



From The Chairperson's Desk

A school that conjures up, images of freedom and fraternity.
of families and friendship that bring to life a pulsating energy.

We do not have to go to sacred places,
the grounds of our school is holy land.

It is here our pilgrimage starts and ends,
here lies our universe with its loops and bends
each seed that grows, each fist of earth
brings a tiny miracle to birth.

A place where the present, the past and the future blend together
where everyday is a beginning and tomorrow never ends.
With learning without limitation and a continuity that contends.

Here lies a self always in the making
occupied with possibilities, potential
and a vision-ready for the taking.

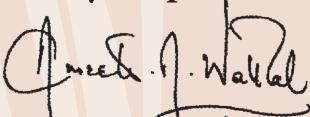
Where learning is a dream and education is celebrated,
an atmosphere of enlightenment and integrity are created
students brim with joy and divisions are ended
discipline and freedom are clearly comprehended.

Let this be the story of our school

Where education goes beyond classrooms, and creativity rules.
Together let us this journey take,
Sharing an adventure of community and partnership
And the difference that we make;
As we open eyes, ears and hearts, with faith, truth and love
That will change the lives of thousands of youth.

Season's Greetings !

Always in peace



Dr. Ameeta Mulla Wattal



From The Principal Desk

The year gone by has been challenging yet fulfilling as we have collectively tried to educate our students to help build a better society through an education of the head, hand, and heart. My aim as head of the school is to make sure that each step, we take is in consonance with the ethos and ideals on which the school was founded.


The world is undergoing rapid changes. As the global ecosystem evolves, so does the employment and knowledge landscape. It is critical that children not only learn, but more importantly learn how to embrace, grow and accept these changes. Education, thus, must move from being a content centric to a multi-disciplinary system with a focus on critical thinking, and problem solving. Allowing children to express creativity and participate in innovation.

Our endeavor at Ridge Valley is, to make education more experiential, holistic, integrated, discussion-based and of course enjoyable.

We believe that education is fundamental for achieving full human potential, it prepares children not only to face life's diverse challenges but also to discover deeper levels of purpose, meaning and happiness. Let us together work towards this goal collectively.

I can say with pride that ours is indeed an accepting, evolving, and a happy school!

Warm Regards



Ms. Nidhi Tewari



ASSEMBLIES

Morning assemblies at Ridge Valley School nurture a positive school ethos ensuring care for the self and others and the pursuit of all forms of excellence. The students of all grades participated in school assemblies with enthusiasm and confidence on various insightful topics such as, 'Collaboration', 'Mindfulness', 'Importance of Greeting Others' etc. They expressed their views on various issues while emphasizing the necessity of inculcating human values.



BAGLESS DAY

An Initiative by RVS

The bagless day at Ridge Valley School, Gurgaon was an intellectually stimulating initiative to engage the students in the 21st century learning strategies. A plethora of skill development activities were conducted at Ridge Valley School to make the Bagless Day for students, fun and enriching. A team of expert trainers conducted STEM ACTIVITIES for the learners of Grades III – VIII. A puppetry workshop for Classes III to V was conducted to teach them the art of storytelling through puppets. The activity saw spirited participation from the students, who made beautiful puppets using their creativity and imagination.



MERAKI'22

With a vision to appreciate and promote creativity among students, Ridge Valley School welcomed parents and guests to Meraki, a child connect endeavour, on 30 July'22. The Chief Guest on the occasion was our esteemed Chairperson, Dr. Ameeta Mulla Wattal. An organised presentation and display of Holiday Enrichment work including Maths and Science Projects and experiments, the event also featured book fair, technology show, art exhibition, pottery craft and flash mob.



INDEPENDENCE DAY

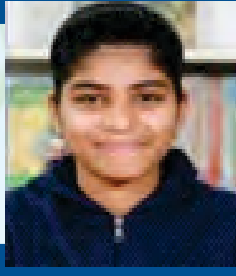
In keeping with the theme, 'Har Ghar Tiranga', Ridge Valley School, Gurugram celebrated 75 years of India's Independence with great fervour and immense pride. An array of activities were conducted at different levels in the school.



ACCOLADES!

'Success is inevitable, if watered by the toil of excellence.'

School Topper, Grade-XII 2021-2022



Gargi Sharma
Commerce
97.25%



Simran S. Chikkala
Science
96.5%



Pahul Kaur Lalia
Humanities
95.5%

School Topper, Grade-X 2021-2022



Ananya Bahl
96.4%



Kabir Singh
Suryawanshi
96.8%



Ayush Negi
96.4%



FAMILY BONDING DAY

The bright and colourful panorama of happy little children in their beautiful attires captivated the attention of all at Ridge Valley School on 'Family Bonding Day' celebrated on 29th September 2022. Ms. Nidhi Tewari, Principal, Ridge Valley School along with Chief Guest, Ms. Urmimala Sudhakar, Principal, Summer Fields School, Ms. Shalini Batra, Headmistress, Ridge Valley School and few parents lighted the lamp to mark a tribute to Goddess Sarasvati and the commencement of the event. The students from Grade Pre-nursery to II presented a beautiful amalgamation of music, dance and drama mesmerising the audience with a wonderful portrayal of love, togetherness and fondness of family members for each other. The day was full of fun and excitement and concluded with family bonding games for the parents.



GANDHI JAYANTI

Ridge Valley School conducted a special assembly to pay homage to the connoisseur of ideals and values, the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, on his 153rd Birth Anniversary. Non-violence constitutes the core value of Indian civilization and played a vital role in the evolution of Indian culture and religions. With this weapon of non-violence, Mahatma Gandhi battled against the Britishers and led the nation towards its freedom. Depicting the same, the assembly honoured the contributions of this revolutionary who has inspired millions across the globe.



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Raising awareness about mental wellbeing, the students of Grade V conducted an assembly on the 'World Mental Health Day' observed on 10th October, 2022 every year. They expressed the needs to address the issues of Mental Health and moderated a talk show with the School Counsellors wherein the audience of Grades III to V were enlightened about the various ways of de-stressing themselves and creating safe spaces for each other. They recited a poem on 'Encouragement' as well. Principal, Ms. Nidhi Tewari, applauded their efforts and reiterated the relevance of such an important day.



CAREER COUNSELLING SESSIONS AT RVS NURTURING THE FUTURE CITIZENS

A career counselling session was conducted for grade 11 and 12 by Dr Nirupama MP Assistant Professor, School of Engineering & Technology, Electronics Department, BML Munjal University, on Design Thinking. Dr Nirupama explained the importance and process of design thinking to the students.

With an aim to apprise the learners of Grades IX-XII about the curriculum of 'Law' and 'Liberal Education', another Career Counselling Session was conducted by the esteemed Dr Pritam Baruah, Dean of School of Law at BML Munjal University. The interactive workshop equipped the children with multiple avenues associated with law and provided them the necessary guidance to pursue Law as a professional career.



FIELD TRIP TO AEROPLANET A300



'Field trips are a way to enhance the concepts students are learning by making real world connections. It reinforces contextual and experiential learning.'

Students of grade III-V went for a field trip to AeroPlanet on Wednesday, 12th October 2022. They went inside a real passenger cabin of an Airbus A300. They had a live safety demo of oxygen mask and lifesaving jacket. Students also went inside the cockpit. As a part of the disaster management programme, they also learnt how to come down with emergency chute. They relished many activities like burma bridge, trampoline, tunnel crossing, zip line and vertical wall climbing.

NATIONAL AUTHOR'S DAY

'For centuries, authors have contributed to the intellect, joy, and development of readers with little fanfare.'

On the zealous occasion of National Author's Day, the students critically appreciated their favourite authors in their own unique way by creatively writing about their life history and popular works. Students expressed their thoughts through images and pictures. The learners of Classes IX and X presented their views on various Indian authors including Kamala Das, R.K Narayan, Khushwant Singh and Arundhati Roy. This was followed by presentations on their life and works.



Celebrating our 'Reading Heroes'



UNDER-14 INTER SCHOOL CRICKET TOURNAMENT

Sports is an activity that brings us all together and at the same time inculcates a healthy competitive spirit. This year Ridge Valley School got the opportunity to host the annual GPSC U-14 Inter school Cricket Tournament. Eleven gallant teams from the best schools of Gurugram participated in the event. The Chief Guest for the inaugural ceremony, held on 2nd November was Mr Gautam Vadhera, a former Ranji player, who represented India in the U-19 category. Blue Bells Public School won the final match against DPS Sector 45 in an exhilarating game and lifted the Champions' Trophy. The Chief Guest for the valedictory ceremony, Mr. Sachit Soni, Co-Founder, The Golf Revolution, emphasised on the importance of sports and fitness in one's life. Principal, Ms. Nidhi Tewari, felicitated and presented trophies to the winners of the Tournament.



Filled with pride, the winners shine clear and bright!



GURU NANAK JAYANTI

Guru Nanak Jayanti, also known as Gurburab or Guru Nanak's Prakash Utsav honours the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. To celebrate this festival, students of Grade II conducted a special assembly with great zeal and enthusiasm. The assembly began with the school prayer, followed by messages spread by Guru Nanak Dev Ji's great life. Serenity and calmness floated in the air when students chanted 'Ik Onkar' melodiously giving the lesson of Unity and equality. Head Mistress, Ms. Shalini Batra, urged the students to follow Guru Nanak Ji's path and spread the message of unity and brotherhood.



