

# SnapsShot

*APL Global School E-Magazine*

*Jan 2022*

*Issue No. 29*



expression through art

**ENTERPRISING  
MIDDLE SCHOOLERS**

**Voice**

our academic counselor  
speaks



**Blooming Buds**

see what the  
little ones can do

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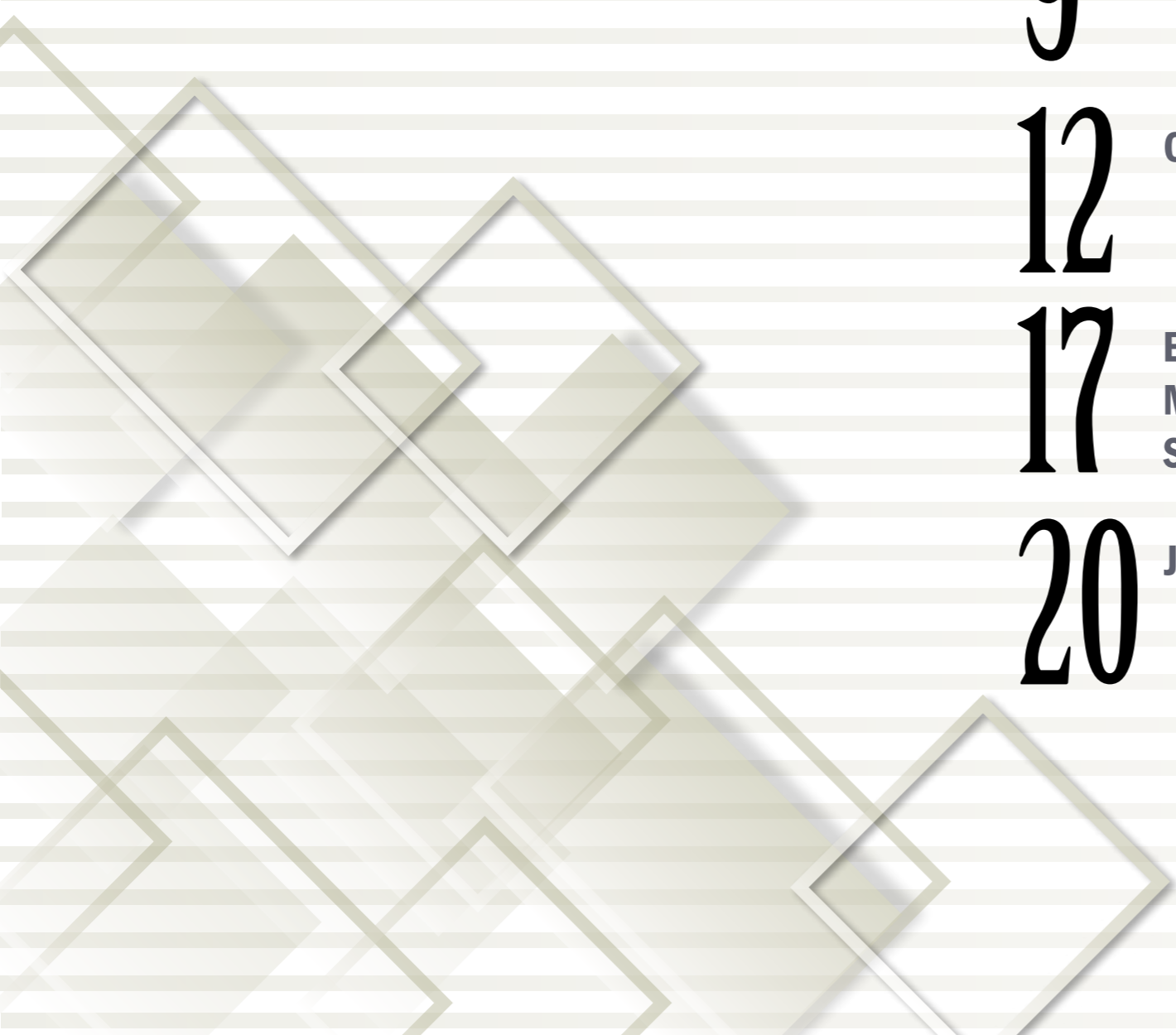
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*Editorial*

## Dear Readers,

While the new year hasn't brought any respite yet, we hope to raise your spirits with the 29th edition of Snapshot. Our team has worked around the clock to ensure your reading experience is a fulfilling one with a variety of different articles, poems and artwork along with several interesting pit stops along the way.

Our Hotnews section this year is quite an extensive one describing all the events that took place at APL. Next we have an eye-opening interview with the academic counselor under voice, who gives us an insight about her journey to her current role while explaining the complexities of her job amidst these unprecedented times. We then have a section dedicated to our secondary school students, who have given us a mixture of suspenseful short stories along with intricately written poems which are guaranteed to distract you from the stark reality we are currently in.

The segment 'Enterprising Middle Schoolers' is a safe space for students from 6th to 8th grade to showcase their artistic talents and they haven't failed to disappoint ; providing us with some beautiful artwork. Potpourri is a section dedicated to ensuring no cog is left unturned with a number of puns and riddles designed to tingle your thinking senses along with some mouth-watering recipes to satisfy your taste buds.

Our section 'Blooming Buds' is dedicated to the creative masterpieces that have been provided to us by the junior school students. This is followed by the 'Review Corner' which consists of a series of critical analyses and book recommendations to help you find your next big read. The NIOS students are not to be forgotten with the 'NIOS desk' housing an abundance of creative endeavors and last but not least is a section dedicated to the parents who express their intriguing opinions about the connection between school and home life.

This edition of Snapshot has a bit of everything for everyone and we hope you enjoy your reading experience. If you would like your work to be published in the next edition, do not hesitate in mailing our Snapshot team. Let's start this year on a positive note!

- Sai Raghav, Gr 12 I



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### 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.

