

Snapshot

APL GLOBAL SCHOOL E-MAGAZINE

OCT 2015

ISSUE NO.13



Learn about our very own young environmentalist in Voice

Hot News

Read Hot News to get the latest of What's Happening

Teacher Speak

Learn more about our MD Gita Jagannathan in TeacherSpeak



See what our toddlers have been up to in Tiny Tots

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Editorial

Greetings!

As we are taking a breather from mock and semester exams, the students of APL Global have put together yet another interesting issue of Snapshot, collating the hottest events and news that have occurred over these few months. It would be incredible if we received responses on your perspectives on the issue, so send in your feedback- it might be featured in the Reader's Response section!

In this issue, you will come across captivating elements, including Open Boat, where students showcase their literary and artistic talents guaranteed to beguile you with interesting stories, poems, artwork and photos. Do check out Voice, where we exhibit the opinions and viewpoints of our very own young leader and environmentalist Renyta and how she has contributed to society. In Tiny Tots and Junior Corner, dedicated to the "little ones", students demonstrate their work on varying topics and mediums which primarily interest them. Finally, TeacherSpeak, where we learn more about our MD Gita Jagannathan. All in all- this particular issue is sure to keep you hooked and will be a worthy read- so let's not keep you any longer, enjoy!

Poojaa Srinivasan, Gr 10C

Editorial Team

Content: Aditi Naranja, Manas Gr 8

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Disclaimer:

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

It is refreshing to see the July Issue, The pictures were very nice and it was a good idea to put up all the pictures of all our new leaders, especially our SPL and ASPL.
--Smrithi, Gr 6A

It was really nice to know the different events in the school. It was also good to see how our seniors have performed in IGCSE.
--Reshma, Gr 7B

It is good to see the participation and effort put in by our students. The mixture of content that has poured through Snapshot is truly commendable.
-- Lakshmi, Faculty, Business Studies & English

Readers' Response

The latest issue of SnapShot is very interesting... it's wow! The section I liked most is Voice. The design is very colourful.
-Nithyashree, Gr 10B

It was truly lovely, the poems and art work truly showcased our fellow students' talents. Overall, the issue was very beautifully presented and very well written.
Aditi - Gr 7B

I was pleasantly surprised to see all the great work. It's really nice to be part of APL as I feel proud to see that we have such goods artists, writers and poets.
--Shwetha, Gr 7B

Overall, it was very informative to see the issue and see the talent that has been showcased from all sections of the school. I was really impressed to see the work from the primary school and hope to see a lot more participation from them.
--Lata, Faculty, Tamil & Mathematics

Science Plunge

We went to NPS International School for a science competition. Four of us were selected-- Austin, Ananya, Nikhil and I, two from 8th grade and two from 9th grade. When we went there, we were introduced to the rules by their science staff and students of grade 9. We had to follow the instruction sheet and do an experiment. Then, we were given brainteasers to solve.

We got an experiment on air pressure. All of us found it difficult, (it's not as easy as it sounds!) but we somewhat managed to make it work after two hints. We cracked the brainteasers easily, thanks to Austin and Nikhil.

Then we went down to the presentation room to receive our prizes and to have snacks. We didn't win, but it was fun. (Even though I ruined my uniform with very strong adhesive.)

Aditi Naranja, Gr 8

Teachers' Day Celebrations

As always, our students gave their teachers a great treat on Teachers' Day with a range of fun filled games and activities. Most of the games tested how well the teachers know their students. The grand finale was the calling out of absolutely apt and delightful titles the students gave all the teachers and staff. At the end of the day, it was great to know how well our teachers and students know each other!



OUR TRIP TO THE ICECREAM FACTORY

It was with a lot of excitement that we started our journey at 9 am in the morning. All of us jumped into the bus in order to be close to our friends. We had a lot of fun in the bus. We reached there by noon.

First, we went to see how they made the ice-cream. After that we were taken to see how the ice-creams were filled into the boxes. They were actually able to fill 9,800 boxes in 8 hours. It was a miracle. Then we went into the freezer room which was at -22 degrees. It was freezing cold!! I turned reddish-yellow. Everyone wanted to run out of that room.

Once we were out of the room, we ate lunch. The best part of the trip waswe got our ice-creams. Along with our ice-cream we also got a gift that had a box and a keychain resembling a cone ice-cream. At about 2.30pm we left for our school. It was an awesome and memorable trip.

Reshma Mehraj, Gr 7B



MUSIC CAFE

It is morning snack break on a Tuesday. After a hard PLP test, all students come outside their class with their snacks and stare at the stage set in the middle of the campus in the ground floor. Some of the students rush downstairs to the stage where musical instruments have already been set for them to perform. This is APL Music Cafe, a platform to realize the potential of the school's talented musicians.

The music cafe is an event that coincides with the morning snack break, where musical performances take place. It is also an educational initiative, aimed at educating listeners about the songs performed. It is beneficial to both listeners and performers. The performances are very refreshing for the listeners, and the performers' potential is realized.

Every month, there is a theme set to the performances. For example, March was the Beatles round and June was 1970's - 80's rock round. Performers wishing to perform will have to choose their songs based on the theme.

They will also have to present their information to the music teachers, and will then have to rehearse in the music room, for the music teachers to listen and assist in the improvement of the performers.

At the performances, the crowd is very encouraging, cheering up every performance. This makes every performer feel good about his/her performance, and helps them gain some confidence and self - esteem from it.

The music cafe happens every Tuesday and Thursday, during the morning snack break. It is one of the most awaited events of the school week.



Winning Laurels

- In Sishyamrita cultural, Aniroodh of grade 9, Aadithya and Aman of grade 11, Maaya of grade 10, and Arjun and Varun of grade 12 got the First Prize for Western Music.
- Maaya, Maithreyi and Sadhana of grade 10 won the First Prize for Western Music at GTA Vidya Mandir cultural.
- At PSBB-OMR cultural, Cheahyun Song of grade 7 and Seo Young Jang of grade 8 won the First Prize in their cultural Sulakshya 2015 for the event Drawing—Untitled Music and they also won a trophy for our school.
- Lavanya Bhooma Vasanth, Manasa Ravishankar and Nandika Murugavel of grade 7 won Second Prize for the event Sherlock at the PSBB-OMR cultural Sulakshya 2015.
- Ian (Sui Yiu Yi) and Tanmay N. Patel won the First Prize for the event Now You Can See Me at the PSBB-OMR cultural Sulakshya 2015 and they also won a trophy for our school.
- Rupika and Mahima of grade 9 got the Third Prize in Flower Decoration at Jeppiar Matriculation School cultural.
- Prakriti of grade 7 and Shreya of grade 6 won the Third Prize in Just A Minute at Jeppiar Matriculation School cultural.
- M. Prathyanka of grade 6 won the First Prize for Origami at Jeppiar Matriculation School cultural.
- Sathya Shree of grade 10 and Elakiya of grade 12 were Winners in Badminton Doubles at Jeppiar Matriculation School cultural.
- Sathya Shree of grade 10 was Winner of Badminton Singles at Jeppiar Matriculation School cultural.
- In the Inter-School tournament held at our school, in the event Football Under 15, our school were Winners. In Badminton Under 16 for girls, our school were Winners in the Singles and Doubles. In Badminton Under 16 for boys, we were Winners in Singles and Doubles. In Throwball Under 16 for girls, our school was the Runner-Up.



