

# s n a p s h o t

## *Voice*

Students and teachers openly  
express themselves on the topic  
Teenage Romance

Our English teacher  
Ms. Fiza shares her  
experience of  
teaching at APL

**Teacher Speak**

Learn how the APL community grapples with  
Chennai floods, and discover our young trophy  
winners

## *Hot News*

Meet our rising star  
musician  
Arjun Gonsalves

## *Voice*

## *Tiny Tots*

See how our toddlers cele-  
brate Pongal and Christmas

## *Junior Corner*

Witty poems and limericks  
by our young ones

***APL SCHOOL E- MAGAZINE***

***JAN 2016***

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Jan 2016

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# Editorial

WE ARE BACK!!!

A very Happy 2k16 to our readers! Although APL is swamped with the mocks and upcoming CIE exams, the students of APL made time and worked hard to present you with our latest issue of SnapShot, pulling together the hottest events and news that took place over these few months.

We find your views and opinions very supportive as it encourages us to issue the best. So, please don't hold back, do send in your feedback.

Tiny Tots and Junior Corner sections, dedicated to the bubbly little ones, display their brave poems and stories about the Chennai floods. Also see how the imaginations of the juniors go wild as they add some colour to the bare white.

The Chennai floods did not only attack Chennai's infrastructure but also the lives of many Chennaiites. Some students and teachers talk about the incidents they encountered during this crisis and how they overcame those obstacles.

To spice things up a little, we see how students and teachers express their perspective on the topic of 'Teenage Romance', in Voice. Furthermore, we interviewed Arjun Gonsalves, who ranked topper in India for AS level Music. For TeacherSpeak, this time we interviewed our evergreen Ms Fiza and got to know about what she admires and enjoys about teaching.

So sit back, relax and get ready to be amazed and fascinated by this latest issue of ours.

**Zulaikha Abdul, Grade 10**

**Editorial Team :**

**Content:** Zulaikha, 10C, Shwetha, 10B, Surekha, 9C

**Layout and Design :** Ishant, 9B

**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.

## Readers' Response

It was truly inspiring to read about the interview of Renyta Moses. Overall, the whole magazine was very well written and the layout was praiseworthy. Hats off to the SnapShot team for putting together such an awesome edition!

Kavya, Gr 8A

The SnapShot magazine never ceases to amaze us by showcasing some of APL's best ideas. It also makes us reflect on ideas that our fellow students such as Renyta are passionate about and encourages us to support their causes. If given an opportunity, I would definitely want to make the difference and give my support to her cause.

Tanyaa Napoleon, Gr 8B

*Sure, Tanya, I would love to have you on my team, the more the merrier. Please get in touch with me at school and let's see how you can contribute.*

Renyta Moses, Gr 11A

We both found SnapShot so interesting that we would like to join the team if given a chance.

Nikitha & Surya , Gr 8C

*Dear Nikitha and Surya, thanks so much for your feedback. You are most welcome to join our team. We need many and varied inputs from all students, teachers and parents. Please give your names to your mentors and we shall get in touch with you soon.*

Editorial Team

It is nice to see our students participating and winning laurels in various competitions. It is a pleasure to read the amazingly thought provoking articles and poems by the students. The artwork of budding artists is definitely commendable.

Ms Sri Vidya, Maths Faculty

The interview with Geeta Ma'am was really inspiring. Overall, I felt the Oct edition was very interesting and the Wildlife facts were noteworthy.

Vijaythraj, Gr 8B

The latest SnapShot issue is amazing! The sections I liked are Hot News, Voice, Open Boat, Potpourri, ParentSpeak, and Tiny Tots. This time the interview on "We Conserve" is an eye opener and I am amazed to Renyta Moses' initiative. In fact, I am stunned to see such a drive at this young age. The rest of the materials are also very good. The poems in Open Boat reflect a high standard.

Mr. Sampath Kumar



## Winning Laurels

In the International Maths Olympiad held on Dec 22nd, 2015, our primary students did us proud, so many of them that it is impossible to list them all here. Some of the winners are:

- Pranav Preetham, 1C, emerged Topper of APL, our State and won the International Gold Medal with an astounding score of 40/40! He also won gifts worth Rs 1000.
- Ohmy Hamish, 2C, was Topper of APL, won State Rank 39, International Rank 57 and won a Gold Medal.
- Gopala Krishna Chandramouli, 4A, was Topper of APL, won State Rank 9, International Rank 9, won a Gold Medal of Excellence and Certificate of Excellence and qualified for Level 2.
- Kiran Nithilan, 4B, became Topper of APL, won State Rank 14, International Rank 14, won a Gold Medal of Excellence and Certificate of Excellence and qualified for Level 2.
- Ishan Iyer, 5B, was Topper of APL, won State Rank 71, International Rank 282, won a Gold Medal and qualified for Level 2.
- Ji Hun Choi, 6C, was Topper of APL, won State Rank 107, International Rank 423, won a Gold Medal and qualified for Level 2.
- Harini Manikumar, 7A, was Topper of APL, won State Rank 78, International Rank 256, won a Gold Medal and qualified for Level 2.
- Udit Samanth, 8A, was Topper of APL, won State Rank 78, International Rank 180, won a Gold Medal and qualified for Level 2.