Hot News

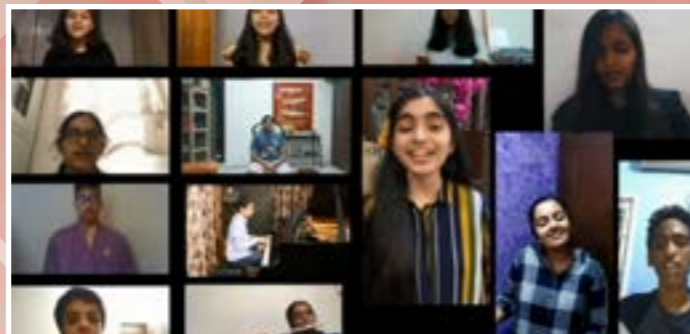
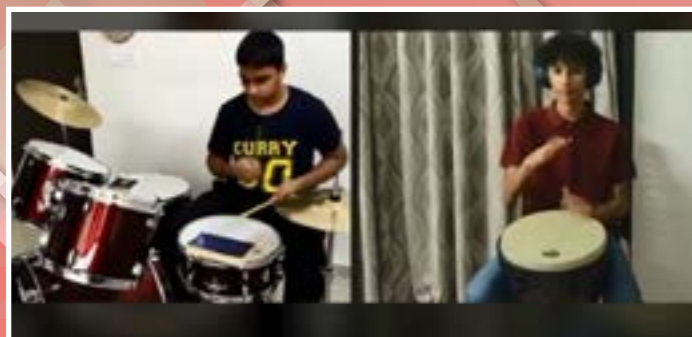
# Celebrating Independence Day at APL

Independence Day celebration was one event that was fantastic. It had elements of history, games and a lot of interesting facts about our motherland India. As you all know we were celebrating our **74th independence** from the British. Even though it was online it was really memorable.

The teacher, the students and the staff did an amazing job. The history behind our mother land is really fascinating and it was showcased beautifully by the students of our school. Those who did not attend the show, I recommend you to watch it.

Overall the show was a success and very inspiring to watch

Divya Garladinne, Gr 9



## Senior School Cultural Show

Senior School Cultural Show. The Cultural show for the senior school was conducted online on 28th August 2021. Students of **Grade 9 & 10** performed an anthology of plays '**@Life after loss**'. A musical show by the students of Grade 9-12 was also staged online with the theme '**Celebration of life**'. Four pieces were staged -Vocal, Drum ensemble, Keyboard Ensemble and Guitar Ensemble. The audience was welcomed with a dance number on Rajasthani folk song. **Grade 11& 12** also staged an Episodic digital performance "**# It's just business**". The welcome dance number for Grade 11& 12 was performed on a Kerala folk song. The lighting of the lamp was done by NIOS Head of School, Ms. Vaijyanthi, Principal Mrs. Sarija Santhosh also addressed the parents before the start of the show.

On the occasion of the Cultural show, an Ebook "**Life after loss**" was released. The book comprises the stories written by the students of Grade 9-12 for the cultural show.

## Lower Secondary Cultural show

Students of Lower Secondary school staged their digital cultural show on **18th September 2021**. All 3 grades had their own show. The events started with the lighting of the lamp by the Head of school, Mrs, Sheela Sundaresan. The music performance by the student here was a combination of 4 vocal performances and one Rythm ensemble. Students used junk material and tabletops to produce foot-tapping music. **Grade 6** started their show with a welcome dance number, invoking the blessings of Lord Ganesha. In the digital play "**A whole new world**" a myriad of new stories written by our students was enacted by them. **Grade 7** welcomed the audience with a Rajasthani folk dance performed on the song "**BhoondhanBhoondhan**", The play staged by the actors of **grade 7 "Remember me"**, Coping with loss was a tragicomedy. **Grade 8** started with Rhythm and joy a foot-tapping welcome dance. The Play "**Jump ahead**" a comedy-drama was enacted by the students of **grade 8**.

On the occasion of the Cultural show, an Ebook "**Life in all its colours**" was released. The book comprises the stories written by the students of Grade 6-8 for the cultural show.



## Children's Day

Children's day was a relatively quiet event as compared to the previous years due to the pandemic. Students were given personalised cards with a message by their Mentors. Teachers also recorded dance and the music department gave a music performance for the students. The recordings of the dance and music were shown to all the students during the mentor hour.



## Intra School Talent Show

KG, Primary and Lower Secondary levels had their Intra school Talent show on 16th November 2021. Students exhibited their talent in music, ( both voice and instrumental), dance as a recorded event.

**Grade 1 & 2** students displayed their skills in Poetry recitation, Art and craft and Fancy dress show.

**Grade 3,4,5** students Expressed their love for art & craft in the event Expression through Art, Students got to proclaim their Hidden talents before their class. Students also voiced their opinions in the Elocution event.

**Grade 6 to 8** students apart from showcasing their Hidden talent and creativity through Art & Craft, they also participated in Ad Zapp and Storytelling sessions and JAM events."

## Primary school Cultural Show

Primary School had their Cultural show on **10th & 11th December 2021**. The theme continued to be Celebration of Life. Anthology of plays was staged by each grade separately.

**Grade 1** Anthology - Laughing with life, was a collection of lighthearted stories that made us laugh a little and see the extraordinary in the ordinary events of life.

**Grade 2** staged The Festival fables, a collection of stories where friends and families come together with a reason to celebrate as life gives them more opportunities to grow together.

**Grade 3's** anthology, Life at its Fullest, saw characters trying to survive amidst the challenges life throws at them, they learn to embrace the hurdles and find light and hope eventually.

**Grade 4** students enacted the virtues of life through stories that documented experiences, where characters had to make choices to stay, leave or sometimes even quit to overcome challenges.

**Grade 5** students showed up Lessons in humanity through a set of stories that reminded us that although life might seem like a rocky boat, little dose of empathy and kindness will go a long way"



## Primary school – Virtual Picnic

Primary school students went on a virtual picnic. Calling it Fun day, students of **grades 1 to 5** went on a virtual trip to historical sites, zoos and parks. They started their journey with music. Children sang along as though they were travelling by bus to the picnic venue. Games were organised for them and all the students had a snack party online together with their friends and teachers. Children enjoyed thoroughly with a request to have Fun day every year.

