

**EICHER UNBOUND**  
**THE LOCKDOWN DIARIES**  
**2020-'21**

**EICHER SCHOOL, FARIDABAD**  
*A Goodearth Foundation School*

Cover page by Haripriya Virmani, XII-C



## **EDITORIAL**

**Dear Readers**

The essential purpose of EICHER UNBOUND is to inform, engage, inspire and entertain a diverse readership – including students, alumni, parents, faculty and others -- by presenting an intimate, timely and honest portrait of the school -- its people, programmes, challenges, resources and mission. In the originality of its conception, in the excellence of its writing and visual presentation and in its commitment to accuracy, healthy discourse and editorial balance, the magazine endeavours to reflect the values and the quality of the institution itself.

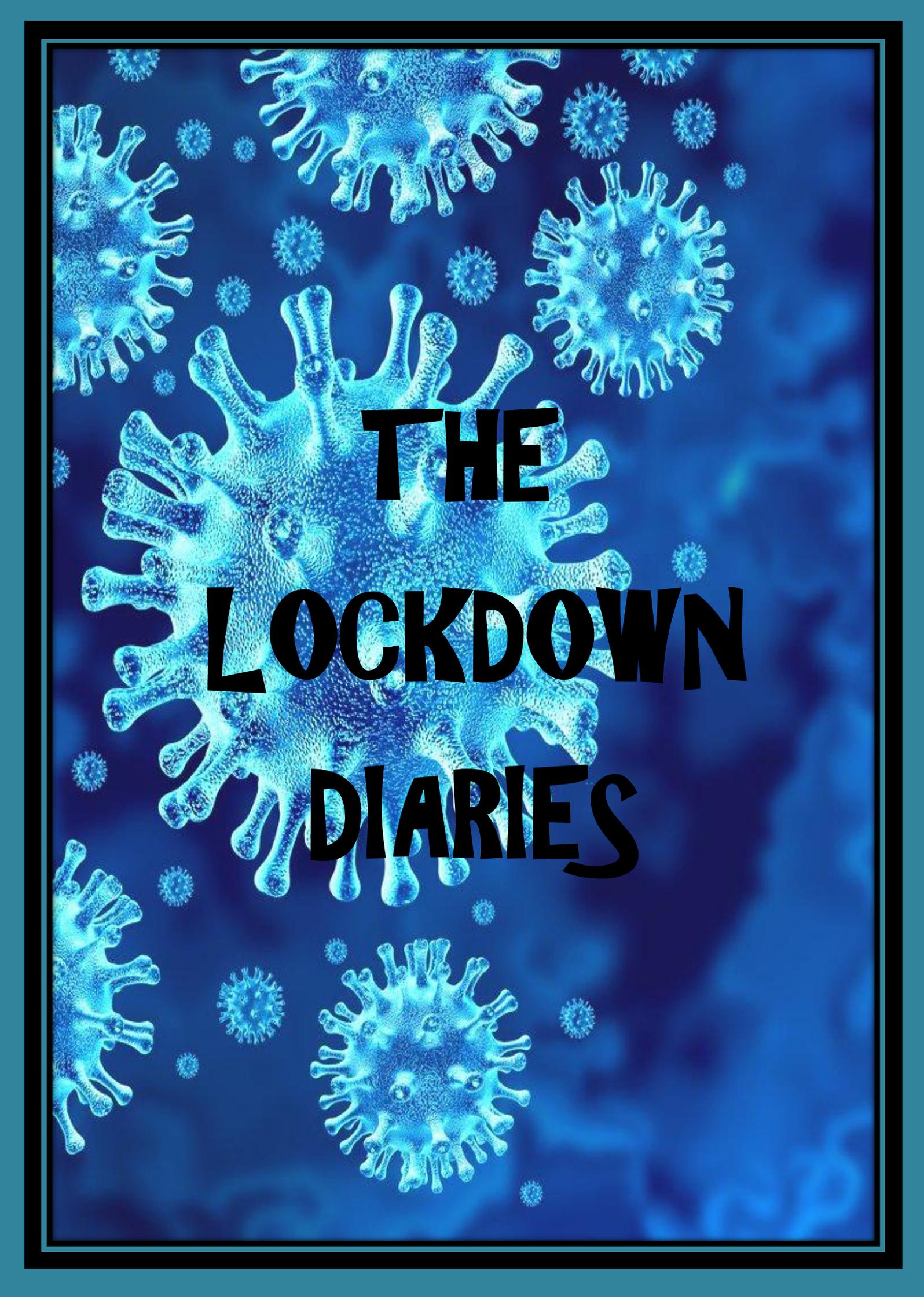
During the course of our lives, we are all constantly working towards meeting our deadlines and aspiring to reach our set goals. In this mad rush, somewhere down the line most of us do not get enough time to follow our passions. We, the Eicher family, used this lockdown period to re-discover our interests. Some of us used this time to pull back our long-lost hobbies like stitching, cooking, painting and what not! Some returned to their writing pads, some to the bestseller that they always wanted to read and some to introspection. Everyone seemed to be in a creative mode. The new normal found its place in every individual's life. Shifting gears from regular schooling to online classrooms, partying with friends to social distancing- we were all learning.

Being under lockdown, did in no way prove to being a barrier to learning and experimenting. Each of us added some new dimension to ourselves and the same has been shared in the pages that follow. We have named it THE LOCKDOWN DIARIES. The following segments cover a vast range of topics ranging from sharing from the staff members to students' opinions on various vital issues that have emerged during this period. Here we have a few bytes from our staff and students about how this period has been fruitful.

We hope you have a good reading experience.

Ms. Rakhi Cornelius

Ms. Sangeeta Sekhani



**THE  
LOCKDOWN  
DIARIES**

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:



Dear Readers

The year 2020 started with a sunrise, very similar to the one a year before, vibrant, colourful and promising. We went on with our mechanized lives, like we always have done, not realizing that we were soon to encounter a hitherto unprecedented situation, that would bring with it a paradigm shift in our understanding of ourselves and the world around us. COVID- 19 entered our lives, our living room discussions, our workplaces, our familiar places of recreation and entertainment and soon the busy streets were deserted, schools and offices closed, and it seemed like life itself had come to a standstill.

We started spending our days confined to our homes, watching TV, eating home-cooked food and trying to make sense of all the numerical data analysis that was being shown everywhere and making our own predictions about when the pandemic would come to an end. In all this confusion and anxiety of being restricted indoors, we gradually began to see what we had long forgotten to notice in our hectic busy schedule of “normal” life. The little joys of sharing a light-hearted conversation with family over a few cups of hot tea and *pakodas*, keeping *the* phone away and playing a game of carrom with our siblings, simply enjoying



the luxury of reading a book throughout the day, finally being able to spend some time with ourselves and pursue hobbies that were left unattended – these simple pleasures were rediscovered. Lockdown gave us the freedom to explore and indulge in activities which we always shied away from on the pretext of a busy day or a tight schedule.

Life, they say, always finds a way to seek hope. And it is our faith in ourselves that has given us the confidence that we will overcome this difficult situation. We look for ways to continue learning, growing and living our dreams. And in that process, we have started to engage ourselves in rebuilding our “neo-normal” lives, stroke by stroke, byte by byte and step by step.

As students we have opened our minds to the varied portals of studying, as teachers we have adapted ourselves to try new methods and medium of classroom transactions, as parents we have rediscovered the joy of sitting and learning with our children and as friends we have built new channels of communication with our neighbours and distant cousins. The pandemic has taught us how simple yet important being healthy and happy is.

In the last few months, we all had our share of adventurous and enriching journeys even though we were not travelling outdoors. Eicher Unbound- The Lockdown Diaries 2020-‘21 brings together these reflections as penned down by Eicherites- staff and students. The pandemic is far from being over but our resilience as mankind to unlearn, relearn and adapt ourselves in the harshest of situations has given us the belief that hope stays alive every time we smile. And I am sure reading through the pages of The Lockdown Diaries and reliving the unique experiences and thoughts shared by the young writers will bring a smile on your faces.

Stay safe. Stay healthy. And stay happy...

Warm regards

Ms. Arpita Chakraborty  
Principal

A drawing of a Buddha's face, rendered in white and grey tones. The face has closed eyes and a serene expression. The crown is made of black beads. The background is a mix of green and brown, with green leaves and brown branches. The drawing is set against a teal background.

by-Ms. Tanushree Banerjee

*#staff share*

## TEACHER – NOW A LEARNER

COVID-19 has affected our country and the society in such a way that we are held up indoors, unable to go to school, not able to meet our dear students, not able to see them laugh, play, run, jump, swim....., missing the school bell ring at regular intervals.....

Since the time I became a teacher my day would start at 4.30 a.m. rushing, running and reaching school to meet my lovely friends, colleagues and students. But lo!!! at a single stroke everything changed to something which I had never ever imagined or thought of in my wildest dreams.

I'm at home now, doing all the routine household chores and then rushing, not to reach to my students in school but to send them my meeting id and password, just to see them and meet them on the screen, wait for them to join me and allow them into the meeting room of the virtual classroom. Oh! I miss my kids coming late to the classroom and giving funny excuses. We would look at each other knowing very well what the reality was, yet I would accept their excuses and let them into the class.



COVID-19 has made me a learner again. I feel that the virtual teaching-learning process has revolutionized the traditional concept of education. It also seems to be the new way of learning for students today. It definitely allows them to study in their preferred environment, in the comfort of their homes, at their own pace and in a simplified manner. They can revisit a particular concept or topic several times and learn. This mode of teaching-learning promotes a lot of collaboration and communication and gives exposure to the students to a whole world of information. Online education has enabled me to learn new IT skills and this, I'm sure, has helped me to get close to my students who are able to see me work for and with them as per the need of the current times. Moreover, it is also a means of

promoting the idea of 'education for all'. This is also a medium by which auditory and visual learners are able to focus and grasp the concepts much more easily.

Even then, a school is a school. Classrooms with children sitting in their places, sharing their joys and sorrows, dreams and desires with their friends is what I miss today. A virtual classroom definitely does not give me the real time teaching-learning experience. It is difficult to make eye contact with every learner in this virtual mode. Many a times due to poor connectivity contact is lost with the students. On the other hand, in a

conventional classroom I, as a teacher, get the chance to call out the names of the students or walk up to them and catch their attention.

Friends, parents and students, I am surely enjoying the virtual classroom and looking forward to ZOOOOMING..., daily creating my meeting id, generating new passwords to avoid naughtiness on the screen but still EAGERLY looking forward to the morning assembly, daily morning workout, sharing lunch boxes and letting my students get away with weird excuses for late submission of the assignments.

Children, WE (all teachers) ARE WAITING TO WELCOME YOU ALL BACK TO SCHOOL.

Ms. Aparna Sharma  
Vice-Principal

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## COVID-19 AND THE POST-PANDEMIC SCHOOLS

Many teachers and students alike are dreaming longingly for a return to normal school days.

But can this happen? Unfortunately, not any time soon.

With the schools closed until the next order, the focus shifts now to what will need to happen to ensure a safe return to in-person education and what post-pandemic schools will really look like.

With this social distancing, shift from traditional to online instruction, and an increased focus on e-learning – how our schools will change forever!

The era of social-distancing -

Let's accept and start with this fact that there are very few settings in a school in which kids maintain any sort of distance from each other. Kindergarteners play during recess, third-graders crowd around tables and high schoolers surround one another at lunch.

Unfortunately, our post-pandemic schools may require social distancing and this means administrators and policymakers like us will challenge ourselves to become more creative about the logistics. We will require to look



into the fact that students maintain a safe physical distance from each other without affecting their social circle.

As teachers we will certainly ask and demand for this from our students but then will we be able to extract this from them? Recently one of my friends told me how he was discussing this new term of social-distancing with his daughter, a student of junior school, and she asked, "Does that mean that even after school reopens, I may not be able to share food and high fives or play with my friends?" My friend, with a heavy heart, had to say yes.

These are the new days with new norms. The era of social-distancing has begun.

Large class sizes -

Coming days might see a trend where students and teachers may leave an institution for the reason of large class sizes – and if this really occurs, this will change the 'Face of Education' forever. Well, thank God - we at Eicher School don't accept a lot of admissions as a matter of policy. In fact, we are proud to claim that we are one of the few schools in Faridabad with the lowest and the best-balanced student-teacher ratio. I personally know how some other schools are struggling with this scenario and are considering introducing a combination of different learning styles to tackle it. This "blended learning" mixes the virtual schooling we are experiencing now with a part-time return to the classroom.

And this could happen in a variety of ways such as including alternating groups of kids into "A" and "B" days to attend classes, dividing into half days, or extending the school day to accommodate more shifts. While none of these ideas is final, each would mean a drastic shift in scheduling and planning for the school.

Fewer kids, fewer issues -

With the post-pandemic scenario many good schools will and have to consider reducing their class sizes from the typical thirty-five – forty students per class to around fifteen to twenty students per class to guarantee social distancing in classrooms. Most of the teachers in the city schools dream of these class sizes but ironically, the benefits of the same may come with a trade-off.

Will we be teaching double the class periods in order to cycle the same number of kids? Will instructional time be cut into half to accommodate this set up? Or else the school will be compelled to increase the tuition fee to accommodate and pay for all this extra time of our educators? Right now, we don't have an answer.

To be honest, we teachers are starting to brace ourselves for a vastly different post-pandemic school schedule in the coming months and keenly looking for guidance at countries already reopening. Smaller class sizes will mean more individual attention for students exactly when they need it, but then – as I said – it will come with a cost, for sure.

### **A renewed respect (or dislike!) for online learning -**

More than three months of online learning has taught students and teachers alike that there are both perks and drawbacks of this new norm. For example, I have been witness to the fact that most of the times, a classroom discussion is painfully absent during these virtual learning sessions. However, some students are more focused than ever. They have increased access to clear directions and deadlines and are able to manage their own schedules with the support of their families.

Also note the reality that no one wants to acknowledge that there are three waves of the flu and this virus. This is the first wave. It is very likely that we will be asked to quarantine again sometime later in the year and hence, we all need to prepare for the long-term challenge of e-learning.

- Become an expert with the platform our school has chosen.
- Actively attend the professional development sessions.
- Upload YouTube videos for our kids.

We have to be able to bridge this huge gap of in-person and virtual instruction seamlessly. Whether you have greater respect or more disdain for online learning, chances are there is more of it in our future.

### **An increased eye for inequity-**

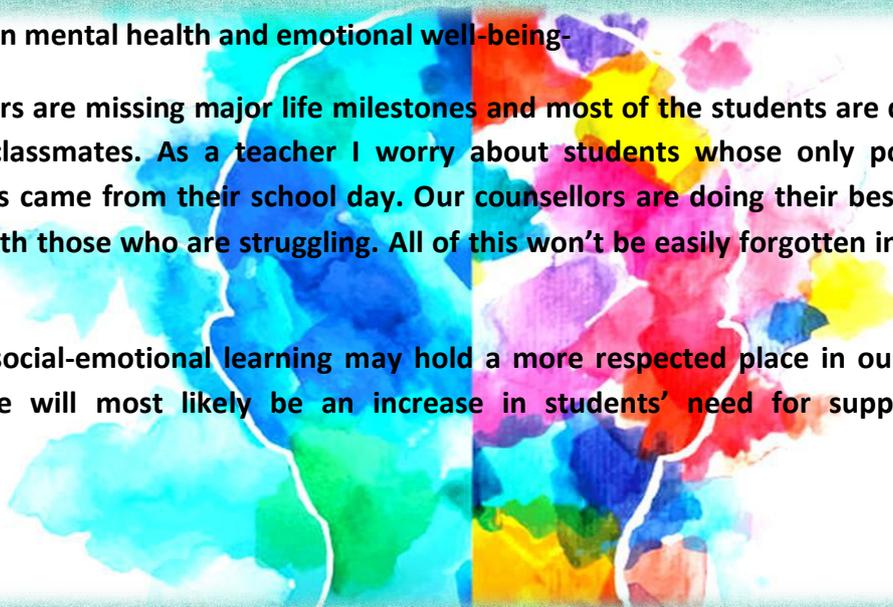
The pandemic has revealed inequities in access to education like never before. Some students have to watch their siblings while their parents work from home. Some students are struggling to keep up due to limited access to technology, specifically a working device and WiFi.

We are more aware than ever of the limitations to learning and the barriers holding each child back from accessing education. As we return, much of our attention will be focused on overcoming these hurdles. Across the country, the state governments have become more serious about providing internet access and devices to students of all ages.

### **A refocus on mental health and emotional well-being-**

Most seniors are missing major life milestones and most of the students are desperate to see their classmates. As a teacher I worry about students whose only positive adult interactions came from their school day. Our counsellors are doing their best to connect virtually with those who are struggling. All of this won't be easily forgotten in the coming months.

Probably, social-emotional learning may hold a more respected place in our curriculum now. There will most likely be an increase in students' need for support through



counsellors and mental health professionals. Students may struggle to reprogram their concept of school and grieve lost time with friends due to social distancing.

I, then, also have my concern about the staggered day exacerbating these conditions. Students typically rely on large pool socialization times like recess and sports for their formed friend groups to connect. Since they will not be able to mingle in the same way, there will be an extra need for social and emotional care. Regardless of how your schedule will change, we can all look forward to healthier work environments than our pre-pandemic buildings, and the privilege of working again with students we've missed in person as soon as it's safe to do so.

And who knows, maybe those pesky standardized Covid tests will disappear forever too.

Until then, we at Eicher, will continue to focus on bringing "blended learning" to our schools where there is meaningful integration of technology to create differentiation and individual learning for our students. Technology has allowed us to redefine how and where learning takes place. Our partnership with parents is more important than ever as we move into this uncharted territory.

Dr. K.K.Sharma  
Coordinator, Senior Secondary Wing

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## MY LEARNING EXPERIENCE IN LOCKDOWN

For teachers teaching Secondary and Senior Secondary level, February to May are crucial months. This time also it was the same way - hectic schedule was going on and the Board paper checking had also started early. The lockdown was something unexpected that happened in the third week of March. It took me nearly 4 to 5 days to realise the seriousness of the scenario.

Then I realised that no, we couldn't sit at home doing nothing. Our students are our priority and we couldn't let them suffer in any way. First we thought of only the Board classes and started sending assignments to keep the children in touch with the subjects but soon realised that assignments were not enough to meet the requirements. Then I started exploring the various modes of e-learning platforms and consulted with some experts also. I found out that Zoom was one

of the platforms which was being used to conduct online classes by most of the schools in the town. Then I learnt the use of the same, consulted with concerned people, arranged for training for my teachers and started the same for all the classes.

Preparing the schedule within the time boundary, involving all subject teachers, including all the subjects in the timetable was also a time taking process. But everyone took it as a new challenge and used all their inputs to bring about an optimum result. It was encouraging to see that teachers took to the e-teaching-learning process readily. They prepare assignments, PPTs, tests etc. according to the deadlines given and slowly and gradually, this method has started operating smoothly. We have successfully conducted the first cycle of Periodic Tests as well as the first virtual PTM. E-home visits have started too.

No doubt, a lot of effort is required but adapting to the changed circumstances is the only way for us. Moreover, our parents are also very co-operative and understand the need of the hour. This has helped us to work successfully and also become more proficient in this new mode of teaching with time.

Ms. Jaya Balan  
Coordinator, Senior Wing

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## LOCKDOWN PERIOD – A TIME TO INSTROSPECT - KNOW THYSELF

Everyone is looking at the adverse side of this pandemic and lockdown which has forced the people to stay indoors but it has indeed been a different experience for me.

When we had freedom to move around, I often found myself helpless because I could hardly spend time with my family members.

Though we have to maintain social distancing with our relatives, friends and neighbours, it has resulted in narrowing the gap between us as we often meet each other through online platforms and stay connected.

No additional help in the household chores has not only forced all the family members to come forward and lend a helping hand but also enhanced our bond. The lockdown has actually unlocked our mental blocks.

On the professional front, I find myself more tech-savvy now. We are using varied techniques of teaching. Our virtual class discussions are coherent and constructive. The bonding I have developed with my students is beyond words. We are open with each other and have established an emotional connect. Every day is a new experience.