## Inter-house Competitions

*The Inter-house Competitions marked the celebrations of Children's Day. Many exciting events took place and students got to showcase their talent. Some students share their experience of these two days.*

It isn't every day you find Maths is substituted by mehendi! Students quickly gathered around the notice board to sign up for their favourite events. There were a lot of changes in competitions, technical difficulties and of course, anxiety! All students, girls and boys, Jade and Amethyst, were revved up around three weeks before the contests. Then, with costumes, props, materials and butterflies in stomachs, the day finally arrived!



# Hot News

Students came to school a little early to help prepare and organise everything. Partners came together to discuss ideas. Teachers were everywhere, assisting students, and rearranging timetables. Not everyone liked this busy agenda. As soon as the first bell rang, students and teachers shifted to classrooms, carrying materials and chatting away with their friends.

One of the first competitions was Question Breakers, which those with great general knowledge aced. Another option was the Rubik's Cube where 6th and 7th grade students solved the cubes in the blink of an eye. Going back to Tamilnadu's roots, the middle and senior students spun tops in the event Pambaram. Other fun competitions included rangoli, collage, poster design.... Some crowd favourites were dance, singing and fireless cooking.

It was clear that teachers and students both loved the electric vibe! We students had a lot to worry about on those two days, like forming groups, choosing partners, gathering materials and achieving the right timing. So imagine what it would be like for teachers—planning which event to go to, supervising, judging...the list goes on. We wouldn't have had such amazing and spectacular days without their remarkable skills. Thank you, teachers, for making this possible. We'd like to sign off by thanking all the wonderful participants. To use a cliché, it's true that it isn't about winning, it's how you play that counts.

***Vaishnavi & Vidhyakshaya, Gr 6A***



Our intra-school competitions happened on November 5th and 6th, from 9 am to 3 pm. Those two days were amazing fun and a good break from our studies. All of us thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

After some teething trouble and confusion about where to go, we managed to figure it all out. We started by watching the riveting dance performances in the auditorium. Some of the events on Day 1 were face painting, quiz, cooking without fire, poster making, designer hands/mehendi, Shipwreck, and Spoof it Up. Day 1 was great fun and some of us, who were free while the events were going on, enjoyed ourselves dancing on stage to some fast paced numbers.

The second day was quite boring as all the events got over by 11 am and the certificates ceremony started after lunch. The events on that day were group singing, rangoli, pambaram, and origami. What made the day exciting was the cake given to each class to celebrate Children's Day! Overall, we all had tons of fun and enjoyed the break from academics.

## ***Ankita Sathish & Surekha, Gr 9***

The Inter-house competition kindles the enthusiasm of both Jade and Amethyst students and students learn a range of valuable skills while showcasing their talent.

In the elocution contest students get a chance to speak up while in the dance events they danced to a varied selection of tunes. We heard different voices in different languages in solo singing. Girls displayed their artistic talent in mehendi. It was a challenge to cook without fire in the Eco-Chef contest but in the end we got to taste a wide variety of desserts, meals and drinks. Students' general knowledge was truly tested in the two rounds of quiz.

As we said in the beginning, the competitions teach us so many things including how to manage our resources. It is an exciting part of our school life.

## ***Nandika Murugavel & Manasa Ravishankar, Gr 6***





## Chennai Floods

*The recent floods affected all of us and also taught us some important life lessons. Some students and teachers share their experiences.*

"We got to bond well with families and learnt the meaning of life. We also helped a lot of people by giving biscuits and water. And we let our help stay in our house with her kids."

**Saleema & Ananya, Gr 9**

"The biggest challenge I faced was that we had no electricity for five days. There was no milk and there was water shortage. My area was affected badly as sewage water entered people's houses. The streets were submerged in water. I learnt to live without electricity and learnt the importance of the candle. To a certain extent I understood the life of early man!"

**Joshua, Gr 7B**

"I live in Velachery and I was really devastated even though my apartment was not affected because I live in the 7th floor. I saw an incident happen right parallel to my street. A family of four was electrocuted and the children were orphaned. I learnt that life is unpredictable and humanity is above everything. We need to preserve nature."

**Ms Gomathi, Global Studies Faculty**

**Interviews by Reshma Mehraj & Aditi Dash, Gr 7C**



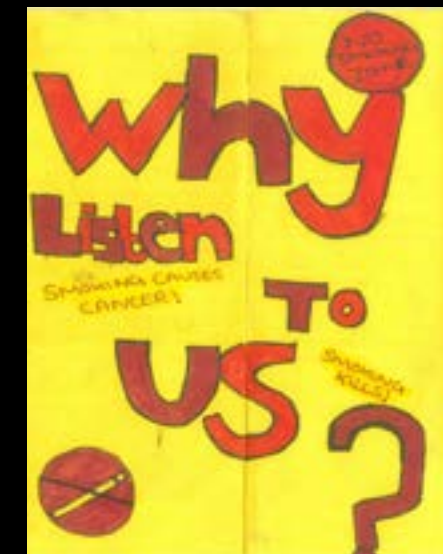


## Project Week Preparations

Students from all grades are busy preparing for the upcoming Project Week. These posters give you a glimpse into what the children are coming up with.



Manasa, Ankitta, Mitavani, Gr 9C



Manasa, Ankitta, Mitavani, Gr 9C



# || Opinion ||

## Teenage Romance

*Something that isn't difficult to notice is how opposed society (or rather, most of it) is to teenage relationships. Several students have mentioned how the way people treated them changed instantly once word got out that they were seeing someone, as if what they were doing is wrong. What is so taboo about sharing a different kind of bond with someone you have a special connection with? It is a personal belief that the aversion stems from a few members of society being unable to accept and be open to new things. A few students and teachers had some things to say about the issue.*

"Relationships aren't taken seriously. I think people find it hard to accept teenage relationships because adolescence is a turning point in life and a relationship appears to be a distraction."