## Senior Intra School talent show

Senior school Intra school talent was held for **grades 9 to 12 on 17th December 2021**. Apart from recorded events like music (vocal and instrumental), Dance (group and solo), we had events like Show off your **DJ skills, Expression through art, Block & Tackle, Shipwreck, Coding and Hidden talent**. Students participated with much enthusiasm. Non-participants also had good fun watching their friends perform.



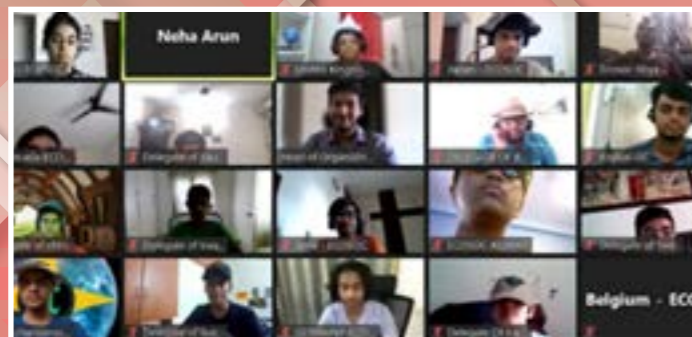


## Swadeshi week

Swadeshi week - 9th August to 13th August Workshop conducted: - Wasted, Eco roots - Creating Urban forests. and Storytelling sessions for the Kindergarten and Grades1-3. Apart from this the theme for the swadeshi week was "connecting with the roots. Children spoke with their Grandparents/relatives of that generation to know more about their culture and roots and also how they followed sustainability. After collecting information, this was presented/discussed in the class.



## APL MUN



Like last year, the APL MUN conference was held online on 21st and 22nd August because of COVID 19 situation. The conference had more than 120 delegates. The majority of the participants were from Chennai but almost 10 people were from different states like Hyderabad and Bangalore. The conference consisted of three committees: Security Council, Human rights council and Social council. Our primary focus was to improve the quality of debate and structure a good flow of committee for the delegates. More than 70% were first-timers yet gave great points in committee and were enthusiastic throughout the two days of the conference. Zoom was used to run committees and discord was used for chits and lobbying purposes.



We received great feedback from the delegates which was the most important thing for us. The first-timers especially felt very comfortable under the executive board and they mentioned they were able to talk more than they thought they would.

Overall the conference was a success.

*Voice*

## What Bharatnatyam means to me

Bharatnatyam is a historic and classical Indian form of dance that focuses on Hindu mythology and storytelling. My favorite classes are the ones where we'd all sit on the ground and just do the hand gestures for each part of the song when the teacher explained the story behind it. I believe that we are always better at dance than yesterday. We are complimented for lavishly expressing our bhavam and understanding the routines. It is a setting where you feel free and both beautiful and Indian. Bharatnatyam taught me more about myself than any other class I have ever gone to. At the starting of the class, it is very hard but when you get used to it, You feel very relaxed. I always have fun doing dance class and it lets me express my feelings about the songs. when a part of the song comes when you have to express, it is the best part of the day. That is what Bharatnatyam means to me.

Dhiya Viswanathan, Gr7 E



### *In conversation with our Academic Counselor*

1. *What made you decide to move to this role?*

It was purely based on a vacancy that came up 2 years ago, and I was asked to take up the role of an Academic Counselor. As a teacher for more than 10 years it was quite challenging to convince myself that I could still help my students the same way as I did while I was a teacher. But then a bit of reading and help from the former academic counselor helped me make a decision.

2. *Is this something you have been doing from the beginning?*

Though I worked as a commerce teacher ( in the same school I studied ) for 4 years after my college, I soon moved to the corporate world and have worked with corporate giants like GENPACT, Hewlett Packard and Steria. However, over a period of time, I realised that my passion lies in the education world. That's when I got back to teaching.

3. *How did you start at APL?*

I joined as an English teacher in the year 2013 at APL. Since then I have had the privilege to teach different age groups ranging from GR 1 to GR 8 through the 6 years duration as a teacher. I have also been a subject coordinator and a trainer during this time.

4. *Do you like what you are doing?*

As mentioned earlier, though I wasn't convinced initially when I took up the role, now I think I really like what I do. I always thought that teaching would be more satisfying than any other role. However, now when I guide my students on college applications and career choices, and see them placed in good colleges, it is indeed a great satisfaction. It feels nice to get appreciation and thanking calls and emails from students for whatever help they got from me.

5. *Do you require any special qualification for this role?*

I would say more than the qualification, the yearning to help a student by being a good listener, a keen observer and a patient speaker makes more sense. The skillsets matter as we need to be more sensitive rather than just being knowledgeable. However, to function effectively in the current world of ever changing needs, it is better to take up a course on Career Counseling. I have completed a one year course on Career Counselling along with a few one day workshops on career counselling. Apart from that it is important to keep ourselves well informed on the latest updates. Therefore, I keep attending a number of webinars on different aspects of education and career choices. In the 2 year tenure as an Academic Counselor, I must have attended more than 100 webinars.

6. *What are the challenges you face in this role?*

It involves a lot of accountability and responsibility in terms of adhering to deadlines, coordinating with different people for information, and submissions in short notice. In the process of all this rush and run, we still need to be patient and relaxed in order to reach out to students' concerns and also keep our minds clear to write meaningful

recommendation letters or to communicate to a particular university about a student.

Basically this role requires you to juggle between being prompt and swift in deliverables at the same time slow down and relax when dealing with student and parent concerns. It gets challenging at times to balance this.

*7.What do you like best about this role?*

As mentioned earlier, the satisfaction of guiding a student towards the path to college and a career choice is extremely gratifying. This role brings out the various strengths in you.

*8.What is your advice to students who are applying to colleges?*

Haa..ha !! Different pieces of advice apply to different students !! One common advice to all the senior year students is “Work to become someone and not to acquire something”. Eventually it doesn’t matter where you studied or what job you are doing as long as you are happy and love doing what you are doing.

*9. Any experience you had with a student that you can share?*

There are plenty of great and a few ‘not so great’ experiences I have had during the past 2 years. They are all part of the role and I strive to do my best and take each experience as a new learning.