Serenity and tranquillity fill the air!

SHATRANJ 2022

Chess provides a platform for students to improve on logical thinking, analytical reasoning and problem solving. Ridge Valley School organized the Inter School Chess Tournament 'Shatranj 2022' under the aegis of GPSC. As the day of the Chess tournament progressed, 100 highly enthusiastic students were all geared up to beat their opponents in nail-biting matches. The Chief Guest, Mr. Naresh Sharma, General Secretary of The Haryana Chess Association and Treasurer of All India Chess Federation and Principal, RVS, Ms. Nidhi Tewari, presented the trophy to the winners.



It's the 'Clash of the Titans', Principal, Mrs. Nidhi Tewari making the 'First Move' at Shatranj 2022

CHILDREN'S DAY

On the occasion of Children's Day, Ridge Valley School organised a cultural program and teachers and students celebrated the day with great verve and gusto. The event included a special function organized by the teacher including a medley of songs, dance, and dramatic performances. The students were enthralled with a myriad of game stalls organised by the school on the campus grounds. Speaking on the occasion, Principal Ms Nidhi Tewari, extended her warm greetings to all the children. In her address, she urged the children to work towards the betterment of the society and nation at large. The day's excitement culminated with representatives of each class coming together for a tree plantation drive in the school premises. The memorable extravaganza will be cherished by one and all.

Go east or west! Our children are the best!



COMMON UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE TEST

Ridge Valley School organized a 'Common University Entrance Test (CUET) Orientation' for Classes XI and XII. This session was conducted by Mr. Abhishek Pandey from Career Launcher who enlightened the students with the components of CUET, details of the colleges covered under this and also the statistics of the selections that happened in the past.



Students of Grades XI and XII being enlightened about the components of CUET



CAREER COUNSELLING SESSION

'Building the global citizens with cosmopolitan paradigm and perspective'

Students and parents of grade X attended a session on subject selection and its scope conducted by the Career Launcher team. Resource person, Mr Anuj Gupta, shared the details about various courses recently introduced by top universities of India, guided the students on how to make informed choices and collect information regarding various career options and choose subjects accordingly.

TRANSPORT FAIR

Our young scholars of grades Pre Nur to IV felt a ripple of excitement, on the enchanting morning of 20 October 2022 and couldn't wait to begin their 'Bagless Day' as a 'TRANSPORT FAIR' had been organized for them inside the portals of the school. An array of vehicles from bicycle, bike and auto rickshaw to heavy vehicles like tractor and buses were on display. The spirited students couldn't contain their happiness and took turns to sit on all the vehicles.

The Transport Fair gave them an opportunity to have a real experience of travelling in a public transport. Children thoroughly enjoyed the rides as it was a new and different experience for them from the regular comfort of their family-owned cars. It provided them a lot of information about the various means of land transport and helped them to understand the importance of using public transport. It was a great learning experience, and the unbridled enthusiasm of our little ones was a visual treat for one and all!!



VISIT TO THE FIRE STATION



The Early Years students of Grades Pre-Nursery to II visited the DLF Fire Services to understand the steps and role of fire fighters in case of an emergency fire situation. They got a hands-on-experience on fire safety and the essential community helpers- the firefighters as they watched how firefighters used their fire truck in an emergency. The firefighters showed them the different equipment used by them and demonstrated the use of a fire extinguisher. Students were ecstatic when they saw a firefighter slide down the pole. It was a fun-filled, informative outbound trip that gave the students an idea about what to do and how important it is to use their presence of mind when a crisis like this occurs.

CROWNING GLORY



Ridge Valley School has been Certified as a Microsoft Showcase School 6th year in a row.



Proud Moment- The Number 1 School in Co-curricular Education across India by Education Today.



Ridge Valley School received the Best School Award (digital) category in FAP National Award 2022 securing an A+ grade.

Letter From The Editor



This is my last year in school. And it is getting more real by the second, I will be sad to leave everyone, most of all my friends, but I am glad I was able to immortalize them through this magazine. In a way, I have made sure these memories and opinions, of mine and so many other students, live on forever.

I am very glad to have done this, it has always been our biggest dream.

I hope this legacy carries on.

Marjan and I have been co-heads of the editorial board for the past two years and during this time we've worked on numerous projects together. This, however, is by far our biggest achievement. We've talked about creating our school magazine for a long time, since we were first appointed vice-presidents of the board. Putting all of the things we imagined into action has been a dream come true and we couldn't be more proud and ecstatic to show our work to everyone.



A photograph of a classroom. A female student in a light blue shirt is standing and pointing at a whiteboard. In the foreground, the back of a student's head wearing a yellow shirt is visible. Another student with glasses is partially visible in the lower foreground. The whiteboard has some faint writing on it. A window in the background shows a view of trees and a building.

SO GOOD THEY CAN'T IGNORE YOU

Sana Yadav, Class 10

“No one owes you a great career, it argues; you need to earn it—and the process won’t be easy.”

Cal answers one of the most crucial questions everyone has: “Why do some people end up loving what they do, while so many others fail at this goal?”

In this myth-bunking book by Newport, he dives into how passion is not the way to a career you love. Rather it is the small steps that really matter. In his book, he puts forth four rules to reach a career you will truly love. It emphasises that possibilities of finding happiness and fulfilment in work that you love may not necessarily start out as your passion.

His very first rule argues to not follow your passion. In the first chapters of his book, he shares stories of people who followed their passion and did not end up loving what they did and the stories of people who did not follow their passion yet ended up enjoying what they do for a living.

Steve Jobs once in his speech at a university said, “You’ve got to find what you love. The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven’t found it yet, keep looking, and don’t settle.” This statement indirectly pointed towards following your passion.

That is when it all became a mass movement. Everyone started using Jobs' advice without questioning it. On the YouTube video of this speech, thousands of comments can be seen in agreement with this statement. However, if we dig into Steve Jobs' life, he did not heed his own advice, and if he had followed his passion, we'd probably find him at a zen Buddhism centre today.

When Steve was in college, he studied history. However, what he ended up doing as his career was not at all related to his undergrad studies. He founded Apple alongside Wozniak. This business was just a side thing for Steve. He and his friend had started this to pay their tuition fee. Somehow, Steve and his colleague managed to make a big business out of this. He ended up doing this through something that Cal refers to as a lucky break.

His second rule is "Be so good they can't ignore you". This rule identifies the need to adopt a craftsman mindset rather than a passion mindset.

A craftsman mindset is one where you ask, "What can I offer the world?" rather than asking, "What can the world offer me?" He explains, when you can offer something of value to the world, you become better at what you do and that's when "they" can't ignore you! Jobs and Wozniak had something the world didn't have. They had something the world needed. It may just have been a small chip in Jobs' hand but eventually, it turned out to be one of the biggest inventions.

Jobs did not himself follow what he told the students of Stanford. Instead of following what Steve said, we should do what he did, because what he did was the path to building a career he loved.

"Don't obsess over discovering your true calling. Instead, master rare and valuable skills. Then, once you build up the career capital that these skills generate, invest it wisely. Use it to acquire control over what you do and how you do it, and to identify and act on a life-changing mission."

Memories

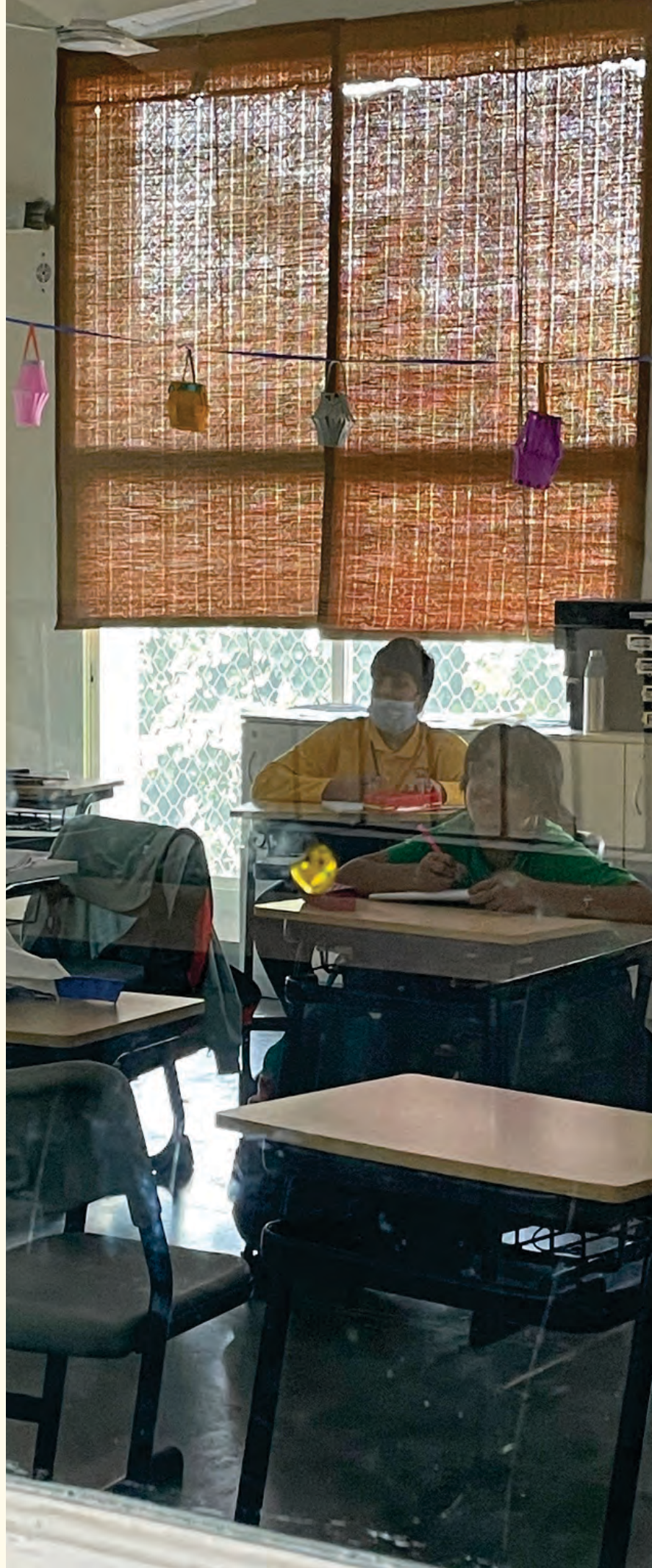
Manasvi Singh, Class 10

I see you everywhere,
In these halls we used to
roam,
The corners we used to
sneak to,
To carry out our childish
little schemes.