*Schaum, Grade 10*

"I think relationships (romantic and unromantic alike) are an essential part of the evolution of a person. Many get into emotionally or physically abusive relationships without truly understanding the dynamics of a relationship. So I think it's important that mistakes are made and people know what they don't want and how to move on rather than take blind chances later at getting what they think they want."

*Maitreyi, Grade 10*

"Society from the very beginning has been extremely conservative about intimacy and relationships in general. Teenage relationships are like a double edged sword. If you don't get into one, it kills you inside because the attraction towards the other person is so strong. But in my opinion, the other edge is the one that cuts deeper. If you do get into one and then end up having to part ways then there is nothing you can do about the immense trauma you would go through, distracting you from your priorities that include academics and extracurricular activities. And also during the term of the relationship I guess however hard one tries, the urge to talk to the other person does pose as an obstacle. So I would say that, for one's own benefit, one should try and avoid getting into one, even though it is highly tempting. But at that age it's inevitable. So if one is absolutely certain to get into one, then he or she should go ahead."

*Sreeniketh, Grade 10*

"I do recognize why there is such an aversion towards teenage relationships and, it's probably because of the mindset clash between society and us (teenagers). Being one myself, I do think it should be more widely accepted unlike how it's been in the past – I think teenagers today have more exposure and are more aware of the choices they are making."

*Varsha, Grade 12*

"Falling in love is the most exciting and the most beautiful thing that everyone should experience at least once in their life. I am not averse towards teenage relationships but I am concerned when they seriously try to pursue it at that age. Reason being, all relations are based on trust, and to trust someone takes a lot of maturity and responsibility. These are traits which I feel teenagers are still developing. Take juvenile law for example-- people under 18 who commit horrible crimes are given the least punishment because it's a proven theory that that is it not the age to make rational decisions or judgments. So while liking someone is a natural process, I would opine that age does matter – you can hang out, date, but when it comes to taking it seriously or to another level it's always better to wait and grow up a little so you can cherish the relationship."

*Ms Shirin, Biology Faculty*

"I think it is something natural and can bring a lot of happiness to both of them, if they can behave responsibly."

*Ms Susan, Economics Faculty*

# Our Rising Star

*One of us has made it to the top!! Arjun Gonsalves, 'the rising star' of grade 12, ranked topper in India in his AS level Music. He has sure made APL incredibly proud and we believe he will continue to do so. We found out more about his passion for music as we interviewed him. Some excerpts:*

***So, Arjun, how did you feel when you got your results and found out that you ranked topper in India?***

To be honest, I didn't expect it at all. I felt blessed and shocked, well... mixed feelings you can call it, but mostly happy.

***How did your parents react?***

They were extremely happy and tremendously proud of me.

***How did you prepare for your AS music?***

I practised a lot for it and you can see the results (laughs). I gave a lot of time to my practice, at least two hours a day at home. In school it's kind of impossible to practise.

***You most probably want to pursue music as your career, right?***

Yep! (without hesitating)

***How are you planning to do that?***

I have applied to LASALLE College of Arts in Singapore and am very optimistic that I may get into that college.

***How did music become your passion?***

Quite recently, you know. In fact, in 12th actually! Initially, my ambition was to become an architect as it was my father's wish. But I'm not very great at mathematics. Maths is not my thing. So I



decided to follow music and eventually it became my passion. My parents supported me fully in making this decision.

***Who inspired you to pursue music?***

My father is a music person. When I was young my father made me watch many music videos and took me to concerts. While all this was happening, the guitar just got me. I don't know why but it grabbed my attention. And so I decided to be a guitarist. I also play the drums, the piano/keyboard and do vocals.

***At the end I would like to ask, who is your favourite musician?***

I never had a favourite musician or artist. I appreciate all sorts of music.





## *My Trip to Europe*

For my 2014 summer vacation I went to Europe. I visited 3 countries-- Germany, Switzerland and France. We travelled with our tour guide and 6 other Indian families. It was a nine day tour.

First, our plane landed at Frankfurt airport. We all got in a bus and headed for our hotel. On the way, our tour guide introduced himself on the mike (I found this very funny). We stopped at an Indian

restaurant for dinner. It was good to eat Indian food in Germany. I felt like... coming all the way to Germany to eat Indian dinner?

Surprisingly, I was feeling very sleepy, though it was still pretty bright. I looked at my watch, and realised it was 9 o'clock (Indian time). As soon as we reached the hotel, I hit the bed.

In the morning, I enjoyed a continental breakfast and we started for Heidelberg. It is a beautiful place. We roamed around the city and observed its natural beauty and monuments. We also did a lot of photography. There were so many buildings and statues. Then we went to Titisee Lake and Black Forest. Black Forest is the place from where black forest cake got its name. I ate the best black forest cake ever that day. I really liked sitting on the bank of the lake. There were a lot of ducks and people were boating. It was a very peaceful sight. Next, we went to Zurich to have dinner before going to sleep.

The next day, we went to Lucerne-Switzerland. We saw the chapel bridge, Lake Lucerne and the lion monument. Switzerland is really beautiful and I loved the homes and mountains. We went to Mt. Titlis. It was not a very big mountain, but I think I felt it was huge because I am short. Or probably, it really was huge.

