaibah, Haemil, Divya, Vaghdevi

**Photographers:** Abhishek, Aditya, Sachin, Surekha

**Designers:** Nitheshwar, Pranav



## Wear or Tear (Gr9-12)

**What:** A task to create an outfit which can withstand the trials of space.

**The judges:** Ms. Vaidheki and Ms. Anjali

**The event:** It was all about colourful and innovative costume presentation. And some of the schools came up with very interesting costumes, such as Hiranandani Upscale, which took the **First** place. Their creations were bright and all the three represented different styles. From high end couture to superhero suits, this event saw it all. GT Aloha was in **Second** place. The event elicited innovative designs from all the contestants, like the addition of combat boots and info glasses.

**Byte:** Veda from Hiranandani Upscale said, "It was a very broad topic to design space suits because there are many different possibilities. Although the time was limited, the challenge was interesting and worth all the pressure."

- Vaghdevi, Gr 10



## Floor Art

**What:** Floor art (rangoli) for Gr 6-8 & 9-12

**The event:** Trying to make patterns on the Synergy theme - 'Science Fiction' – is no mean task. It was evident on the confused faces of some of the Gr6-8 students, who seemed to have difficulty in understanding the topic. But they overcame all that and were soon busy as their fingers flew across the floor to come up with interesting concepts. They unleashed their creativity to make some stunning rangoli patterns.

The most visible interpretation of the theme seemed to be of aliens, planets and space. It was great to see the youngsters use various colours to express their ideas, even if sometimes their ideas overlapped. And the outcome was simply amazing!

In the Grade 6-8 category, Ramaniyam Sankara School bagged the first place while the Runners up was PSBB Millennium School. And in the 9-12 Grade category, PSBB Millennium School stood first, and Lalaji Memorial Omega International School was second.

- Haemil, Gr 12



Photo Credit- Abhishek and Sureka, Gr 12 & 11

## Poster it (Poster Designing)

**What :** Poster It – where the participants have to hype a futuristic product using posters.

**Judges:** Mr. Kumaran and Ms. Upasana Hariharan.

**The event:** Confusion was writ large on some faces. But just for a few minutes. Once the fourteen participants were told what they had to do, their doubts were cleared, and they let their creativity take flight. And all their focus turned to working out innovative posters. Paints, colour pencils, crayons, sketch pens and markers cluttered the desks as the young artists expressed their thoughts in colour, image and word.

Some of the ideas included advanced phones, computers, rockets, cars and even shoes! Finally, Arun Kumar of St. John's Public School won the first prize. The runner-up was Ritesh of Hindustan International School.

- Nusaibah, Gr 10



## Interview with the Chief Guest

*Mr. Sujith Kumar, the Chief Guest of Synergy 2017, runs a Chennai-based NGO called Maatram Foundation. We had the pleasure of interviewing him and further learning about his enthusiasm for education. The essence of our interview is given below.*

**Q: What falls short with the Indian education system?**

A: The root problem of the typical Indian education is this - children have been given narrowed down career options. Proper communication between the child and teacher/parent must occur, during which the latter party should be focused on the happiness of the child and not simply conform to societal expectations. Children tend to be seen as mark-generating machines - this is a harmful mindset to have.

**Q: How do you overcome failures?**

A: In India, there is almost close to no regard given to learning from failures. Sometimes, one finds their true calling through trial and error, though many parents do not allow their children to experiment due to a misdirected fear of failure. I personally do the following - reflect upon my previous failures, feed my mind with positive thoughts and cut out negative influences.

**Q: What is your personal goal for the future?**

A: Start a school which is inclusive of both the rich and the poor. This school would allow flexibility of subject choices and wouldn't be focused only exams and high scores.

**Q: Book recommendations?**

A: I do not read fiction. StrengthsFinder 2.0 by Tom Rath, Lateral Thinking by Edward DeBono, Rich Dad Poor Dad by Robert Kiyosaki and Sharon Lechter, First, Break All the Rules by Marcus Buckingham and Curt Coffman, and Don't Sprint the Marathon by Viswanathan Raghunathan are some of my personal favourites.