In the Primary segment, we have brought about innovative ways of teaching. The day starts with workouts followed by circle time and assembly. During the circle time, the students share home news, have a heart-to-heart talk with their class teacher and classmates. Then starts the academic session wherein the students are taught a concept and guided on how to solve the assignment based on it. Thereafter the students get 45 minutes offline time to do the said assignment and note down their doubts. In the second session of the same subject teacher, they have doubt clearing session and extended learning activities. There is one period of co-curricular activities to de-stress them. The parents as well as students have appreciated this collaborative approach towards learning.

This lockdown has liberated our thoughts, made us spiritually inclined, sensitive towards everyone and enabled us to introspect too.

Let us all think positive, stay together, safe and healthy. Together we can and together we will be able to conquer this unknown devil.

Ms. Rimmi Gupta  
Coordinator, Primary Wing

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## SMALL STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Our children, like those all over the globe, have had to switch to a virtual learning mode. We have had screens on our mind a lot recently. Now, with the start of online sessions once again, it seems to be the right time to reset. It's essential to strike a balance between offline and online. The research on the impact that increasing screen use has on emotional wellbeing, physical wellness, mental health and development is quite astonishing. The combination of environmental influences, less active play, busier schedules, societal changes, the impact of the pandemic, screen-time changes is affecting us and our kids...the list goes on.

We, as educators of the Pre-primary wing, actively promote healthy living. We believe that a balanced lifestyle not only keeps us fit and healthy but that it is also fundamental to ensure optimum learning for the children. We must eat healthily and include daily physical activity. Keeping this in mind we have started the routine of taking a 'Brain Break' during the online class. Brain Breaks are short, energising bursts of activity that boost blood flow, send oxygen to the brain, help children retain information better and give

them that very important break from the screen. They can be as simple as taking five minutes to stand up, stretch and run in place. Teachers are also using other creative brain breaks to make them engaging and interesting.

As adults, let us also take the initiative to switch off the TV and computer and become active. Let us be role models for our children, make exercise a part of our day, take the stairs instead of the lift and enjoy doing all the chores at home. Kick-start the day with an exercise routine, a sure way of energising the whole day and helping the children to concentrate more. Did you know that not only do sports like basketball, cricket, cycling, etc. help us keep fit but household chores are also ways of keeping



active? Ask your child to help mop the floor, dust the furniture or help to do the laundry... every action counts. Make sure all devices are turned off well before your bed time. Overall, studies suggest that frequent, active participation in multi-sensory experiences can help regulate emotions, address cognitive functions, motor performance and focus.

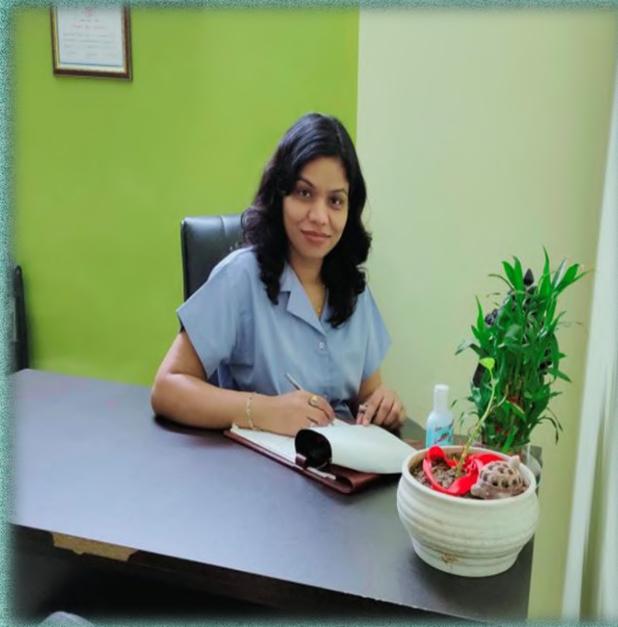
Small steps in the right direction will turn out to be the biggest step in life. Stay home, stay safe.

Ms. Anu Walia  
Coordinator, Pre-Primary Wing

## OPEN-UP IN LOCKDOWN

I believe that every situation in our environment happens to teach us something.

This pandemic has caused the shutting down of many industries, businesses etc. This kind of extended and seemingly non-ending kind of lockdown is a situation we all are experiencing for the first time. We need to understand that if we don't take the lessons the universe is trying to deliver, we might have to face a dire situation. So, here I would love to share with you all the learning that I have gained from the present situation:



- Slow down. Do not be in a hurry to conquer the world. You must take good care of the people that you don't keep on your priority list such as your family and friends.

- This contagious disease further gives us the wisdom that we all are connected globally, rather universally. We all are one, so if we cause pain or bring happiness to others it will surely come back to us. The way it gets delivered can be different.

- Your career, your job, your education is important but what is more important

than all this is **YOU, YOURSELF**. Your physical and mental health is of utmost importance and you ought to take care of the wonderful person that you are.

- There is no need to take daily life hassles so seriously. You never know when the time will come and you won't even get time to wind up. Think of the bigger picture.
- Do more than just living. Half of our life goes in earning educational qualifications, getting into a good job or business and so on. Do not only live, be alive to learn and gain wisdom.
- Be more compassionate and loving towards everyone. As I've already quoted- we all are connected. We all need more loving and compassionate people in the society.
- Most importantly, this is the time for spiritual upliftment. Invest time for your soul's yearning. When I say be spiritual, I simply mean to convey the importance of connecting to your spirit. Turn inward. Only then will you understand what you actually want from life. This will help you reach your highest potential and become the best version of yourself.

I conclude with one important message that this is the time to be with ourselves, to work towards self-enhancement. I believe we all have that power in us to become better and better with each passing day. All the best!

**Ms. Priyanka Tripathi**  
**Counsellor**

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# HEALTH & WELLNESS

Health is the most valuable treasure we have, yet we fail to recognize its importance until it slips out of our hands and we fall into the trap of diseases. Nowadays we all are in tough times, bearing the lockdown due to this virus but we all need to adopt a healthy life style to keep ourselves fit.

Let us understand the ways in which we can stay healthy for a longer time span.

1. REGULAR WALKING & JOGGING- These are two main forms of exercises that are suitable for all ages, need no equipment and hence, can be followed easily.



2. YOGA- Yoga exercises are designed in such a way that they work on every single muscle of our body. They help to improve muscle strength and endurance.

3. MEDITATION- While exercises work on the body, meditation works on the mind. Try at least 15 minutes of meditation daily. Not only will it help you to cope up with the stress but also provide you inner strength.



4. ADEQUATE SLEEP- In these stressful times, if you skip giving your body a good amount of maintenance period in the form of sleep you might end up causing more damage to your body and further deteriorate your health. So it is essential to have at least 7-8 hours of sleep daily.

5. HEALTHY DIET- Keep junk food at bay and always opt for nutritious food like pulses, green veggies, fresh seasonal fruits etc. Drink adequate amount of water and keep a check on fluid intake. Homemade food will help boost your immunity.

Make these daily health tips a part of your daily living and take your first step towards a healthier lifestyle. Stay home and stay safe.



Ms. Kiran Khurana  
Nurse

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## STAYING POSITIVE

Could we ever think that we Indians would be confined to our homes for months? You may have heard people say, "This can happen in other countries but not in India because our immune system is strong. Nothing can harm us."

Lo and behold! We are locked down in our homes. Restricted movement with masks on makes you feel that you are from another planet. The positive side is that we are blessed with abundance of time on our hands to unwind.



We, as teachers, are tuned to our clock. That schedule has become a blessing. Now is the time to learn and become more gadget friendly. We started with Zoom online virtual classes. However good, I miss my students. Just a look at them and their company gives you a gush of energy.

This lockdown has given me an opportunity to revive my hobby of designing clothes- a hobby which was long forgotten. My garden is now happy with the personal care given to it by the lady of the house. So is my family with their favourite dishes being churned out with "ma kay haath ka swad". Thanks to my profession which has taught me to remain positive and utilise every moment to its optimum. Hope this pandemic gets over soon and we meet again in happy days. May Almighty keep us all safe.

Ms. Hafsa Mahmood  
Educator

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## REINVENTING MYSELF

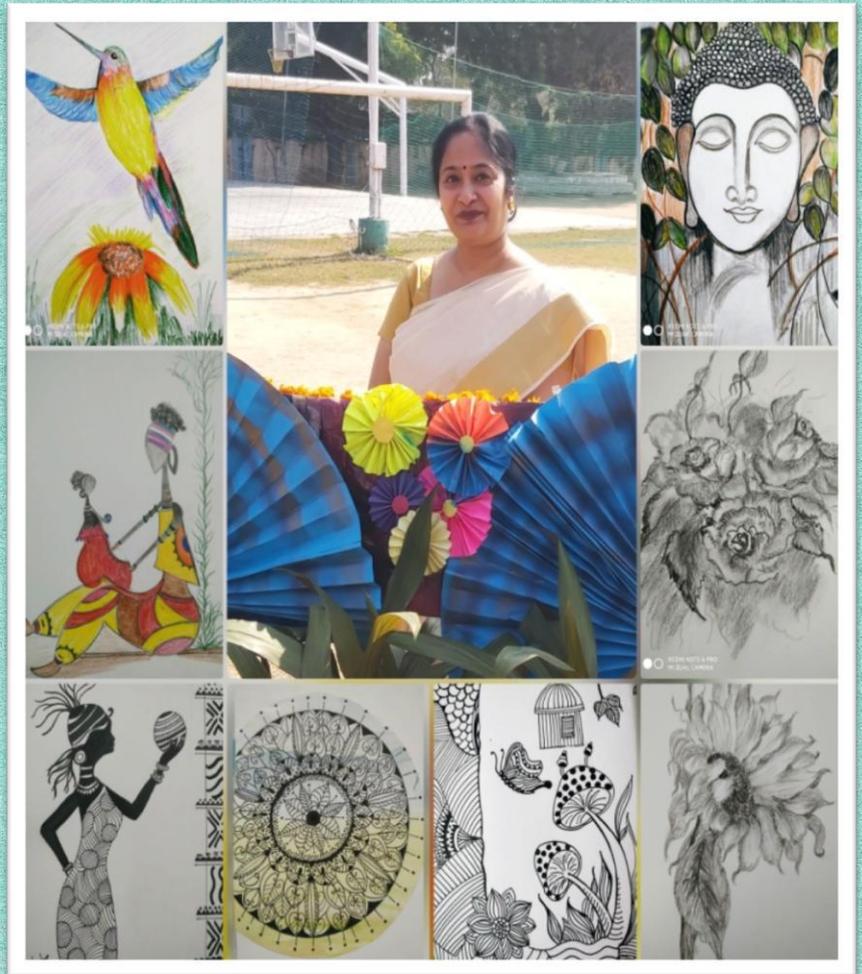
Since this lockdown period started from March 2020 there has been a lot of stress and anxiety all around, not to mention the added household chores that we have to do. In order to keep myself calm in all of this chaos, I found my respite in something which has always been therapeutic for me i.e my ART WORK.

The inner artist in me diverted my unnecessary worries to some fruitful work. Whenever I feel like it, all I need is my art file, charcoal pencils, Staedtler colour pencils and other stationery and start sketching new things every week. It has made me feel much better.

Life is full of blessings and we all must feel that day in and out. Gratitude is the biggest thing we must practice. Creating new art work is like a motivation for me to do something new every time. Learning new art forms with the help of YouTube is a wonderful experience. Calligraphy is something I have an innate talent for. Writing wonderful positive quotes and decorating them with colours brings me peace.

Times are tough right now but we are tougher. Let's keep ourselves busy with different things and keep our mental health in check. Hopefully everything will get sorted out soon but till then, stay safe!

Ms. Tanushree Banerjee  
Educator



## A DELUGE OF EMOTIONS

Never in our wildest dreams had we imagined a life under house arrest. The virus struck the complacent people of the world and in quick succession we experienced a gamut of emotions- at first confusion at what was happening, then wonder, disbelief and terror. Mayhem ruled, lives were thrown out of gear, discussions and debates held centre stage. And then came an air of resignation... but survival is key and adjustments were made for that. This extraordinary time and the plight of the hapless migrants has touched me as it has so many others. Here I'm sharing my thoughts in verse with you all.

### THE LONE TRAVELLER- Ms. Rakhi Cornelius

On his worn down bicycle  
At the crack of dawn he did start  
With a rucksack on his back  
And a little hope in his heart.

All he wanted was to reach home  
To his parents, two sons and wife  
Five years he'd lived apart  
From them who were his life.

The light in their eyes beckoned to him  
Their smiles spurred him on.  
No, no stopping, he told himself  
And cycled from night to morn.

He'd gone to the big city  
For a job and good money  
Living apart from all he loved  
For a while it all seemed sunny.

He had big dreams, he had great plans  
And felt his dreams within reach  
To have a quaint little house  
On his village beach.

And then struck the pandemic  
His plans went up in smoke.  
He lost his job, he couldn't pay rent  
And on the streets he woke.

And now - no food, no cash  
His home called out to him.  
Ten wretched days passed  
The future looked so grim.

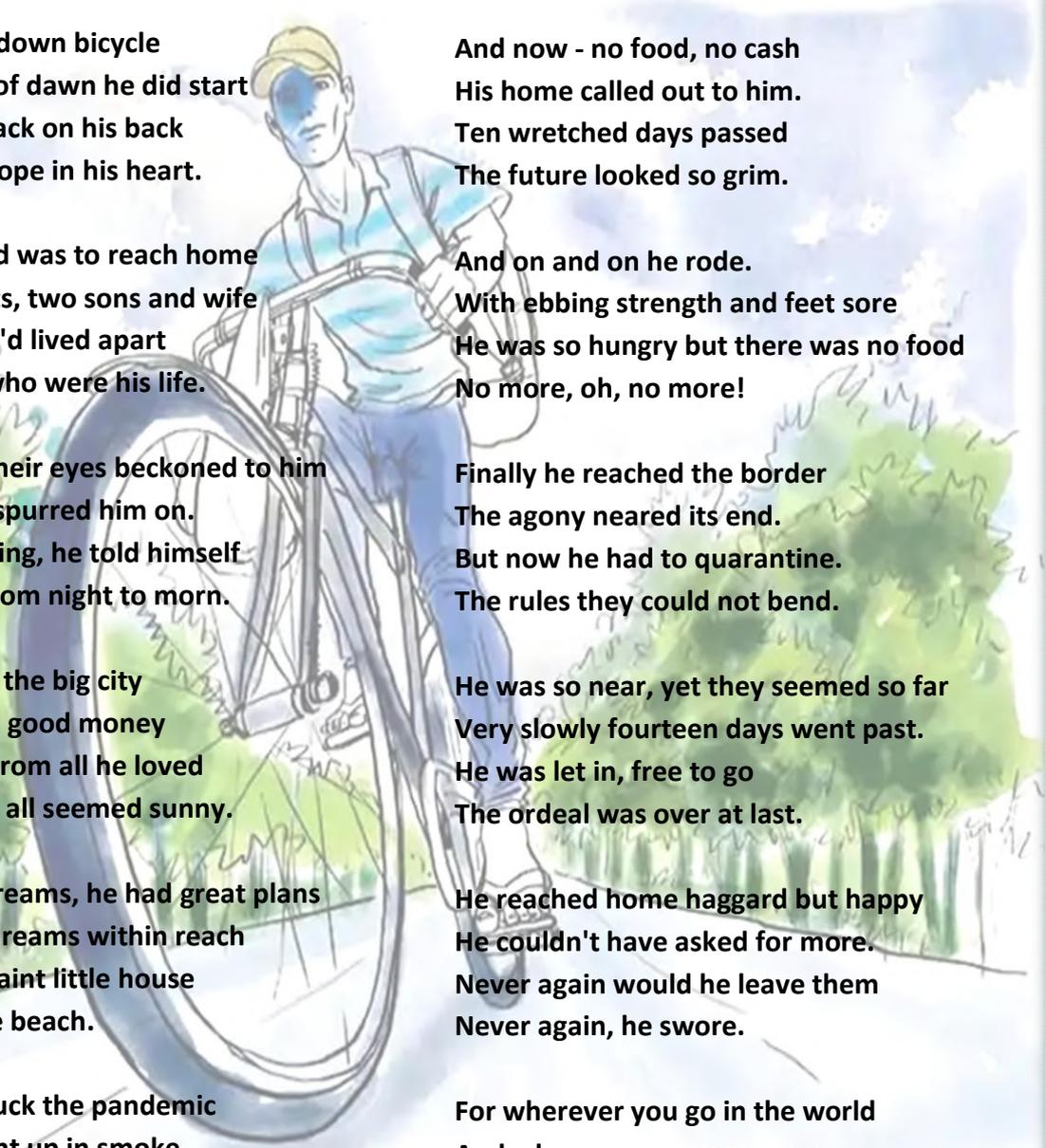
And on and on he rode.  
With ebbing strength and feet sore  
He was so hungry but there was no food  
No more, oh, no more!

Finally he reached the border  
The agony neared its end.  
But now he had to quarantine.  
The rules they could not bend.

He was so near, yet they seemed so far  
Very slowly fourteen days went past.  
He was let in, free to go  
The ordeal was over at last.

He reached home haggard but happy  
He couldn't have asked for more.  
Never again would he leave them  
Never again, he swore.

For wherever you go in the world  
And wherever you may roam.  
There's only one place that counts  
And that's your Home Sweet Home.



## THE DARK WORLD

Life was moving as usual  
Couldn't afford to be casual  
That's what all of us did believe  
But did this idea we ever conceive?

That the world would darken  
The smiles would fade.  
In fear we would live  
There would be no shade.

Confined to our homes  
In anxiety and stress  
Don't touch this, don't touch that!  
Oh! Our lives are in a mess.

Now we're masked for real.  
I'm sure it's nothing new.  
For humans mask their true feelings  
And what they show is not true.

Our worst fears stare us in the face.  
The world has screeched to a halt.  
The rush and clamour has ended.  
Who do you think is at fault?

For once no one is out on the roads  
Till when? Can't be exact.  
We're locked in, we're cut off  
'Tis true- this is the Year of the Rat.

The monster is stretching its reach  
Taking away lives and happiness,  
Making fear reign in our hearts  
Plunging us into darkness.

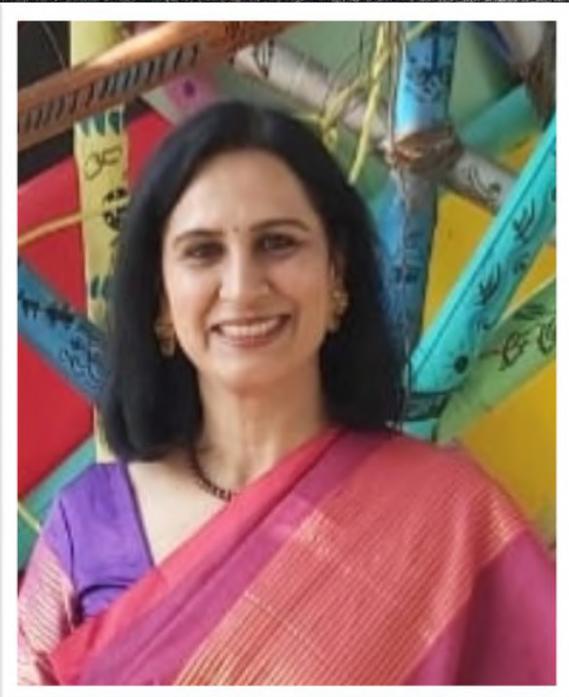
We're facing the wrath of God  
And it seems like Doomsday.  
Our sins are being accounted for  
And all we can do is pray.

For once the earth is rejoicing  
It's out of its misery  
It's got the time to refresh and bloom  
And calm down its fury.

Birds are chirping, animals are free,  
The waters run clear and blue.  
After a very, very long time  
Nature has finally got its due.

When will we all come out again  
And feel the glorious sunshine?  
When will we all dance in the rain  
And stay out at night till nine?

Whenever that will happen  
We must learn to be good to all.  
We must not turn to our bad old ways  
We should be able to stand tall.