Blazing a Nature Trail

We are really proud that one of us was in the news for her significant work in nature conversation. Renyta Moses of grade 11 has started an NGO called 'We Conserve' focusing on waste recycling and has roped in like-minded youth. Click here <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/never-too-young-to-make-a-difference/article7614597.ece> to read the article in The Hindu. We found out more about what inspired Renyta to start We Conserve. Excerpts from the interview:

Can you tell us about yourself and your family?

I have always loved animals, music, singing and reading books. I live with my parents, a little sister and a dog. My family is very supportive in anything I want to do.

What was the incident that kindled the fire in you to enter the environment sector?

When I was in grade 4, someone from WWF delivered a lecture in our school on wild life conservation. That motivated me to think about how to save animals and how to make society a better place to live. Soon I started a club called Rain Forest.

What are your experiences in the conservation field so far?

I started a non-government organisation called 'We Conserve'. I also started an awareness campaign in my neighbourhood. I distributed pamphlets to inform them of my campaign. I was surprised to find that a lot of them were already

doing activities like decomposing biodegradable waste etc. Many of them gave me new ideas.

Can you talk about your 'WE CONSERVE' initiative?

I have always wanted to do something environment related. So I worked for Blue Cross, I volunteered for things like beach clean ups. But instead of just volunteering, I wanted to organise something and give opportunities to other people to volunteer for it. The main objective of 'WE CONSERVE' is waste management. In some foreign countries, it is all arranged in a proper way and segregated. But in India it has not developed yet.

The main objective of
! We Conserve !
is waste management.

Please tell us about an incident that affected or impressed you the most.

When I was doing a survey, I was impressed that a lot of people were already doing things like garbage segregation by themselves. The only thing left was to come together as a community.

Can you tell us more about the survey you conducted?

Quite some time ago, I wanted to find out how well people know their environment. So I went door-to-door and asked everyone some questions. I found out that some people were already doing garbage segregation. It was impressive, but the effort was in vain as the collected garbage was all disposed together by the local men.

So did you do anything to make the society work together?

Yes, I started another campaign where I highlighted the fact that in spite of the segregation being done, the ultimate result was nil. About fifty people attended this campaign. All these members came up to help me in creating awareness among the garbage pickers.

Have you seen any changes in the society after your campaign?

Yes, now people are aware of this and want to contribute to keeping the environment clean. Many schools are calling me to give a speech to the students.

How do you think students can contribute locally in nature conservation?

Everyone should start to segregate waste, and decompose the biodegradable waste in their gardens. They can also create awareness among the people in their society. Our main aim should be to reduce landfills. If interested, they can also

come and talk to me and I can help them out.

What are your future plans; is this going to be your hobby or profession?

I want to be a marine biologist and I am planning to study abroad.



Growing Up

I was born when fall approached
and my little eyes gazed at leaves
that fell from the trees one by one
and landed so gracefully.

They twirled and swirled and danced mid-air
as I held my fingers to the glass.
I watched, I smelt, I heard and I touched
as the seasons passed.

The feet that dragged as I crawled
now walked till they grew sore.
I scribbled on dolls, I scribbled on walls
I scribbled on all and more.

When I sang my mother cried
'Oh! She has a voice!'
I had hardly learnt to think
but had already made a choice.

So I wrote and so I read,
So I danced and I drew,
So I watched and so I learnt
All that I could do.

When I fumbled with numbers in class
I went back home in tears.
My father held me and he said
"You can't have it all, my dear".

When my fingers grew strong enough
I learnt to play the guitar.
My voice deepened and I grabbed a pen
every time life left a scar.

I learnt to apply music on wounds
and for every bruise, I dabbed on a letter.
I learnt that it was okay to fail
and I cried to just feel better.

Till today I wear my heart
on my frail little sleeves.
I am careless and I tend to lose
my peace of mind to thieves.

To love, to care - oh how clever
these little emotions can be
But I shrug and I smile because I know
An artist will always feel.

Varshita Ramesh, Gr 12

Open Boat



Torn Apart

There's a little girl inside my heart,
whose hands are blackened by the fire
that's now gone cold,
whose fingers never seem to tire
from pulling the strings apart.

Rudra Narayan, Gr 10

The Curious Case of Ajabgarh



I am Aadhavan, an investigative journalist in BBC India. I've solved many mysteries in my career, especially the 'ghost' mysteries. I love the thrill in understanding and solving mysteries based on the mad superstitious beliefs of people. I've heard that Ajabgarh Fort is the most haunted place in India and I went there to find out what's the story behind it.

I packed all the things I needed for the trip and reached Ajabgarh Railway station by 4 pm on the next day. I rushed to the Ajabgarh Fort. The Archeological Survey of India (ASI) is taking care of the fort and I heard that they would close the gates, that we have to leave the fort by 6 pm. The auto driver also told me that during the night people hear strange noises and sounds of screams inside the fort, nobody dares to enter or go near the fort area. I got down from the auto at a little distance and waited at the nearby tea shop for some time. By 7 p.m. the tea shopman was very much in a hurry to close the shop and asked me to leave. So, I walked away a little distance and hid myself behind a tree.