I see you dancing in the
moonlight,
A silver halo around your
head.

I know not how your eyes
sparkle so brightly,
Even though you're just a
ghost in my head.


Even now, as I reminisce
quietly,
You skip and whistle
impishly,
Just as you did when we
first met





ANNUAL DAY AT LAST!

By Ritika Chopra



Imagine you are at a dinner party. There is a fancy chocolate fountain, beautiful silver cutlery, even soothing ballroom music plays in the background. The doors open and the butler walks in, holding in his hands what seems to be your supper for the evening. Hungry as you are, you lean in to take a closer look at the night's menu. But before the true reality of the situation dawns on you, it is already too late. You run for the door screaming, claw at the windows, even try to attack the butler (although very unsuccessfully). But it is of no use. The COVID-19 pandemic has just been served to you on a silver platter. You are already doomed.

For most of us, this is what the past few years have felt like, Coronavirus leaving us grasping at straws with our backs against the wall. But the dinner party is over now and, after two tediously long years of online classes, social distancing and being trapped as prisoners in our own homes, we're finally back!

Over the last few months, we have all tried to return to our pre-covid routine, acknowledging the effects of the virus, but also focusing on moving on. But no school year can ever truly be complete without the zeal of its Annual Day. So, to celebrate another year of prosperity, hard work and our wonderful achievements, Ridge Valley School brings forth (*drumroll please*)
ANNUAL DAY 2022-2023!

Annual Days are not only enjoyable and exciting, but they also offer the students an opportunity to build their confidence and display their various talents. It is indeed an important day for any school, and that is why we put in so much effort to make ours special. This year, join the students of Ridge Valley School as we take you on an exhilarating trip from Broadway to Bollywood, exploring several classic musicals such as 'The Sound Of Music', 'Cats', 'Oliver Twist' and many more, which will most definitely leave you at the edge of your seat!

Although we have been unable to celebrate this momentous day for the last two years due to the pandemic, this time we will be sure to make up for it. With twice the excitement and twice the fervour, there is absolutely no doubt that the students are enthusiastically looking forward to the event!

“

“Seeing every Ridgean working together after so long is really overwhelming and excites me a lot! I can't wait for the big day and be a part of our grand celebrations”

--Saina Sarin, Grade 8A

Now more than ever, the annual day is a necessary event as we have been deprived of the opportunity to work collectively as a school for a long time.

“The news of the upcoming annual day sent a shock but I was more excited for the fun we have during practice, missing classes, dancing to songs and singing along with friends made me happy I really missed it during the pandemic.”

-Rati Kapur, grade 9

It is time to chase away our loneliness as we come together once more through this union of culture, music, dances (and not to mention LOADS of fun) to celebrate being Ridgeman. Annual days are truly the favourite time of year for students and teachers alike.

“The prospect of having an annual day has flooded the school with happiness, there is a smile on every face.”

-Ms. Pramila Dutt

There is no doubt that Annual Day 2022 will be ABSOLUTELY GRAND. We hope you join us as we journey through a world of Villains and Vandals, Schemes and Scandals and all things adventurous. Your heart is sure to sway with every musical note!



HOW DO YOU LIVE?

By Marjan Raja, Class 12

You make some tea
you read a book, you
do your math you
put on your
headphones and play
your song, you
watch a movie you
play your games and
you feel you'll never
feel that way again.
You go with your
friends, to art
museums and
concerts, to recitals
and films.

You look around
you, the world in
shambles. You look at
young girls fighting
for their rights in
Iran, you hear of the
shooting in Thailand,
24 people dead. The
stampede in Korea,
the bridge collapsing
in Gujarat, you watch
the climate crisis get
worse. And you
wonder if you'll ever
make it to tomorrow
because the days
stretch on and on and
on and on and on

So you go back to
your book and you
play your song, you
watch a different
movie you dance with
your friends and you
don't let go of their
hands. You go to
museums and concerts
you flip through
magazines and you
read poetry and you
try and try and try.

And the world, it gets
worse. But you keep
living.





WHO WILL YOU BE AND HOW WILL YOU GET THERE?

An article on College Counselors by
Aryan Kapoor, CClass 10

As intelligent teenagers, someday we all aim to be graduates from Harvard, Stanford, Princeton, IIT, IIM or any lavish and labelled university, getting a fantastic degree and acquiring fabulous packages, getting that well deserved job with a high salary after decades of immense demanding work but this is a far-fetched truth, a truth that only comes alive if everything in our journey to a job goes perfectly. Getting good marks to doing the best co curriculum activities to doing internships. Doing all these tasks by ourselves is overwhelming to many students, handling all these tasks makes us anxious and in such a time of anxiety we need someone who knows systems of schools and can be our guide, we need college counsellors. Even besides schools and colleges, high school counsellors offer immense emotional and social support as well as giving financial advice and academic advice. They can also be called our career counsellors who provide a type of advice giving and support to clients based on their journey through life, learning aspects and work changes.

College counsellors, Hence, are extremely important to teenagers looking to go to the best colleges.



They help in reducing the stress amongst teenagers. Applications are stressful. 7 out of 10 respondents in Princeton's all U.S.A. study in 2017 indicate their stress levels to be as “high” or “very high.” Knowing that there are college experts in your corner can make all the difference. Even though they help clients realize harsh truths about colleges they also help applicants in multiple numerous ways and provide emotional support as well. Talking with a college counsellor about your dreams and goals can help you figure out what you really want out of college, which also helps you decide the degrees you chose to get and which subjects to take up in High School. Does your best-fit college run a popular co-operative education program? Are you looking for a politically active student body? Conversations with your counsellor about what is important to you in terms of academics, campus culture, and financial aid will help guide your overall college search. Another way of how colleges help teenagers is finding the perfect college. There are hundreds of colleges out there, and the right school for your unique personality and goals may be an Ivy League or it might be a school you have not heard of yet.



College counsellors are pros at helping you research schools and then narrowing your list to the colleges you should focus on. In a competitive applicant pool, a stellar college application is about more than just grades and SAT/ACT scores, GPA's and co curriculums. Your college counsellor will help you position the rest of your application to tell the story of who you are through your essays, extracurricular activities, and letters of recommendation. Counsellors know which essay topics are overdone, how to make beneficial use of supplementary materials, and how to explain an uncharacteristic bad grade to admissions committees. And finally, college counsellors help provide harsh realities to their clients, not giving false hope and highlighting the amount of challenging work needed for getting into such colleges is necessary which college counsellors are necessary for.

As another batch in our school is about to pass out, each person in a passing batch needs such a support that college counsellors so effectively provide. Career Counselling is not just about telling the career options available to the students. As the name says, it is guiding the students to help them make a choice. But in school, the criteria are to understand their likes and dislikes. Students grow up with interests in mind. They are influenced by a range of factors and steadily develop a choice. At times, they have preferences about their career. They wish to become something. In schools, counsellors have a one-to-one conversation with the children and make an analysis report which states their likes and dislikes. When this happens in a school, children also discuss things with their friends and broaden their horizons. Thus, it is incredibly important for our school to have a career counsellor to make sure students understand their dislikes and likes and broaden their horizons.

EDUCATION AND WHY IT SHOULD BE ESSENTIAL FOR POLITICIANS

By Marjan Raja, Class 12

To become a lawyer in India, you must study between five to eight years to meet all the qualifications and pass all the tests, only then are you trusted to implement and interpret the laws of our constitution. In this case, the only person at stake is the client, whom the lawyer represents.

A lawyer must study for eight years and pass two exams, to be trusted with the future of one person.

Now let us move on to the context of our country, if a lawyer represents the client, politicians represent the people. But this is no longer just a mere client, this is millions of people from different backgrounds, religions and cultures, with families to feed, and livelihoods to keep.

In my opinion, the future of these people cannot be left to someone with no official education.

A reliable leader needs to not only speak the voice of the people, but should also be able to understand the non-theoretical functions that come with being a representative.

Climate change, for example, is a serious and predominant issue, its basics can be hard to grasp. However, this doesn't excuse discrediting it as the devastating problem it is. We need political leaders who can understand these issues and help give real intelligent solutions.