**Q: Can one wholeheartedly pursue their passion and still be able to provide for themselves and their family?**

A: I believe pursuing passion and money can happen simultaneously - but working on and excelling in your passion is of utmost importance. Living out someone else's dream, and not your own, will eventually result in an unhappy and sluggish life. From my observation, and of many others, the next generation is multi-potent and are not pursuing conventional routes. This is a slow transition, but definitely a step towards the right direction.

**Q: What are some of your interests and do you still pursue them to this day?**

A: All your interests cannot materialize into a career. When I was in school, I considered myself a 'sportsman', with an avid interest in cricket, kho kho and volleyball. A few interests, however, can't become something more than just a hobby. We must pursue areas where we have the potential to truly excel. I've always enjoyed being on stage and working with people. Generally, after working 5 days a week, I would spend some time speaking to an audience. It was a pleasure when I started getting offered a pay for my public speaking.

- Saleema & Sneha B, Gr 12

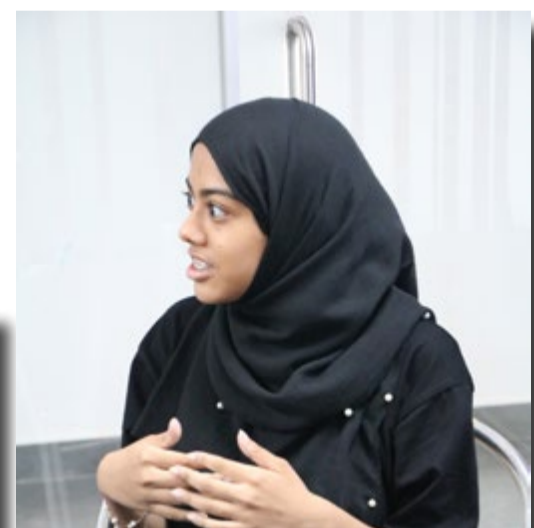


Photo Credit- Sureka, Gr 11

## Quiz Up (Gr6-8) Prelims + Finals

### Battle of the Brain

**What:** Quiz Up Prelims Round for Grades 6-8

**The event:** The room was filled with excited students shuffling around as they took their seats. Ten teams took part in the prelims, which was a written round. When the papers were handed out, there were numerous confident looks and murmurs as participants discussed the answers amongst themselves. Students had to complete 25 questions in one hour. Surprisingly, two or three teams finished within 15 minutes! The four teams to qualify for the finals were **HUS, Sri Shankara, GT Aloha Vidya Mandir and Sri Chaitanya**. The answers were also discussed with the excited kids.

**What:** Quiz Up Finals for Grades 6-8

**The event:** The four teams, Sri Shankara Global School, GT Aloha Vidya Mandir, Sri Chaitanya and HUS, took their seats and waited for the finals to begin. It consisted of five rounds - General Knowledge, History, Sport, Audio and Visual. Even as the students deliberated amongst themselves, tension filled the room. At the end of the first two rounds, both GTA Vidya Mandir and Sri Shankara were leading. GTA Vidya Mandir picked up after that, and **Arun and Rajanandan (of GTAVM)** came first. **Keshav and Abirami of Sri Shankara** came up close second.

**Byte:** "The quiz was very interesting. We got to learn a lot through it. The quiz wasn't too hard but it wasn't easy either," said Arun, the first prize winner.