We went up the mountain in the cable car. The mountain top was not like how I had imagined it to be. It was like I was walking into a mall. There was a building, and only when I went out into the snowy area did I actually realise that we were on the mountain top. Apart from its natural beauty, there were also other things to see. I liked the ice cave the most. It was a cave in which shapes were carved out of ice. It was minus eight degrees inside, felt like Ice Age, white snow outside and ice statues inside.

After we got down the mountain, we had dinner in Leysin and stopped there for the night.

When I got up in the morning I saw the most beautiful sight I had ever seen. Imagine you wake up in the morning, and go out into the balcony facing beautiful white mountains everywhere and the blue sky on top with snow white clouds.

It was a fresh start for the day indeed. That day we went to Bern. We saw a Bear park . B for Bear and Bern. We got time to do our souvenir shopping there. Next, we went to Lake Vevey in Geneva. It is a beautiful lake surrounded by mountains.

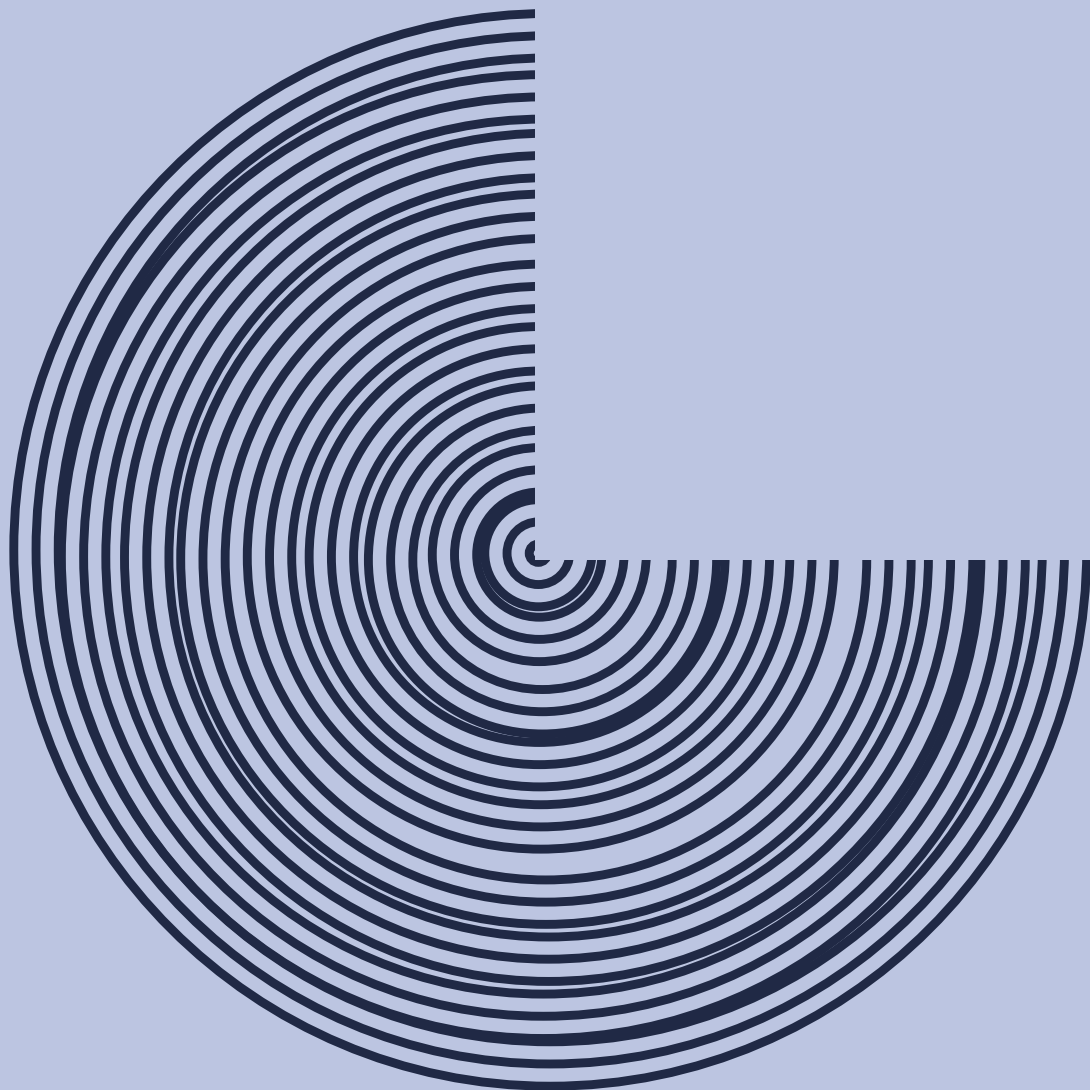




We then went to Lake Geneva and saw the building of United Nations. There was a very big chair with a broken leg. I liked it very much. This is where all important international decisions are taken. The next morning, we started for Paris. We moved around the whole day. We enjoyed seeing Paris in the day and at night. We went to the top of Eiffel tower - La Tour Eiffel. The city has so many beautiful buildings, monuments and museums. I liked their architecture. The boat ride in Seine river was full of fun and I was so excited.