Our current climate policy is using Compensatory Afforestation as a means to address climate change. Less than an hour of research on the subject will reveal that this is causing more harm than good. Under the cover of "planting twice the amount of trees that have been cut", the cutting of old growth trees is releasing several thousand tonnes of sequestered carbon into the air, which is only adding to the effects of climate change.

There is a reason education is a fundamental right, it is the greatest asset anyone can have and if our very own leaders fail to reap its benefits, then who will?

Be
educated,
be
organised,
and be
agitated
B.R Ambedkar

THE MOON


By Praygya Bairwa, Class 11



The moon holds
secrets
that a misunderstood
villain
is hesitant to tell

Frog Haiku

By Aryan Malik, Class 6



An old silent pond
A frog jumps into the pond-
Splash! Silence again

A close-up, profile view of Rishi Sunak, looking slightly to the left. He has dark hair with some grey at the temples, is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. The background is dark and out of focus.

Rishi Sunak: The first Indian British PM

Karan Pratap Singh, Class 11

Following the resignation of Liz Truss, Rishi Sunak was elected unopposed as the Leader of The Conservative Party on the 24th of October this year. He is the first Prime Minister of the United Kingdom with an Indian Origin and was appointed as the PM by King Charles III.

Sunak was born on 12 May 1980 in Southampton, England, to an Indian family, with his mother being a pharmacist and his father, a National Health Service General Practitioner. According to reports, the Sunak family migrated from Punjab to East Africa to seek a better life, but then some troubles started in the region, and amid widespread sentiments against Indians, his grandfather shifted to Britain in the 1960s.

Rishi has been active in politics since 2010 and has been a Member of Parliament for Richmond (Yorks) since 2015. Prior to being elected as the PM of the United Kingdom, he served as the Parliament Under-Secretary under the former PM – Theresa May’s second term. He voted thrice in favor of May’s Brexit Withdrawal Agreement and after her resignation, Sunak supported Boris Johnson’s campaign to become the Conservative Leader.

Once Johnson was put in as the PM, Sunak was appointed as the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. Post that, replacing Sajid Javid, he became the Chancellor of the Exchequer, where he was prominent in the government’s financial response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and its economic impact, including the Coronavirus Job Retention and “Eat Out to Help Out” Schemes.

He resigned as chancellor in 2022, followed by Johnson's resignation too.

Additionally, Sunak served as a member of the Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs Select Committee and parliamentary private secretary at the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy from 2015 – 2017, and Sunak was the Chief Secretary to Treasury from 2019–2020.

In September 2022, Sunak stood in the Conservative Party Leadership Election to take Johnson's place, but he lost the member vote to Liz Truss.

Sunak received his education from Winchester College, and studied PPE – Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, at Lincoln College, Oxford. As a "Fullbright" scholar, he acquired an MBA degree from Stanford.

Post his graduation, Sunak worked first at Goldman Sachs, an investment bank where he worked as an analyst, between 2001 and 2004.

Later, he worked at the Hedge Fund firms – The Children's Investment Fund Management, where he became a partner in 2006.

Rishi Sunak is married to Akshata Murthy, daughter of N. R. Narayana Murthy, a founder of the Indian multi-national IT company Infosys, and Sudha Murthy, a famous Indian author. Sunak and Murthy met at Stanford while doing their MBA at the same time. Later, in 2009, they got married and as of now, in 2022, they have 2 children, Krishna and Anoushka Sunak who are 11 and 9 years old respectively.

In the times when Rishi Sunak isn't working, he stated on his website that he likes to spend his free time with family, playing cricket and football and watching movies.

"I have been lucky to live, study and work internationally. I met my wife, Akshata, in California where we lived for a number of years before returning home. We have two daughters, Krishna and Anoushka, who keep us busy and entertained," Sunak says on his website.



What is Right.

By Joya Bhuyan, Class 12

Fakest smiles and hidden
lies

old bonds and broken ties

blood origins moulded

to idealised beauty

corrupted ambition replaces

righteous duty.

Fear not, the criminal's-bite

fear our own greed's flaws

as shadows creep through

the night

little girls tainted, by filthy

claws.

Faded soulmates break, the

idea of true love.

Deaths and Deafening war

cries,

have now killed the

innocent dove.

why is it a sin, just for two

men to kiss.

when the whole world

demands

tragic crimes' justice.

Why is it that we lose sight

of what is right

at the cost of someone else's

hurt.



THOR: LOVE AND THUNDER

By Aryan Kapoor, X

Every now and then not only the US box office but the worldwide box office receives its star film. Last year it was Spider-Man No Way Home, in 2019 it was Avengers Endgame and a year before that was Black Panther, all grossing above \$700 000 000 USD. Usually, the box office receives a blockbuster from Marvel and Marvel has rarely disappointed the fans nor the box office producers. These expectations set a huge bar for what the fans were led to believe would be the last and most thrilling Thor movie with the return of Star Wars and Thor actress Natalie Portman as Jane Foster, Chris Hemsworth as the one and only Thor and Tessa Thompson as Valkyrie who starred alongside Chris Hemsworth in MIB International as well. The face of batman also appears in this movie as The Batman Trilogy superstar Cristian Bale stars as Gorr the God Butcher as well as Hollywood royalty Matt Damon who makes a guest appearance as Fake Loki. "Thor: Love and Thunder" finds Thor on a journey unlike anything he's ever faced -- a quest for inner peace. But his retirement is interrupted by a galactic killer known as Gorr the God Butcher, who seeks the extinction of the gods. To combat the threat, Thor enlists the help of King Valkyrie,

T Korg and ex-girlfriend Jane Foster, who -- to Thor's surprise -- inexplicably wields his magical hammer, Mjolnir, as the Mighty Thor.

Add a little bit of The movie did not leave fans happy, and dint meet the expectations of the box office producers with the movie not even being in the top 10 best movies in this year (grossing wise)! The movie was filled with cliché and cringe moments in the middle, but the climax was to die for. The \$360 000 000 USD it earned which is quite less for a Kevin Feige and MCU production could be explained due to its uneven advances from the middle to the climax.

The climax was excellent filled with unexpected twists and turns as well as an unusual gore to the movie that put a dark twist to it. The introduction of gore to MCU movies started back when the production of BLADE commenced. The beginning of the movie was almost kiddish like and silly, similar to the theme of guardians of the galaxy.

Therefore, the movie was not all an all-rounder. Even though the climax almost made up for the first two thirds of the movie the unequal performance of the film did not fail to upset most fans.

body text

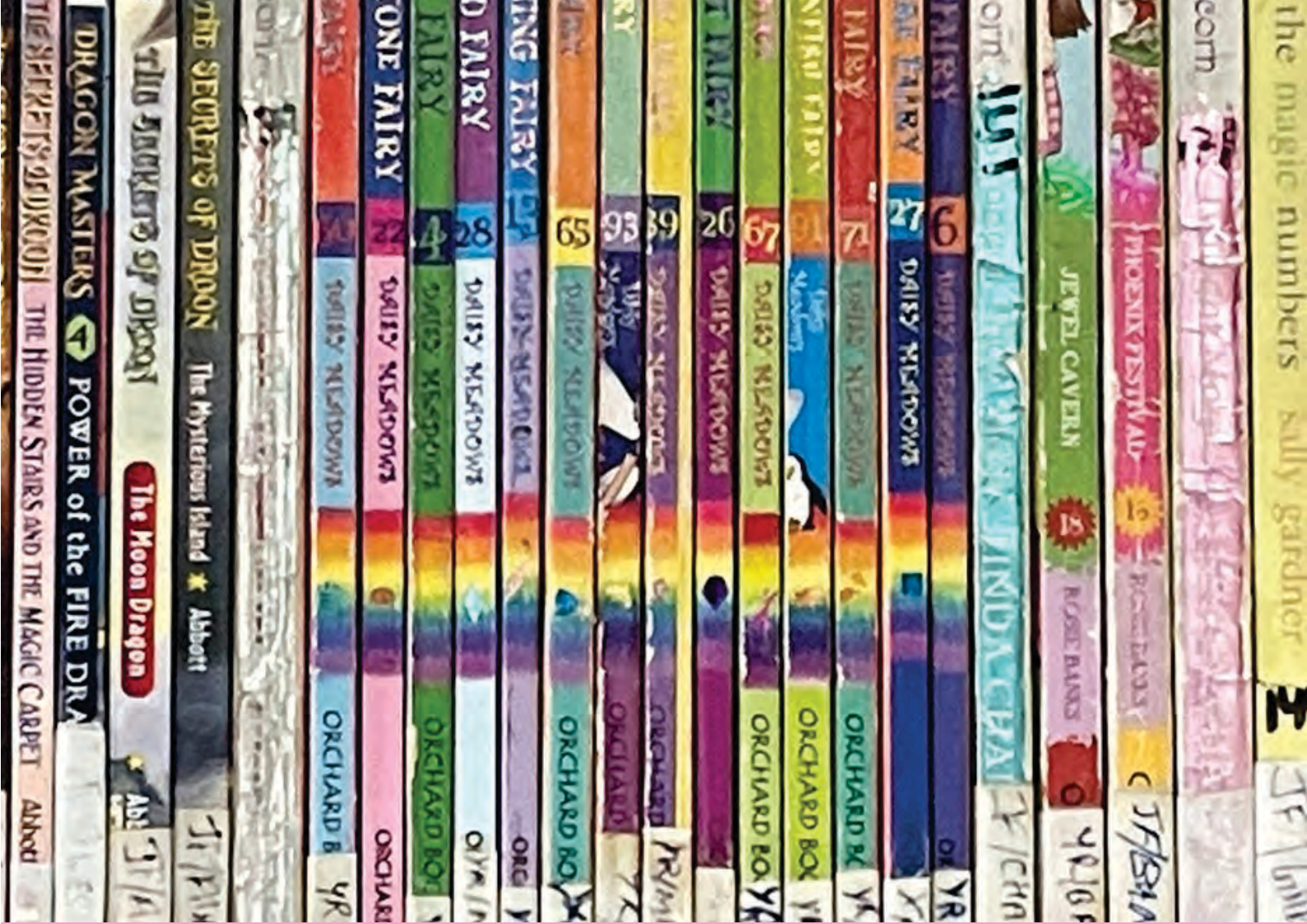
Now let's get on to the MCU tradition, the post credits scene. The film was one of few marvel movies to offer two post credits scene. The second was quite boring but the first revealed that there will be a Thor 5 with Chris Hemsworth staying on for another marvel movie and may or may not feature in the next two avengers' projects. The post credit scene was excellent as it revealed the revival of Zeus and how he and Hercules plan to kill Thor and everyone he loves which has made fans sit on the edge of their seats. With getting 66% on rotten tomatoes, 6.8/10 IMDb and 3.5/5 on Times of India, the statistics don't lie, it was an average movie