*-Nusaibah, Gr 10*



Photo Credit- Abhishek, Gr 12

## Quiz Up (Gr9-12) Prelis + Finals

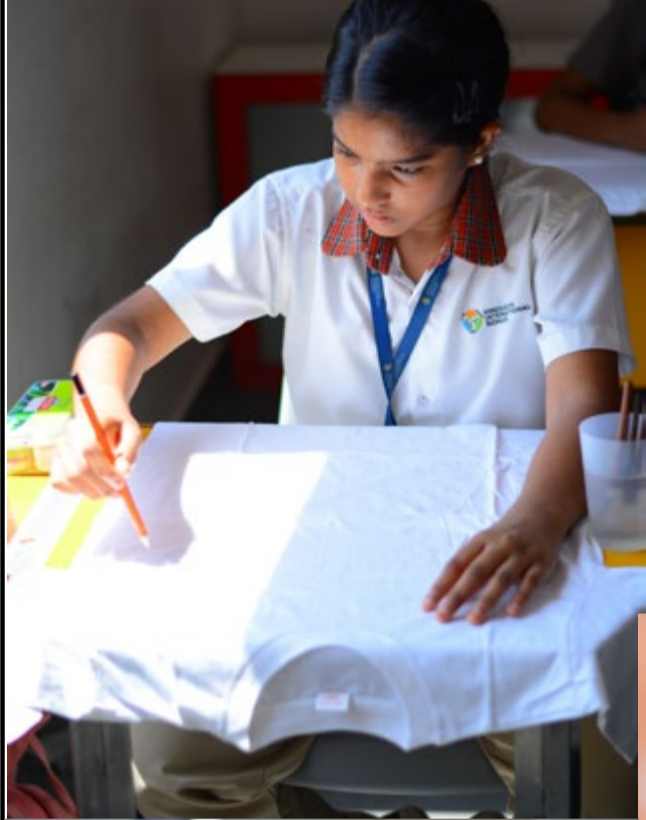
**What:** Quiz Up Prelims for Grades 9-12

**The event:** The quiz for students of Grades 9-12 had many interesting and varied questions. Topics such as Politics, Indian history, Science and Geography were covered. Seven teams competed against each other to answer 25 questions in one hour. Intense discussions between team members could be seen as the written quiz proceeded. The students took their time; they were in no hurry to turn in their papers. Once all the papers were submitted and the correction was taking place, the excited teams discussed the answers amongst themselves. One of them even got out her laptop, and while the some others crowded around her, looked up the right answers. This was followed by both cries of joy and disappointment. Sri Shankara Global, Primrose, PSBB and The Grove School were the four teams that got through to the finals. Answers were discussed, this time with the hosts, and the papers were returned.

**What:** Quiz Up Finals for Grades 9-12

**The Event:** The four victorious teams took their seats for the quiz finals. There were four rounds: general knowledge, visual, audio and rapid fire. The students had to answer the question within one minute, except for the rapid fire where they had to answer seven questions in one minute. In the beginning the clear leader was Primrose, but PSBB caught up to them later. The audio and visual rounds were quite exciting; with a lot of giggling and suppressed laughter when there were easy questions. The participants were really enthusiastic throughout the whole quiz. The Grove School, PSBB and Primrose were tied in the end with 11 points each. There was a written tie-breaker round consisting of six questions that they had to answer in one minute. After the tense, nail-biting wait, Dev Karthik and Manish Annirudha of The Grove School came first and Marshini and Moulibas---karan of Primrose came second. The finish was truly dramatic!

*- Nusaibah, Gr 10*



**“SYNERGY** is better than my way or your way. **It’s our way.”**  
*-Stephan Covey*



## My Tee (Gr 6-8)

What: My Tee

**The event:** Synergy began with a splash – quiet literally. Children of Grades 6 to 8 took to trying their hand at being fashion designers as they unleashed their imagination on T-shirts. They had an hour to design a prize-worthy T-shirt on the topic ‘Astronaut Suit’, which they did under the watchful eyes of the judges Mrs. A. Janet Dorothy and Mrs. Bindu Fernandez.

Many students surprised us with messages on saving the earth, thinking out of the box like the runner up, **Sharen of St.Johns** who endorsed the line: “Don’t stop dreaming”. The choice was tough; the judges chose **Vedhika S.R of Hindustan International School** winner. There were a few disheartened looks thrown around but it wasn’t a choice anyone could dispute after witnessing the brilliant explosion of colour that was her creation.