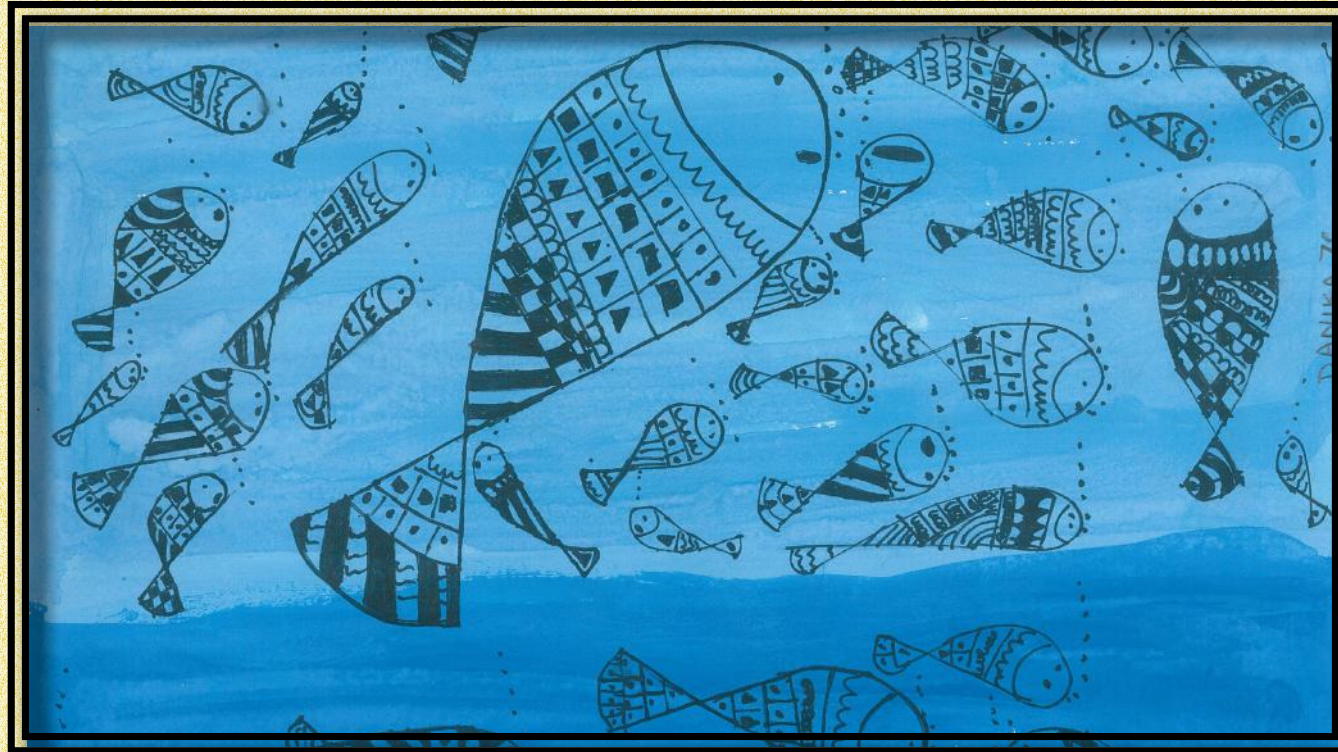
After the tea seller left the place, I quickly went around the fort wall, and yes, I saw a sidewall slightly shorter that had some protruding bricks. Using those bricks I climbed the wall and jumped inside the fort. Then I decided to go straight to the Royal Bedroom and sleep in the king's bed. After all, one night's sleep in the king's bed would be quite an experience, right?! I went around various rooms and finally found the king's bedroom in the first floor, a very spacious and well decorated room. I sat on the bed, took out my iPad and started playing games on it, simultaneously checking my emails on the laptop.

While I was playing games, I heard some strange noises and sudden screams. Initially I thought it was coming from the iPad game, and so I went on playing. It was close to midnight when suddenly, I woke up and felt something wasn't right. I felt somebody else was there in the royal durbar. I saw a white object crossing fast through the window. "Was that a ghost?!" I thought for a moment, then asked myself "Why are all ghosts white?!" I suddenly felt like laughing at the question. I said to myself "Let's go find out". I walked through the durbar to a secret room behind the king's throne. "What room is this?!" When I tried to open the door, something hit me and I fell into another room through the side window.

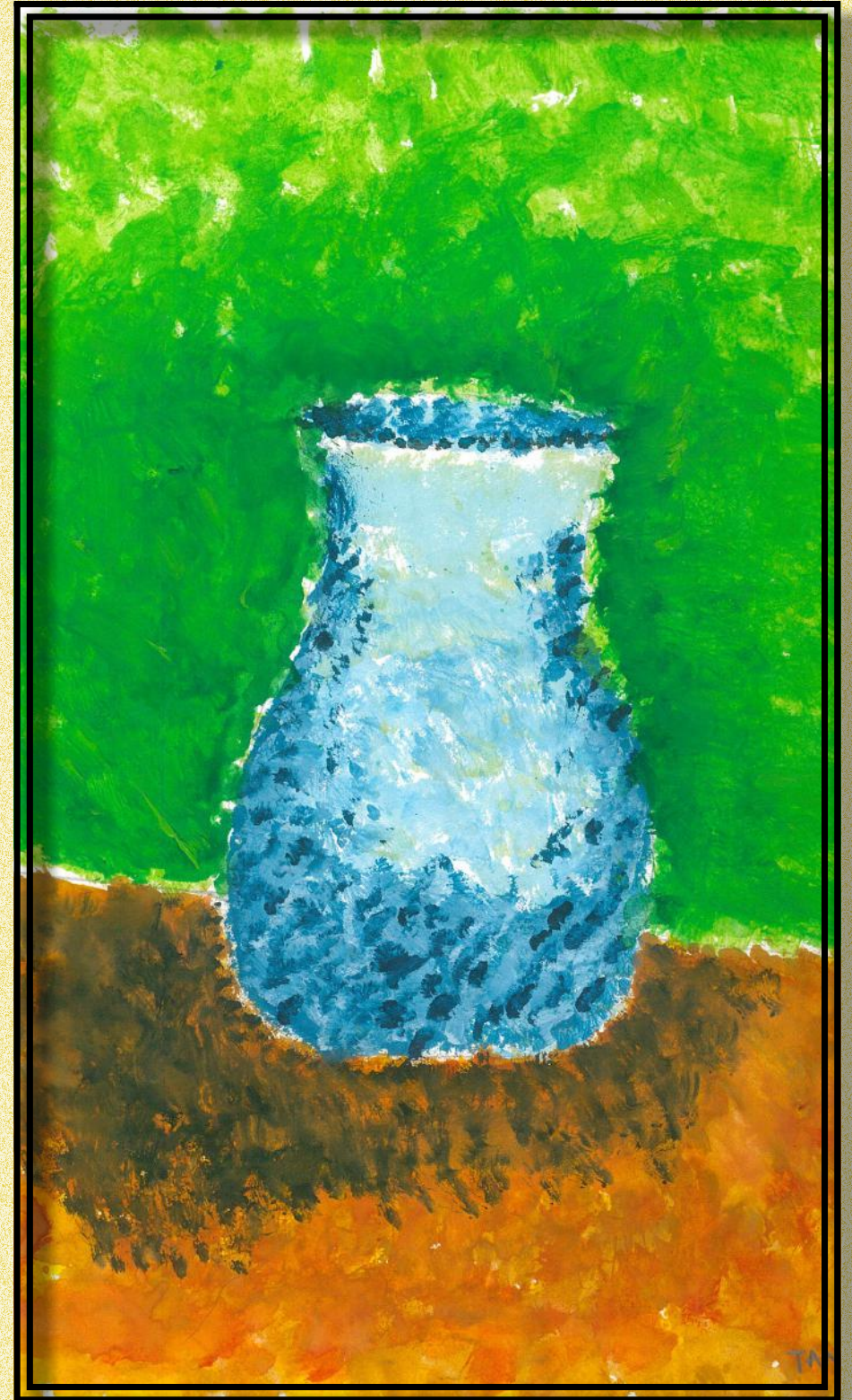
The room looked a bit strange. it was like a Casino with lots of gaming machines. I switched on the light, and when I turned the other switches on and the whole room was lit up, I saw a lot of computer machines and keyboards. I was confused. What is this, is it a computer games room, why so many control panels, lights, switches?! What is that written there ?! – 'Durbar hall scream'! , 'Bedroom noise'! 'Why are all these written here?! I felt something strange, immediately took my 'pen camera' and took pictures of that room and of course, some 'selfies' too. Then I switched off the control panels and kept the lights on and then went to the royal bedroom for a 'Royal Sleep'.