With Kevin Feige releasing more movies and with the beginning of phase 5, Thor sets to be one of the most successful and biggest movies of the marvel industries with it being the only one to have been featured in all 5 phases. While the movie has not completely set in stone most speculators think it will feature Chris Hemsworth and with his real-life daughter India Rose Hemsworth who also plays Gorr's daughter. With The Marvels, Thunderbolts and Loki, Thor is up there yet again to be one of the biggest movies in MCU in the upcoming years and let's hope it is more exciting and Thor like than the mildly disappointing Love and Thunder.

CAPTAIN VIKRAM BATRA

By Ananya Bahl, Class 11

Ye dil mange more,
Batra's quote is not to ignore.
The story starts when he was the best NCC
cadet,
To enlist in the merchant Navy, he was set.
With his uniform and tickets booked,
But he joined the army, and the navy was
unlooked.
He was commissioned as the lieutenant of
13 JAK rifles,
The peril of his mission could not be stifled.
A devilish task he was given to complete,
To capture point 5140 at a height of 15,000
feet.
One of the most treacherous and crucial
peaks,
'*Pakistani intruders have taken position', he
speaks.
With an amazing strategy at hand,
Batra took back our sacred land.
This astonishing endeavour was praised
throughout the country,
And the best part was that there was no
Indian casualty.
He was promoted to Captain on the
battlefield itself,
But there was more to come, he knew
himself.
Finally, a new assignment was given,
To recapture point 4875 was striven.
Jai Mata Di! he screamed at the spot,
Then an enemy soldier took a shot.
Tu bal-bachchedar hai, hat ja peeche, he
explains,
He pushes his fellow soldier away and takes
the bullet without a complain
His sacrifice and selflessness will be
rewarded,
Capt Vikram Batra Top, point 4875 was
recorded.
His altruism should be inculcated in
everyone's daily life,
Whether you are a daughter, a son, a
husband or a wife.
His bravery will forever and always be
admired,
We salute you, captain Vikram Batra, we
are all inspired.



QUEER IDENTITY

By Celestina D'souza, Class 11

The word “queer” can be interpreted differently by different people because of its vague meaning. It has been adopted as an umbrella term used for individuals who are not heterosexual or cisgender. Queer identity is an expression of one’s sexuality that isn’t considered ‘traditional’ in terms of how it is expressed in society. Under queer identity, there are many different sexualities. Queer can be used interchangeably in the LGBTQIA+ community but not all individuals in this community embrace this term.

As high school students, we’re discovering who we are and our place in society and as we discover our identity, it also comes with discovering our sexualities. Questioning one’s sexuality can be a confusing time for an individual to figure out who they identify as, whether it be related to their sexuality or their gender.

Coming out to one’s loved ones is a hard task, but support from one’s peers, teachers and parents is important during this time. According to studies, queer students often experience poor mental health because of negative school environments, and the inclusion of LGBTQIA+ students is a problem in many schools around the world.

They have been bullied and harassed in educational institutions for who they identify as and they may often feel unsafe when coming out in a school environment. This is why it’s so important to create a safe space for members of the queer community to feel accepted and acknowledged instead of discriminated against in their own school, especially since as a student one may be dealing with the confusion of figuring out who they are or questioning their identity, sexuality or gender.



There are ways where we can practice inclusivity instead of just preaching it. Teachers should use gender-neutral terms when addressing the class to include all students instead of categorizing students but include transgender and non-binary students as well. When referring to the students instead of using “boys and girls” teachers could use “everyone present here”.

Not only teachers but school counsellors should be well-educated on the topics of gender and sexual identity and the difficulties faced by students when dealing with figuring out their identity. There should also be policies that protect the rights of these students in educational institutions to prevent them from getting discriminated against and harassed. The school should respect each individual's story as well as their gender expression in ways where they should have a choice in which school uniform they prefer to wear, respecting their pronouns and more.

In the end, we’re all different in our own ways and all of us respect these differences, school is important for all of us to figure out our path and our identity and it should be a safe space for everyone to figure who they are and be accepted in it.



On a Rainy Day

By Manasvi Singh, Class 10

A steaming cup sits by
a window pane,
Waiting to be sipped

A cozy armchair,
With blankets a
dozen,
Waiting to be sat in,

And a steady patter of
natures little rock
band,
The beats of
raindrops,
The whistle of the
wind,
The glee of birds
getting wet in the
rain,
My little sighs of
pleasure,
All in perfect
harmony,
On a rainy day.



SOME SECRETS AREN'T MEANT TO STAY
HIDDEN,

SOME WOUNDS AREN'T MEANT TO
HEAL.

In the aftermath of a brutal civil war, the kingdom of Ravka is not only broken, but facing imminent threat from all sides—pretenders to the throne, a divided population, old enemies and new debts. But the worst danger of them all, one that that might cripple the kingdom completely, lies inside the walls of the palace itself.

FACE YOUR DEMONS....

OR FEED THEM.

KING OF SCARS

A Book Review by Ritika Chopra, Class 10

In Leigh Bardugo's exciting new Grisha Duology old characters have new purpose, old wounds bleed new blood and the past is back to haunt us all. It has been three years since the war with the Darkling and the destruction of the shadow fold (Shadow and Bone Trilogy). The book follows Nikolai Lantsov, newly crowned king of Ravka, as he attempts to restore peace to his nation. But amongst mingling with dignitaries, royal courting and new war development, each day a dark magic in him grows stronger, threatening to destroy all that he has built. Ravka won't be the only sufferer if Nikolai fails.

The world is not kind to Grisha, masters of the small science, magic bearers of the Grishaverse, who only have Ravka as sanctuary while the rest of the world continues to hunt them, slave them, kill them. If Ravka falls, so do the Grisha. Luckily, Nikolai is not alone.

Zoya Nazyalensky, Ravka's fierce general, has devoted her life to enhancing Ravka's Grisha army and will stop at nothing to help Nikolai secure the throne. But miracles are making appearances all over the kingdom, and a new cult has entered the game.

While Zoya and Nikolai were important characters in Leigh Bardugo's Shadow And Bone Trilogy and were briefly introduced in The Six Of Crows Duology, in this book they are displayed as more complex personas with a deeper insight into their own struggles and beliefs.

Speaking of familiar characters, the book also follows Nina Zenik, an outspoken Grisha Corporalki with a new unexplainable power and the sole survivor of a deadly Grisha drug, as she works undercover in Fjerda, aiding other helpless Grisha escape from the land that reduces them to the title of an abomination. Burdened by grief from her past, and the call of the dead (quite literally) , Nina prepares to face the dangers that lie ahead. With so much to gain there is also so much to fear.

"Fear is a phoenix, you can watch it burn a thousand times and it will still return."

In the King Of Scars they all put their lives on the line to save their broken nation. In this amazingly captivating read, Leigh Bardugo also brings in politics and scandals from some of the previous Grisha Series. Although it is not required, it is preferred that you read some of the older Grishaverse books before advancing to this one. However, if you choose not to...Fear not! This book has plenty of intriguing plot twists and capturing tropes to keep you engaged for hours on end.

This book is a must-read if you love fantasy fiction and adventure. An amazing addition to your reading list!

Growing

By Manasvi Singh, Class 10

Flowers grow on
trees,
So do the bees,

Love grows in homes
And bitterness, alone

The heart grows with
compassion,
Tears grow in
sorrow,

anger makes us
regret,
regret makes us
hollow
And there's nothing
left to grow,
Tomorrow





Why We should Keep Going Global

Marjan Raja

500 years ago it made no sense for civilizations to travel. There was no real economic sense in getting on a ship or starting on a route years away from your family and everything you know with no guaranteed chance of success. It was a bargain, and yet, history can show us the scores of civilizations that took that bargain every single time. China, the Middle East, India, the French, the Dutch, the Portuguese are all examples of places that reached out, even when there was no guarantee of someone reaching back.

Look at where we live now.

Now, there is a guarantee. Reaching out is no longer a leap in the dark, it is clearer than it has ever been before, it is safer than it has ever been before. The world is growing smaller and more connected every day and yet our boundaries remain more clear cut than ever. If we stop going global now, we disrespect everything the people before stood for, we go against our very nature as human beings.