- Divya, Gr11



Photo Credit- Abhishek, Gr 12

## Face Painting

This event was held at 9:30 am. The schools that participated were : HUS, Ramaniyam Shankara, Sri Chaitanya, Sri Shankara, Boaz Public, Akshayah Global, GTA, Lalaji Memorial.

**The Judges were:** Mr. Thyagarajan, Mrs.Brindha

The topic was extraterrestrial life. The students were focused on painting their partner’s face in an alien theme. They used metallic colors and they popped out the colors with the black background. The “aliens” which were created were zombie, robots, avatar, and a shiny looking space creature. The judges said “ This event was very sincerely presented and worked throughout the event. They used every minute to get their best results on the models face. The winners were HUS who came in first place and Akshayah Global in second place.

- Sharanya, Gr 10

Photo Credit- Surekha, Gr 11



## Shoe Designing

The shoe designing event was one of the starting event on the 2nd day. Related to the Sci-fi theme of Synergy the topic for the shoes was supernova. The schools which participated were Sri Shankara, Akshayah global, Hiranandani, GTA Vidya mandir, Yagappa International, Sri Chaitanya Techno, and Grove School. The Judges were Ms.Deepa and Ms.Veena. The shoes designed were very colourful and space themed. Each of the partners were working hard and they coordinating well in order to make shoes which were “out of this world”. The footwear was very sparkly and glittery because of the “space dust”. Even though all the teams made awesome shoes the shoes created by Grove stood out from the rest and helped them win 1st place. Yagappa International came in Runner up. Joshua and Divya Darshini the winners said “ We were really excited and worried at the same time. I think the reason we won is because of teamwork” .

- Sharanya, Gr 10

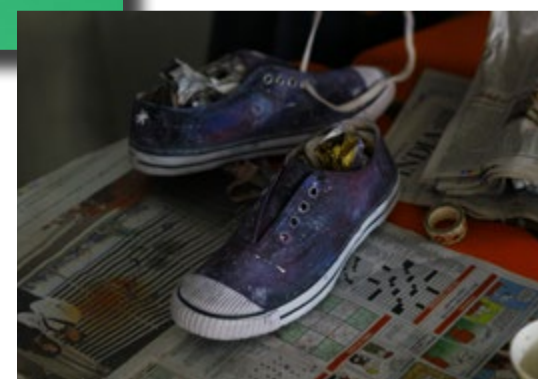
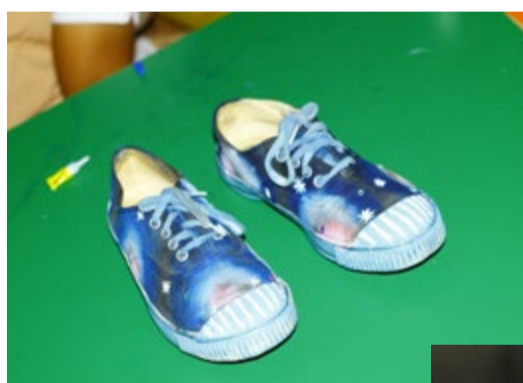


Photo Credit- Sachin, Gr 12

## ECO CHEF- Cooking without Fire (Gr6-8)

Mouth-watering aromas filled the air. The nine contestants had thoroughly planned their recipes and hoped to re-create exotic dishes. Gracing the event as a guest judge was Mrs. Yogambal Sundar, a well-known TV personality and the host of *Rusikalam Vanga* – a show centered on reliving the forgotten recipes of our land. Mrs. Susmitha was the internal moderator for this contest.

A surprising take-away from this event was the mature behaviour demonstrated by the participants who cleaned up after preparing their dishes. After much discussion, both the judges settled on Anousha Das of HUS as the winner and Pranav Sai of Hindustan International as the runner-up.