In the morning, when I got up, I saw a group of people looking at me strangely. Immediately two people grabbed my hands and said, "Walk with us to meet the ASI Chief". I said, "Oh, sure". Then we went to the Fort ASI in-charge's room. He was furious and shouted at me, "What the hell is this, I saw your journalist badge in the bag, that's why I didn't call the police, why did you enter the fort after 6 pm.?! " I said, "Sorry, sir, I agree that I made a mistake, but I came here to solve the mystery in the fort". The ASI in charge said, "You know how dangerous it is, you are the first person to do this and be alive?! " I replied, "Don't worry, sir, if I tell the secret of this fort to the whole world, there will be many more like me!! " He panicked, asked me in a whispering voice, "What... what is that you are saying ?!" I replied, "Sir, I know the secret control rooms and the cause for the haunting in the fort", I laughed. The ASI In- charge told me, "Sir, please, don't share this to anyone, this is a highly kept secret by ASI, and even most of the ASI employees here don't know that, I will tell you why we created this. There were rumors many decades before that there is a big royal treasure in the fort and many people try to illegally search for the same, and so many artworks and royal items were also stolen. So our last ASI chief suggested this idea and created these rumours of the fort being haunted and spread them. Now no one comes to search the fort for the treasure."

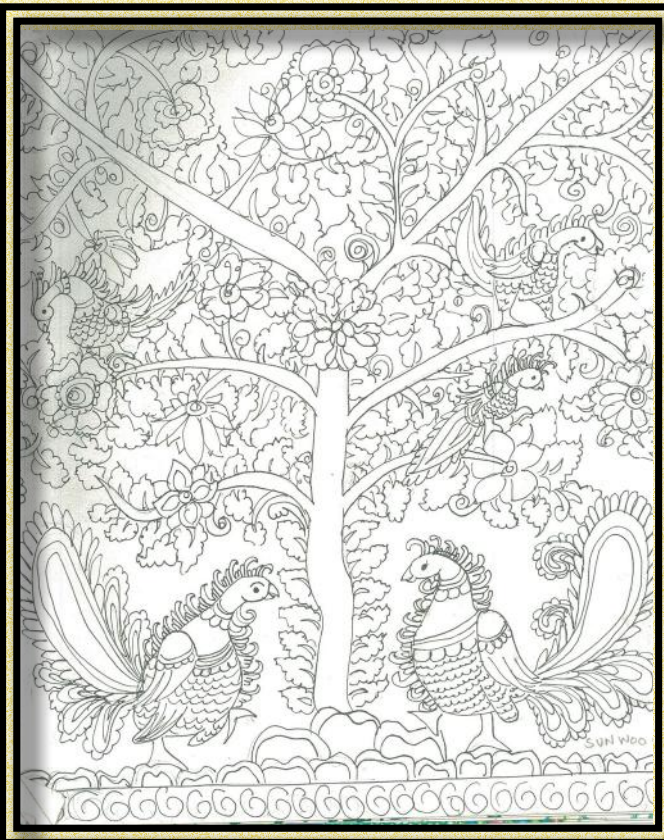
I took some time to understand this fully and then I promised the ASI in-charge that I will not reveal this secret and also deleted all the pictures I took through the 'pen camera', stored in the laptop. Though professionally I wouldn't be doing justice, but personally I respected the cause and stepped out of the Fort with the satisfaction that I resolved this case and found the cause for the mystery of the fort. Of course, it was a 'Curious Case of Ajabgarh'.