Ms. Rakhi Cornelius  
Educator

## FINDING MY HEART'S CONTENT

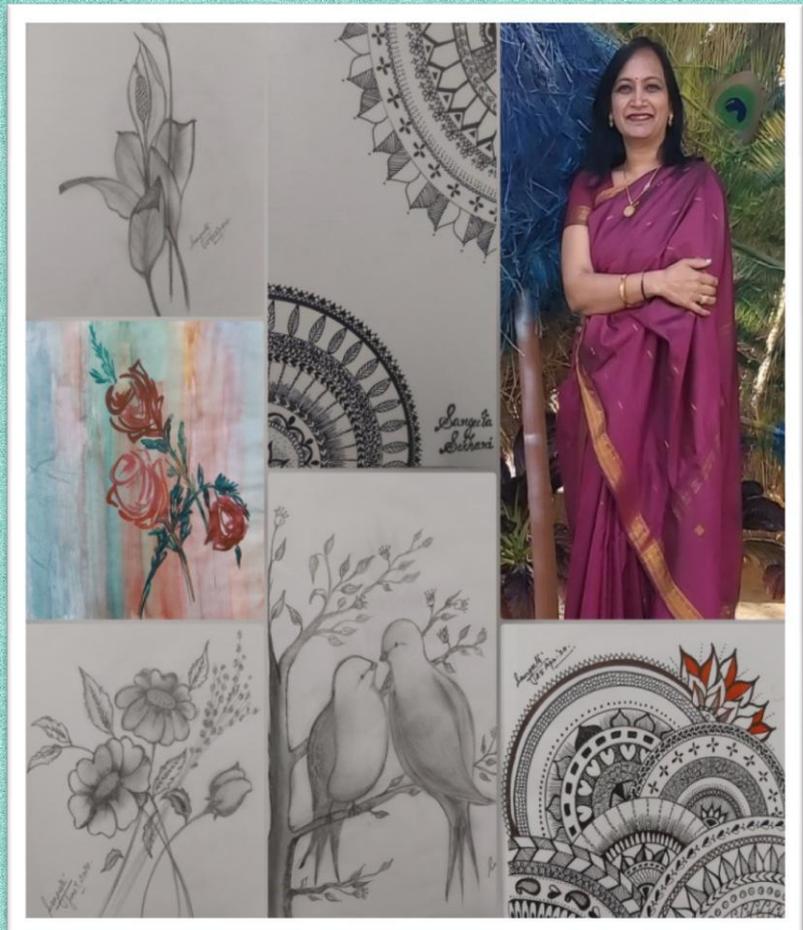
It all started way back when I was a little girl. Colours fascinated me. I was very fond of reading comics because they were always so vibrant. The characters in these comics sometimes seemed cute, sometimes very interesting. So I started drawing them and developed an interest in art. My dad got some of my initial drawings framed even though they weren't all that great! That was a great push. I felt supremely happy when others appreciated them. Friends' birthdays were occasions to celebrate. And I made sure I designed a card for each of them to make it all the more special.

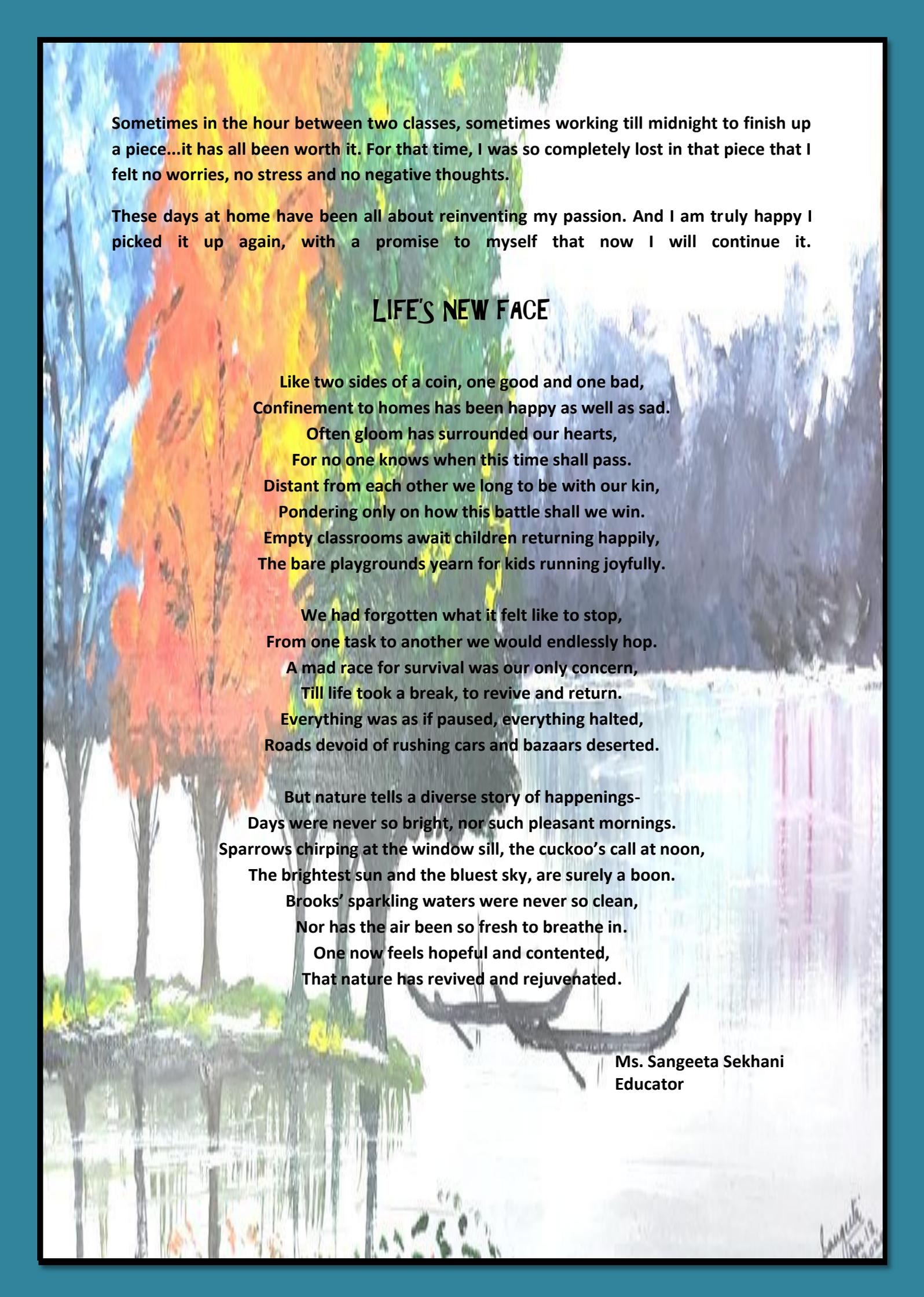
After my class X CBSE exams, me and my sister, who had appeared for her XII, enrolled ourselves for a month long hobby course in painting at the Women's Polytechnic in New Delhi. That was where I picked up oil painting and went on to do a lot of oil on canvas thereafter. Fine Arts in XI and XII further enhanced my artwork.

Art was always very gratifying for me. But somewhere in the course of my journey, it was left behind. A lot of other things took precedence. Every time I have invigilated for an art exam, I haven't been able to resist picking up the paint brush. But by and large, it was somewhere long lost except for an occasional fabric painting or some sketches here and there.

During the lockdown period, I realized I had the time to pick up my hobby once again. After being repeatedly told by one of my ex-students, I decided to get back to art- my heart's content. I didn't even have an art file. An unruled notebook which had been with me since the Entrepreneurship Mela times, became my art book. And work began!

My daughter was an equal companion in this pursuit. We worked simultaneously, at times suggesting each other what to draw or paint next or what colour scheme to follow. We also went on to redo some canvases and felt a joy that was beyond words. In the middle of online classes and household chores, I still found time to pursue this interest.





Sometimes in the hour between two classes, sometimes working till midnight to finish up a piece...it has all been worth it. For that time, I was so completely lost in that piece that I felt no worries, no stress and no negative thoughts.

These days at home have been all about reinventing my passion. And I am truly happy I picked it up again, with a promise to myself that now I will continue it.

## LIFE'S NEW FACE

Like two sides of a coin, one good and one bad,  
Confinement to homes has been happy as well as sad.

Often gloom has surrounded our hearts,  
For no one knows when this time shall pass.  
Distant from each other we long to be with our kin,  
Pondering only on how this battle shall we win.  
Empty classrooms await children returning happily,  
The bare playgrounds yearn for kids running joyfully.

We had forgotten what it felt like to stop,  
From one task to another we would endlessly hop.  
A mad race for survival was our only concern,  
Till life took a break, to revive and return.  
Everything was as if paused, everything halted,  
Roads devoid of rushing cars and bazaars deserted.

But nature tells a diverse story of happenings-  
Days were never so bright, nor such pleasant mornings.  
Sparrows chirping at the window sill, the cuckoo's call at noon,  
The brightest sun and the bluest sky, are surely a boon.  
Brooks' sparkling waters were never so clean,  
Nor has the air been so fresh to breathe in.  
One now feels hopeful and contented,  
That nature has revived and rejuvenated.

Ms. Sangeeta Sekhani  
Educator



by- Haripriya Virmani, XII-C



*# speak your mind*

## MY MOM- MY SUPERWOMAN

- When I am in school my mother does many household chores. During this lockdown period I realized how hard she works. This has created a special place for her in my heart and I have started helping her in cooking food, arranging the house, keeping the things at the right place etc. I am also trying to learn more and more tasks in this lockdown period that would be helpful to her. I feel very happy that I am easing her burden and sharing her responsibilities. She also feels very happy to see me becoming more thoughtful. Now I realise how tired she feels when she does so much work. Like a superwoman, she does it all. I am very thankful to my mom who does so much for me and my family.

Preetansh Aggarwal, VIII- C

- Due to the Corona virus pandemic, we have lockdown in our country. When I used to go to school, my mom used to do all the household chores. I used to think that there was no difficulty in doing them but since the lockdown has started I can see the truth. She has to get up early in the morning and start the work. She can't get up late like us. She has to work all day and till late night. Now I know how much hard work is required. She can't even rest for an hour. Now I have started assisting her in some work so that she can have some time for herself. I have learnt to cook, wash utensils and do the laundry. Sometimes even this much work seems like a lot. This lockdown has taught me a lesson and now I know the work pressure on my mom. I never thought she had to do this much. I have decided that I will help my mom from now on.

Ranjay Singh, VIII-C

- I am very emotional today. I realised how my mother works hard for us. She wakes up early in the morning and starts her day by cleaning the porch, watering the plants, dusting the house, mopping the floor, washing clothes, helping me in studies, preparing breakfast, lunch and dinner and doing other household activities. These days, because of the lockdown, there is no help available at home. Therefore, I realised that I should help her. And so, I lend her a hand to prepare Bengali dishes, mop the floor, do the laundry and gardening. I remember on 17th April it was my parents' anniversary and because of lockdown we were not able to go out and celebrate. So, my sister and I planned to give a surprise to our parents. We made morning tea accompanied with a chocolate biscuit cake. My mom was very happy and she hugged both of us. I am very happy that during this period I am learning basic household work and helping my mother.

Subinoy Chatterjee, VIII-C

by- Divyank Gupta, IV-B



## OUR OPINION

### Helping hands are better than praying lips

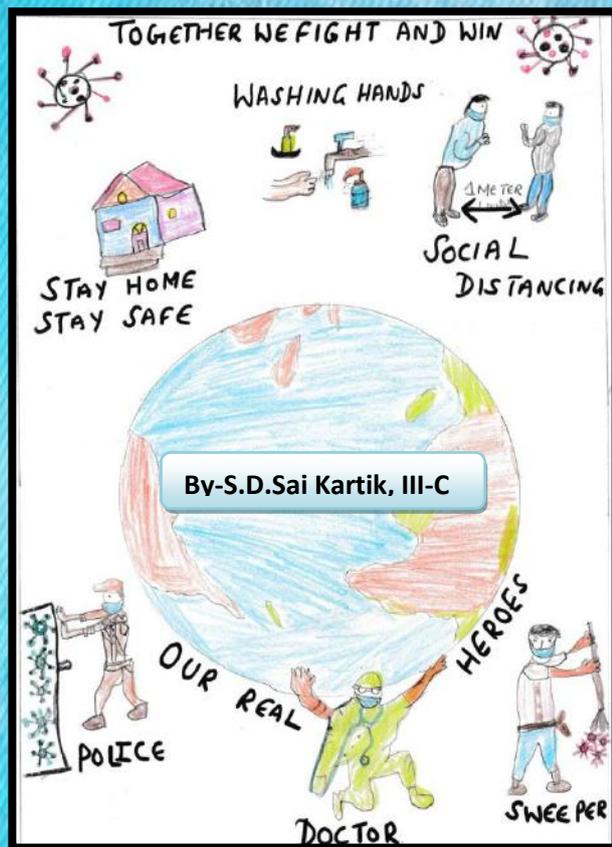
•These words by Mother Teresa elucidate that helping a person in dire need is better than just praying for him. During this crisis, our real heroes have been working for us, without thinking of their own safety. All those belonging to the police force, medical services, media, home delivery professionals and fire fighters have been on their toes. Organizations like the Indian Red Cross Society have been providing relief and promoting healthcare of the vulnerable people and communities. Everyone is doing their bit and with continued combined efforts, we will overcome this situation. Our actions speak louder than our words. Prayer, as I understand it, is your self-talk with God to provide you a direction towards your goal to act as a constant reminder, even a motivator. Let's pray for the well-being of mankind and do our bit to serve it. What good is a prayer without action?

Sanskriti Babbar, X-D

•The world at present stands face to face with an unprecedented threat-COVID-19. The lives of many are at stake due to the pandemic which has forced people to stay safe within their homes. The battle is tough and to fight it, we need a strong army. Even in this peril,

some commoners have risked their lives to save their people. They live among us, the same life as us. These are the real patriots- the doctors, policemen, emergency workers, social workers and organizations working tirelessly to provide relief measures. Helping hands are certainly better than praying lips. Our heartfelt gratitude and salute to these unsung heroes. Truly, it is not about me, it is about us.

Siddhant Kamble, XI Science



## ***Prevention is better than cure***

- During this huge crisis, people of the whole world are locked in their homes. But our real heroes who are the doctors, nurses and police officers are risking their lives to save people whom they may have never met. They are the unsung warriors of modern India. With them is the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), striving to prevent people from getting infected from this deadly virus. It has organised awareness and prevention programmes to sensitize people and vulnerable communities. It has a large number of volunteers who reached vulnerable locations and educated people about the various ways to curb the spread of COVID-19. The society ensured uninterrupted supply of blood, food, water and other essentials among the needy people. It has been distributing the IEC (Information, Education and Communication) material in local languages to help people maintain proper hygiene. It has given a huge support to our heroes. My gratitude to all of them.

**Aryaman Saxena, VIII- B**

- Lockdown is needed but it might put the Indian economy on ventilator. During this period the streets were empty, trains and flights were not operating, offices and factories were shut. Schools are still closed. We are trying to fight a global pandemic, which even the richest and most developed nations are finding hard to beat. We know the virus transmits easily there is no vaccine for it yet. Fear is the overriding emotion right now and we all know that "Prevention is better than cure". It makes perfect sense in this crucial time. To me, the lockdown is justified. To save lives, staying home is the need of the hour. I still feel stunned and teary-eyed when I hear that many doctors, nurses, medical staff, police and sanitation workers have lost their lives due to the Corona virus. They are our "Corona Warriors". They are outside their homes so that we can stay safe inside. So, I strongly believe that millions of lives can be saved by taking preventive measures.

**Monica Madhok, X-B**

- I believe that this lockdown is very beneficial for saving lives especially considering India's population. India is a developing country with limited private hospitals and we all know that the condition of government hospitals is very bad. This lockdown is leading to the downfall of India's economy but without people, we won't be able to redevelop our economy. Instead of going to crowded places, people are experiencing the real taste of food prepared with their own hands, they're realising that it's not boring to be alone, it's very refreshing to be with nature. Corona virus is increasing negativity in some people but every cloud has



a silver lining. Due to this lockdown, the air has become fresh and there is a decrease in pollution levels throughout the world. The lockdown is helping in bringing families, societies, nature closer to each other. So I believe that the death march of the virus can only be stopped with complete social isolation. Lockdown is not one of the options, it is the ONLY option.

Priyamvada Upadhyay, X-D

•The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 as a global pandemic on March 11, 2020. In India the first COVID case was reported on January 30, 2020. A nationwide lockdown was imposed from March 25, 2020. In my view it is imperative to control the spread of the virus and the best way to keep the public indoors. In this way social distancing can also be implemented. As there is still no cure for this virus, lockdown is the best form of prevention. Therefore, I justify the lockdown.

Samuel Alvares, X-D

### *E-learning is the future of education*

COVID-19, as we all call it, is infecting the whole world these days. Due to the lockdown, all the schools, colleges, universities etc. are closed. So, all the educational institutions have been forced to take classes online so that education is not hampered. Some students find it easy as they don't have to go to school or college and transportation time is saved. It has various drawbacks as it gives strain to our eyes and there is no co-operative learning in the e-classes. If we aren't able to recover from this pandemic soon, I think e-learning will become the future of education.



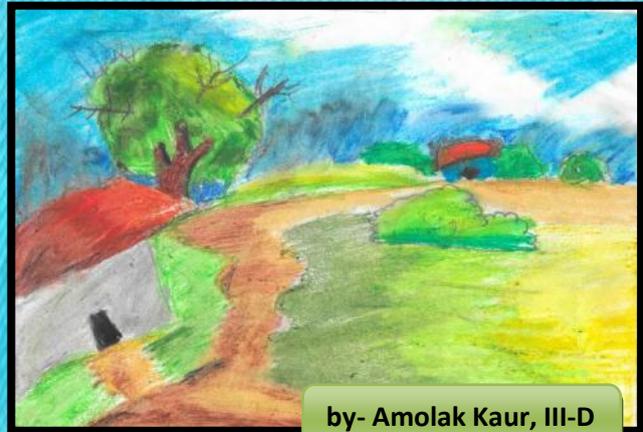
Ojas Thakurela, IX-C

### *Reversing the damage caused to Mother Earth*

I read somewhere that 'Earth has enough to satisfy everyone's need but not everyone's greed'. Is Mother Earth taking revenge or is she healing herself? She has suffered so much because of human activities and interference in the name of modern development. Many times we ignore her and become selfish. Only a few of us are sensitive towards nature. We have been destroying it through harsh actions- cutting down trees, polluting air and contaminating water. We forget that Earth does not belong

to us, we belong to Earth. Scientific development has helped us to live a comfortable life but human beings are full of greed. In the name of development we are playing with our ecosystem.

Mother Earth was so kind that she was bearing with us but now the line has been crossed. She needed this healing period. During this COVID-19 lockdown period, nature has given us time to think and rectify our mistakes. With vehicles off the roads, pollution levels are at a refreshing low. With lesser harmful emissions or blaring horns, there is no air or noise pollution to cause us discomfort. The sky is clear



by- Amolak Kaur, III-D

and with no factory waste seeping in, the water bodies have heaved a sigh of relief and are cleaner than ever. I wish we all understand what nature is demanding from us and do something for our planet now.

Saiesha Barera, IX- C

### ***Social distancing-the new normal***

Home is a shelter from storms-all sorts of storms”, said William Bennet. In the present scenario, it is so apt. Social distancing also known as ‘Physical distancing’ means keeping around 6-feet distance between two individuals. It helps limit opportunities to come in contact with contaminated surfaces and infected people outside the home. It is a tool public health officials recommend to slow the spread of the epidemic. If we comply with the practice of social distancing, the rate of COVID-19 cases will fall down and the rate of recovery will increase and in some months this deadly pandemic will be over. Staying home can help us to closely connect with our near and dear ones. It is actually a time for introspection, relaxation and building a better world. Don’t let social distance lead to emotional distance. Reach out, open up, let people in your life. We may not be able to be physically with each other right now, but we can certainly stay emotionally connected.