*10.During COVID times how did you counsel your students regarding admissions?*

It was an irony that I took up this role almost at the same time that the pandemic hit the world. Therefore, the 1st year of struggle not only involved work-related pressure but also coping with the online system of schooling that was again new to us. It didn’t stop there. Students were anxious and needed motivation and there was no scope to meet them in person. I had to stretch myself and take more time out to know them better using the online platform. I did receive panic messages at odd times of the day and during weekends to help students with the application process. To top it all, we have application deadlines falling during our Puja vacation, Chirstamas and Pongal vacation. Students couldn’t be as prepared as they would be in a normal scenario, therefore requests for uploads on different application portals would come a day prior to the deadline which was quite challenging. I even had a student call me up on the 31st Dec night to upload something for the 1st January deadline wherein I had to rush back home and complete the process so that he doesn’t miss the deadline. Though the pandemic is not yet over, we are in a much better space now in terms of handling this. All of us are much stronger and have learnt to live with this.

Dhiya Viswanathan, Gr7 E



# Open Boat



## The Gathering

"You have all gathered here today for a reason. You may not know me but I have been watching each one of you for the past 5 years..." continued the man in the black coat. The five students had gathered in the storage room of their school - summoned by an anonymous man. His deep voice echoed in the claustrophobic room. "What do you want from us?" asked one of the students - Hannah. "You will repent your sins..." muttered the man. A sense of anguish, apprehension, anxiety filled the cold atmosphere. "I haven't done anything wrong," said Thomas. "Hmph!" smirks the man, "How many times have you lied, including now, Thomas?" Each student had done something - something for which they could not be credited.

"All I see is lies, betrayal, selfishness, arrogance, jealousy..." said the man. The students' expressions were washed away with a sense of surprise. After a long pause the man said, "From now on, your lives will never be the same... You will learn what it feels like to be in the shoes of an innocent person." Alexa turned to leave, "I will not waste my time with some random person who is trying to show me how to lead my life!"

The man suddenly grabbed Alexa's hand. She felt as if she was being electrocuted - as if she was being sent into a coma. All of a sudden her surroundings turned into darkness. She then saw a vision. It was more like a dream. Three unknown faces stared into her eyes with anger and contempt... On the other hand, the man asked, "Do any of you want to end up like her? It's called 'learning your lesson the hard and quick way'. Pain, disdain, torment is all you get."

The four students stared at each other and Alexa on the floor in horror, "You leave only if you confess." The students remained in silence. Nobody was ready to expose the truth. After a while, Samuel asked, "Will Alexa ever wake up?" "Oh! What a surprise Samuel! It's unbelievable to hear such a thing from someone who always thinks about himself, isn't it?" mocks the man. "Who are you?" asked Thomas. Anger filled the man as he burst into a fit of rage. "Don't you dare question me young man!" His eyes were glowing red. Thomas began staring at them as if he was in a trance. He felt as if he was losing his sense of sight. "No! No! No!" he screamed. Hannah, Samuel and Kevin moved away. Thomas fainted. He shuddered as if he was lying in the middle of a snowstorm. "Ha! Two down!" exclaimed the man. "I swear! I haven't done anything wrong. Please let me go!" cried Kevin. The man descended towards Kevin.

"Oh, is that true? Think once again. Your classmate Nico - the all rounder who is good at almost everything he does unlike you." "No way! Nico is my friend. Ofcourse I am not jealous of him." argued Kevin. The man gently touched Kevin's forehead. Kevin fell to the ground. Hannah thought, "Our truth would be revealed if any of us tried to confess and escape." "Thinking about who you betrayed recently Hannah?" asked the man.

"Stop trying to make us believe something that isn't true!" exclaimed Hannah, "We will

not expose the truth no matter what!" Within minutes Hannah was gone too. The man's phone buzzed as he stepped out of the storage room. "The trackers have been implanted. In no time the kids will get back to normal and we will know their secrets soon...All I did was accuse them of things they hadn't done before."

- Aahana Gr 11 E

## THE CONFRONTING

Juniper gazed out the window for what felt like the nth time. Her head swirled and her heart leaped as she thought about what was going to happen. Any moment now, her parents would pull into the driveway and take her to see the man she despised. Ever since her happiness was snatched away from her two years ago, she had been waiting to meet this man and...and what? Juniper abruptly stopped the drumming of her fingers when the realization hit her like a stack of bricks. What was she going to do when she finally came face-to-face with that despicable human being? Her mind screamed to hurt him, but how? After all, she was only sixteen. Juniper could feel her lunch dancing around in her stomach as her head swirled in the tornado of all these terrible thoughts. How was she going to satisfy her thirst for revenge now?

The loud sound of the doorbell snapped Juniper out of her reverie. She ran down the stairs and opened the door with great, but unnecessary momentum. "Hello, dear," her mother greeted warmly, "are you ready for today?" Although Juniper's mother appeared to be calm, cool and collected, it was impossible to miss the small tremble of her bottom lip and the worried creases marrying her forehead. This was no surprise to Juniper. It had taken almost two years of convincing to get her parents to relent and fulfill her only wish: to meet the man that ruined her life. "Yes, Mom. You know I am," Juniper replied, wrapping her slender arms around the woman she had confided in and trusted the most. Over the past year, Juniper and her mother had grown closer and closer - so close that Juniper's father even started to complain that he was feeling left out.

On the way to the car, Juniper's mind drifted back to the obstacle she had stumbled upon in her plan. What was she going to do when she met that poor excuse of a human being? Perhaps she could slap him in the face or promise to put him in his grave. But would that even be effective? Not only would it be immensely embarrassing for her parents, but it would make her look like a clown too. Juniper grimaced at the ridiculous image of her 5 foot 3 frame attempting to threaten a man as big as he was. "Hey, honey," Her dad called from the driver's seat, "big day today, huh?" Juniper frowned, her father's nervous tone was not only unusual, but also extremely disgruntling. Was everyone as apprehensive and unsure as she was? All Juniper knew for certain was that today was going to be a tiring, tedious and long day.

- Jenica Gr 11G

## The Mysterious Circle

Pushing aside the old rusted slab with ease, Amber slipped in through the back door without a sound. She had been here many times before. The old abandoned church was by no means her regular haunt, she had more class than that, but it was a necessary precaution for what they were all gathering for. Most people disapproved of it, even though it made no sense. Who were they to disapprove of something they couldn't even understand?