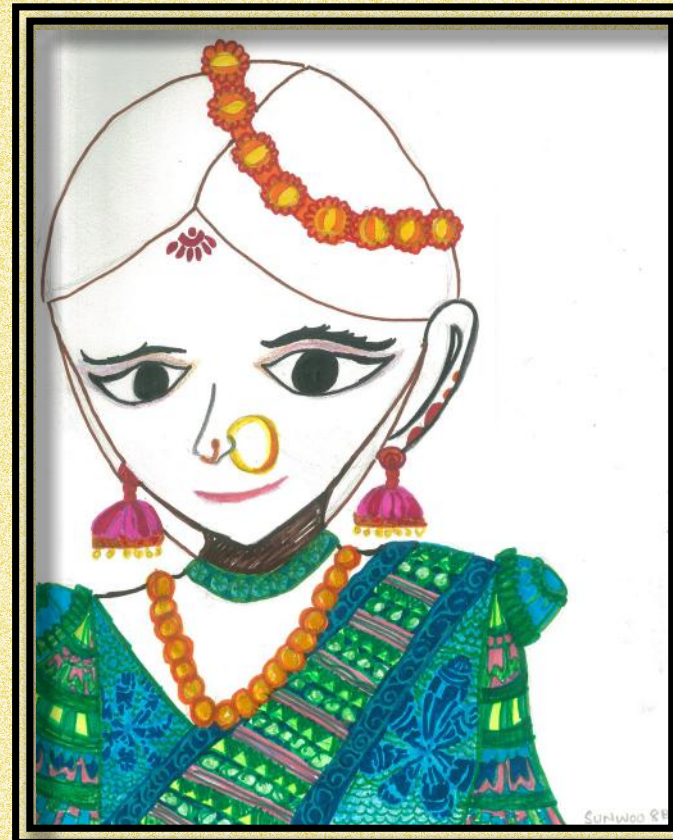
Danika, Gr 7C

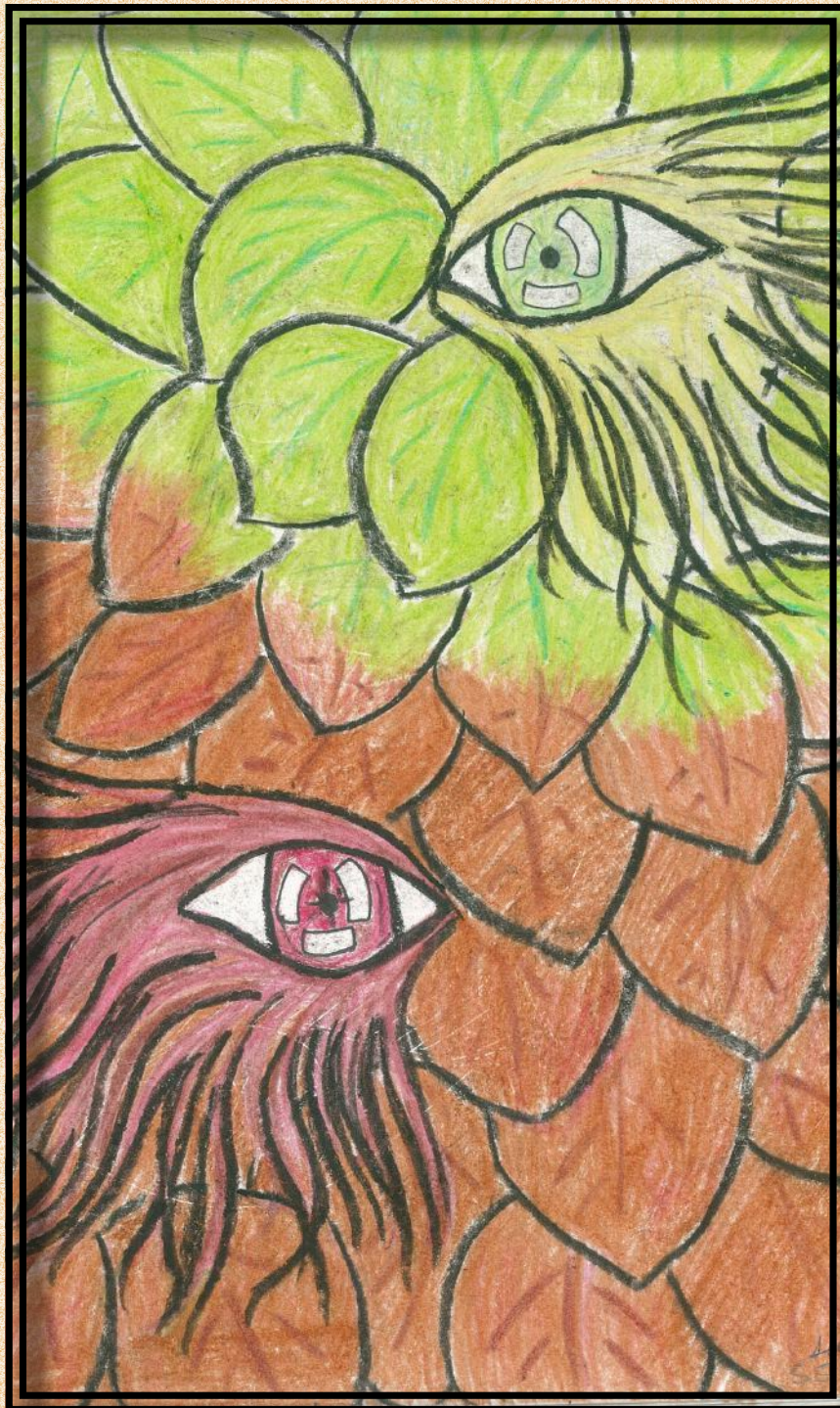


Tanmay, Gr 7C



Sun Woo, Gr 8C





Seher, Gr 8B



Seo Young, Gr 8A



Aadriya



Meghna Sriram, Gr 7B



Archit, Gr 7C



Rianna Moses, Gr 7B



Seher, Gr 8B

Photo Corner



Kushal, Gr 11



G.K.Pranav, Gr 9



Abhishek, Gr 10



Sultan, Gr 10



Robin, Gr 12



Peanut Butter Banana Roll-Ups

What You Need:

Banana

Bread

Peanut butter



Instructions:

Peel a banana and cut into slices. Take a slice of bread and spread peanut butter on top. Put banana slices on top of the peanut butter and roll bread. When you cut slices, you will get a pinwheel shape.

Ishant, Gr 9

Riddle--Dee-Dee Riddle-Dee-Dum

1. If I drink, I die. If I eat, I am fine. What am I?
2. I travel around the world but I stay in one spot. Who am I?
3. I have 4 eyes but can't see. Who am I?
4. Throw away the outside and cook the inside, then eat the outside and throw away the inside. What is it?
5. What can you catch but not throw?

Ishant, Gr 9



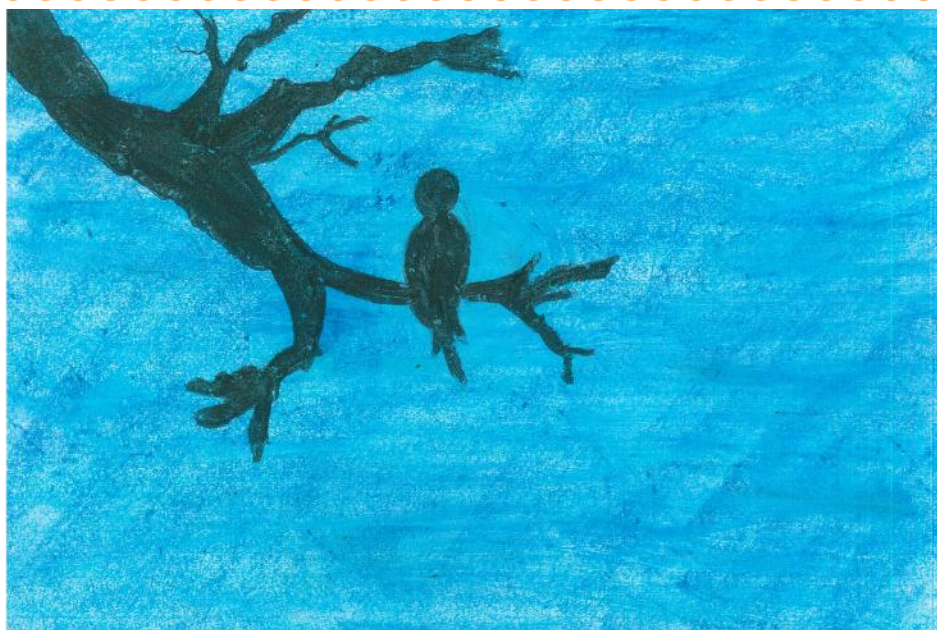
Answers:
1. Fire
2. Stamp
3. Mississippi
4. Corn on the cob
5. Cold