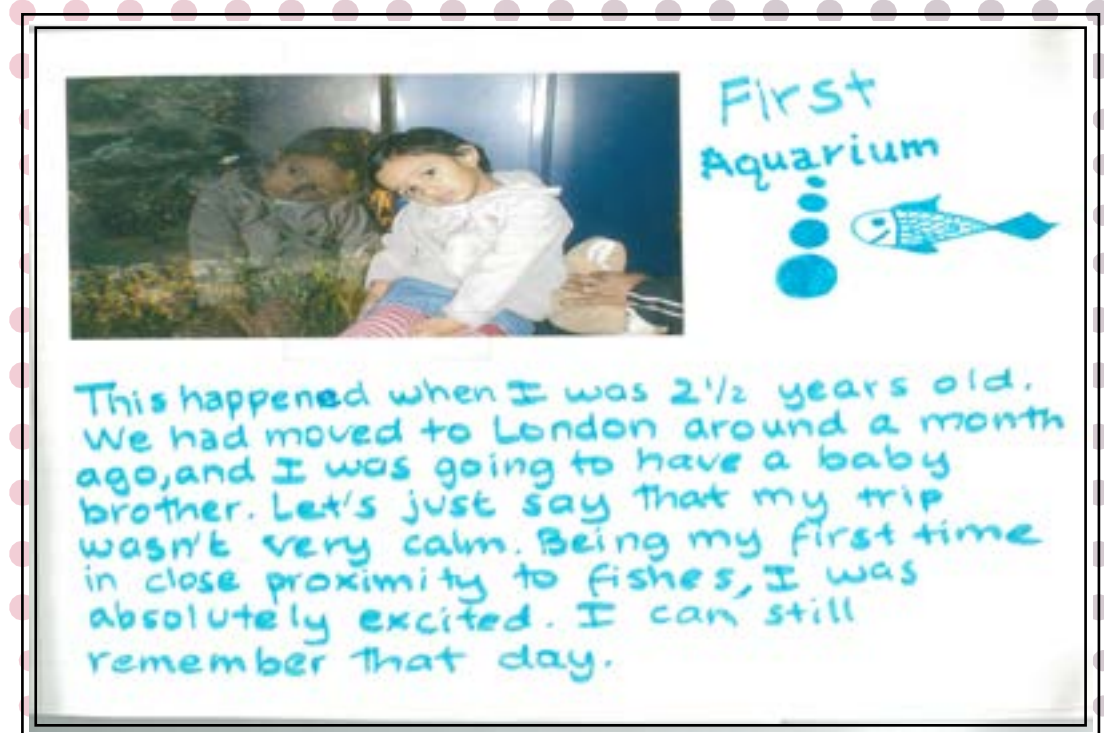
The next day, we went to Disneyland in Paris. The thing that impressed me was a stunt show that showed us how they shoot stunts with cars in movies. We spent the whole day in Disneyland, and in the evening we caught a flight back to India.

**Aditi Narania, 8C**





As part of their classwork students from grades 6-8 created their Book of Memories. Here are some glimpses:



Priyanka, Gr 7A



Meghna, Gr7 B



Rianna Moses, Gr 7





When I turned Twelve...



Another turning point in my life came when I turned twelve. I joined a new school named APL GLOBAL School. Here everything was very exciting and beautiful. The teachers were wonderful and everyone was very friendly. I love this place and this year will always have a special place in my heart.

Reshma Mehraj, Gr 7B



12-9-2009 (6 years old)

This photo reminds me of my interest for military vehicles and their weapons for protecting the country. In 12<sup>th</sup> september 2009 there was an exhibition regarding military force. I tried to sit in all vehicles and had experience. Surprised to see all types of weapons used by humans.

J.Joshua, Gr 7B





## POEMS:-

### Earth

Darkened clouds, wind and rain  
left alone with all this pain



Landslides always drag me down  
Trapped for days, will I be found?  
Flooded plains within my head  
Tornadoes draw near, leave me for dead.  
I feel alone without you.

Drought from tears I know not for  
I've cried for days, I cry no more  
I've made mistakes, it's true.



## NATURAL DISASTERS

### TORNADO

Tornado spins round and round

Powerful and scary  
as they touch  
the ground

Dark nights  
in the  
afternoon

make me want to  
hide in my room  
I cry myself to  
sleep

in fear  
and  
dread.