She made her way down the dank dark hallway, past the several broken and boarded-up windows and walls covered in silky white gossamer spider silk. She pulled her deep blue velvet cloak around her tighter. It was cold these days, colder than usual, which is why they decided to hold the ritual today. The chill in the air caused the hair on her arms to raise. Perhaps it was that, or maybe it was the combination of the quiet and the darkness that made her feel as if something was off. She couldn't turn back however, it had to be done today, for the sake of the people.

Amber had been a member of the Circle for several years and did her duty. It was the least she could do for all they had done for her sick grandfather back when she was a child. Without them, he would have died and she would have ended up on the streets. She owed them everything. Although she couldn't say she liked everything they did, she understood it was for the greater good, and that's all that mattered.

Approaching the end of the hallway she pushed past the heavy, embroidered table cloth hung in place of a door. Although several people had been through here already, obvious due to the many footprints marking the dusty floor, almost more than usual, large lumps of dust clung to it. It was just instinct to close her eyes and mouth.

When Amber opened her eyes, she didn't know where to look first, at the kneeling acolytes or the brutes holding them down. Big burly men with dull bludgeons and swords snarled and growled like animals. Her colleagues were either thrown to the ground like ragdolls or on their knees with their hands up. Meanwhile, she just stood there frozen, like a deer in headlights.

"Stop right there witch!" one of them spat out.

"You and your magic welding friends won't make it outta here alive!"

"Burn them all!"

The deranged look in their eyes sent shivers down her spine that had nothing to do with the weather. They had caught on to them. How did they know the Circle performed magic here? Did they follow someone? That did not matter right now. What did matter at the moment was that they were here, and they were angry. They were looking at her with their piercing hungry eyes, like she was their next meal. So Amber did what anyone would have. She ran.

She ran down the dark hallway past the windows that had been cracked and boarded up. They would catch up to her soon. She had to lose them. Screaming and yelling echoed down the corridor. Amber took a sharp right almost slamming into an ancient painting, and then took another turn. She didn't know this part of the church well enough, but she had to try.

No thoughts took form, only panic roiled through her. Her heart pounded so loud Amber thought it would burst. She flew up a flight of stairs almost tripping over the gray uneven cracked tiles.

"Stop right there!"

- *Anjana Soman Gr 11 E*

## Chennai Snake Park

The Covid-19 virus has been ruthless in its efforts to diminish the Indian economy. This virus has been responsible for 456000 Indian casualties and even more cases. The virus has made isolation the new norm, bringing up a storm of mental health issues. It is indisputable that COVID-19 has tarnished Indian lives, but we often fail to consider another fraction of society: the environment. The corona virus has taken out its vengeance on Chennai's legendary snake park.

Established in 1972, the Chennai Snake Park has had an unwavering focus on maintaining a collection of reptiles with the means of eliciting public interest. It has been committed to promoting conservation of India's native fauna through education and research. It continues to promote knowledge and dispel erroneous beliefs about reptiles through awareness campaigns and affordable publications like their quarterly journal COBRA. The Chennai Snake Park provides a comfortable home to over 25 species of reptiles ranging from Indian snakes to tortoises, to lizards to Indian crocodiles. However, the Chennai Snake Park is not just limited to indigenous species. The Siamese crocodile, green iguana, and other foreign species are popular exhibits at this park. In addition, all enclosures have extensive signages giving essential information about each species

India's first reptile park is not just limited to viewing exhibits however. The Chennai Snake Park has been an instrumental part of Indian advancements on environmental knowledge and sustainability. The Park has been entrusted with numerous reptile survey projects which have aided research in the macro field of environmental sustainability. Furthermore, numerous environmental scientists have used the park in gaining information to complete environmental theses.

Due to the harsh implications of COVID, the benefits of the Chennai Snake Park may be short lived. As the Chennai Snake Park is a non-profit organization, much of its income is derived from visitors. As visitors have declined, the Chennai Snake Park is struggling to stay afloat. In fact, many of the employees have taken significant salary cuts in order to keep the park in continuance.

The Chennai Snake Park has been a revolutionary creation that must be continued. It is home to numerous endangered species that need our help to prolong their survival. Let's play our part by visiting and contributing to Chennai's environmental pride.

- *Roshan Kannan, Gr 12 C*

### WINGS

dreams of soaring high in the sky  
 dreams of floating through the gale  
 I try, I fail, I cry  
 I fall, I ache, I crawl  
 still consumed by agony  
 I don't despair  
 my wings flutter in harmony  
 higher and everywhere

- *Dakshitha Sankar, Nashwaa Jaffar and  
 Ritwik Premchand, Gr 12 D*



## The Gunshot

The empty black screen of a television set flickered gray as the sound of static engulfed the small, dark room. Steve sat upright as he flinched at the sudden noise. He rubbed his eyes in a desperate attempt to rid himself of the sudden drowsiness that had washed over him. Part of him was hopeful that this was a very realistic dream, but of course, it could never be that simple. Steve scanned the room to the best of his abilities. The only light source was a bugged out television but it was enough to help him. There was no furniture in the room apart from the desk that the television sat on with presumably a door behind it. Steve drew a shaky breath as he rose to his feet. The air that he inhaled was cool but had no specific scent to it.

He walked towards the television, carefully taking calculated steps towards it. The wooden flooring beneath his feet groaned at every step he took in protest. He stared at the screen for a few minutes before the static came to a sudden halt that made Steve jump in return. A masked man appeared on screen, his voice gruff and unrecognizable.

"Follow the path laid out for you. When the time comes, do what you must to survive. The way is ahead," The mysterious man stated before the television cut to static.

Steve put a hand to his moist forehead and repeated the last statement. "The way is ahead." Almost as if he were in a trance. He gulped, his dry mouth longing for water but alas, there was none. He opened the door with a sigh as it creaked along with the floor. The door slammed shut behind him, sending a jolt up his spine. A gasp escaped his mouth as he saw a group of people in front of him. They were all men, presumably his age. They stood in a similar black room as before except this time instead of a television box on the table. There was a gun.