- Sneha B, Gr 12



## ECO CHEF- Cooking without Fire (Gr9-12)

Photo Credit- Abhishek, Gr 12



The first thing that hit you was the chaos and then the smells. The mouthwatering aromas that permeated the cafeteria during the Eco Chef event for the grades 9 to 12 left an army of growling stomachs in its wake, including our esteemed judges Mrs. Mala Rao, a self-professed foodie, and Mrs. Leena, a culinary expert in her own right.

As the students made a mad dash to the finish line, they left behind sprinkles, vegetables, Oreos and a variety of other things. Our staff quickly changed their roles from managers to cleaners, getting amused looks from the quickly expanding crowd.

As the energy in the room diminished from an inferno to a slow smolder (rather ironic considering the only condition was no fire), dishes began to take tangible forms. Some of the junior chefs made healthy dishes such as sandwiches and salads while others took a more tempting route with Oreo laddus, chaat and chocolate delights. There was one thing they all shared in common though -- the love for good food and rich flavours.

The judges remarked how difficult making their decision was, as all the dishes were amazing. Which is why they took quite a while to make their choice, and decided on Veena G.S. as runner up and Donna Selvaraj as Winner. After the announcements, the contestants generously offered the hardworking staff a free buffet. The event ended with staff unrepentantly digging into the goodies.

- Divya Damadoran, Gr 11

"It was really well organised!  
Good job, you guys!"  
- Chriscilla,  
Vaels International School

"It was very creative"  
- Ashwin,  
Boaz Public School

"Lovin' it so far. I love it here! I  
almost don't want to go back to my  
school"  
- Varsha, Primrose

"The DJ was really  
good!"  
- Pulak, Sri Chaitanya  
Techno School

## Sound Bytes

"It was amazing! Stand up come-  
dy was a really unique event!"  
- Nandita, HUS

"Synergy was well organized,  
it was very impressive"  
- Dikshit, St.Johns

## Behind the Scenes



Powering through multiple technical difficulties, rain and vain, we managed to churn out a magazine worthy enough to live up to the legacy of Synergy Bytes. For a lot of us, this was our \*last\* Synergy - due to either a potential nuclear war in the future or our graduation. We managed to listen to at least 5 K-Pop songs (BTS mostly) while writing glorified fanfiction cleverly disguised as serious articles.

A thunderous shout-out to Fiza Ma'am, Shirley Ma'am and Savitha Ma'am, all of whom put up with our quirks and inability to meet deadlines. Our sincere gratitude to the reporters, photographers and editors, for they were outnumbered in battle, yet they all worked diligently and finished 'exactly on time.' A tremendous thank you to everyone who made this a truly unforgettable experience.

*-Divya, Sneha B Gr 11/12*

Photo Credit - Sachin, Gr 12

## Food House

Dark, rich brownies swam in a pool of chocolate syrup and won our Food House a choc-lot of brownie points. There was a contest in House Cake, consisting of Ser Vanilla of the Cupcake and Ser Cake of the Pan, for the title of the hottest item on the list, but little did they know that \*that\* honour would be stolen by Ser Ice Tea himself... the disgraced uncle of House Ice. Nachos salsa-d their way into the hearts of all that dared to brave their sharp edges. Ser Pasta of House Carbohydrate cried tears of cheese as he realized his inevitable fate of being dribbled down into the mankind's horrifically acidic digestive system. He pelted us with vegetables in a feeble attempt at retaliation as he plunged to his doom. Our forgotten soldiers, stranded literally in the middle of nowhere, were Ser Bean of House Burrito, Ser Lemon and Ser Orange of House Juice, and Ser Aloo of House Tikka. They will be remembered (probably not). With all this food warring and tragedy, it truly makes one wonder - is life just one big fan fiction? We might \*never\* know.

All jokes aside, the students and teachers who manned the Food House were the true soldiers of the day, working tirelessly to serve food and offer hospitality to anyone and everyone. Their menu was diverse, stomach-filling and drool-worthy - their efforts were truly commendable. Thanks y'all, we didn't starve...

Or did we?

*-Divya, Saleema, Sneha B Gr 11/12*



Photo Credit - Sachin Gr 12