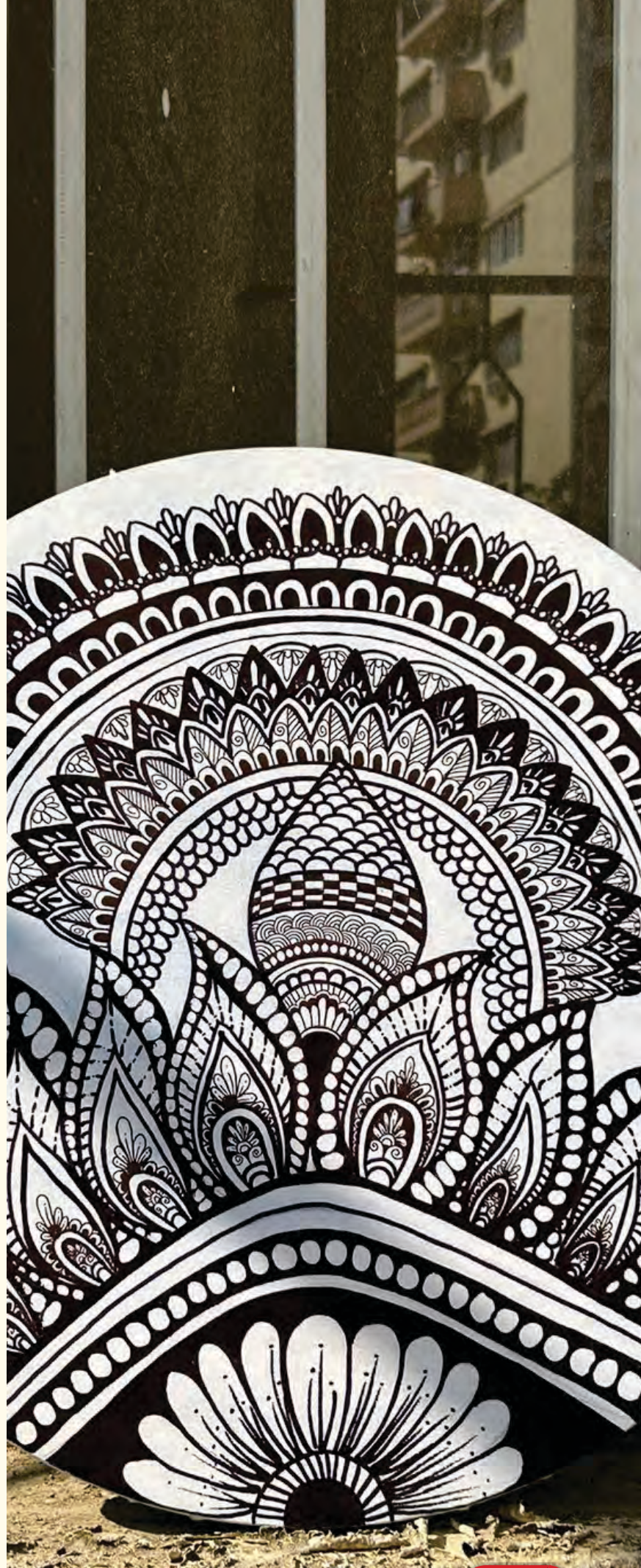
Coming to a more modern view in the context of going global let's move to a key argument of what others may say. Which is especially considering our own country; that going more global may hinder our own development.

Let's take an example. We're all familiar with the Sustainable Development Goals. Let me bring your attention to one goal in particular, Goal 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy. India depends on this Goal considerably more than many other countries but our ever growing population and therefore ever growing reliance on fossil fuels like diesel and petrol are keeping us far from even a semblance of Goal 7.

Motorized travel is a necessity especially in this day and age. Even the poorest of the poor need some form of vehicular transportation; they are also one of the biggest contributors to pollution in our country. But there is a great alternative, hybrid cars, which emit more than 10 tonnes less of carbon dioxide compared to petrol and diesel cars. India has no hybrid technology available. To buy a hybrid car you have to import it, with a payment of almost 50% tax. If you go to buy a 20 Lakh car that is 10 Lakh extra you are paying just to be sustainable.

People will say that we are waiting for an Indian made car. But how long will we wait? Are we going to slow down our progress and development and endanger a whole generation? foreign Indian made car. "Sure in the long run this will be better for our country".

But that's where you're wrong, at the rate we're going, there is no long run.



On Mental Health

By Ayush Negi, Class 11

We all have our good days and bad days. We all have our demons that we constantly fight with every day. Some know how to deal with it, handle it, but most of us don't. Mental Health is all about how we feel, think, and behave, which also impacts our personal and social life.

There are many mental disorders, and Anxiety is one of them. In simple terms, Anxiety is basically our normal reaction to stress, a feeling of dread, fear, and uneasiness. Anxiety can be beneficial sometimes in some situations, as it may give us a boost of energy and help us focus. However, the problem arises when your anxiety gets worse over time, and you start getting frequent panic attacks.

“Everything's okay! You are just overthinking!”

“Look at your life! It's so great. Plus you always seem so happy”

“Just Snap out of it! It's all in your head”

These are some things which people suffering from mental disorders often hear when they try to talk about their problems. Even though 1 in 4 people are suffering from such disorders in the world, people are still reluctant to accept mental illness because of the stigma.

They don't feel like acknowledging it and getting help, and they not only hide their pain from others, but also hide it from themselves, which just makes it worse.

The feeling of holding everything, the stress and the misery sometimes becomes too much to handle that self-harm becomes common, just to forget that pain.

ITS OKAY TO BE NOT OKAY

It'll take some time, some courage, but eventually the good times will come again.

TALK TO SOMEONE! SEEK HELP

! Holding it all up to yourself will just make it worse. Talk and spend time with your family, your friends and your loved ones, and vent out all your emotions to them. Mental illness should not be something to be ashamed about or thought of differently. When mental illness is treated equally to other illnesses, more people will have the courage to get help and better their lives. Avoid any negative influence. Remind yourself that **IT WILL GET OVER**. Trust me, reader, you deserve all the love in the world. I don't know you, but I hope your bad times get over and you achieve everything.

This is Ayush signing off, and I hope you have a really great day reader!!

you are a friend
everyone wishes for



Isn't That What It's All About? Old Friends?

By Marjan Raja, Class 12

I suppose I will have
to one day
Grow up and build a
home
find a partner to love
And a job that's
enough
And a kid who will
whine and moan
But for now , I'll
enjoy this feeling
Only tethered to the
moon

I know I'll come to
love many
But not as much as I
loved you
Not as much as I
loved you my friend,
on the windy walk
home from school



Are we using our freedom in a responsible way?

By Celestina D'souza, Class 11

We got Independence on 15th August, 1947 and since then we've had the responsibility that goes hand-in-hand with having freedom. As citizens of India we haven't been following that sense of responsibility and we've been misusing our right to freedom in many cases.

When we walk across the street we often see people around us polluting the environment without showing any care for it and this is one of the most common examples of citizens acting irresponsibly. Not only that but many of us exploit our right to speech by verbally abusing other people around us on certain stereotypes. Many of us will also go to violent measures to get our voices heard, an example of this are the farmers' riots which happened earlier this year when the farmers were unhappy with the government and it got violent in many places.

Even during the covid-19 pandemic, the government set certain guidelines such as the lockdown, mandatory masks in public and social distancing norms. We would see a lot of people break these rules and go out after the set curfew as well as host parties which would break the social distancing guidelines and contribute to the spread of covid which is why at a certain point India recorded the highest cases and the highest number of deaths to covid.

Citizens don't stop here as to being irresponsible with their freedom, there are many cases such as rape, domestic violence, thievery and that's just to name a few.

I believe that the citizens of our nation are misusing their freedom and that they should be more responsible when it comes to the freedom given to us.

With freedom
comes
responsibility,
a
responsibility
that can only
be met by the
individual


Ronald Reagan

A Collector

By Ritika Chopra, Class 10

I've always been a collector,
A connoisseur if you might
For I've dabbled in wonder,
A new thrill with every flight.
I've scoured the grand Alps,
Explored valleys to the bone
And although some lands are alien
No where's ever really unknown.
For in every land I visit,
With its own prestige and glory
There lives a rainbow of people
A new spectrum in each story.
In every new tale,
A familiar light shines,
Every sentiment so different,
And yet so close to mine.
The village artisan smiles,
At the fortune he amassed.
Every prideful penny he earns,
A gift from generations past.
And down by the mighty rapids,
The gleeful village folk dance.
The wind partakes its own tango,
As it swifts gently through the palms.
I've travelled far and long,
To lands not of my own.
And yet with every new smile,
I've never truly felt alone.
Life is a short journey,
But the world is oh so wide.
Before you take a leap,
You must pick up your stride.
I am still a collector,
A connoisseur if you might,
For I still dabble in wonder,
A new thrill with every night.
I still scour mountains,
Feel the best of what life brings,
But I am only a fanatic for moments,
I have never collected things.





The Inadequacies of Our Education System

By Sana Yadav, Class 10

St George's Anglo - Indian Higher Secondary School, was the first school built in India, in the year 1715. About three centuries later, schools are a common topic of small talk. Schools are believed to be the status quo of learning. But learning isn't just reciting a textbook from memory. Learning includes social interaction, how to cook, how to look after yourself. The way we learn today was built for the old economic imperative. The world is changing. Why isn't our education system?