He was terrified. His entire frame shook as the other men watched his every movement. Under normal circumstances, he would have asked them who they were. However, when Steve opened his mouth to speak, only quivering breaths were released. He put his hand on his chest to calm himself but instead, he felt a familiar object in his pocket.

The men turned towards the box and what once was a silent room had turned into a cluster of noises and pure chaos. Groans filled the room as punches were swung left and right. Steve pulled the object from his pocket and loaded it, alerting a man who seemed taller than the others. He grabbed the gun from the box as Steve fired a warning shot at the roof. As the man pointed his gun at Steve, Steve pointed his gun at him. His hands trembled, unable to control his movements. The room went silent as the people around him stopped and stared. The men held their guns, their grip tightening by the minute. Steve slowly squeezed the trigger more and more before a gunshot rang through the room. A single gunshot.

- Kadambari Gr 11 G

### *The Voices*

The voices in my head, they call out to me  
They tell me truths, pushing me into the sea  
A sea not with water, neither salty nor pure  
But filled with broken dreams, crushed beyond cure

I'm failing everyone, I'm failing myself  
To top it all, people say "Control yourself"  
They say, light's at the far end of every dark tunnel  
Does that hold true, in a life filled with struggle?

I don't know how long I can keep up my happy face  
Holding it in takes more than an embrace  
The sense of worthlessness engulfs me completely  
Emotions jumbled up, you can't escape reality

The voices in my head, they cry out to me  
Leaving me in chaos, no motivation really  
The voices in my head, they call out to me  
They tell me truths, pushing me into the sea

- Srishti T Manikandan Gr 9 G



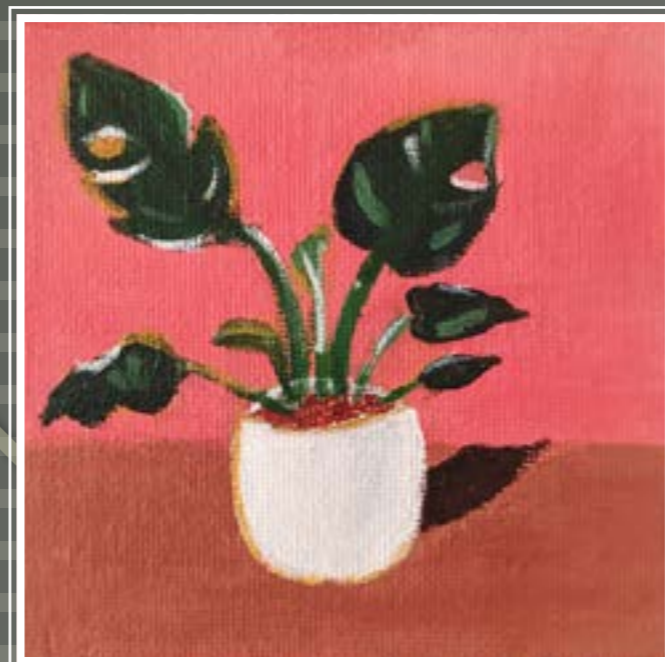
**ENTERPRISING  
MIDDLE SCHOOLERS**



*Atharva Manoj, Gr 7 C*



*Sanjana Jegadish Pandiyan, Gr 7 G*

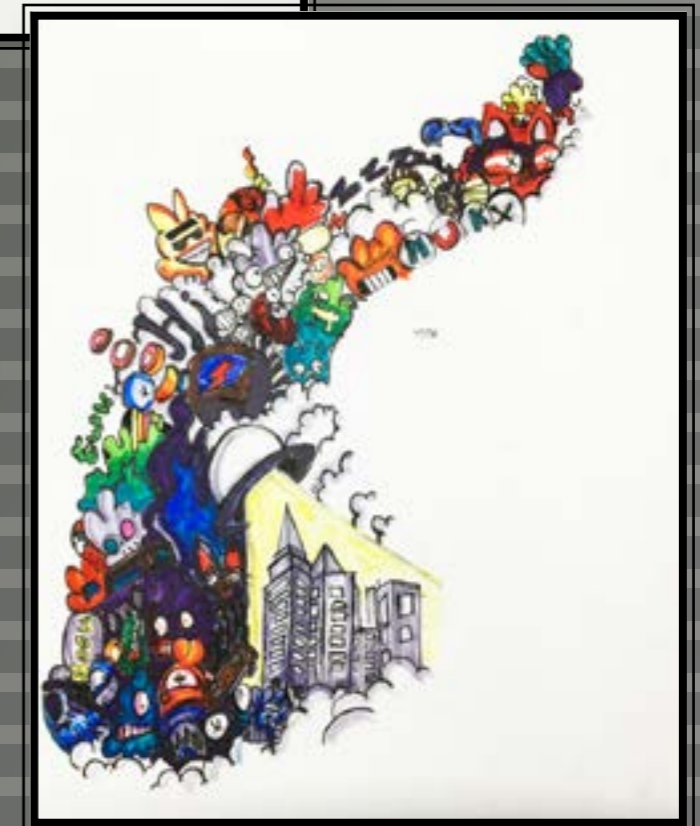




*Mukund Jeyagopal, Gr 8 C*



*Sanjana Jegadish Pandiyan, Gr 7 G*



Junior Corner

## DREAM IT UP

Dream it up,  
Dream it up,  
We can play our own stories,  
Now let's just roll with it,  
Roll with it.  
So cuddle up.  
Now look at me!!!

Dream it up,  
Dream it up,  
We can play our own stories,  
Dreams can become real.  
And this what you should feel.  
So dream, dream, dream  
Dream it up!!!

- Kritimalini H R, Gr 1 D

## Dogs!

Big dogs, small dogs  
Police dogs, fat dogs  
Thin dogs, stray dogs  
Bull dogs, scary dogs  
Are the dogs, I Know!