By: Reshma, Aditi, Shweta 7B





Jason, 7 C



Open Boat



M.Aadhirai, 6 C





Lavanya, 7 D



Harini.M, 7 A



G.K.Pranav, Gr 9



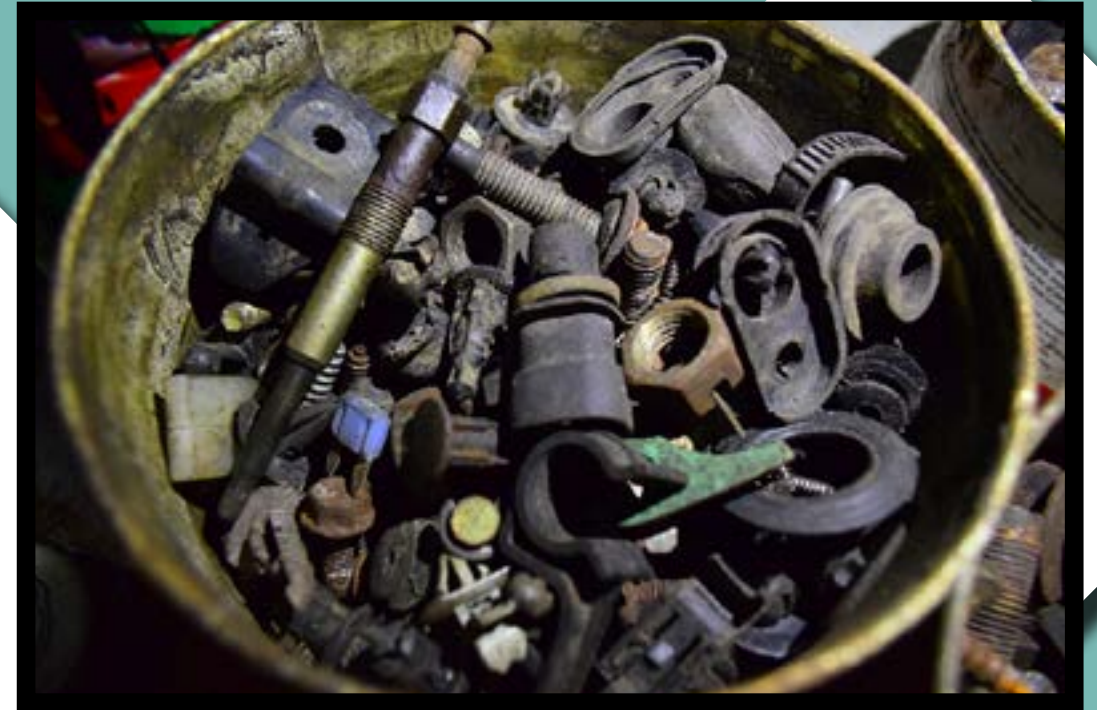




P.G.Rahul, Gr 11



Photo Corner

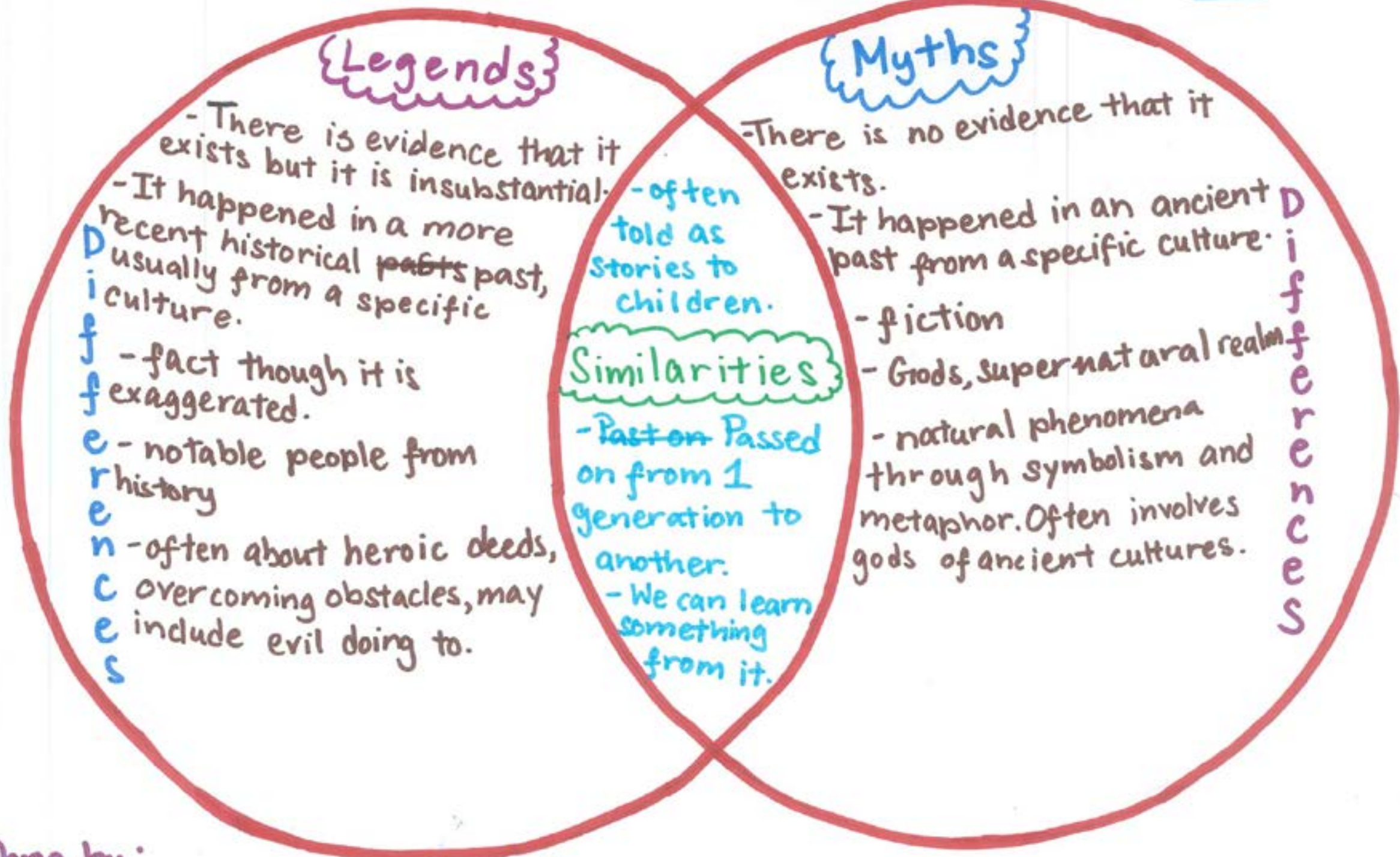


Khushal, Gr 11





# LEGENDS VS MYTHS



Done by:  
Tanushah Ramadass

Grade :  
8B



*Students created many delicious and innovative recipes for the Inter-house competition Cooking without Fire. Here are some winning recipes and a couple from a participant:*