The word school comes from the Greek word *scholē* meaning leisure or free time. Ancient Greek philosophers believed that for true learning to occur, students needed to be given space and time to ponder ideas, exchange thoughts and discuss problems. However, most students today would not agree with this

Einstein said, "if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a wall, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid." That is exactly how majority of the students feel. In a system created to prioritise productivity rather than fun of learning, it is natural that not everyone would find their niche in this system. There are 7.9 billion types of learners in this world, but the current schooling system treats them all as one. It is designed to compete around standards that may not suit learners.

The biggest problem with our education system is that we're not allowed to fail. If we do, we're straining our records forever, which ultimately means failing at life. We're not taught to deal with failure. And so, when we face our first failure in life, whether it be rejection from university, failing at acquiring a job, failing in your business, we're so taken aback that we fall into traps like depression and suicide.

One reason for the failure of our education system is less learning outcomes. We are taught to rote-learn textbooks for passing exams, but we're never actually taught to be curious and ask questions. Our knowledge remains limited within the bounds of books we're given. School is not training us to ask good questions, rather answer the ones they want us to.

Today's world operates more on skills rather than theories in textbooks. The world, today, demands innovation, creativity and out-of-the-box thinking, but the education system does not promote any of these.

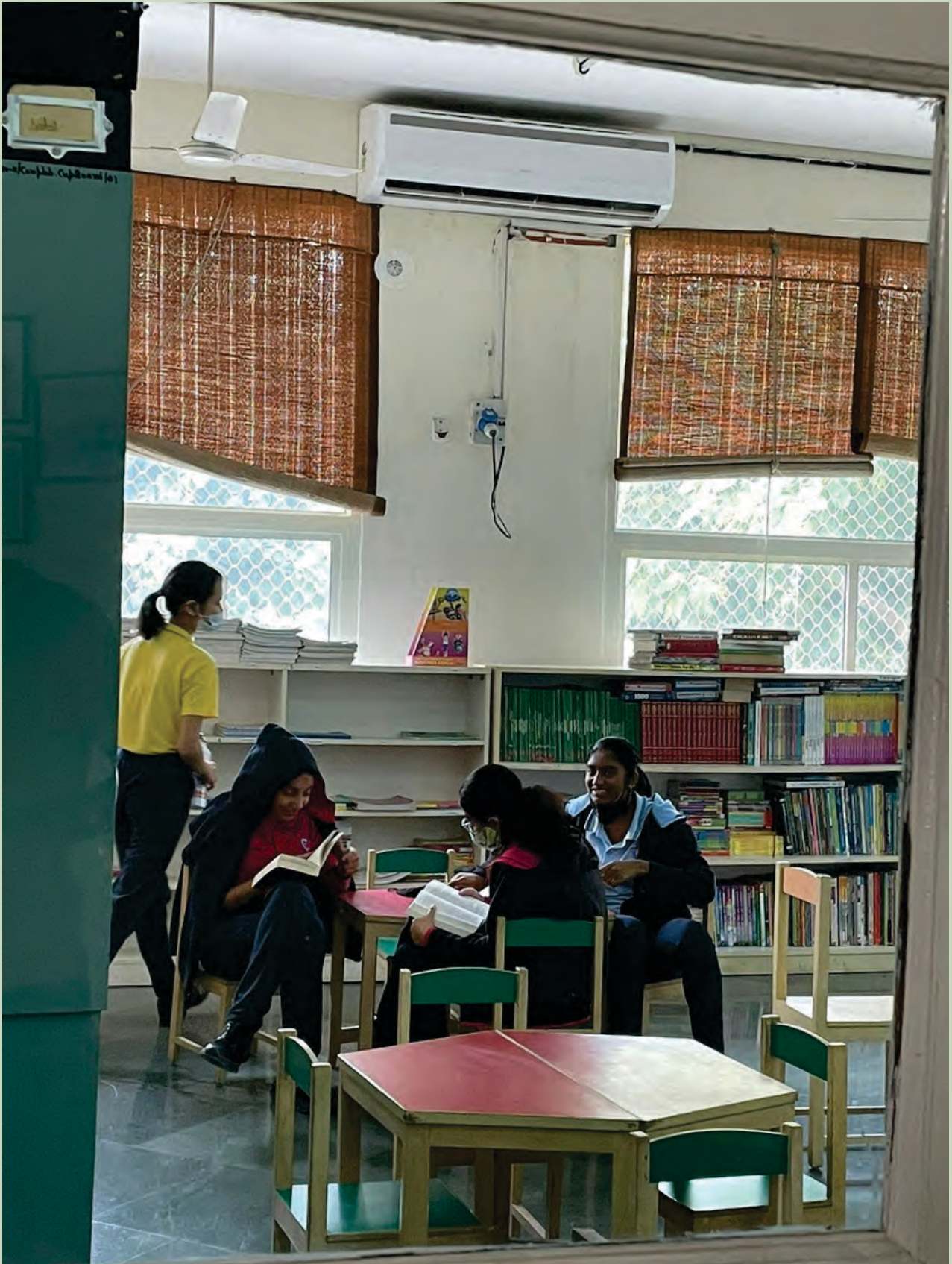
The most concerning issue of all is that we're not taught why we're taught what we're taught. Simply put, we're not made to love learning rather we're forced to learn for the sake of our future. We're told that only if we get best grades, do we have a chance at the best future. We start to associate our worth with numbers or letters on pieces of paper. The education system does not realise that we're more than that. We may be good friends, brilliant sportspersons, amazing artists. The education system does not consider all of that. The only thing it tests is how well we can copy the textbook onto blank sheets of paper in a fixed amount of time we're given.

Humans are naturally curious, adaptive, knowledge-gathering, active, creative beings. Train this side and the world will witness miracles!





OUR TAKE ON FRIENDSHIP



Friendship

By Neil Rao, Class 7

When two people meet
They warmly greet
When two people become
friends,
They don't try to make it end.
Sometimes they quarrel,
Which ends up as a moral.
Sometimes they agree,
And at times, they disagree.
But that's all part of friendship,
It's when you skip around it's
someone
It's when you have someone to
share with,
And its who you spend time
with.

My True Friend

Divyesh Sharma, Class 7

You always answer me when
I call.
You always save me when I
fall.
But you never think to
complain about anything at
all.
Even if u must push a wall.
You are my best buddy.
As cute as a puppy.

Valuing our friends

Prathavi Kataria, Class 8

We all have friends
On whom we depend
They are always beside us
And never distrust us
They help us stay strong
And be our friends lifelong
They always try to make us smile
Once in a while
So never cheat a friend
Or your friendship will end.

True Friends

Meher Fatima Naqvi, Class 8

A True friend
helps you when your blue
only few are these friends
but once you find them
They are forever with you
They Endeavor hardships with you
They are a treasure, that you can
keep forever
And no need for pressure
You can find one whenever you think
you are true
As to get a True friend, you must be
one too.



Still Here

By Marjan Raja, Class 12

Once again, this year on the 24th of October, Diwali was celebrated with pomp and show. The great Indian festival was followed by its usual path of smog unique to Delhi that, according to Reuters, “blanketed the city” and “darkened the sky”.

This time, Indians everywhere seemed to light their diyas and string their lights for reasons other than to guide King Ram home.

After two years of great strife and loss, two waves (A third supposedly on its way), and multiple lockdowns, every lumen of light, whether it was from a flame of an oiled wick or a blinding fluorescent bulb, seemed to call out. Seemed to reach out into the night, into the void we call our world,

“After everything, I still made it, I'm still here. Are you?”

Many of us aren't. And the grief that has stemmed from the people we lost may never leave. And the memories that remain of these people may make us feel like we can never move on.

But like the smoke that now clouds our cities, these feelings will fade. Next year, as we relive each celebration and ceremony, they may return stronger than ever. But if the last two years have proved anything,

It's that we're strong enough to face them.





WHAT IS GRIEF, IF NOT LOVE PERSERVERING?

By Maisha Bagchi, Class 12

Growing up, grief seemed so one-dimensional on television and the pages of my books. My naivety kept me from understanding the anguish that followed the emotion. I had a very conventional understanding of it until I dived into the world of horror films. Now, I know this sounds a little absurd, because what could jumpscare possibly teach me about such an intricate emotion? But frankly, it changed my entire perspective on the whole process of grieving. In my opinion, it is a genre that is profoundly and inherently interested in exploring some of the most fundamental aspects of the human experience.

Horror movies not only enable us to comprehend our deepest secrets, but they also help in the processing of our subdued feelings. In particular, what intrigues me the most about horror films is the way grief is addressed in the genre. Despite how universal grieving is, the nature of grief is hard to pin down as it manifests differently among individuals.

For the longest time, I assumed that horror films were about death. But they're quite the opposite. They are actually about survival. They are about relentlessly gripping onto life and hope.

The series "Haunting of Bly Manor" portrays how our internal demons follow us throughout life and don't let us forget the past. It depicts how we grieve our past selves, are in denial, and cannot move on. It teaches us to embrace the short time that we have.

The suffering brought on by losing loved ones is one of the inherent themes that horror films reflect. The movie "A Ghost Story,"- a tale of a man who dies young but continues to linger on as a ghost, silently observing his wife's grief - was eye-opening for me. I realized that grief isn't a loss but essentially just love. The love you want to give, but can't.