Shaurya Diwan, VI-A

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## LOCKDOWN - FUN WITH FAMILY

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic & lockdown, we are not able to move around and are confined to our homes. It's really a testing time for the entire world. But for me it's a blessing in disguise as I've got an opportunity to spend this time with my entire family and learn many new things. I generally wake up early in the morning and practise some exercises, yoga and meditation with my father and younger brother. I attend my online classes on a digital platform named Zoom which generally continue for 2 hours, sometimes I study through Byju's- an online educational programme, which is quite interesting and informative. I have learned a handful of recipes of some healthy snacks and often help my mother and grandmother in the kitchen. I play only indoor games like chess, carrom, ludo, Business etc. and get a good competition from my younger brother. That's how my day goes with a lot of learning, activities and fun. I wish we will come out stronger in the post COVID-19 phase.

Vibhor Gupta, VII- B

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## EMBRACING A NEW LIFESTYLE

One boring day during lockdown, I felt that I was wasting my precious time in sleeping and watching TV. Suddenly my mom's saying "Health is wealth" flashed in my mind and I got up from my bed, cursing myself for not taking care of my health. I made a resolution of getting up early and walking in my garden bare feet on the green grass (which my granny

always has told me to do). I also decided to start doing "yoga" as we all know that "A healthy mind resides in a healthy body".

I love to have junk food. So I decided to change my eating habits as well. I switched to healthy food like sprouts, greens, fruits, nuts etc. This I felt would boost my immunity to fight "Corona". I also decided to lend a helping hand to my mother in the kitchen work, cleaning



the house and gardening and believe me, I started loving gardening as my mom taught me various activities like how to make a fairy garden, prepare pots, propagate plants and water them.

All these activities helped me to come out of my boredom and brought me close to nature. I realized that once you feel good and healthy from inside you start doing good things to others also. This lockdown I also helped a needy person whom I found near my home. He was an old and poor man with no belongings, so I looked after him and in return got lots of blessings. Since animals too require to be looked after and cared for, I try to give them as much love and care as I can. Now I can proudly say that I am feeling very good and am in a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being.

Aadrika Bhargava, VIII- A

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## REALISATION

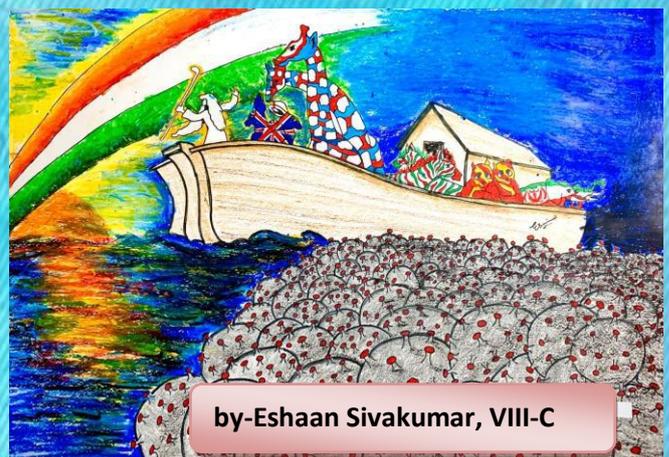
Nobody could ever imagine that a virus would make us helpless and just block us inside our houses - a country of 1.35 billion people locked inside their houses! Do you know that train services that started in India in 1853 had to be stopped for the first time because of this pandemic. The scientists of the whole world are trying to make a vaccine to cure people but till now they have not been successful. People are working from their homes and facing financial crisis. Children are missing their friends. The atmosphere has changed. Delhi has a clearer sky now and the ozone layer is healing now.

Aarush Ganjoo, VIII- A

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## MOTHER EARTH IS HEALING

This summer has been more pleasant than the previous one as nature is healing itself from the harsh treatment it has received from us, the humans. But because of the lockdown period, we have given nature time to renew its components. All the animals and birds are happy with the silent environment. One can hear the birds chirping away merrily till late evenings, feeling free in the air that is lighter and cleaner than ever. The jay makes answers as the magpie chatters. The ozone hole has also started healing because of less pollution and the weather has been pleasant throughout spring and starting of summer. My humble request to all the people of this world is to maintain the same peace always.



by-Eshaan Sivakumar, VIII-C

Eshaan Sivakumar , VIII-C

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## LIFE IS A TEST

Life is a test and all the trials that we face, make us stronger and better. We need to see the stars we have in our sky. But we are never grateful for what we have. Just imagine a person without hands or legs sitting on a wheelchair, a homeless child sleeping outside in the cold or a penniless man struggling to fulfil his family's needs. Despite having everything we are still not happy.

We face good and bad incidents but there are some which may deform our body but transform our soul. They teach us to realize the importance of everything we have.

Therefore, we shouldn't wait for the day when we will have nothing to be grateful for and accept ourselves the way we are. Only then will the world recognise us. Let's be grateful for what we have.

Gunika Bakshi, VIII-C



## LOCKDOWN IS FAMILY FUN

Monotony and dullness are the words which describe my days during this lockdown. These days of my life are the dullest days as there is nothing to learn especially about sports which I miss a lot. During this crisis, I felt that our studies would be hampered but even in these hard times our school has taken the initiative to teach students through online classes as they are major outlets of communication even at micro levels. But there is a positive side of this lockdown too. I could discover my hidden talents like cooking and assisting my mother in household work. I am also able to spend a good time with my family, especially my father who is usually very busy during normal days. The bond between me and my family has strengthened. I also realized that less is more and we can be happy and satisfied even with fewer resources. The lockdown is a great step taken by our honourable Prime Minister to fight this pandemic. As responsible citizens, we can show our gratitude to our nation by following the rules and staying home.

Anamik Chhabra, IX-B

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## MEMORIES

This lockdown period has given each of us a lot of time to be with ourselves. Sometimes, in the course of our hectic daily lives, we don't understand the value of a moment or person until it becomes a memory. I did a lot of introspection during this time and realized that we survive on our memories.

Be it your first crush, that one specific birthday, one embarrassing moment or the graduation day, the list is endless. Scrolling down the memory lane, one is bound to feel nostalgic. Little things about people, who we might have lost during this journey, are left permanently embedded in our memory drives. We should remember that nothing lasts forever, not even our pain. Even the worst pain we're going through will heal eventually. It's not bad to take time to reminisce about our past. Looking back, we can rethink and make better decisions in our future.

Bhavya Agarwal, X- D

## STAYING FIT

Nowadays we all are working and studying from our homes. This can make our immune system weak and we may feel tired, flabby or lazy. So the solution to this is that we should plan our day and find time to do some body and mind exercises. 30 minutes a day would be sufficient. Add setubandhasana and kapalbhati to the list. Our school has started workout sessions which are really beneficial and I look forward to them. We should also make sure that we eat sufficient vegetables daily, drink ample water and take a good sleep. Stay home, stay safe.

Arnav Kaushik, X-B

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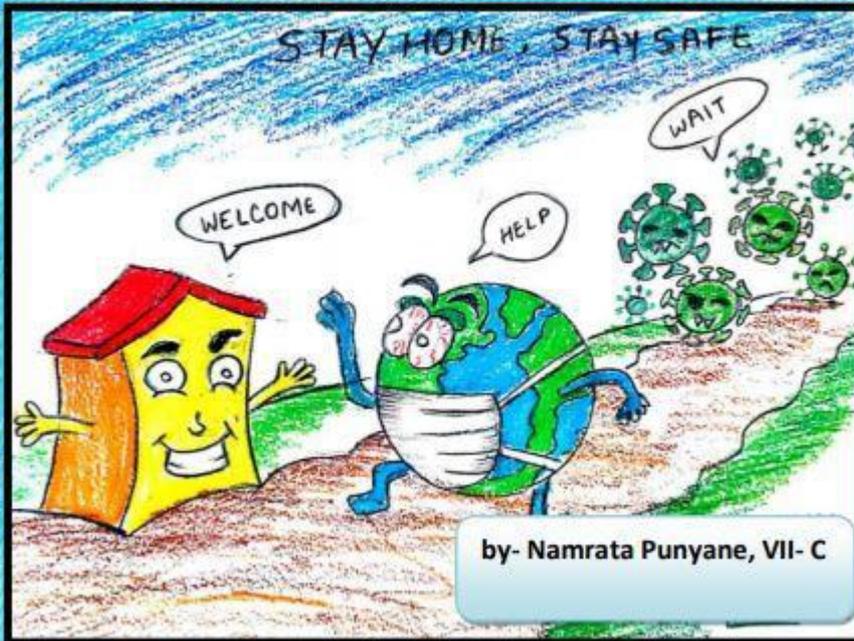
## EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING

LOCKDOWN- Earlier this word was not vastly used and most of us might not have known its meaning too. We and the word 'lockdown' have just become best friends. It's that friend who has irritated us but on the other hand, taught us new things and made us think out-of-the-box.

In the initial phase of the lockdown the streets stood eerily quiet and still. However the pandemic has unlocked a great outpouring of creativity for us.

Nobody imagined that such a scenario would exist. But it has opened the windows for us to do the things that we could not do because of lack of time. Families have started coming together and spending quality time with each other. Personally, my family members are able to spend maximum time with each other and we share and exchange our thoughts on a particular topic which has resulted in great understanding amongst us.

This lockdown has brought a great change in me as well. And the change is because of the time I spend with myself. I am working hard on enhancing my speaking skills as well as following my passion "DANCE" which was not possible in the past. Not only me but my



mom and even my dad have converted my home into a restaurant by preparing delicious dishes. I LOVE IT!!!! It's not the end here. Even my friends and near and dear ones have started finding new ways of interacting with each other that they had never thought of in the past.

From cleaner air to liberated wildlife, corona virus lockdown across the world appears to have had a number of positive effects on the environment. Modern life, as we all know, has largely been put to a pause with millions of us cooped up indoors as the government is trying to control the spread of COVID-19, but outside, the natural world continues to rumble on and even show signs of recuperating.

Nowadays we can actually feel the fresh air and see different kinds of bird chirping around that we were longing to see earlier. Apart from all this, a major change that is heard these days is that our ozone layer has started healing which was badly damaged because of pollution in the environment.

We had heard that "Being human is giving but keeping our humanity is a choice.", and nowadays we can see this choice of humanity in our citizens. People are taking care of the less privileged, contributing as much as they can and proving that we humans are a big family.

Well, I know it's not much fun to be stuck at home but there are some simple and unexpected pleasures that we have to find out. Remember "Every cloud has a silver

lining."If right now we are covered with dark clouds, we will surely soon have a bright and sunny morning. Just enjoy this time with your family and stay safe.

Harshita Tiwari, X- C

## LOADS OF LESSONS TO LEARN

The world as I knew it ended the day our government enforced "lockdown".

Then started a different life, whole days at home with an elder brother, parents and grandparents for company. Of course the internet and TV are what really saved the family from irritating each other after some time. Not having a maid around (must say we had a pretty easy life in the pre-pandemic days) meant endless rounds of helping out in cooking, dusting, washing up etc. Never before had I realized that there was so much work to be done at home. This realization pleased my mom very much.

After a few days had gone by, of course the schools realized that we were missing out on education and decided to use the same technology which was getting used for entertainment for our education and "Zoom!!", we were into virtual classrooms and tuitions.

During the lockdown period I also noticed that

- stars do twinkle
- birds have a social circle
- a neelgai loves to explore the empty streets
- monkeys, even though being our predecessors, are not under lockdown
- and I finally learned to do "nothing" well.

Now that my over extended lockdown (appeared for my tenth boards this year so I was in lockdown before the lockdown) has entered phase 3, let me see how many more lessons it has in store for me.

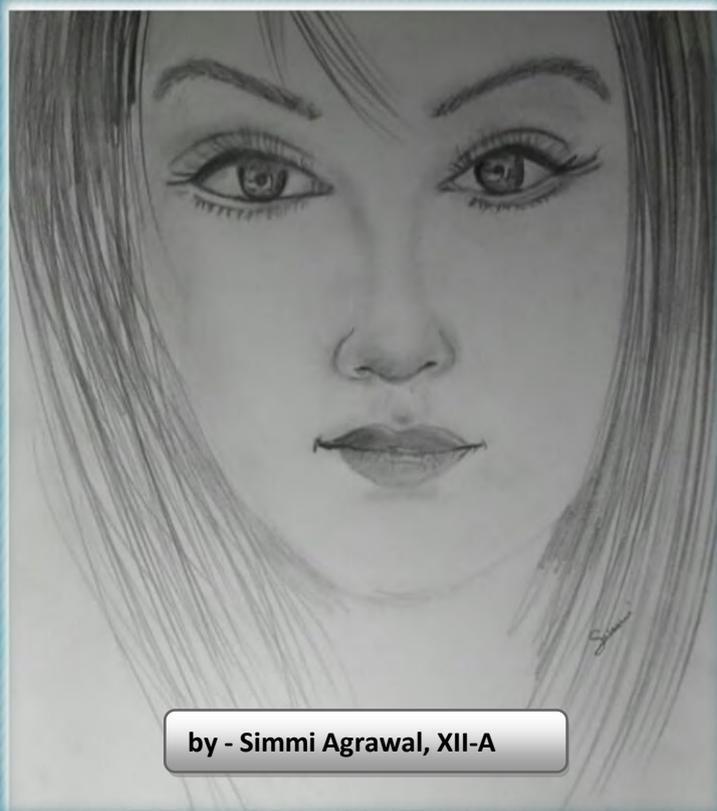
Kartik Trakroo, XI- A



## TO USE TECHNOLOGY THE RIGHT WAY IS IN THE HANDS OF THE YOUTH TODAY

We live in the age of technology. It enables us to do anything we want in a jiffy. We can learn anything on the internet. Because of the huge net platform a lot of people have launched their start-ups and many new companies have grown. People can become online bloggers, sell their products online and it is a great source of entertainment. It also

includes machines and gadgets which make our work easier and save time.



by - Simmi Agrawal, XII-A

The world is hit by the deadly virus COVID-19. All the schools , offices, shops etc. are closed. People are quarantined in their house and are practicing social distancing, but then it is technology which has enabled people worldwide to still work from home and the students to study and keep learning with the help of their teachers through various platforms. What better example of the benefit of technology than as seen in this time of worldwide pandemic !

Technology empowers us but with great power comes great responsibility. We must remember

to use it wisely. The far reaching benefits of advancement in technology have brought a great lot of opportunities for the youth. It has opened a new platform where people can do anything that they want, be anything that they want. It's in our hands how to use it.

The youth is any nation's power. It is from the youth that great leaders emerge to build a nation's future. We need to understand that excess of anything is bad. We must use the technology available to us to the fullest not rely on it totally. It is the need of the hour to teach young adults and children how to use technology in a more productive way,

In a nutshell, I would like to conclude that "Technology will not replace great teachers but technology in hands of great teachers can be transformational".

Simmi Agrawal, XII- A

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## WE WILL BE BACK TO OUR BEST SELVES SOON

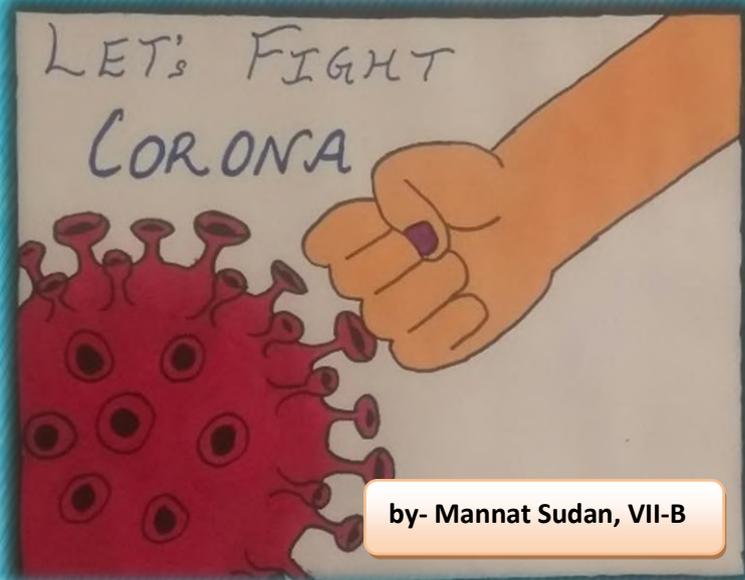
Life is a fingerprint that cannot be duplicated. It has no holiday and no pause button and may be due to this fact we people run after money throughout our life and forget the people who are actually concerned about us. We build a house and design it inch by inch according to our comfort and likes. But today when we all are locked in our homes, we have started feeling depressed. We need to realise that this is the right time to sit with our parents and grandparents, the ones who have given their all to make us what we are today and listen to their childhood stories. This is the right time to explore our hidden talents, help our parents in the kitchen, play games that we usually don't rather than operating gadgets all the time.

Earth provided us with all the resources that we needed not only to survive but also to fulfil our unnecessary demands and in return we only polluted it. Today due to the pandemic, nature has got an opportunity to revive itself. The air quality has improved, the ozone layer is fixing itself, rivers are getting cleaner etc.

It is not a time to waste but to enjoy the most with our beloved family members, make the best memories of life and face this time with a positive attitude. Let's appreciate the efforts of our fighters- be it the police officers, military forces and last but not the least, our medical and hygiene staff. Let's show our unity and remember that the world is closed for renovation. Grand opening will be soon.

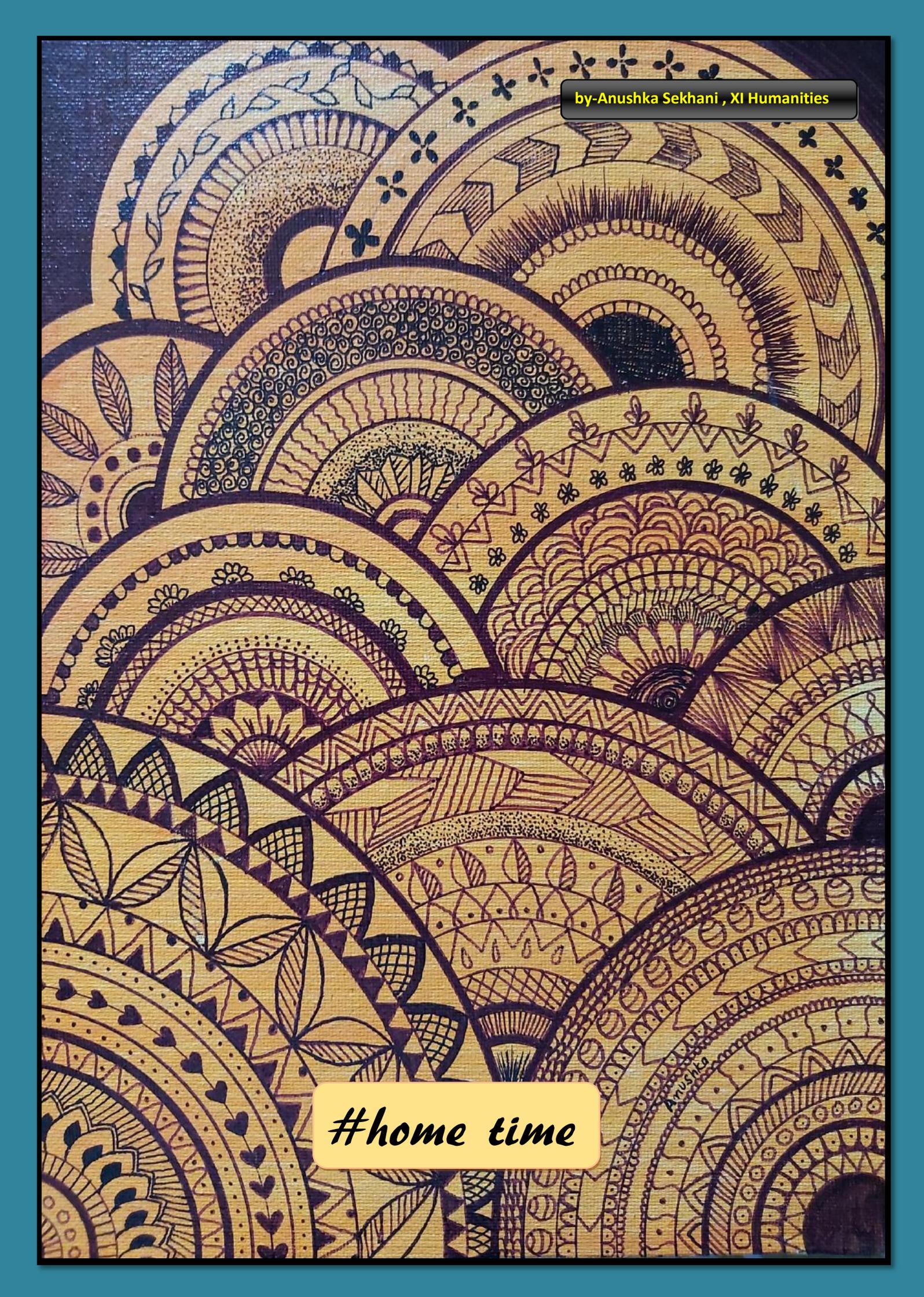
Chahat Gupta, XII- D

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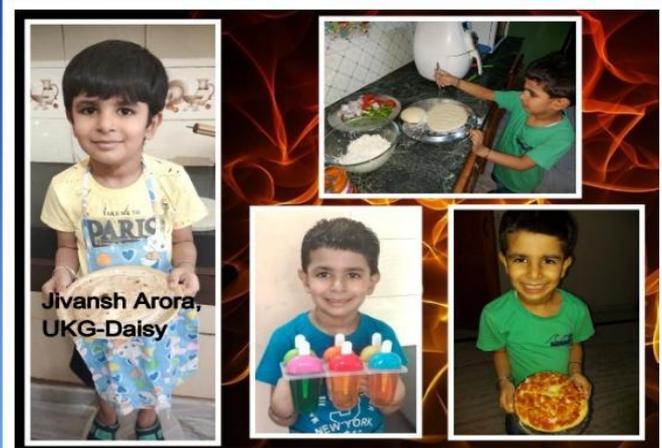
by- Mannat Sudan, VII-B





by-Anushka Sekhani , XI Humanities

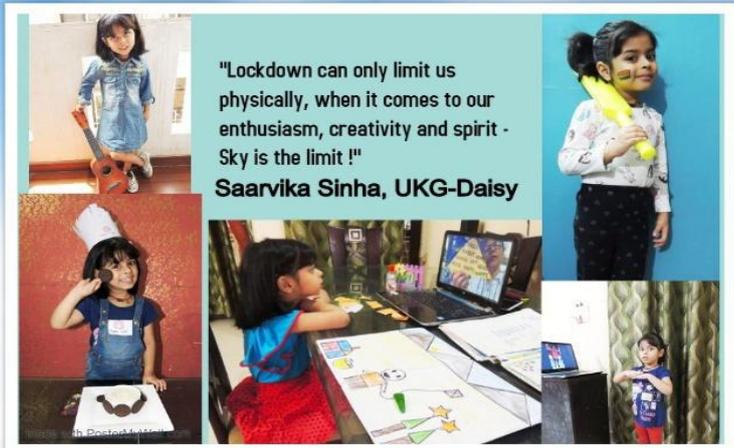
#home time



Jivansh Arora,  
UKG-Daisy



Yuvaan Tewatia, LKG-Rose



"Lockdown can only limit us physically, when it comes to our enthusiasm, creativity and spirit - Sky is the limit!"  
Saarvika Sinha, UKG-Daisy