Sabaa, Gr 5D



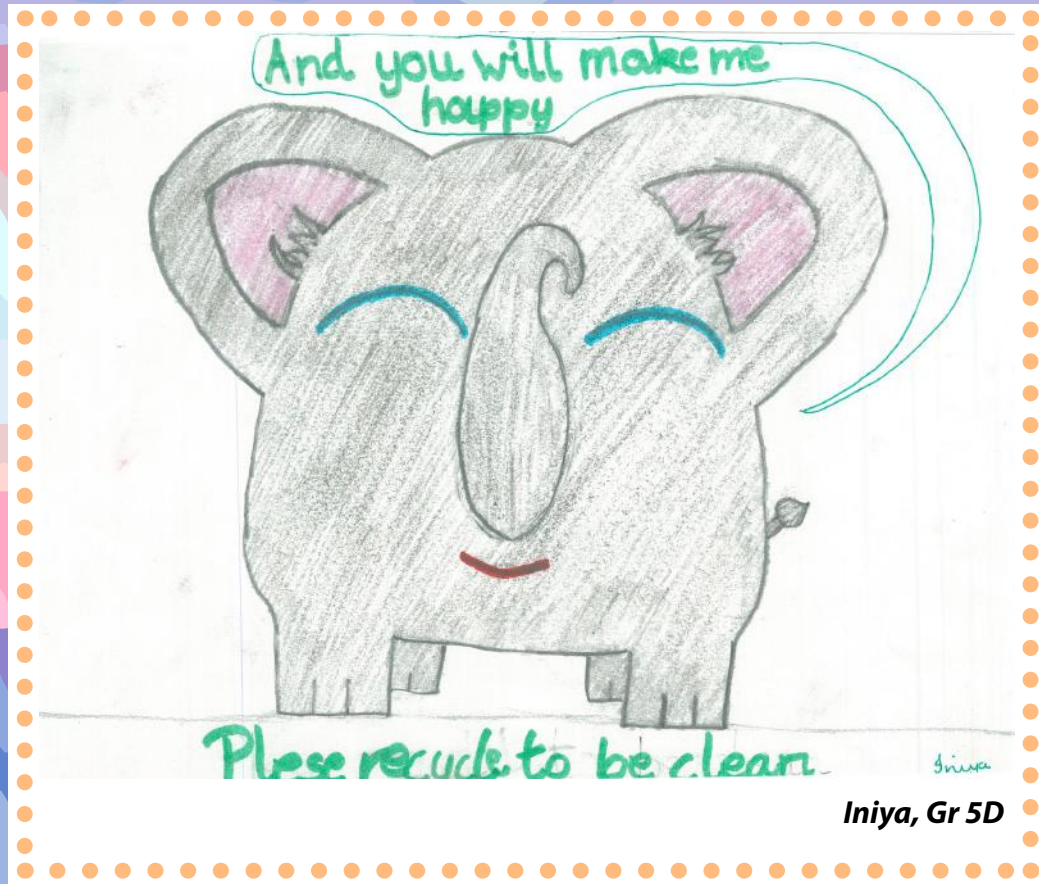
Sinchana, Gr 4A



Sinchana, Gr 4A



Vaibhav, Gr 4A



Iniya, Gr 5D



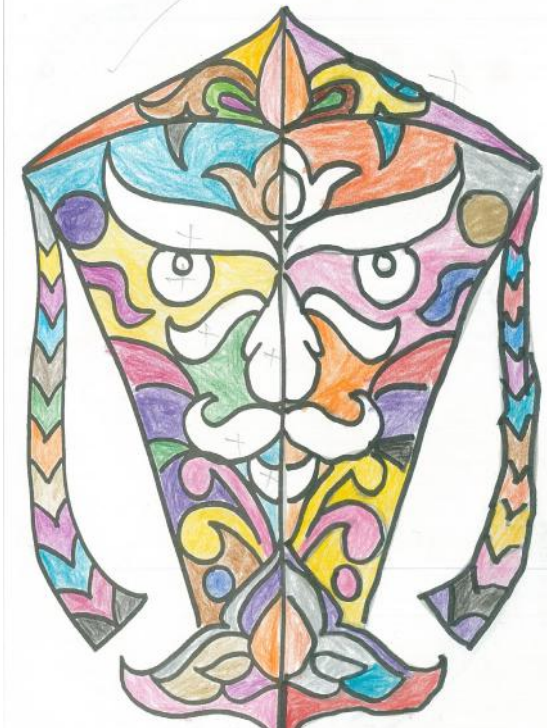
Pranav, Gr 1C



Manya, Gr 3A



Tabitha, Gr 5A



Sanchith, Gr 3C



Vibha, Gr 3C

I am green outside and white inside.
I am crunchy when you bite and long in sight.
I am cool and crunchy for a snack
I am sometimes bitter sometimes sweet
When you cut me my babies you will meet
I am smooth to feel and grow on vine
Tell me what I am and don't take too much time.

Cucumber

NAME: SAVYA KRISHNAKUMAR CLASS: 3B

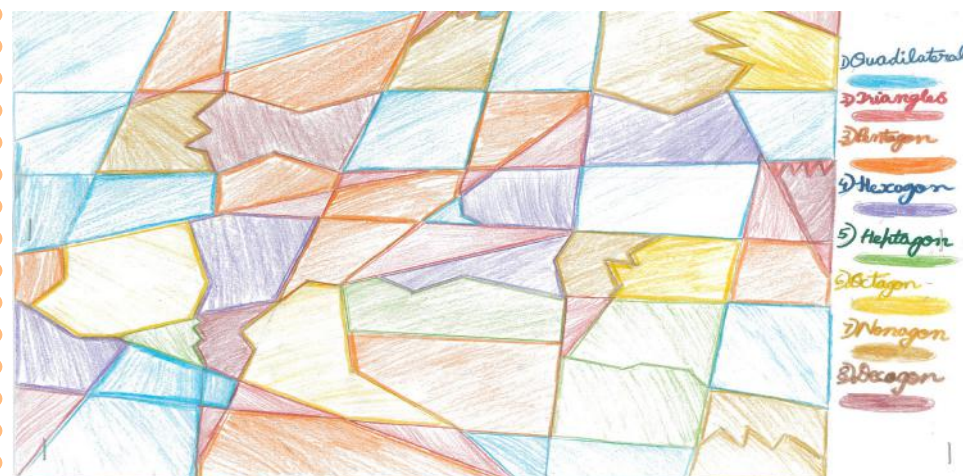
DATE: 12/10/2015

ACROSTIC POEM

A - ALL OF US ARE INCLUDED
P - PLACE FOR LEARNING
L - LOTS OF FUN
G - GREAT TEACHERS
L - LEARNING ATMOSPHERE
O - OUTSTANDING LEARNING AND FUN
B - BRIGHT FUTURE
A - ALWAYS COOPERATING
L - LEARN LOTS OF NEW THINGS
S - SCHOOL IS VERY FUN
C - CARING FOR EACH OTHER
H - HOMELY ATMOSPHERE
O - ON TIME ALWAYS (CHILDREN AND TEACHERS)
O - OUTDOOR PLAYING



Savya, Gr 3B



I found -

18 quadrilaterals	5 hexagons	6 nonagons
19 triangles	4 heptagons	3 decagons
8 pentagons	4 octagons	

Devya, Gr 5A

Limerick

There was a young girl on a tower
who looked just as fresh as a flower.
Her hair was like silk,
her skin smooth as milk.
Her breath made the strongest knight cower.