What is horror if not grief? And.. "What is grief if not love persevering?"



Abortion: A fundamental Right

By Yash Dube, Class 12

With the overturning of Roe v. Wade, Yash writes about this decision that could affect many of us who plan to live abroad.

Abortion should be permitted in any and all circumstances as per the will of the pregnant woman. This is simply because there is nothing ethically wrong with abortion.

By the very act of specifying certain circumstances where abortion should be permitted, one is saying that the act of abortion, independent of its circumstances, is wrong. As in, abortion is only correct when it is the lesser evil or when the 'sin' of abortion is dwarfed by the tragic and decadent circumstances that have resulted in the need for the abortion.

Thus, the basis of the argument in favour of the statement, is that abortion is wrong

However, this is most certainly not the case.

The procedure of abortion, usually, can only be legally and safely be carried out at an early stage of the pregnancy, during which the embryo is not sentient. That is, it is not conscious of its existence and can neither feel the pleasure of life or the pain of losing it.

In short, the embryo is not even a life at all. So, the biggest ethical argument against abortion, that it is murder, falls flat here.

How can abortion amount to murder when there is no life to kill?

So, if one were to look at abortion objectively, and block out all the noise regarding the subject, one would come to the conclusion that abortion is purely a medical procedure, similar to how getting your vaccines is a medical procedure.

Hence, because there is nothing ethically wrong with abortion it should be permitted in all circumstances.

Moreover, in light of the above, if it is the will of the pregnant woman to get an abortion, it would be a violation of her freedom if she was not allowed to get one.

Since abortion is a perfectly ethical medical procedure, not being allowed to get one would be like your doctor not treating you simply because you got a cold for the 'wrong' reasons.

One must be allowed to do as they wish within the sovereign territory of their bodies, and any laws saying otherwise, would be a flagrant violation of their liberty.

So, in conclusion, abortion is perfectly ethical and by virtue of being so, the decision to abort must lie with the pregnant woman, with no exceptions.

Thus, abortion should be permitted in any and all circumstances.

Is This Me?

By Manasvi Singh, Class-X

Sometimes I
wonder,
How do I seem?

Is this my body,
Is this really me?

Or am I just a
visitor,
Resting inside,

Waiting for my
station,
On this spiritual
train ride.



My Interpretation of "Aunt Jeniffer's Tigers"

By Marjan Raja, Class 12

If marriage was like the movies on TV and books stacked near my bed, I would be hopeful. A rose coloured future is all any girl ever wants, a partner that loves you, more importantly, a partner that respects you. But nothing is ever so simple.

Aunt Jeniffer represents a world of women who find that they are shackled by the very knot they chose to tie.

When the shine of the wedding band is no longer blinding you, these women see the reality they've been thrown into. Of living in someone else's shadow, of putting your own needs last.

The band on Aunt Jeniffer's finger is weighing down on her skin, and its shape, a perfect circle represents her life: the dull, endless walk of a caged tiger, around and around and around. She does not even realise how much rage she is in. None of us do.

But she must muffle this rage, and keep the smile on her face. And instead let this tiger pass on, one day she hopes, to her daughters, to their daughters. But for now, in this moment, this cloth will have to do.

Through thread, these saffron creatures will live forever, and maybe move someone else.

We are the daughters and granddaughters of these women, and we can break these viscous cycles.

We hold equal rights in any relationship and have the power to choose who to get married and whether we even want to get married. We do not have to live out our lives in quiet agony.

The change must start with us.



Digital Montage on Johnny Depp

By Marjan Raja and Maisha Bagchi, Class 12

Johnny Depp has poured his heart and soul into every role he's played, from the vibrant looks he displayed to the personalities he's portrayed. With the recent controversy surrounding him, we believe it's important to question everything.

And so we ask you,

what happened to Johnny Depp?

something
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a blog post. Make a

WHAT HAPPENED TO JOHNNY DEPP?



WERE
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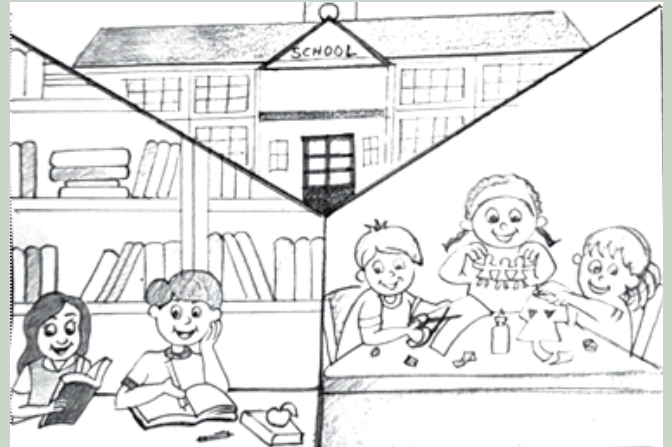
In Memory of 9/11

By Joya Bhuyan, Class 12

As the debris began to
recede,
And the fires burned bright,
All that remained, was
broken glass,
Where the twin towers stood
with pride and might.
The nation mourned, for
injustice was cruel,
We lost so many that day.
They were innocent,
oblivious to their sin,
Hate and greed, whisked
their lives away.
The streets were stained with
blood
And broken mothers cried
As little children glanced
around confused
“it’ll be ok” their fathers lied.
Crowds screamed and ran for
hope,
Grasping for a chance at life.
There is love to spread and
yet,
Al Qaeda took up the knife.

I am a Ridgean

By Prtyush Chhabra, Class V



I am a Ridgean
My School has blend of
Education and fun.

Going to school on Monday
After full day of fun
On Saturday and Sunday
Makes me happy to see
My friends again.

Tuesday is my skating day
Skating fast delights me a lot.

Wednesday is full of
fun Drama, music and dance
My skills enhance.

Thursday is Taekwondo day
I use my strength and
My energy, I display.
Friday is Library day
I choose a book
Of my choice.
Ghost stories
Fairy Tales and fiction
Are my favourite
I read in Library
Without making a noise.

Saturday
Off day of school
Half day studies at home
And half day frolic and fun.

Sunday is my day
Full of fun and joy
TV and outings far away
Why all days are not Sunday?

Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon

By Rudransh Tolani, Grade-VI

I dream to be a Fighter Pilot every day,
Soaring in the sky, flying up & away
With courage as my wings, and a Fighter Jet as my weapon,
And be a hero like Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon!

I would grow up hearing brave stories from my father,
Legends of great warriors, fighters and soldiers
And always dream of serving my country,
Protect its honour, freedom & integrity

In 1971, six enemy planes suddenly attacked Srinagar runway,
But Flying Officer Nirmal was quick to fly his jet away
Up in the sky he roared, and challenged the enemy jets to fight,
One single pilot against six Jets of the enemy's might

The enemies circled him and the jets battled in the air,

Chasing Flying Officer Nirmal, in the battle unfair
But Flying Officer Nirmal was nimble & quick,
And always managed to give the enemies the slip

With great courage and amazing flying skills,
He fought hard & went for the kill,
He shot down one enemy jet to the ground,
And set fire to another plane, forcing it to turn around

But the many enemy planes continued to attack,
Chasing his plane, like a hungry wolf-pack
Flying Officer Nirmal's jet was hit by enemy bullet,
And his plane crashed to earth like a falling rocket

His plane was found in a deep forest in a valley,
With no sign of him or even his body
The brave son of India had made his final sacrifice,
And two enemy planes had paid the price

Flying Officer Nirmal was awarded the Param Vir Chakra,
The highest gallantry award in battle for any Soldier
Statues and tanks were named in his honour,
And his stories continue to inspire many soldiers

I dream to be a Fighter Pilot every day,
Soaring in the sky, flying up & away
With courage as my wings, and a Fighter Jet as my weapon,
And be a hero like Param Vir Chakra Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon!

Apples Haiku

By Kyra Arora, Class-VI



I want an apple
I really like apples
So juicy and red



Art for Therapy

By Joya Bhuyan, Class 12

Art speaks what words cannot explain. It illuminates and inspires and reforms our idea of beauty.

From cave paintings long before human civilization, to renown renaissance art pieces hung up in museums today, people have relied on art as a means of communication and expression for thousands of years. However, art therapy was not a formalised treatment until the 1940s. Adrian Hill, a British artist, coined the term in 1942. While Hill was recovering from tuberculosis, he discovered the remedial benefits of drawing and painting. He wrote that the value of art therapy lay in "completely engrossing the mind (as well as the fingers)... releasing the creative energy of the frequently inhibited patient", which enabled the patient to "build up a strong defence against his misfortunes".

Art therapy is rooted in the idea that creative expression can foster healing and mental well being. Human beings have an innate desire to express themselves. Art provides a medium for such expression, and helps individuals gain their sense of freedom and control by enabling them to freely exhibit an array of ideas and thoughts. The technique also promotes healing by revealing one's feelings and emotions through their art. This symbolic form of expression gives voice to suppressed experience, and overcomes the limitations of language.

Furthermore, art, whether it's being created or observed, also helps cope with stress. It is known to reduce the stress hormone called cortisol and releases the feel-good hormones called endorphins, inducing feelings of pleasure and joy.

People need not have artistic ability or special talent to benefit from art therapy. Art can be created by anyone who is creative. Moreover, it is accessible people of all ages.

Art enriches and adds meaning to our lives. It has the power to help and heal many in need. For those who find other forms of therapy difficult, art therapy could be an effective option of treatment.



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