Mokshi Garg, UKG-Sunflower



Karunya Kapoor, I-Gerbera



Atharva Bhargav, I-Gulmohar



Shivanya Kaushal, I-Jacaranda

# Little chef Nitya



Making Mango shake



Bread & Butter Preparation



Preparing oreo shake



Nitya Dhingra, I-Palash

## Lockdown Says Lock Yourself In & Unlock Your Skills



Amaira Guliani, I-Jacaranda



Radhika Awasthi, II-Daffodil



Dhaanik & Dhvanit Arora, II-Plumeria

Aanya Khurana, II-Geranium



Shivansh Sharma, II-Plumeria

Rayaansh Behl, II-Plumeria





Tanish Jangra, III-D

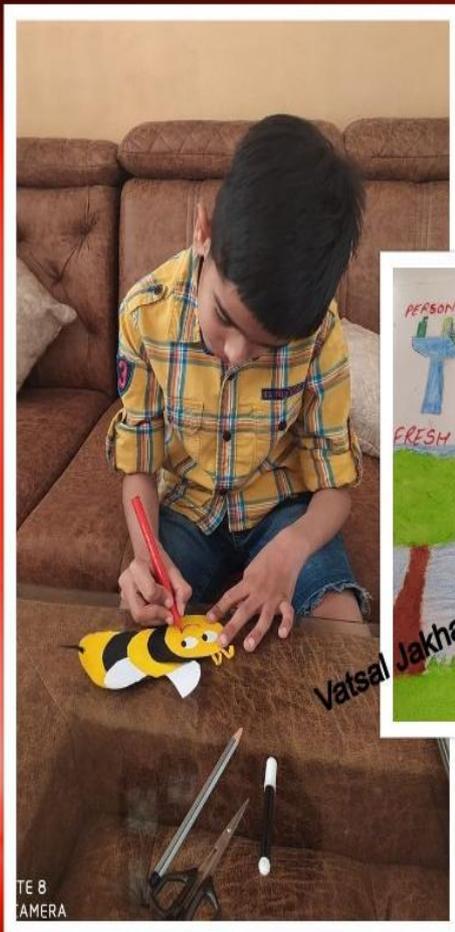


Abhigyaan Pandey, III-A

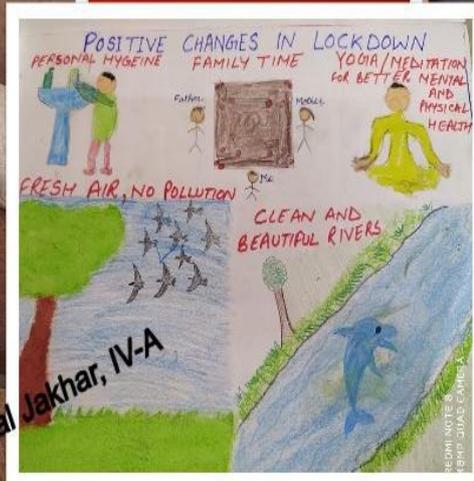
Dhruvish Sankhyan, III-D



S.D.Sai Kartik,III-C



Vatsal Jakhhar, IV-A



Jiya Kansara, IV-A





Aarna Thakurela, IV-A



R. Akilandeswari, IV-D



Manasvi Bhandari, IV-A





Rishika Khosla, IV-A



Aradhya Senapati, III-A



Saransh Jha, VI-B



Tysha Bhagotra, VI-C





Divyansh Makharria, VII-C

Tamanna Goel, VII-A



Chavi & Utsav Mathur, VII-C & X-D



**Kriti Kaushesh, X-B**



**Deeptanshu Saxena, X-B**



**Tanishka Raj, XII-C**

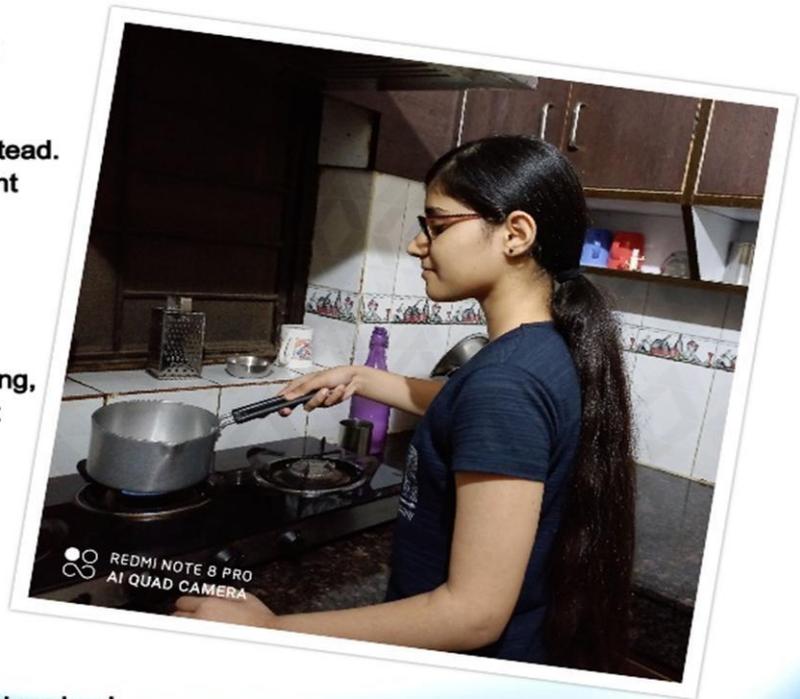


by-Simmi Agrawal, XII-A

*#wordsworth*

## WITHOUT STEPPING OUT

Oh! It's been a month already,  
"No, it's been around three."  
I laugh, as a little voice in my head  
Slowly speaks to me.  
But then I push the thought aside  
And ask what could have been instead.  
Sleeping all day and talking all night  
To the little voice in my head.  
But does it have to be like this?  
I am thinking open eyed,  
I'll turn this time into bliss  
With high spirits I decide.  
Then start cleaning, painting, singing,  
Dancing, cooking, and working out  
All of this has been done  
Even without stepping out.  
A little calmer, a little better  
I am now, all around;  
All thanks to this time  
A new me I have found.  
All this time, after all,  
Has not been so blue  
Months later, laughing with friends in school,  
I hope this thought comes to you.



Sharvani Sharma, X-D

## WIN OVER CORONA

Once a virus named Corona  
Struck us really bad.  
How it all happened  
No one knew, but it was rather sad.  
Everyone was crying  
As people were dying.  
Then our PM Modi came.  
He asked us to stay at home and light a flame.  
To save our country India  
He closed all the gyms and cafeterias.  
We are all locked up at home  
To protect ourselves from infection and bacteria.  
Thank you, PM Modi, you make us really proud.  
We thank the doctors and the armed forces  
For their precious hours.  
You deserve all our love and respect  
And the shower of all flowers.  
As I end this poem letter  
I wish that the world is going to get better.



by-Kriti Kaushesh, X-B

Lakshita Singh, V-B

## THE BEAUTIFUL WHITE MOON

Bathing the streets in molten silver  
Glow the beautiful white moon.  
Shining through the wheat stalks  
Whispers the white moonlight.  
Its many incomprehensible secrets  
Each one wilder than the last.  
Beautiful and ecstatic, the moon waxes  
Till at last it turns into a sparkling white orb.  
The orb then plays with the ground,  
In the form of silver shadows.  
In this form the moon plays,  
Till at last it breathes  
Its last silver breath  
Before disappearing behind the dark clouds.  
Then the black night ends  
And through the clouds shines the sun.  
But still, in the sky  
Glow the beautiful white moon  
Waiting for its turn and night to return.



Tanishka Virmani, XII-C

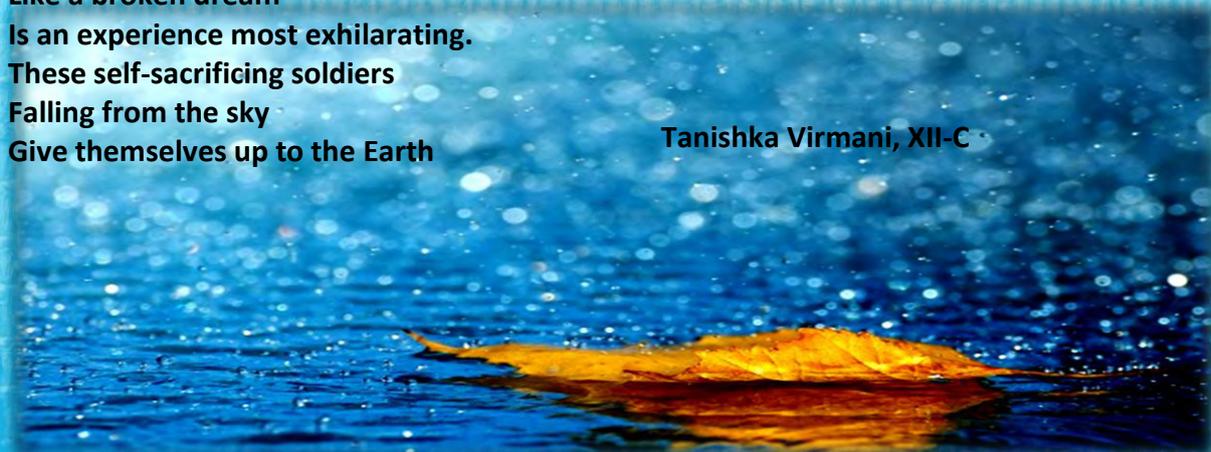
## THE RAIN FALLS

Eternal, the rain falls  
Like pearly tears, dripping  
From the eyes of the clouds.  
Those tiny droplets-  
They shine like newly  
Polished blades!  
The impact when they  
Meet the ground  
That shatters them  
Into tiny invisible particles  
Like a broken dream  
Is an experience most exhilarating.  
These self-sacrificing soldiers  
Falling from the sky  
Give themselves up to the Earth

And ask for nothing in return.  
The sky, on losing its comrades,  
Proclaims their departure  
With a booming roll of thunder  
And a flash of spectacular lightning.

These soldiers go into oblivion  
To be reborn again.  
To complete the life cycle-  
The rain falls again.

Tanishka Virmani, XII-C



## THE NEED OF THE HOUR

We all may take pledges,  
But there is no one to follow.  
What we were just doing till now  
Was making our Mother Earth full of  
sorrow.

Her distress led the world  
Towards the vicious pandemic.  
Oh! Brothers, believe  
This is not something epic.  
Just take a pledge with me,  
Oh please, for our Earth's sake.  
I believe you would follow it,  
I don't want her heart to break.



Just imagine a world  
Which is pollution free,  
Where green and fresh  
Are the grass and the tree.  
Oh yes!!  
So will I.  
I'll save and protect her,  
Till I die.  
Oh do plant a sapling,  
Or maybe a tree.  
May she be delightful,  
And carbon free.

Arnav Kaushik, X-B

## THE VIRUS OF FEAR

The virus of fear is spreading everywhere.

Corona is a knife.

If slightly mishandled,

It can take our life.

Surely abide by the rules,

Otherwise....

We will not be able to enjoy school.

No parties with our best friends,

Neither the starting nor the end.

Corona virus has brought disease  
But chilling at home will give you peace.

Corona virus is like a funny clown

Carrying a toy knife,

Making people's ships drown.

Don't bother, whatever people say,

Just stay at home and enjoy your day.

We are the ones who can control our lives,

Thinking positive will give you good vibes.

The way the sun makes us warm

We believe Corona will do us no harm.

A movie can make our day,

No buying junk and no need to pay.

The lockdown has made us feel bored

But still, keep your cool and find joy

By playing with your favourite toy.



Divyanshi Pandey, VI-D

## MOTHER'S DAY

Mother. What a creature she is!  
Teaches her child to be  
Better than she is.  
She is beautiful, she is wise,  
And you'll find love in her eyes.

But do we love her every day?  
In today's social world,  
A mother is loved,  
Only on Mother's Day.  
Her photo on a story, on a post  
And on a status wall,  
Wishing everyone Happy Mother's Day, y'all.

But a mother loves you every day.  
Therefore, Mother's Day must be every day.  
She is a symbol of  
Love, power and sacrifice.  
And no power in this world could ever suffice  
A mother's love for her child.  
She will love you forever and ever  
Everyday.  
Therefore, Mother's Day is every day.

Navtesh Sharma, XI Science

## MOM

God could not be everywhere  
So he made moms  
Who could be there every day  
To love and hug and care.

Moms are there to share your tears  
And laugh with you in your joy.  
They help you face all your fears  
And hold you till you can fly.

Thank you, mom, for teaching me  
To respect, love and care.  
Your warmth and smile are what have turned  
Our house into a home.

So thank you God, for having made  
This masterpiece called Mom,  
So she could love and care for the  
Masterpiece she has made  
Which happens to be me.

Kartik Trakroo, XI Science



## MOM - MY HEART AND SOUL



Dear Mom, to you I owe my existence,  
From you I can never be at a distance.  
You've always shown me the way,  
Held me with love every night and day.  
You've taught me right and wrong,  
In every situation you made me strong.  
You took care of me whenever I was sick,  
For all my problems, you have the perfect fix.  
You cushioned me when I would fall,  
Being there whenever I would call.  
You've always kept me secure  
And made me confident and mature.  
Without you, I'd be lost and wandering.  
For all my mistakes, you were forgiving.  
I look at you and my heart comes to realize  
Without you my life wouldn't materialize.  
Mom, I wish I had words to tell,  
How all my sorrows you dispel.  
Oh mom! You are my heart and my soul,  
With you my life is complete and whole.  
I love you, mom, all my days  
For enriching my life in so many ways.

Anushka Sekhani, XI Humanities

## MOTHER - A CONSTANT COMPANION



In my childhood at night  
When I would shout in fright  
My mother was always there.  
I loved it when  
She used to braid my hair,  
Times when she used to share  
All her love and care,  
Times when she cooked just for me  
And then we used to play in glee,  
Times when she sung me to sleep,  
Times when she sent me to school  
And I started to weep.  
Oh mother! The thought of losing you  
Makes me sad.  
Without you everything looks bad.  
Oh mother! I always want you for me  
'Cause I just love the paranthas you make  
With butter and ghee.

Arshleen Sodhi, XII-C

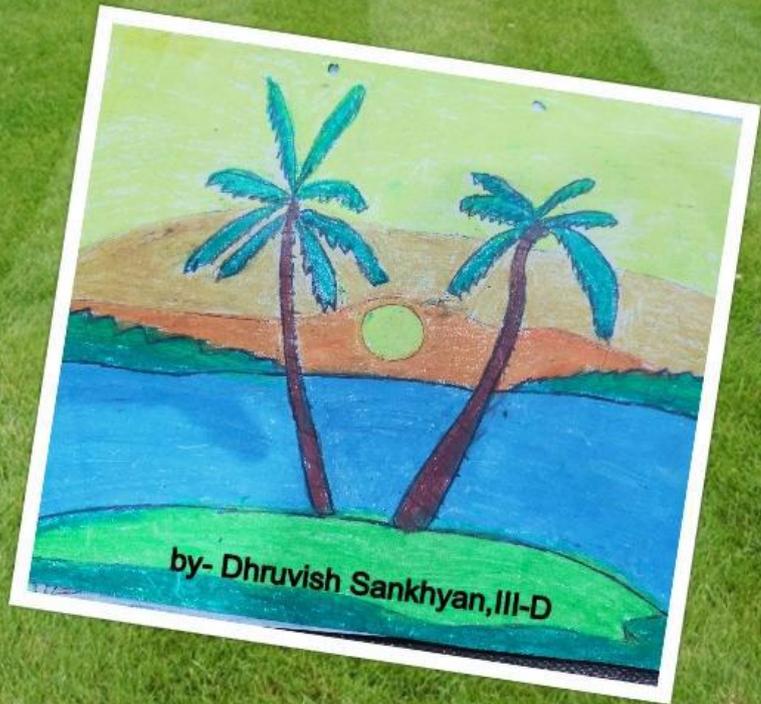
## SAVE NATURE

We should save nature  
To save our future.  
We need a solution for pollution.  
Petrol and diesel should be low  
And CNG should flow.

Do your best to save the nest.  
Until you save it do not rest.

Greenery will grow, rivers will flow.  
Grow more trees to get cool breeze.  
Flowers are beautiful.  
They make the world look wonderful.