- S.Madhuri, Gr 2 C



Advay Gupta, Gr4 B



Prakrithi Pradeep, Gr5 D



*Karthik Deenadayalan, Gr4 A*



*Dhanya Mayuran, Gr5 D*



*Kinaya Gupta, Gr4 E*



*Aishwarya Lakshmi VenkataKrishnan, Gr4 B*



*Jeana John, Gr2 E*



*Minnie Edward, Gr1 A*





Sai Akhil Anand, Gr5 A



Aishwarya Lakshmi Ventata Krishnan, Gr4 B



Shalini Edward, Gr3 G

Portpourri

## Puns

1. What has a bank but has no money in it?
2. Which room can nobody enter?
3. What is coming but never comes?
4. What is in a bed but never sleeps?

## Answers:

1. River

2. Mushroom

3. Tomorrow

4. River

- Shane Benson Benjamin Spurgeon Gr 4 A

Deep inside the ocean there lives a collection of polyps  
it floats like cloud but stings like a bee  
Wobbling around in the blue expanse  
Plastic bags which sting  
As soft as silk but deadly like a snake  
Lanterns floating in the sea  
can be found nearly anywhere in the ocean,  
at the surface or in the deep  
The charm of its movement enticing  
Drawing you closer to death  
nothing but a shell.

- Abigail, Havi Vishnu, Amitav, Gr 11 H & I

Ans. Jelly Fish

## RIDDLES

I live in a tall tall tree, with my friends around me I look around to see, if there is any food for me I search for Acorns to fill up my tummy I admire the way they crunch crunchcrunch I take a leap to start frolicking around tree to tree Come on, guess who I am?

- Abhishek, Amrutha and Priyanshe, Gr 11 H & I

Ans. Squirrel

With vibrant colours grey, green and blue. They can enthusiastically play games and imitate you and they do great in teams as they bounce through trees and greens. Can squawk and grieve out loud. And do things that can make Hephaestus proud

- Ashwin, Divya, Suhana, Gr 11 H & I

Ans. Magpie

A bird was flying and it dropped an egg but it did not break why??

- Mukund Gr 6 D

Ans: because it was wearing underwear

## Homemade Chocolate cake

### Ingredients

all-purpose flour 4 cups  
Water 3 cups  
Sugar 3 cups  
Vanilla essence 3 tsp  
Cocoa powder 1 cup  
baking powder 3 tsp  
Vegetable oil 1 cup  
Butter 5 grams



### Method

Step 1: Take a large bowl and mix together all-purpose flour, cocoa powder, sugar and baking powder in the given amount in the ingredients. To this add vegetable oil, vanilla essence and water in the given amount in the ingredients and mix.

Step 2: Grease the baking pan with butter and pour the batter into this pan.

Step 3: Pre-heat the oven to 175oC and bake the batter for 1 hour.

After cooling down, your delicious chocolate cake is ready to eat

- S Krishna, Gr 6 B

## MINT LEMONADE

### Ingredients

Bunch of mint leaves  
Lemon - 2  
Sugar - 2 tablespoons  
Salt - a pinch  
Water - 2 glasses  
Basil seeds - 1 tsp

### Preparation

- (i) Soak the basil seeds in little water.
- (ii) Squeeze the lemon and take the juice.
- (iii) Pour the juice and to that add sugar, salt and water.
- (iv) Mix them well.
- (v) Crush the mint leaves and add the juice to the above mixture.
- (vi) Add the soaked basil seeds to it.
- (vii) Keep it in the fridge for some time.

Yummy lemonade is ready!!