## **Poha Laddoo (2nd Prize- gr 9-12)**

### **Ingredients**

Ghee (50 ml)  
Powdered Sugar (1/2 kg)  
Mashed Poha/Aval  
Cashews  
Maida  
Water

### **Preparation**

Take a bowl and put the mashed poha inside it. Add water till it becomes sticky and soft. Add all the powdered sugar, ghee and mix it. For making laddoos, add maida to get a grip. Take some of this mixture, roll it into balls. Aval laddoos are ready. For decoration, put some cashews on top of the laddoos.

***Ribu Shankar, 9A***

## **Pumpkin Crumble Crust Pie (3rd Prize- gr 7-8)**

### **Ingredients**

Pumpkin Pulp  
Vanilla Pudding  
Chocolate Syrup  
Digestive Biscuits  
Butter

### **Preparation**

- Mix the pumpkin pulp and vanilla pudding together until the pudding turns orange and there are no clumps.
- Mix the digestive biscuits and butter together. There should be a greater quantity of digestive biscuits. Spread it out on the pan.
- Pour the pumpkin pudding on top of the crust. Layer chocolate syrup on top.

You're done!

***Nandika Murugavel, 7D***

## **Choco Layers**

### **Ingredients**

Chocolate Syrup  
Big Muffins  
Topping

### **Preparation**

First cut the muffins into slices. Put 1 slice into the glass and then pour some chocolate syrup onto it. Repeat this 4 times. Add any topping on top.

## **Lime Soda**

### **Ingredients**

Soda  
Lemon  
Sugar  
Pinch of Salt

### **Preparation**

First, squeeze a lemon into a glass and put soda into it. Then add 1 spoon of sugar and a pinch of salt. Stir it well.

***Srinithi, 7C***





Wednesday, December 2, 2015

## Chennai Marooned

By: Shreya Jain

### # Chennai Floods

Wettest Days This Season in Chennai:	21 working days lost to rain this season.	<u>TRAVEL HIT</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✱ Airport Temporarily Shut</li> <li>✱ Factories Down Shutters</li> <li>✱ Power Suspended</li> <li>✱ Hospitals Overflow</li> </ul>	108 Ambulance service operates on disaster mode, working hours up. Hospital gowned water, patients shifted to safety.
Nov 9 - 13.6 cm	Total Lives Lost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 train cancelled from Egmore on Dec 1</li> <li>6 trains cancelled between Chennai and Gudalur.</li> <li>No flights were cancelled, but 20 departures and 10 arrivals were delayed at Chennai Airport.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents in the suburbs send SOS, Coast Guard on standby.</li> </ul>	
Nov 13 - 14.9 cm	- Chennai = 65		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State police, fire and rescue services, state and national disaster response forces and coast guard are ready to rescue people by boats from affected areas.</li> </ul>	Exams of state board postponed
Nov 16 - 24.6 cm	- TN = 186	14 gasp to death in CPU blackout.		As cabs keep off roads, public transport bails out city.
Nov 23 - 13.9 cm	Residents in southern suburbs, including Tambaram and Mudi-chur, were mostly affected.	City closes in on 40-year high for 24 hours of rainfall.	HELPLINE NOS	Tech Campuses flooded, offices shut
Dec 1 - 23 cm	2 drown in sea off Chennai Coast	A candle for ₹ 30, tomatoes at ₹ 140 a kilo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flood Help - 1077</li> <li>Chennai Corporation - 193</li> <li>Methowater - 044 45674567</li> <li>TNEB - 1412</li> </ul>	Modi promises all help to TN.
Total rain in Chennai this Season - 121 cm	Areas Flooded	As relief camp fill up, people fight for every dry corner.	ABOUT 36 Relief centres are functioning	Nellor and Chittoor go underwater as rain fury returns.
ivg rain in city Oct - Dec - 43 cm	elachery, Madipakkam, ekumbakkam, Marapakkam, Villivakkam, Maduravoyal, orattur, RK Nagar, part of			



## Floods in Chennai

On the first day, I went out for a drive, but then it started raining heavily. We got into the car and went back home. The next day the power, internet and everything got cut. For the rest of the day we used candles and "diyas". The next day the rain continued. I went out and the neighbouring apartment, TVH park villa, was flooded with water. I saw firemen rescuing people in big rubber boats. On the road, I saw people going in boats. All the stores and markets were closed. Since we had holidays, everyday I was playing with my friends.

**-Pranav, 2A**

On Dec 1, it was raining nonstop for the whole day. The next morning at 4:00 am there was 1 foot of water in my apartment's parking, which resulted in no water and power. My parents were trying to cover the car's exhaust with plastic covers and rubber bands. In the middle of all this, I woke up, so did my neighbours, downstairs. My dad, mom and I just packed an emergency bag, just in case anything happened. My father put all the documents in a suitcase and put in on the top of the shelf. We had water in the parking lot and it was reducing very quickly. We didn't have any water, so we put some buckets in the terrace and filled them up. For drinking water we had a few cans that we used. At the end of all this nothing happened to us and we were safe.