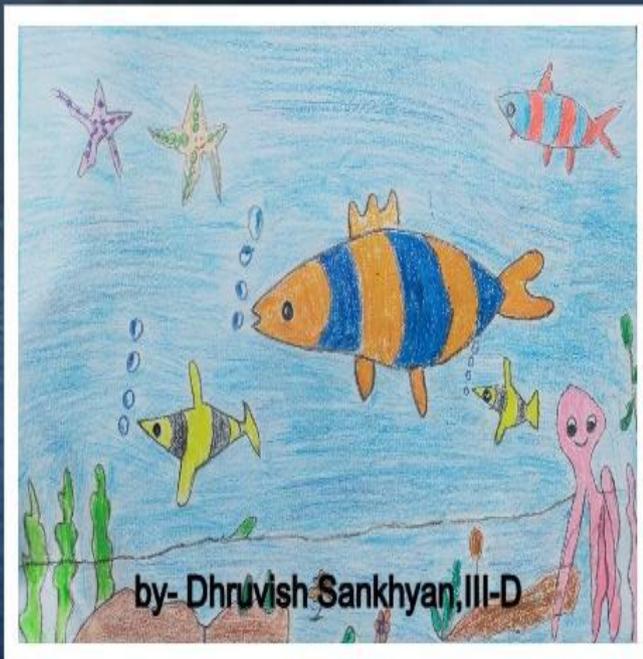
Tanish Jangra, III-D

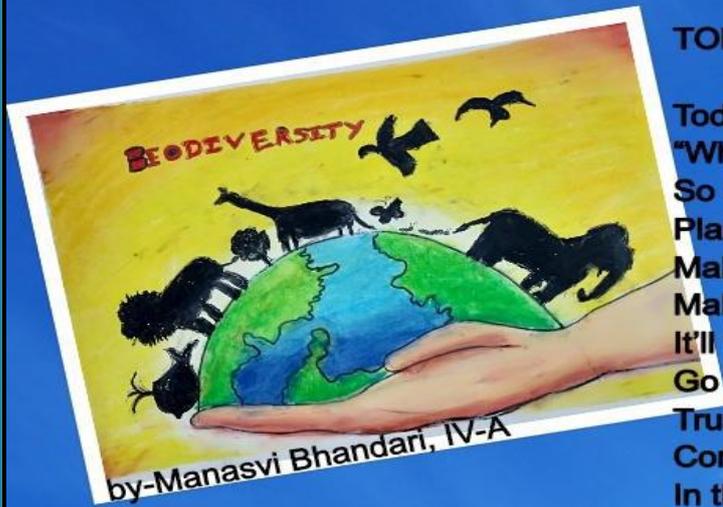


## OUR BEAUTIFUL LAND

You save nature and nature will save you.  
There are some things which everybody can do.  
Neither too young, nor too old,  
To save nature, right?  
So let's come together to fight.  
Save electricity to have lights in your city.  
Do afforestation for the next generation.  
Save water fit to drink  
Or it will be finished before you blink.  
Follow carpool to decrease pollution.  
Believe me, it is the best solution!!!  
Save nature, it's a request to all,  
Or no one will be there when you fall.

Smridhi Chadha, VIII-C





## TODAY IS EARTH DAY

Today is Earth Day.

"What should we do then?" you might say.

So here's what you can do today-

Plant a tree,

Make the environment pollution free.

Make compost out of biodegradable waste.

It'll take a lot of time, so please don't make haste.

Go for a car pool,

Trust me, it's very cool.

Control air pollution by such ways

In these allotted seven earth days.

Save fuel and electricity,

Don't allow global warming,

Or it'll also be warm in the morning.

Don't waste water,

Or there'll be a catastrophe, a sudden disaster.

Be good to Mother Nature,

Then you'll have a good, pleasant future.

Eshaan Sivakumar , VIII- C



## OUR PLEDGE

O my Mother Earth!

We love you so much.

Please forgive us that

We misunderstood your worth.

You are our dear mother.

We promise that we will not pollute you.

You give us food and shelter.

We salute ' you. '

We will grow more trees.

We will make you green.

We will reduce pollution and

Make you the queen.

Noor Jawa, VII-B

by- Jiya Gupta, VIII-C

*#the storyteller*

## THE HAUNTED HOUSE

It was a quiet, peaceful December evening. We were all in our old family room. It was a chilly evening. A cold mist hung over the garden and we felt cosy as we sat in the room heated by a fire. Grandma was wrapped up in a T.V. serial. Grandpa was reading a book. Daddy was absorbed in a newspaper and humming a lively gypsy tune while Mom was reading a book by Ernest Hemingway. Harimoti, the house-help and I were playing a gruelling game of chess. My baby sister, Stuti, was playing with her doll.

Suddenly my father looked up from his newspaper, his eyes sparkling. He said in an excited tone, "Do you want to go for a tour?" My baby sister squealed with joy and I jumped up in excitement, upsetting our game. Daddy continued, "Let us go to Taki. I will book a house there for us to stay for a few days." Mom smiled, "Harimoti can accompany us." Harimoti protested, "No, I can't. Who will take care of the house in your--" But she couldn't finish her sentence. Young Stuti had clasped the fringe of her sari. She said in her sweet voice, "Don't protest, Hari di. I'd love to have you with us." Harimoti, looking reluctant, said slowly, "Ok, if you insist...I will." I gave her a smile. Harimoti was our help. She was twenty, I was ten. Stuti and I called her Hari di.

We boarded the train to Taki on the afternoon of 18th December. The journey would take two and a half hours. Mom shut her eyes. Dad decided to sit down and listen to some music. But we three youngsters did not want to laze around. So until it got dark, we looked at the view outside. Then Harimoti read a book while Stuti and I did a crossword puzzle together. It was a joyful ride. We reached Taki all tired and dirty. My father took a taxi and we soon reached a dimly lit driveway. An old man stood at the gate. He was nearly seventy, I think, and his hair was grey. He had dark eyes and he wore an old, patched overcoat, dirty trousers and cracked shoes. He said in a decidedly hoarse and feeble voice, "Mr. Maiti, and family, I guess?" he asked. Daddy nodded his head in reply. "Welcome to 'Sajhghar'. I am Rabindra Kanji. My ancestors built this house." "Namaskar, Rabin babu. Please show us our rooms," said Daddy. The man gestured to us to follow him. We walked on the road under the thick foliage. I glanced at the garden. It all seemed very eerie to me. Rabin babu led the way, talking about his family history. "See that temple over there, Mr. Maiti? That was built by my great-grandfather, Suren Kanji- a fine man he was but a superstitious one. Ah! Those days of my childhood, when we were still zamindars!" He babbled on. He said he had a wife who was dead and a son who lived in Germany. I got bored and looked around myself. The garden was big and forbidding. An owl hooted making me jump out of my skin. The house loomed up before me. I had an uncanny feeling that someone was next to me.

Soon we reached the house. Rabin babu pushed open the door, and led us into an enormous hall. We went through a narrow corridor and soon reached a big and magnificent living room. It was lavishly furnished. Lanterns hung from the walls. Stern pictures of various lords and pretty pictures of ladies were displayed. One such was Rabin babu's great-grandmother, Nilima Kanji. Her picture was exceptionally beautiful. It was decorated with finely carved roses and leaves. Daddy relaxed on an armchair and Mom made herself cosy on a settee. Stuti snuggled on the carpet with her doll. Harimoti and I sat idly, taking in our surroundings. Rabin babu said, shattering the silence, "If you want something to read...", he leaned over and pressed a button. A huge room filled with books was revealed. Mom and I went in to find some books. Rabin babu came in and asked, "Do you want snacks?" "No thanks, Rabin babu. We would like dinner shortly but some tea and biscuits for my wife and me first", Daddy answered. "As you say, sir", said Rabin babu. He shuffled away.

Suddenly the house started shaking. The lanterns blew out and the room became pitch black. I reached out my hand to Stuti's which she took. I squeezed it reassuringly. A cold wind was blowing. It was quite unexpected. "Whatever is happening?" said Daddy.



by-Himakshi Saroha,VI-C

"Don't know, Daddy." I answered, shouting, because the wind had risen. The wind soon stopped. The lanterns switched on just like magic. The unmistakable smell of lavender perfume drifted over to our room. This soon died away. It was followed by a clatter of steel crockery. "Go away, will you? How many times did I tell you to go?" came Rabin babu's voice from the kitchen. "Rabin babu's having trouble in the kitchen, I think", said Mom, mildly. We settled ourselves. I couldn't for the life of me understand why this had happened. Rabin babu came in. He placed the tea down. "Dinner will be ready in another half an hour", he announced. "Rabin babu, whom were you talking to?" I asked. He looked surprised and said, "Why, no one Khuki (small girl)." He hurried away. I couldn't help feeling that this behaviour was mysterious. I was relieved to hear Stuti say, "He is getting more and more mysterious." It certainly meant that she had the same feelings as me.

Dinner over, Rabin babu took us to our rooms. Our luggage had been sent earlier. We had three rooms-one for Stuti and me, one for Harimoti and one for Mom and Daddy. Next to ours was Mom and Daddy's while across the landing was Harimoti's. Our room had a cosy bed, a window facing the garden with blue flower patterned curtains, two armchairs, a closet, a study table and a side table. It also had a joint washroom and a stone sink in one

corner. The room was painted a lovely red. We brushed our teeth and combed our hair and changed into our night clothes. Then we snuggled under the blankets. Mom came to tuck us in and say goodnight.



In the middle of the night, both of us were awakened by a sound coming from within our bedroom. Stuti and I opened our eyes at the same moment only to look at the source of the sound and let out shrieks of terror. A young woman of around 32-35 years with tousled dark hair on her face was sitting on the windowsill, a dagger driven into her chest. Her clothes, which were a simple blue sari and a white blouse were stained with blood. Her eyes were flaming red. She looked around and disappeared into thin air.

I leapt out of bed and brightened the lantern on the table. We took a few seconds to relax then dimmed it again. We burrowed ourselves deep into the

blanket. "Gosh!" exclaimed Stuti. "That was scary." "Oh much too scary, you know", I added in agreement. We clutched each other's hands for comfort and didn't know when we fell asleep.

When we woke up the next day, the episode of the previous night flooded our minds. We shivered at the thought. But we decided to keep quiet. "We'll see for another night," I said as we dressed. We went into the dining room. Everybody was there. We sat down and helped ourselves to pancakes with maple syrup. "If we are to have meals like this, I shan't mind the ghost," said Stuti. "Just wait till night", I answered.

The day passed slowly. We ate, read, played, roamed and did everything normally. But as night descended on us, the atmosphere began to feel eerie. Stuti whispered in my ear, "Di bhai, I am dreading tonight. It seems that the woman is watching us." "Same here, Stuti. Don't worry, I'll take care of you", I whispered back.

As we entered our room, a gust of wind nearly blew us over. I clutched the bed with one hand and with the other caught Stuti. In front of us was that same young woman. She asked in a whisper, "Are you not scared of coming to this room?" "No, but we want to know WHY you are haunting US?" I asked trying to appear confident. Stuti clung to me, shaking. I held her tightly and comforted her with a tight squeeze. "How dare you.....!"

said the woman and advanced over to poor Stuti who let out a scream. The woman vanished.

At the same moment, Mom, followed by Harimoti rushed into our room. Mom asked, "What happened? We heard Stuti's screams." We blurted out everything. Mom listened with a grim face. Then she said to Harimoti, "So, Harimoti, what do you think? Are you ready to sleep with them?" "Certainly, ma'am", Harimoti answered.

Late at night, both of us were awakened by an agonized shriek from Harimoti. We opened our eyes to see Harimoti writhing in pain. There were scars and burns all over her body. I jumped out of bed and screamed, "Hari di, Stuti, come on! Hold my hands. Let us get out of here." I picked up a lantern and we all ran out to Mom's room. Harimoti and I spent the night on armchairs and Stuti with Mom and Daddy.

We had a rather disturbed breakfast. There were drops of blood in the living room. When Rabin babu heard about what had happened, he said that we must have had a bad dream.

The five of us remained very silent throughout the day. Only Rabin babu kept a cheerful air. That night we were to sleep in Harimoti's room. We were glad. Daddy was to sleep in our room. We were anxious about him. The day passed as usual.

In the evening, Daddy went to light the lantern in our room. Suddenly, the door banged shut, imprisoning Daddy. We shouted, tried the door, but it did not budge.

After a while, a very white-faced Daddy opened the door. "We're going from here", he said. "Why?" asked Mom.

"I went in and lit the lantern when the door banged shut. I looked up to see a ghost !! She looked at me in a threatening way. She asked me, 'Why did you come here? Go away if you value your life,' whispered Daddy. "I am dead scared of her. I don't know why she did those awful things to Harimoti, Dyuti and Stuti. I think we should go away from here."

"But why did she attack you, Daddy?" I asked. "I don't know but I think Rabin babu does," said Daddy.

We approached him. "So, Rabin babu, tell us the truth about the ghost," said Mom sternly.

Rabin babu sat down and taking a deep breath started, "As you already know, there is no point hiding anything from you. My great grandfather, Late Surendranath Kanji, was a



wealthy man and being the grandson of Late Upendranath Kanji, the very person who built this estate, Surendranath led a life of leisure. He married a simple country girl, Nilima Das. After marriage he started drinking. That and the interference of his evil sister brought about his doom. He dearly wanted a son but when his wife gave birth to a baby girl, in a fit of rage he picked up a dagger and killed Nilima. Her spirit still seeks revenge. This girl, Harimoti resembles her sister-in-law. And Mr. Maiti is the splitting image of her husband. So now you understand?"

We left that day. We never returned. We were not, are not and shall never be keen to see Nilima Das Kanji.

Shreshtha Maiti, V-B

## GUILT

One September evening when Walter was returning home from the city after a hard day's work and was walking to his car in the station's parking lot, a man stepped out from between two cars and slapped him hard on the face.

Surely, a slap is enough to exasperate anyone, let alone someone who is in the noble medical profession. He was already an exhausted doc who just wanted his bed after a long day of attending to patients in the city's largest and most luxurious hospital, and what he got instead was a slap. Trying to maintain his calm, he asked, "Mister, why did you just do that?"

"Well, I slapped you... and I could slap you a thousand times and stab you to death, and I still won't feel happy", said the vexed man.

"Good Golly! What did I do to you? Why are you so upset with me?" said Walter, trying to sound as composed as possible.

"Well, you deserve it, you codswallop."

His accent certainly sounded very 'Northish'. Walter thought he was probably from Doncaster.



by-Dia Kakkar, VIII-C

**“Did you just call me a moron? Listen sir, I think you are mentally unstable and you know what - one more word and I am calling the police. Enough of you! And wait, what is your name, huh?”**

**“You don’t remember my name, eh, do you?” said the man.**

**“Of course not, why would I remember a lunatic?”**

**“I am Keats, Robin Keats? Do you still not remember me?”**

**“No, I don’t. I mean, I see hundreds of patients everyday..... Listen mate, I am knackered and I am heading to the restaurant for dinner. Would you fancy a cuppa?”**

**“Shut up, you birdbrain. You are a murderer. You killed my sister.” The man suddenly burst into tears.**

**“Remember Ruby Keats, my sister? You killed her. People say doctors are second Gods but you... you are a criminal. You must be hanged to death.”**

**Walter said, “ Listen, I know Ruby was a lovely girl but her heart could not be cured. You don’t understand.”**

**“Shut up! You told me that she could be cured because your bloody fancy hospital had all the facilities and her surgery would completely cure her. Not only this, she had died two days before her death was pronounced. You people were just trying to make money. That’s all. You took her away from me”, sobbed Robin who then started to beat Walter.**

**“Listen, the hospital said it would fire me if I didn’t do that. I was pressurized.” Walter tried to defend himself.**

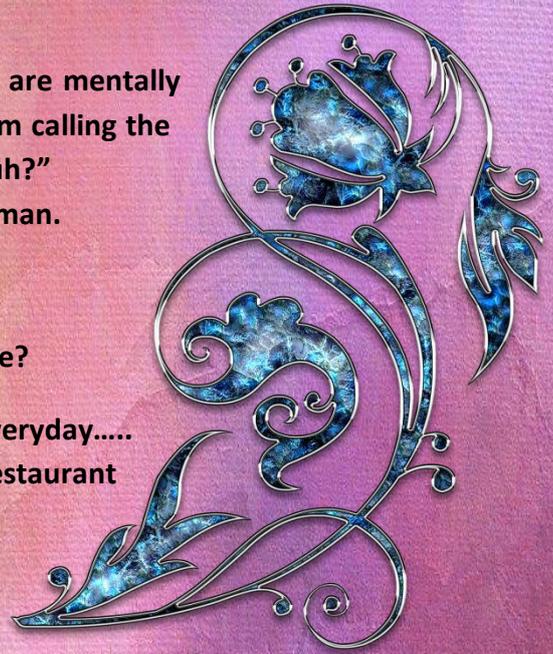
**Robin replied,” Is your job more important than a person’s life? You could have joined another hospital. Doctors like you are a shame to the Hippocratic Oath.”**

**Walter cried for help and some people took a crying Robin away.**

**Walter shook the dust off his coat, sat in his car and went home. That whole night, neither did he sleep nor did he eat.**

**The next day he started spreading posters for free medical checkup and consultancy at his home. He had decided that from now on he would not just focus on earning money, instead try to earn happiness by caring for the sick without emptying their pockets. He thought in that way he would be able to recover from his guilt.**

**Samidha Jha, X-A**



## A GREAT LESSON

It was 6 o'clock in the evening and there was a lot of traffic on the road. Rohit was driving his car when suddenly two teenagers on a bike overtook him at great speed. Rohit applied the brakes of his car in the nick of time. He was very angry but since he was getting late for an important meeting at his office, he ignored the bike riders and drove ahead.

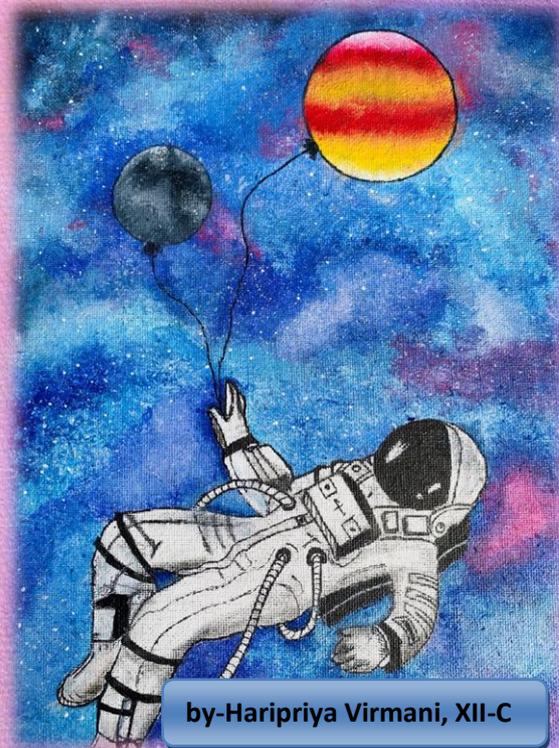
He hadn't gone too far when he heard a loud crash. A bike had crashed on the divider of the road. The rider had probably lost his balance. Rohit got out of his car quickly and rushed towards the accident scene. He could see the faces of the victims. They were the same teenagers who had overtaken his car. They were both riding without helmets and now they were bleeding profusely.

Rohit wasted no time. With the help of some passers-by, he picked them up and immediately took them to the nearby hospital in his car. He informed their family members using one of the boys' mobile. The timely treatment saved the lives of both the boys who were ashamed of their actions after meeting Rohit. He forgave them and advised them to follow the traffic rules as they are meant for people's safety. They promised not to drive until they were eighteen.

Varun Piplani, VIII- A

## A SPACESHIP ON EARTH

Last Sunday when I was watching TV, suddenly I heard people shouting outside. It was about 10:30 p.m. As I opened my door, bright lights from outside dazzled my eyes. I went out towards the park of our colony where a large crowd had gathered. There was a huge spaceship that had landed in the park. It had a thousand lights blinking and from the windows, one could see a few strange figures peeping out. They were aliens! The police arrived. People were shouting and asking the police to take the aliens out of the ship. They were very excited to see them. By this time, a few scientists and researchers also reached the spot. They had brought some instruments along with them.



by-Haripriya Virmani, XII-C

As they started moving towards the spaceship, the sirens that were installed in it started blowing. We could notice the strange figures hurriedly moving inside the spaceship. Then, as if understanding the intentions of the scientists that they probably wanted to capture them, they started blowing green-coloured dust from their spaceship. Its wheels started moving like a blower and the spaceship started moving upwards. The scientists rushed out of the park. People tried to click pictures of the spaceship but their cameras showed only a black screen. The spaceship safely moved out of the hands of the humans who would have otherwise captured the aliens and started a study on them. I thanked God for saving their lives from the clutches of the inhuman humans.