S. Deepika, Gr 4C

I Like....

I like my sister.
I like APL school.
I like Ms. Deepa.
I like my family.
I like my younger brother.
And I like my mom and dad.

Abdullah, Gr 1C

Mum

Mum likes buns
She likes the word 'done'
She is insane
She uses Indane
She likes iron
She hates the noise of a siren
She doesn't like a blue jay
She likes Sanjay.

Sanjay, Gr 4C

My Day

I start to hop
to go to the shop.
I buy a flower
and give it a shower.
I go to school
to play in the pool.
I go to the beach
and there I eat peach.
I go to the park
to see a big ark.
I go to the mall
and there I buy a ball.
I do some cooking
and I see someone looking.
I am back at home
Will go for a holiday to Rome.

Vibha, Gr 3C

My Cultural Day

Hi, I'm Sneha. I'm gonna talk about my Cultural Day. My Cultural Day was pretty awesome. We all did the play Aladdin. And I was Jasmine I liked being Jasmine but everyone called me PJ. It started with this boy Jiho. He likes teasing everyone. But other than that it was all fine. My mom was happy with our Cultural Day. But the song got a bit messed up. Well, I'm done for now. Bye.

Sneha, Gr 4A

It is a delight to see our tiny toddlers of the Kindergarten School learning through fun activities. Their parents express their feelings about the progress of their little ones. Excerpts from their feedback:

Very happy to see Angeline explaining about venn diagram and demonstrating activities. Thanks to APL and the mentor for creating such a fruitful and joyful learning experience instead of the conventional method of teaching.

Mother of Angeline, UKGB

Glad to see the progress of my daughter Mithra's learning and interaction skills. Last year at this time she was not confident to speak but now I see a vast change. Thanks to Geetha Srikanth ma'am for all the support.

N. Sampath, Father of S. Mithra, UKG A

Thanks a lot for taking care of our son. It's been a wonderful experience so far with APL. Ross is very comfortable with the school environment and teachers. Thank you, Priya Ma'am & Ayesha Ma'am! You rock!!!

Parent of Ross John, LKG B

Very happy to see the kids grow in a perfect environment. Really didn't expect the kids do so many activities in school and enjoy what they do. Kudos to teachers for all the work you do to groom the kids of the future. Keep it up! And thanks for keeping us updated.

Parent of Dakshesh, LKG C

Keep up the good work.
Just 3 months since the school started and they already know so much!!

Excellent activity work.
We like the different corners.
We like the family tree.

Roopa, Mother of Arnav, UKG D

Happy to see the classroom environment. Happy to see the teachers teach according to the level of learning. The special educators take care of the needs of the child and teach according to the them. When joining Vikram used to speak more words and now he has gained knowledge of lots of words. The school and teachers take care of the special needs of the children and include them with normal kids. Vikram will overcome ADHD if he is given such an environment. Thanks to the school and teachers for taking care of him and teaching according to his level.

Parent of Thrivikram, UKG D



Great job done by her teacher. She understood the needs of my child and gives her feedback for her personal improvement. Kireeshasi likes to come to school. Thanks to her class mentor and the school.

Parent of Kireeshasi, UKG C



THE HINDU LIT FEST 2015



When my mother first told us that we were going to the “HINDU LIT FEST”, which took place in Lady Andal School’s auditorium, I was really excited. She told that we will be there for half a day. She said that many famous book writers were coming and, being a book lover, I was excited more than anyone. My mother and I started off from my house and reached the auditorium by 2p.m., just in time for Mr. Rajdeep Sardesai’s talk show.

Rajdeep Sardesai was till recently the Editor-in-Chief of CNN-IBN network. He is also the author of 2014: The Election that changed India. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that I was seated next to Justice Leila Seth, who spoke to me very kindly before the session started.

In this talk show Mr. Sardesai talked with other great writers and journalists about Good Governance. When I heard the word Good Governance the first question that came to my mind was “What is good governance?”. Then as though Rajdeep Sardesai had read my mind, he gave a brief to everyone about “Good Governance”, that “it should start with basic rights like keeping your surroundings

clean, solving people’s demands. From there it can grow to higher levels like Foreign Investment, etc.”. The second question that come to my mind was Does India have Good Governance?, and from the speakers’ discussions I understood that there is a lot to be done to achieve Good Governance in India. The next session was a musical session by Mr.T.V. Gopalakrishnan with Prince Rama Verma of Trivandrum. They sang many Carnatic songs and ended the session with a prayer song.

This was followed by a session conducted by Mr. Chetan Bhagat and Mr. Karthik Kumar. Chetan Bhagat is the author of five fictional novels and one non-fiction book, all best sellers. Karthik Kumar is a performing arts entrepreneur, actor, stand-up comedian and life skills trainer. They discussed Chetan Bhagat’s books and Karthik Kumar specifically asked about freedom of speech and writing, pointing to writer Mr. Perumal Murugan’s retirement. Chetan Bhagat said that he is with Perumal Murugan and won’t let him stop writing.

This session was more of an interactive pan-

el discussion. He raised a question-- “What does young India want?” and I was very excited when I got the chance to answer. “INNOVATION”, I answered. He was quite surprised with my answer and asked me whether my Amma had given me the answer, but I told him quite confidently, “It’s my own thought and the meaning for it is creating new things and new possibilities”. Then he pointed at me and told the whole audience, “This is what Young India wants!!” When he said that, I realized that all the cameras were focused on me and everyone was looking at me. I felt really proud and my Amma blessed me for my spontaneous and confident answer.

R. Aadhavan Chakravarthy, Gr 7B





Wildlife Conservation



The first thing that comes to our mind when we think of “wildlife conservation” is protection of animals. But wildlife conservation means much more than that. It means preserving animals in their habitat. So one also needs to save habitats, (trees, plants, etc.) in order to save wildlife.