**-Adhya 5B**

My mom, dad, sister and I were all safe but my grandparents were in trouble. My dad and I went in a big Jeep and brought my grandparents safely back to my house.

**-Johan 2B**



Devya Gupta, Gr 5A

## Rainy season

On the months of October, November and December, Looking out the window made me hate the weather.

Bored at night without internet,

Wishing the rain would stop by sunset.

During the months I was whining because I couldn't download an app,

While most of Tamilnadu couldn't even take a nap.

Feeling sticky and bored

Thinking when the roads will be restored.

At the end when current came,

Everything as before didn't feel the same.

I was so busy playing on my gadgets and talking to my dad while he was at work,

That I forgot to do my HOMEWORK!!!!

**-Sarvesh, 5C**

## Nature's revenge

Water water everywhere;

We can't see land anywhere,

Nature has reclaimed the city,

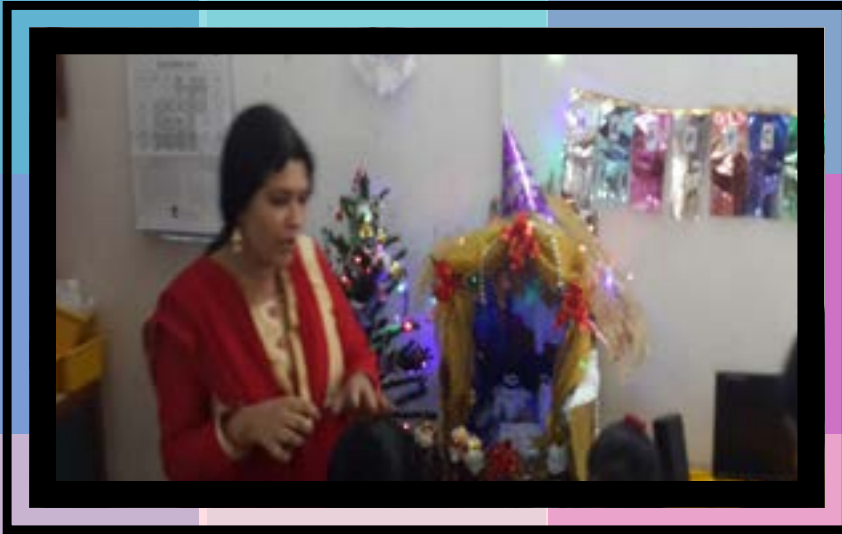
What a pity,

Wish we had shown the nature some care!

**-Sai Krishna, 5C**



## Our LKG Celebrations of Christmas





## *Our UKG Celebrations of Pongal*





# Teaching with an Open Mind

*Frank and spontaneous, she is ever reliable and someone whom we can always go to with our concerns. We talked to Ms Fiza, our teacher and Coordinator of the Senior School English department, to learn what teaching means to her. Excerpts from an interview:*

**What are your interests other than academics?**

I do a lot of writing and reading (classic, fiction, and magazines) and I just love to dance.

**What career would you have been interested in apart from teaching?**

Becoming a trainer for soft skills (communication skills). I also wanted to be a newsreader.

**Your students are most grateful for your teaching; what do you think of them?**

I have the most wonderful students; I enjoy a very good relationship with my students and a most interactive class. I always defend my students through any consequences and I think of all my students as the same.

**You have had a very successful career in the corporate world, what are the main factors in your decision to take to teaching?**

Teaching happened by chance for me. When Gateway International requested me to teach I knew that saying yes would be the right choice since I have always had a passion for kids.

**When you were a student, did you ever think you would end up where you are now?**

Never. I never knew I would teach, never wanted to be a teacher but since it was a great opportunity I did not want to let it go.

**What personal strengths do you find especially helpful in your teaching?**

Confidence in myself, patience, love for children, a desire to understand children and always being sure of what I am teaching.



PC: Poorvesh, Gr 10

**What do you like most about teaching as a career?**

It helps me to remain close to my children, and explore myself more and more. Every day is a brand new experience and as I teach I learn too; I feel like my students always teach me more than I have ever taught them.

**What is the greatest success or the best experience you have had in teaching?**

My best experience was ....the first time a student came up to me and said, "I just love your teaching".

*Interview by Surekha, 9C*

# APL's Vision of Realising Potential

One of the most difficult lessons to learn is that your story is not wholly your own. Neither can you choose its beginning nor decide the end and most of the details on the way are shaped by other forces, random chances and choices you make.

The key to realizing potential is in knowing yourself; you will be able to work with the flow of your life, rather than against it. If you embrace your story, it will powerfully support you, and you will be able to write more chapters of your life than at first seemed possible. It's not a process you can entirely control, though it is the source of everything that will feel most meaningful and true to you.

You need others too to realize your potential. Even solo adventurers can't walk to the South Pole or sail around the world entirely on their own. Behind them are teams of people providing them with support, know-how and inspiration. "No man is an island," is a well-known saying from the poet, John Donne. Humans do not thrive when isolated from others. We often need someone with more experience or wisdom, like a good friend or mentor, to help guide us through life and make the right decisions.

This is where APL has stepped in to make a difference. Academy of Personalized Learning helps children realize their true potential. And we can see the impact in our daughter's growth. Her level of confidence and independence has significantly increased. More power to APL!

*Atul Narania, father of Aditi, 8C*





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