Varun Piplani, VIII-A

## WINGS

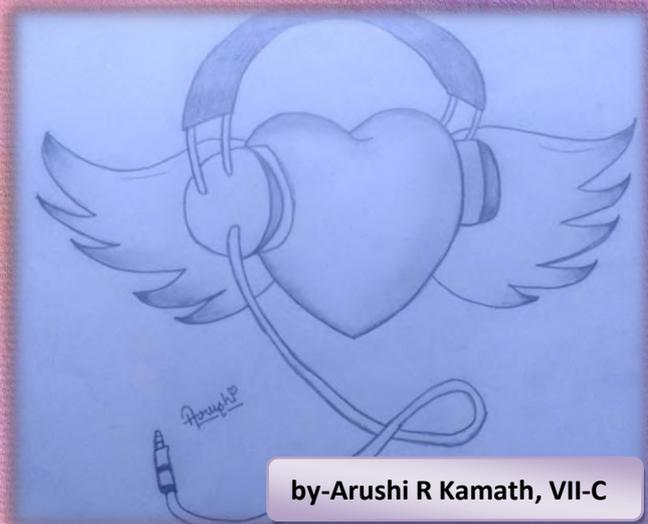
Manoeuvring through the crowd, I made my way back home from work. That's when I noticed a young girl walking in the middle of the busy road. Coming closer I observed that her cheeks were flushed with the cold wind and her eyes sparkled with mischief and pleasure. She appeared to be absolutely carefree and fearless. The people around me did not heed her. It was as if she was invisible!

As I opened the door to my apartment, I realized that the whole way home, it was her that I was thinking about. Who was she? Was she not scared of the traffic? The most astonishing thing was why the other people did not notice her. I wondered about this as I sat in the living room.

My flatmate Trevor asked me what was on my mind and as I told him all about the mesmerising girl. It all seemed bizarre but he listened patiently. The abnormal instance seemed to pique his interest as well.

We started contemplating the possible reasons behind it. Trevor pondered out loud that maybe she was a spirit, maybe she had committed suicide due to poverty.... but it was out of question due to her expensive clothing. We fell into a comfortable silence, both of us trying to find a reason.

A minute later Trevor broke the silence, "Do you remember the girl in high school who had tried to run away? All the decisions that were deemed important were made by her family on her behalf. She was from a well-to-do family, all the luxuries that one could



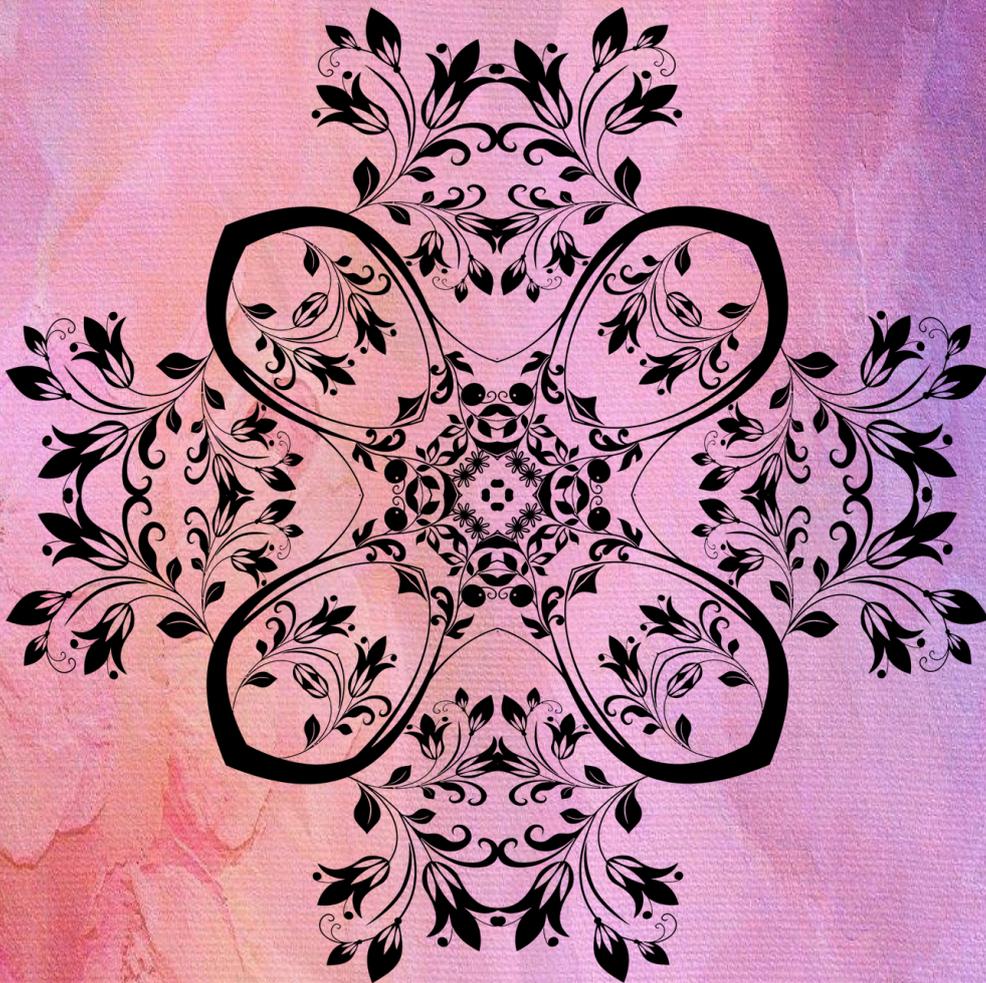
by-Arushi R Kamath, VII-C

attain were served to her on a silver platter. She had nothing to worry about but she committed suicide because there was one thing that she couldn't have-freedom."

It all came rushing back to me. Yes, she was familiar. Trevor and I searched the net for news of her death and well, her picture was there! It was really her! Caroline, that was her name.

No amount of money can ever replace freedom. Consequently, we can never understand the inner demons a person is struggling with. After all, birds aren't meant to be caged, their wings are made to fly.

Yash Sabharwal, XII-A





by-Riya Singh, XI Science

*#the new me*



## MY MUSICAL JOURNEY

My musical journey started when my parents named me Priyamvada which means soft spoken. When I was very young I loved to sing. My parents noticed my potential and they made me join a music class at the early age of 4 years. My music teacher, Mrs. Suranjana and my school teacher Ms. Preeti are my biggest inspiration. My teachers are very supportive and help me to identify my errors to improve my singing. I have performed at numerous programmes organised in my school and in Kalibadi and also at Navratra and New Year celebrations, all of which have made me confident. My inspiration for music also came from my family, from those who have learnt classical music and have encouraged me to do so too. In our family gatherings, we used to organise musical nights of ghazals, ragas and old Bollywood

songs which would add zing to our celebrations. I have performed for my school at numerous competitions like at Manav Rachna's Suron ka Utsav, St. Xavier's Christmas Carol Competition, performances at the Inspiration Day held in our school, at Eicher School, Parwanoo's Swar Sangam, Shri Ram Millenium's TMS Dhardhar and many more. I am now in the 5th year of the classical music course which I am pursuing from Prayag Sangeet Samiti. I am thankful to all those who have supported me and feel blessed to have made classical music a part of my life.

Priyamvada Upadhyay, X-D

## STRIKING THE RIGHT NOTE

I received a big Casio as a gift from my father on my 13th birthday. Then I started learning to play it from a music teacher in October 2019 twice a week but could not be regular in this because of studies. After my examinations got over, lockdown was announced because of COVID-19 and again, I could not attend my music classes. But I was determined and decided to learn it online. The lockdown proved to be the right time to do that. So I started learning Casio from YouTube. I started watching videos of my favourite songs in order to learn the chords. I practice with great passion and now I can play 8 songs. So I would say that I am thankful to technology because of which I could learn faster through e-learning and made myself the new me. My dream is to play Casio for my school and my teachers someday.

Vikrant Rastogi, IX-A



by-Himakshi Saroha,VI-C



अभिव्यक्ति

## कभी सोचा न था ऐसे भी दिन आएँगे

कभी सोचा न था ऐसे भी दिन आएँगे ।  
छुट्टियाँ तो होंगी पर, मना नहीं पाएँगे ।  
आइसक्रीम का मौसम होगा पर खा नहीं पाएँगे ।  
रास्ते खुले होंगे पर कहीं जा नहीं पाएँगे ।  
जो दूर रह गए उन्हें बुला नहीं पाएँगे ।  
और जो पास हैं उनसे हाथ मिला नहीं पाएँगे ।  
जो घर लौटने की राह देखते थे वो घर में ही बंद हो जाएँगे।  
साफ़ हो जाएगी हवा पर, चैन की साँस ना ले पाएँगे ।  
नहीं दिखेगी कोई मुस्कराहट चेहरे मास्क से ढक जाएँगे ।  
खुद को समझते थे बादशाह वो मदद को हाथ फैलाएँगे।  
कभी सोचा नहीं था ऐसे भी दिन आएँगे ॥



जिया छाबड़ा, IX-A

## प्रकृति और मनुष्य

प्रकृति वह कुदरत की देन है जो हमारे चारों ओर विद्यमान है | प्रकृति से हमारी सेहत और हमारा पोषण होता है | प्रकृति हमारे चारों ओर एक सुरक्षात्मक परत प्रदान करती है | हम प्रकृति की देन हवा, पानी, धरती, आकाश, सूर्य की किरणों प्राकृतिक वातावरण के बिना पृथ्वी पर जीवित नहीं रह सकते | मनुष्य का प्रकृति से अच्छा गुरु कोई नहीं है | प्रकृति मनुष्य को बहुत कुछ सिखाती है | प्रकृति की देन के बिना मनुष्य जीने की कल्पना भी नहीं कर सकता |

विक्रान्त रस्तोगी, IX-A

## गुनाह हम सबका

मेरे प्रभु,

ये जानती हूँ मैं, हम सब हैं तेरे गुनाहगार,  
धरती को हमने ही नरक बनाया।

नीले आसमान को काला किया, सुनहरी धरती को बंजर,  
हवाओं को भी हमने ही ज़हर पिलाया।

जाने कितने बेजुबानों के हमने घर छीने,  
कि जैसे हमको ही चाहिए सब कुछ,

फिर कैद में रख, उनका तमाशा दिखाया,  
हँसाया डराया।

आपस में भी तो बस लड़ ही रहे थे,

हमने तो तेरे भी जाने कितने हिस्से कर,  
ये भगवान तेरा ये मेरा बनाया।

तेरी बनाई प्रकृति से हर बार छेड़ छाड़ की,  
हम इंसान सर्वश्रेष्ठ हैं,

सोच कर उस पर अपना मालिकाना हक जताया।

पर नियम है प्रकृति का बदल जाने का,

आज हम कैद में घुट रहे हैं और वो बाहर जी रही है,  
हमारे दिए ज़ख्मों को खुद ही सी रही है।

पंखी, आसमान ,हवा और पानी सब पूर्ण हैं और साफ़ हैं  
पर हमारी खताओं की ना कोई सुनवाई ना कोई माफ़ है।

नन्दिनी गोयल , IX-A

माँ

माँ एक शब्द ऐसा,  
जो हो कड़कती धूप में शीतल छाया जैसा।  
माँ का स्नेह तो अवर्णनीय,  
उनका हर कथन आदरणीय।

उनके चरणों में हैं चारों धाम,  
उनके बिना न जीवन में कोई काम।  
बचपन से ही मुझे पढ़ाया लिखाया,  
अच्छे गुणों का महत्त्व समझाया।

कभी तो मुझे प्यार से पुचकारा,  
कभी डाँटकर मेरी त्रुटियों को सुधारा।  
अपने हाथों से जब वो खाना खिलाती,  
प्रशंसा उसकी करते जिह्वा नहीं थक जाती।

माँ की वाणी जब मेरे कानों को छूती,  
तब होती मुझे अमृत की अनुभूति।  
उनकी कही गई हर बात में,  
मेरे हित की ही है सूची।

बचपन की मेरी हर चपलता,  
उनको तो हर पल याद है।  
उन बातों को स्मरण कर मैं लज्जित हो उठती,  
किंतु उनके लिए तो यह गौरव की बात है

जीवन में जब कोई संकट आता,  
माँ के डर से स्वयं भाग जाता।  
हे प्रभु मेरे जीवन में ऐसा क्षण कभी न आए,  
जब हम एक द्वे से दूर हो जाएँ।

आहना गुप्ता , VII-C



मेरी माँ

वात्सल्य को तेरे मैं खुद टटोलता हूँ।  
हे माँ! मैं आज अपनी खुशी तुझसे जोड़ता हूँ ॥

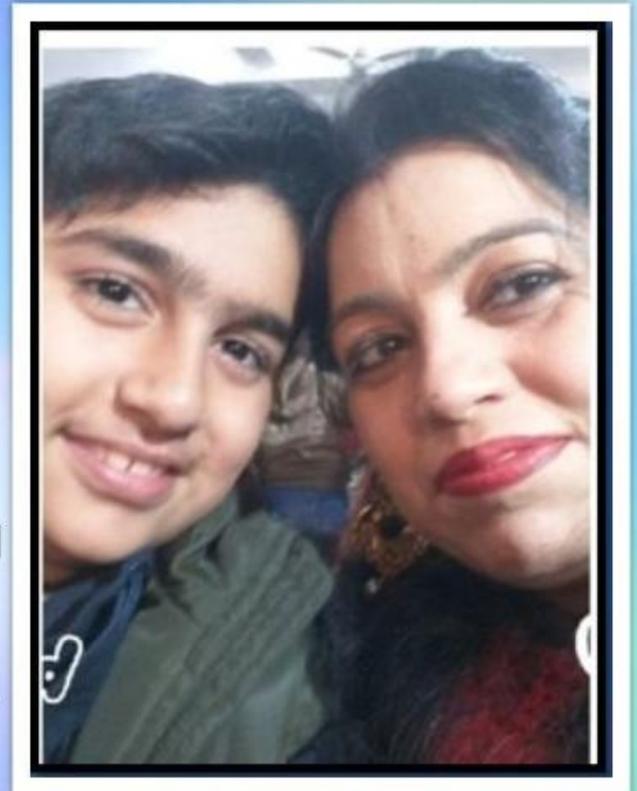
बनाकर अपना अंश मुझे दुनिया में लाई।  
रक्त बनकर अंगों में ऐसे है समाई ॥

बहुत याद आता है, वो गुस्से में छुपा प्यार।  
मेरी ज़िद तेरा इनकार, तेरे आँसू तेरी फटकार ॥

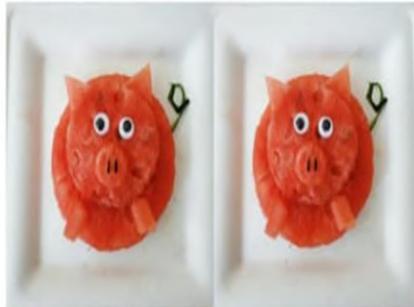
याद है वह लम्हा, जब पिताजी मुझ पर चिल्लाए थे।  
तब तुमने उन्हें डाँटकर कितने आँसू बहाए थे ॥

धड़कन जो है जान भी वो, क्या भूलूँ क्या याद रखूँ।  
पन्ने खत्म हो जाएँगे, अगर माँ पर किताब लिखूँ॥

लक्षित भाटिया , IX-A



by-Aarav Bose, I- Jacaranda



#gourmet gallery

## FUN, FOOD AND CREATIVITY



Dear friends,

Who says we can't get creative with food? Having fun has no price tag on it and imagination has no age!

It's the perfect time to teach your children to eat the seasonal fruits and veggies. My 5 year old son and I love creating little works of art on a plate.

So, we have a reason to love fruits and absolutely no room for excuses. So when fruits do not look great, you know that you need to spruce them up and get the kids excited enough to eat them.

Ms. Annvesha Bose, M/O Aarav Bose, I-Jacaranda

## DRY FRUIT CHOCOLATE CAKE

### Ingredients:

- all-purpose flour (maida) ½ cup
- melted butter 1 tbsp
- powdered sugar 1 cup
- cocoa powder 3 tsp
- few drops of vanilla essence
- baking powder 1 tsp
- baking soda ½ tsp
- chopped cashew nuts and almonds for garnishing
- choco chips 2tsp
- eggs 2
- pinch of salt
- dark chocolate 100gms
- white chocolate 100 gms (Optional)

### Procedure:

- Sieve flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a bowl and mix them well.



- Add butter and powdered sugar in a large mixing bowl. Beat until creamy in texture. Now one by one add the eggs and mix well.
- Add vanilla essence and mix all the ingredients till creamy.
- Now add the dry ingredients to the egg mixture.
- Grease a cake mould with butter and pour this batter.
- Pre-heat the oven at 180 degrees and bake the cake for 25-30 minutes.
- Now, in a double boiler, melt the dark chocolate, stirring it continuously.
- Once the cake cools down, unmould it.
- Pour the melted chocolate and spread it evenly on the cake.
- Garnish the outer edge of the cake with dry fruits. Cut into slices and serve.
- (Optional) Sprinkle grated white chocolate rounds/ scrapes on the cake and serve.

Adrika Bhargav, VIII-A

## BAKED SAMOSAS

### Ingredients:

- medium sized potatoes 3
- boiled green peas ¼ cup
- grated ginger ½ tsp
- cumin seeds 1 tsp
- chaat masala 2 tsp
- turmeric powder ½ tsp
- red chilli powder 1 tsp
- wheat flour 2 cups
- chopped cashew nuts 2 tbsp
- raisins 1 tbsp
- pepper ½ tsp
- chopped green chillies 2 units
- chopped coriander 2 tbsp
- water ¾ cups
- ghee 1 tbsp

### Procedure:

#### For the filling:

- Boil potatoes in salt water.
- Peel and mash them.
- Chop the raisins and cashews. Keep them aside.
- Heat oil in a pan, add cumin seeds and chopped ginger. Sauté for a few seconds.
- Add turmeric powder and red chilli powder. Mix well.
- Add cashew nuts in the masala and toss them well.
- Lower the flame and add boiled green peas and potatoes. Mix well.
- Add chopped green chillies, pepper and salt. Mix well.



- Add chopped coriander and chopped raisins. Mix well and keep the stuffing aside to cool.

For the samosas:

- In a mixing bowl add flour, a pinch of salt and ghee. Mix.
- Add water and knead the dough. It should not be too tight.
- Make small balls and roll them into thin round sheets. Cut them from the centre.
- Make a cone of half the sheet. Lightly brush the side with water.
- From the open end, add the potato mixture and seal the edges.
- Pre-heat the oven at 180 degrees. Keep the samosas on a greased baking dish or tray and bake for 10 minutes. Serve hot with a chutney of your choice.

Tanishka Raj, XII-C

## GARLIC INFUSED PASTA SALAD

Ingredients:

- freshly crushed raw garlic- 2/3 cloves
- garlic flavoured cheese spread- 2 to 3 tbsp
- cream cheese- 2 to 3 tbsp
- mayonnaise- 3 to 4 tbsp
- sautéed capsicum-1
- juicy tomatoes-2 medium sized
- crunchy onion- 1 medium sized
- fresh cucumber slices
- green olives
- boiled fusilli or elbow macaroni
- boiled eggs (optional)
- oregano & chilli flakes (optional)
- olive oil (optional)

Procedure:

For the salad dressing:

- Mix together cream cheese, mayonnaise, garlic cheese spread, freshly crushed garlic, salt and pepper until it forms a smooth consistency.
- Add some oregano and chilli flakes (optional).

Assembling the salad:

- Take a big bowl and put in all the fresh and healthy veggies, boiled pasta and the salad dressing. Mix well.
- Add a dash of salt and pepper if required.
- Drizzle olive oil on the top (optional).



- Cool it in the refrigerator. Serve chilled.

Swarnim Arora, I-Palash

## DELICIOUS MACARONI

### Ingredients:

- macaroni 3 cups
- finely chopped ginger & garlic 1 tsp.
- chopped onion 1 cup
- chopped capsicum (green, yellow, red- all mixed) 1 cup
- chopped broccoli ½ cup
- chopped carrot ½ cup

### Masala

- turmeric powder
- red chilli powder
- salt to taste
- oregano
- red chilli flakes
- 1 sachet Maggi Masala Magic



### Procedure:

- Boil water in a big bowl.
- Add macaroni to it. Let it cook for 5 minutes and then strain it.
- Pour some cold water on the strained macaroni so it doesn't get sticky. Drizzle 1 tsp. of cooking oil on it and mix well.
- Now take a wok and place it on the gas. Add 2 tbsp of oil.
- Add finely chopped ginger and garlic in the oil and sauté.
- Add chopped onions and sauté it further for 1 minute.
- Add all the veggies like chopped capsicums, carrot and broccoli. Sauté for 2-3 minutes.
- Now add ½ tsp turmeric, 1 tsp chilli powder and salt to taste. Sauté for a minute.
- Now add boiled macaroni and mix well. Add one sachet of Maggi Masala Magic in it and give it a good toss.
- Now garnish it with oregano and chilli flakes. Delicious macaroni is ready to be served.