In the world, 1072 animal species are endangered.

Almost all of it is because of humans. In order to develop our cities and countries, we destroy natural habitats like mountains, rivers, trees, etc.

Tigers are endangered because we cut down forests, we endangered the dolphins by polluting the oceans. If this goes on then it will cause great damage to the food chain and indirectly to us.



Another cause for animals getting endangered is Global Warming. Polar bears are endangered because of global warming.

Some steps have even been taken to preserve wildlife. There are a lot of wildlife preserves now, worldwide. A lot of agencies are working day and night to protect and preserve wildlife. There is a website, www.iucnredlist.org that tells us about all the threatened, endangered and extinct species worldwide.

India is very active in wildlife conservation. There are 48 tiger reserves in India, of which 4 (8% of India) are in Tamil Nadu. I visited Ranthambore tiger reserve with my grandfather where the hunting of tigers is prohibited. Hence there is a gradual increase in the total number of tigers in that reserve. There are 57 bird sanctuaries in India and 8 (14% of India) in Tamil Nadu. I visited the Vedanthangal bird sanctuary that is home to 30,000 migratory birds. Plants are usually preserved in both national



parks and botanical gardens. I got a chance to visit one in Ooty.

How can we help?

We can stop buying animal products, stop hunting, preserve the environment and habitats, by reducing, reusing and recycling.

We can stop using pesticides so that bumble bees are not affected. Bumble bees are incredibly important as pollinators.

We can also try to reduce burning of fossil fuels to reduce global warming and

save species living in glaciers like polar bear.

So friends! Let's act now to save the environment, save birds, animals, nature and ourselves!

Aditi Naranja, Gr 8



Committed to Realizing Potential

We got an opportunity to talk to the person who started APL, who works behind the scenes--our Founder and Managing Director, Ms Gita Jagannathan. Excerpts from an interview:

How did you feel when you first opened the school?

Nervous. I was never a teacher or a headmistress. I had run an after-school care facility. I had taught yoga at a school as a faculty. I did not come into teaching the normal way. So I was curious to see how the school would develop.

Why did you want to open a school?

I wanted to start a school even when I was in college. I thought that school routines were too rigidly planned and not imaginative enough. Later I made a plan to start a literacy program to cater to the construction workers' children.

What did you do before starting the school?

I did several things. Straight after college I was a banker at HSBC Bank. After that I worked with my husband to set up a construction company. And then I was a Reiki healer and teacher.

Could you tell us more about your vision of the school?

I am very interested in understanding and working with Gifted people. Also that I believe that most of us are far from knowing

what our true potential is and that's how the tag line 'Realizing Potential' developed. It also connects to my interest in giftedness. Developing more open and expressive ways of teaching and assessment is also an effort in that direction.

Did you ever think about teaching in APL?

Yes, I did teach English to Grade 10 for one year but then stopped because of the demands of school management. But if I am given an opportunity I would teach. I miss direct interactions with students and teachers thanks to my role.

What are your interests and hobbies?

Music. I listen to different genres. I used to play the violin for a short period of time. I also love reading, especially crime fiction, philosophy, psychology, spirituality and historical fiction.

What are the things you value the most?

People, animals and nature. All of these things living together in harmony. Being joyous, playful and mindful.

Interview by Manas, Gr 8



Street Corner Dog Brownie and its Puppies

It was one of those rare days, when I was thinking about the million dollar, mind blowing, hair splitting question, "How to be a good parent?". Pity, Google does not have the ability to search through human minds, otherwise, this question will take the top position in the "Highest number of search hits".

Being a typical human being, copying other people's success was the easiest way for me. So I was trying to find models and patterns and draw inspiration from history and past generations.

Some 40 years back and before, the newly formed World Health Organization came up with a novel idea of having a rating for "Top 10 countries in Reproduction index". So my earlier generation was happily part of the competition. Though WHO originally wanted the ranking only for human beings, it made the mistake of leaving the ranking open-ended without qualifying that it's only for human beings. So our street dog friends with names like Jimmy, Jacky, Brownie, Blacky etc also took part in the ranking with some effective political lobbying. They beat the hell out of human beings in the reproduction rating, with a dime a dozen per reproduction cycle. What human needed to achieve in numbers in 12-15 years, they achieved in a couple of years.

Coming back to our theme, to draw inspiration, I tried to compare what was effortless parenting by our earlier generation who had 12-18 kids vs our generation, who limit themselves to 1 or 2 kids and yet find it very difficult. What is or was so different? Even advanced and evolved management theory will not have an answer to this puzzle. Why is it managing 12-18 team members was effortless while managing 1 or 2 is so tiring? We get stressed out to the extent that we double-click on lift buttons to go to a desired floor.

Well, one of the answers lies in the fact that we are a parent from a different generation, The fact is, we should feel pity for our kids. Yes, the difference is due to the enormous multiplicity of choices in front of our kids, starting from simple paper pins, stationeries, toys, clothes, shoes, magazines, games, mobile phones, mp3 players, music albums, snacks, food items to TV channels, career choice... and the list is endless. To add even more to the confusion, is peer pressure. On top of this, we as parents impose our own endless list with TV, vehicles, clubs, food joints and restaurants, what they should study etc etc and again the list is endless. Just think of the great emotional strain our kids undergo in choosing something every day and yet we expect them to cope with their stress in making the choices. In contrast, early generations just had either a Camlin or Nataraj pencil box, Solid-aire or Dyanora as TV and so on and so forth as simple choices to make. The whole quotient of entertainment for earlier generations was-- just to go outside and deal with other kids and find a way to entertain themselves.

So, it's natural for our kids to be in a state of being emotionally bombarded with multiple choices for even simple things. This feeds to the vicious cycle of living with making choices, the need to have instant gratification and yet having to live with or regret the choices they make. It is a no-brainer to see our kids as all this:



Instead of thinking over what cannot be prevented, let us confront the situation heads on. One of the essential things which we as parent need to imbibe in or teach our kids is how to make choices in life and get them to feel the responsibility of making the choices. Instead of saying "Yes" or "No", we can help them to rationalize and lay out the process of how and what each of the choices means as pros and cons to them and help them to make the choice.

And as a parent, my simple mantra for parenting has always been striking a balance between **"What will make them happy vs What is right for them"**.

By the way, I still keep trying in helping my Spiderman, Superman and Batman (my three kids) to imbibe the trick of how to make choices in life. The only thing I can think of as a solution is to wish them, "Get Married , have at least 3 kids like me , and enjoy thinking like me".

Moral of the Story: To connect to the title... the moral is "Generation after generation, animals reproduce more in numbers than human beings and yet they live happily.... Needless to say, we human beings have much to learn from them".

Mr Gokul Krishnan G, Father of G K Pranav



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