- Mayuri Srinivasan, Gr 2 C





# *Blooming Buds*



Tissue Roll Painting  
Krithik S A, Pre Kg



Puppet making activity  
Maanvi N, Pre Kg



Brushing Activity  
Pranavi K, Pre-KG



Block Printing Activity  
Maanyaa N, Pre Kg



Leaf print  
Avantika Rajagopalan, LKG A



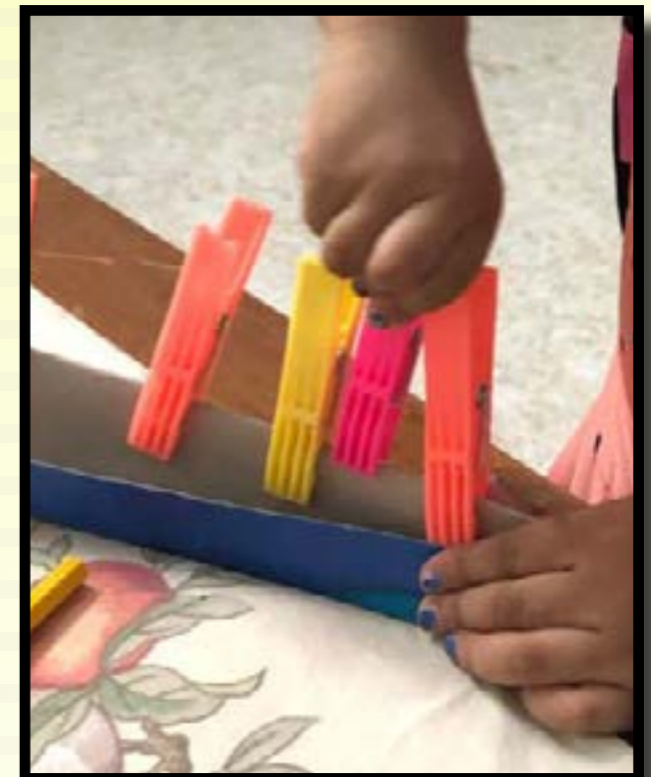
Triangle Art  
Nila, LKG B



Lacing  
Aadhanya Prakash, LKG C



Square Dots  
Aadhyashree Ramshankar, LKG D



Clothes Peg  
Sophie Catherine Binu, LKG C



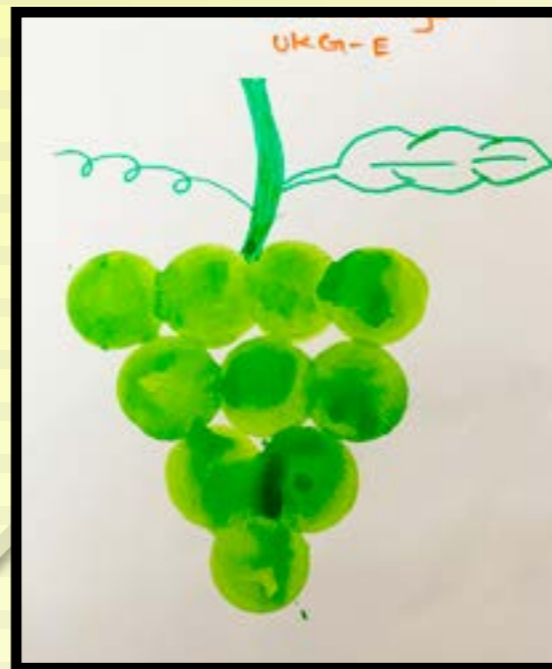
Counting  
Heera Rajesh, UKG B



Hand print  
Aadhya Murali Kothapalli, UKG C



Earbud painting  
Charvi N, UKG A



Bottlecap Painting  
S.P Sadhurya, UKG E



Self Portrait  
Mithraa Maheshboopathy, UKG D





***Review Corner***

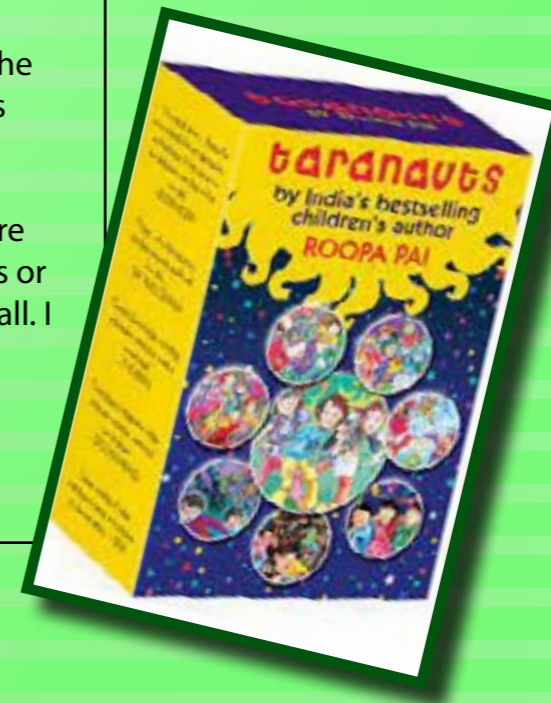
## TARANAUTS - ROOPA PAI

Taranauts is a fictional fantasy story which happens in the universe of Mithya. There are three main characters - Zvala, Zarpha and Tufan who fight the villain Shauph Azur and overcome all hurdles. They finally save the Tarasuns of Mithya. Hence the name Taranauts. This is science fiction too.

I love the book because it involves an entirely new universe. I really like how the author has described the planets, the time, the volcano Kay Laas, the Tarasuns inside Tara, the people etc.

I love the new words that are created by the author. Words like meenmaach are used in the book. Such words are created by combining two Indian languages or English and an Indian language. There are 8 books in this series. I loved them all. I suggest all children should read it once.

*- Mira Abhishek, Gr 4 B*



# **NIOS Desk**

## Silk Thread Earring

I started doing silk thread earrings and necklaces at age 12. I have watched my neighbours and friends creating beautiful pieces using silk thread and other materials, So I wanted to try it out too. It takes an hour to complete a pair of jhumka. It helps me improve my self confidence, calms me down when I am angry and provides me happiness. Having a jewellery making business is one of my dreams.

- Midhila Menon, Gr 10 B



# Parents Speak

## A Bridge CONNECTING HOME TO SCHOOL

What more does a child in the age group of 6 to 10 want? YES!....

***A Bridge that Connects her Home to School which makes them feel Secure, Comfortable & HAPPY!***

**This is the very feeling that every parent and school, wants the child to feel...The path is actually easy with** A Successful Parent-Teacher partnership/relationship shows a child that an entire team of adults are on her side.

Children benefit tremendously when we help them bridge their **two most important worlds – HOME & SCHOOL** as the two main educators in their lives, being parents and teachers at school.

Parents are the educators until the child attends nursery or starts school and remain a major influence on their children's **learning through school and beyond**. It is through love and encouragement that our kids become motivated, which leads to self-confidence, curiosity, the enjoyment of mastering new tasks and other healthy attitudes, all of which contribute to successful learning.

Teachers have a huge and very tough responsibility, as they take proper care on their **overall education**, the development of their **intellectual affinities**, as well as creation for **a better moral values and attitudes, habits to a firm and well-behaved cultural relations** in the society where the child lives.

As with any relationship, mutual respect, the ability to listen, and lots of communication form the foundation. With parents and teachers at school working on the common goal—"To play active roles in the child's life and to work towards forming a real bond with them and make them an achiever with ease". The child's best interest is always catered when she knows lots of people rooting for her and all the pieces of her life fit together.

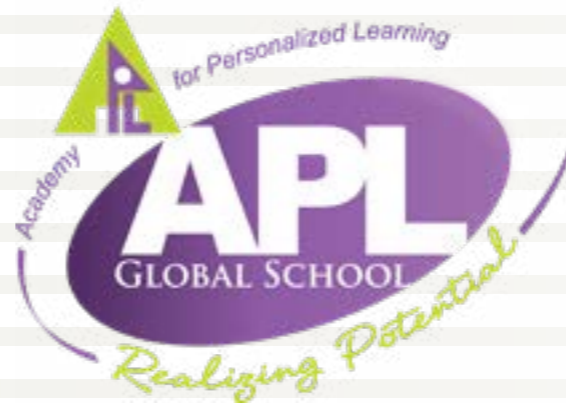
By Walking this **BEAUTIFUL & MAGICAL Bridge** we can make the child know she has a **GO-TO person** always and through that she will be able to:

- Higher overall achievement
- Higher level of Self-esteem in all aspects of life
- Better Social behaviour along with good Relationship skills
- Greater comfort crossing different environments
- A Sense of Wellbeing
- Regular school attendance & positive results

A Strong **HOME-SCHOOL Bridge** will set the stage for the child to **grow up with a Love for Learning in all aspects and Creates Supportive Environment for Education.**

**"TOGETHER WE GIVE OUR CHILDREN THE ROOT TO GROW AND THE WINGS TO FLY!"**

- Sashi Priyadarshni - Parent of Zara (Gr 1 G)



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