Varun Piplani, VIII- A

## HOMEMADE CHOCOLATES

### Ingredients:

- powdered sugar 1 cup
- cocoa powder  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup
- milk powder  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup
- coconut oil  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup
- vanilla essence 2-3 drops (optional )

### Procedure:

- Sieve cocoa powder, milk powder & powdered sugar in a bowl.
- Mix all the dry ingredients well.
- Take a pan and add coconut oil.
- Now gradually add the dry ingredients to the oil.
- Then cook all the ingredients on low flame until the mixture becomes chocolaty brown.
- Turn off the flame and let it cool down. But remember that there should be no lumps in the batter. Keep stirring till it cools down.
- Now pour the batter into the moulds. Freeze for 2 to 3 hours.
- Once the chocolates are frozen, take them out and enjoy.



Noor Jawa, VII-B

## DONUTS

### Ingredients:

#### For donuts:

- all -purpose flour (maida) 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups
- powdered sugar  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup
- baking powder  $\frac{3}{4}$  tsp
- baking soda  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp or Eno fruit salt 1 tsp
- milk  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup
- vinegar or lemon juice 2 tsp
- a pinch of salt
- water 2-3 tsp
- butter or ghee 2 tbsp
- oil for frying



**For toppings:**

- dark/milk chocolate/ Hershey's chocolate syrup ½ cup
- some white chocolate/ powdered sugar
- some coloured sprinkles (optional)

**Procedure:**

- Add all the dry ingredients in a large bowl and mix well.
- Then take all the wet ingredients except butter and add them to the dry ingredients' mixture.
- Mix all the dry and wet ingredients well to form a dough. (Add 1-2 tsp of water if required). Knead it for 5-8 minutes.
- Add 2 tbsp of butter to the dough and knead it well. (total kneading time - 10 -12 minutes)
- Now glaze the dough with a little butter so that the dough stays moist.
- Cover it with a cloth and leave it for 1 hour.
- After an hour, take it out and knead it for another 10-15 seconds.
- Make small portions of the dough, sprinkle some all-purpose flour and roll them thick into the size of the donut. (*You may use a donut cutter or 1 large cookie cutter and 1 small cookie cutter to make it into a donut shape. You may use a small lid to make a hole in the centre as well.*)
- The donuts are ready to be fried.
- Take oil in a frying vessel and heat the oil till it is medium hot. Now fry the donuts till they are golden brown and crispy. Make sure that you do not fry them on high flame, else they will be cooked from outside but will remain undercooked from inside.
- As you fry the donuts on slow flame, you will notice that they puff up nicely. Keep adjusting the temperature of the oil by increasing/decreasing the flame.
- Now use chocolate sauce / melted white chocolate/ powdered sugar to spread over the donuts and use sprinklers to decorate them.
- 6 medium sized donuts are ready to be relished.



Chavi Mathur, VII-C

## RAVA EGG UTTAPAM

### Ingredients :

- rava- 1 cup
- curd- ½ cup
- baking soda (optional) – a pinch
- finely chopped onion 1
- finely chopped capsicum 1
- finely chopped carrot 1
- finely chopped green chillies 1-2
- salt (as per taste)
- chilli powder (as per taste)
- garam masala ½ tsp
- coriander leaves

### Procedure:

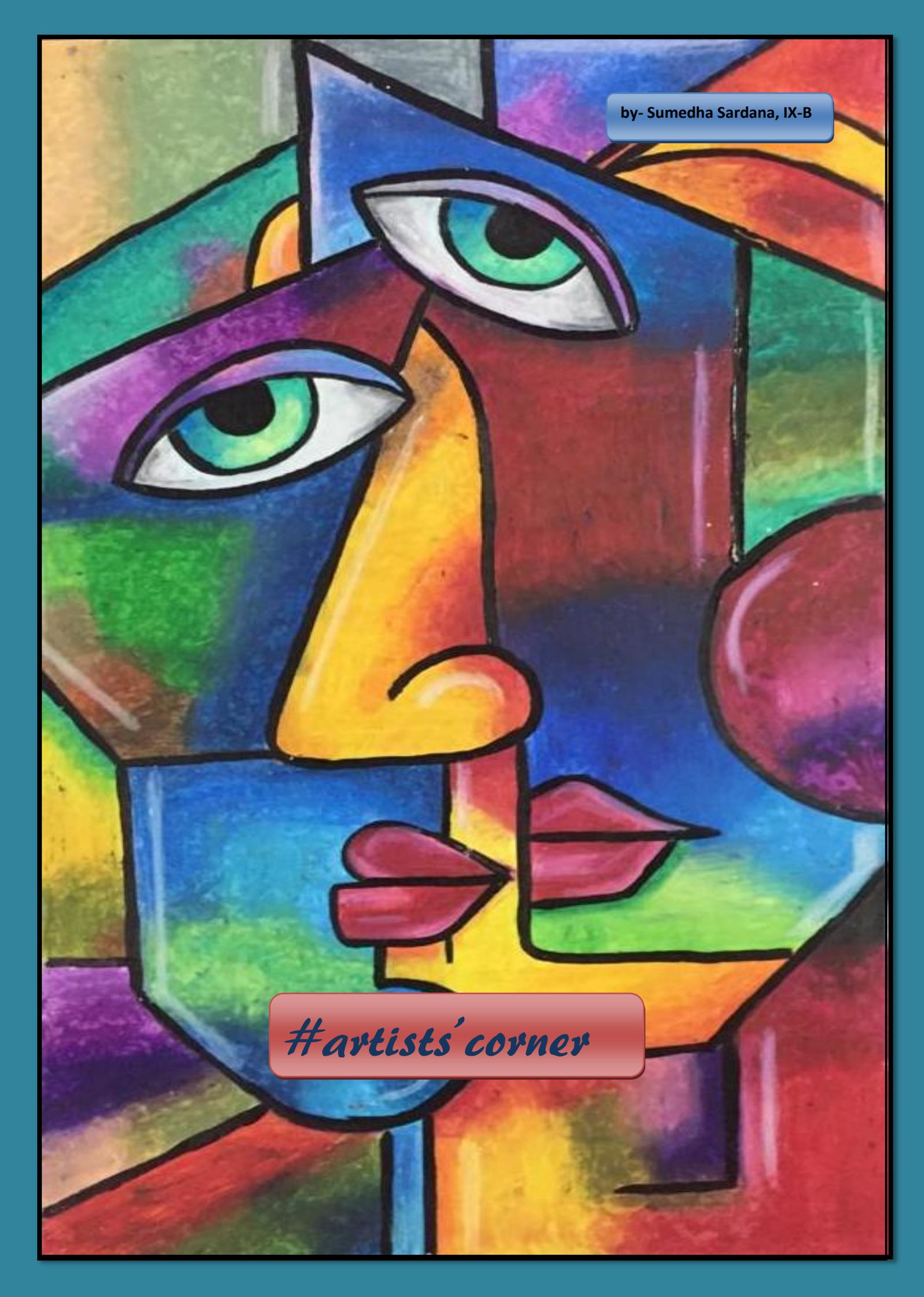
#### Egg Method:

- In a bowl mix rava, curd and baking powder. If required, add water to make a fine paste. Let the batter rest for 20 -30 mins.
- Grease a non-stick pan with little oil. Now put 2 ladles of the batter on the pan and spread it.
- Sprinkle finely chopped veggies on the batter and after that break an egg on top of the veggies. Spread the egg on the veggies with the help of a spoon or spatula.
- Once the uttapam is cooked from the bottom, turn it upside down and add a few drops of oil on the sides so that the egg also gets completely cooked.

**Twist:-** For authentic South Indian flavour, after step 1 you can heat 1 tsp of oil in a pan, add curry leaves and mustard seeds. Let them crackle. Add this tempering to the batter and mix well to make yummy uttapam.

Ms. Divya Mehta, M/O Ayaan Mehta, I- Jacaranda





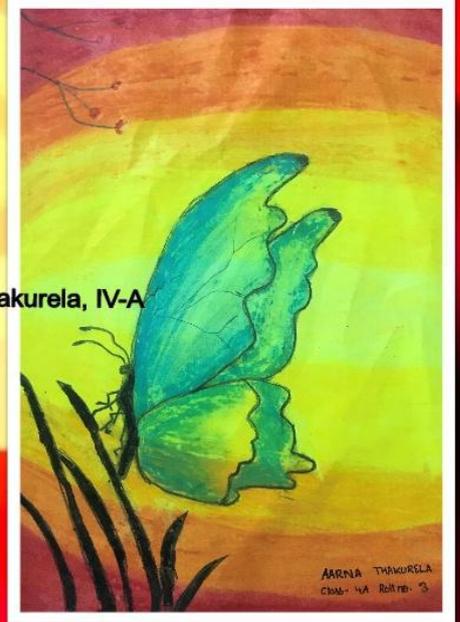
by- Sumedha Sardana, IX-B

*#artists' corner*

Ambika Makharia, XI-D



Aarna Thakurela, IV-A



Sumedha Sardana, IX-B

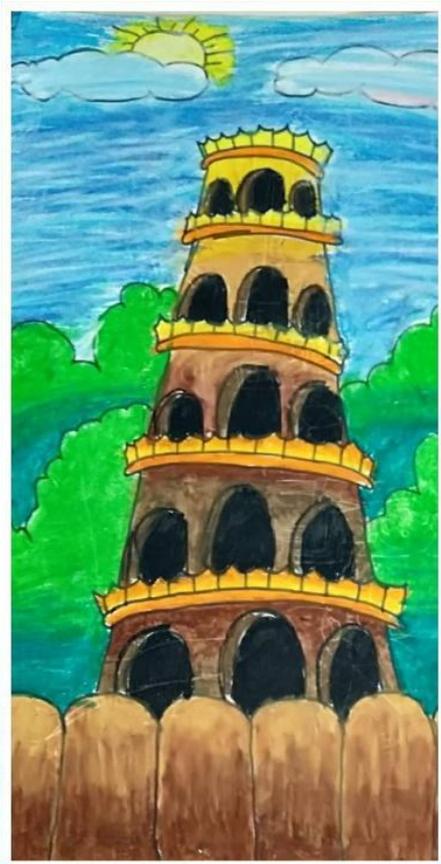


Harshita Nandwani, IX-C

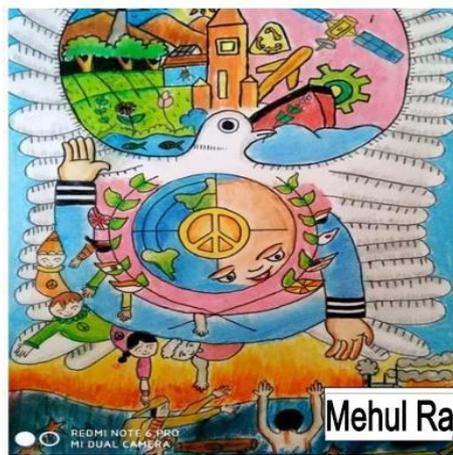


Soumya Singh, IX-C

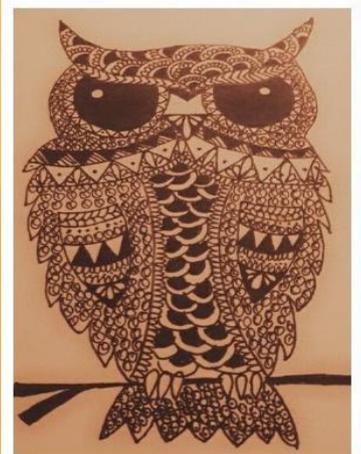




Manasvi Bhandari, IV-A

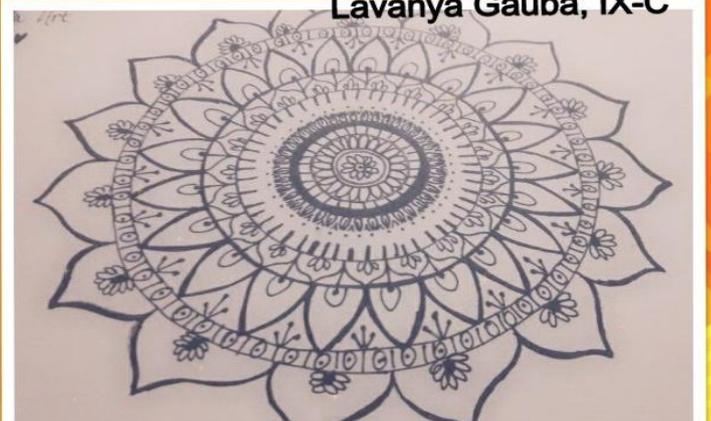
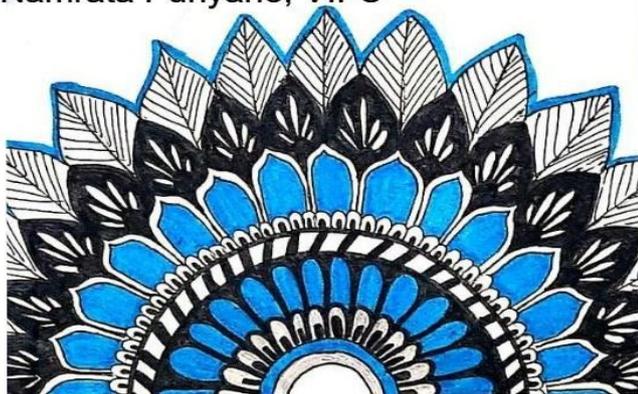


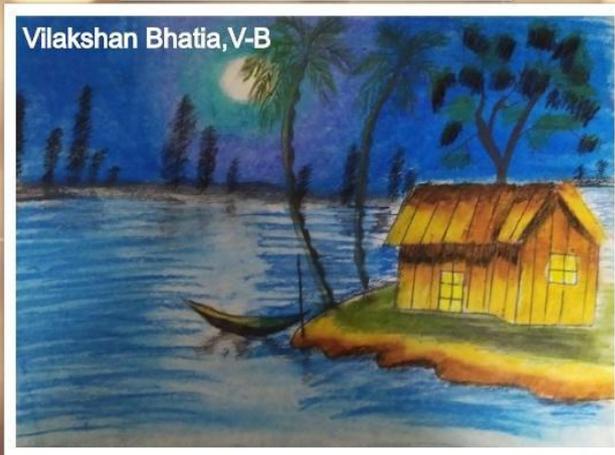
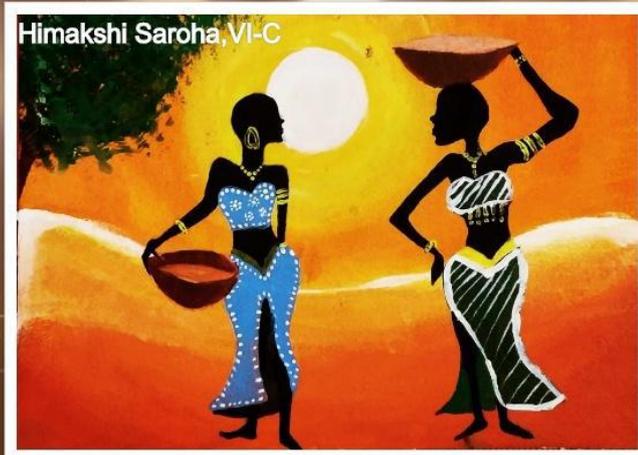
Mehul Raj Garg, VIII-A



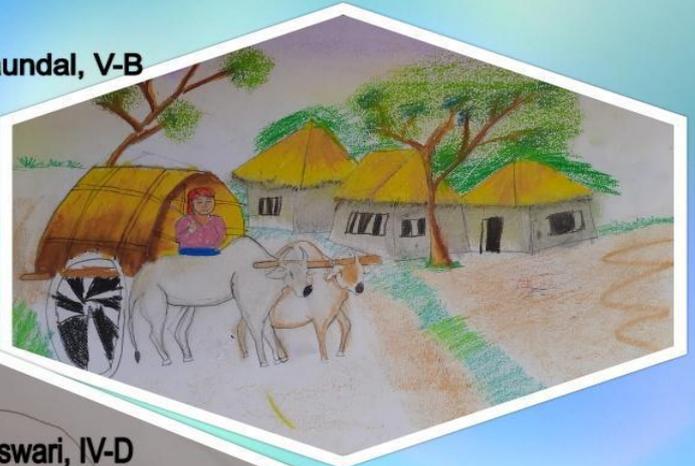
Lavanya Gauba, IX-C

Namrata Punyane, VII-C

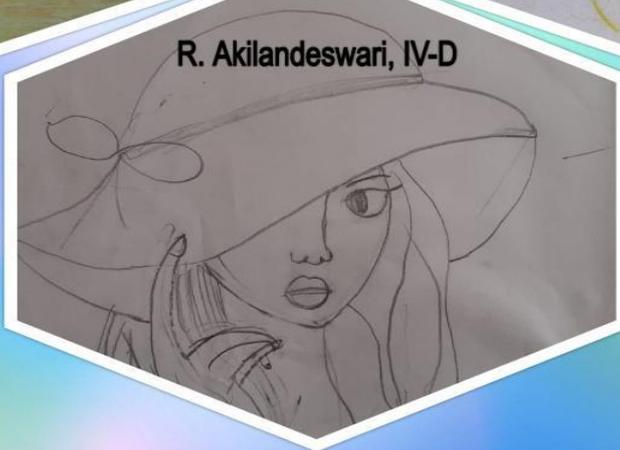




Saysha Kaundal, V-B

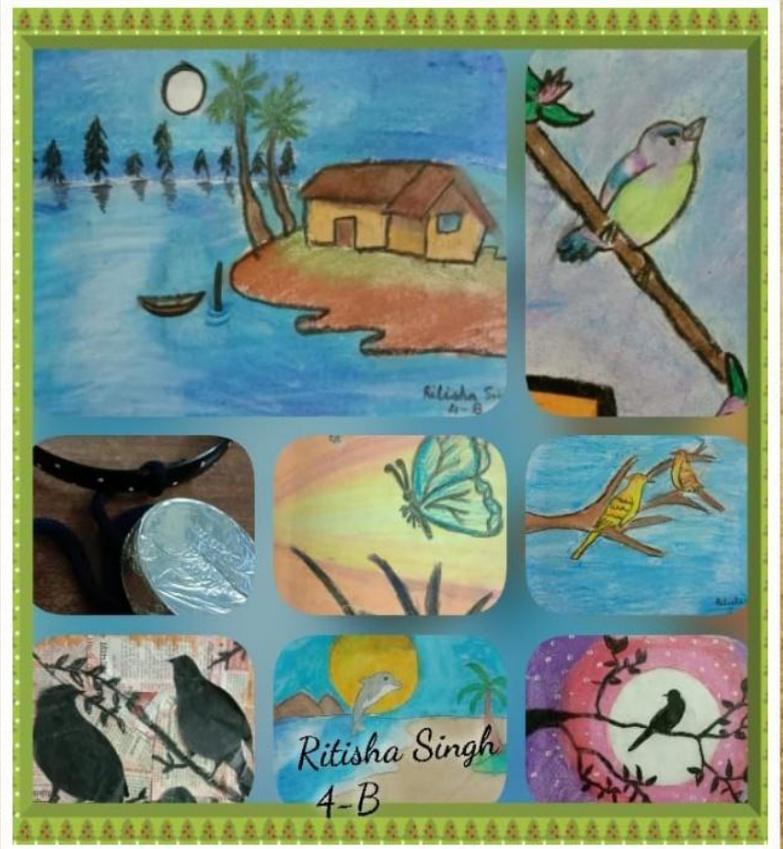


R. Akilandeswari, IV-D



Aahna Gupta, VII-C

Sumedha Sardana, IX-B



Sanvi Tiwari, VII-A

