

SYNERGY BYTES



Inauguration



After four long years, our 11th Synergy (2023) began with the inspirational inaugural ceremony. The walls of the auditorium were decorated with artistic blobs of purple, cyan, blue, pink and black, along with cups of paint on the stage. The logo was creatively designed with a graffiti-esque artstyle, emphasising the importance of art and expression in this year's Synergy. Hanging from the ceiling were the fundamental values for this year's theme - respect, written in English and Tamil. Light techno music in the background added to the vibrant atmosphere's appeal. Our chief guest, Mr. Ashwin Kakumanu, was ushered in by Gomathi ma'am, Aruna ma'am, Vaijayanthi ma'am, Chandrika ma'am, and two of our 11th graders. The event started off auspiciously with the NIOS head Ms. Vaijayanthi lighting the divine lamp as a symbol of prosperity. Next, the students of senior school showcased their exceptional dance skills with an invocation dance fusing together bharatanatyam and many other dance forms. They danced to songs from popular movies, Carnatic music, Hindustani music, and fast paced tracks, showcasing their versatility. A sapling, prepared by our Kamalam students, was presented to the chief guest.



- Vijaymeenakshi, Grade 12 G

Following which Senior Head of School Ms Gomathi Prabhakar gave a thought provoking speech, where she encouraged students to exhibit their talent while stressing on the importance of respect and how it cultivates the compassion and empathy required to give back to the community. The much awaited address of the chief guest Mr. Ashwin followed this. The man 'Made in Madras' gave a very interactive and relatable speech where he linked the connection synergy had with respect and pointed out how we must treat people equally with the utmost respect. He was also looking forward to our participation and wished for us to have a great Synergy. Finally, our RCP head Tanika Kapa spoke about the togetherness and social responsibility our RCP club had cultivated in our students. She then informed us about the impressive initiatives undertaken by the RCP team. This included a Bake Sale to support the Cow Foundation; a Book Sale to support the Olcott School in Besant Nagar and a soap and chocolate stall by Kamalam students. Finally, the synergy events were launched by the mark of Mr. Ashwin's heart, Ms. Chandrika's arrow through the heart, and Ms. Gomathi's flower on the canvas.

Words from head of senior school

- Tarun and Vittal, Grade 12

Welcoming everyone, our head of senior school - Gomathi ma'am, acknowledged the long wait we had to endure for conducting Synergy again. Highlighting the importance of being able to participate and express oneself without fear, she described the significance of respect in competitions. Appreciating the efforts and skills of fellow participants was critical to fostering personal growth and co-learning, she said. Connecting the value of giving back to the community, Gomathi ma'am shed light on the efforts taken by our students in addition to the Synergy events - including the book drive, bake sale and a soap and chocolate stall organised by APL's vocational training program students.

"Success is not defined solely by trophies or medals but by the growth and learning that come from participating and giving your best effort" - quote



- Tarun and Vittal, Grade 12

Editorial Team

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ReSPECT

shake it UP (gr 6 -8)

Solo dance for grade 6-8 was one of the more popular events. There were six participants from different schools who were all excited to show-off their dance moves. Sandhya's announcement for the commencement of the Solo Dance brought applause and cheers from those in the audience as well as nervousness and panic among the participants. The jubilant participants with their zealous energy danced their hearts away as the music blared through the speakers. The familiarity of the music built a bridge between all the schools to connect. There were two winners, Prasanna Babu from BOAZ bagged the first place and Manushri from Vaels won the second prize.

- Manya, Grade 11



- Rhea, Grade 12



Roshan, Grade 11

CAST AWAY (gr 6 -8)

This event was one of the more quieter ones, where the students enthusiastically justified themselves in their topics of interest. The room was bursting out with creativity. It also evoked a sense of improvisation, and helped the students step out of their comfort zones when they were given a celebrity they were not familiar with. Ayushman from SV High School was thrilled to bag the first place, while Sucheta from Sri Sankara was the runner up. All the winners definitely deserved their acclamation for their originality.

- Maya Damodaran 11

chef's choice (gr 6 -8)

Fireless cooking was a display of excellent culinary skills, where 5 schools prepared various lip-smacking delicacies. Ahana from Vaels made a chocolate cake from dairy milk and cadbury shots, which bagged the first place. The cake was definitely a yummy treat. Taniska from JS Global won the second prize by making a delicious vegetable and paneer roll along with a unique tangy sauce. A notable mention was the ham sandwich made by a student from SV High school. The event was definitely an exemplary showcase of cookery.

- Rithwik Reddy, Grade 12



Anjana, Grade 12



Patchwork Panorama (Gr 6-8)

Collage was an event where four students were given four different topics and used various materials such as newspaper cut outs and sticker cut outs to creatively express themselves and their topics in their papers. The students did an exceptional job in portraying their topics on their sheets. It was a wonderful event, but there can only be one winner, and the talented Ananya from JS global school came first, with Anika from AMM school coming second.

- Vasupradhha, Grade 12



Aditi, Grade 11



- Rhea, Grade 11

shake it UP (Gr 9-12)

One of the most energetic events, solo dance did not disappoint! The judges were amused by the impressive diversity of the various dance forms which ranged from classical to contemporary that were performed by the participants. Furthermore, songs of several languages were used which added to the variety of the event. All six performers enthralled the audience. The winner of the event was Amna Pyaris from Hiranandani Upscale School who danced to the song 'look what you made me do' by Taylor Swift, with the runner up being awarded to Sai Kripa from Omega International.

- Sahithi, Grade 11

conquer the Board (Gr 9-12)

Conquer The Board was an intense series of chess tournaments, with a total of seven schools participating. This event had an exciting yet tense atmosphere as the player's chess skills were tested and they had to outsmart their opponent. It was the ultimate test of skill, patience, stoicism and intellect. The event had a thrilling conclusion as there was a tiebreaker round which proved to be very entertaining, ending with a stunning rook sacrifice! Abijith from DAV School was the proud winner of the tournament, while Saketh from Vals International won the position of runner-up.

- Arya.M and Armaan.S, Grade 12



- Navanidha, Grade 12

IN CONVERSATION WITH ASHWIN KAKUMANU

We had the privilege to converse with the Chief Guest of the APL Synergy 2023, Ashwin Kakumanu. A highly versatile actor, he has played a range of diverging roles, requiring starkly different physical and mental characteristics. He says that he is capable of bulking over a short period of time, which is an important characteristic towards his acting career. He revealed that he was always interested in acting, or roles related to movies and films in general, such as, recording and directing.

Mr. Kakumanu says that he was always an introvert, and felt that acting helped him “come out of his shell”. Coming out of the shell, and presenting oneself to critiques and people all over the internet can be brutal. One opens themselves to a bulk of trolling and hate comments, something which he feels is more likely when the one behind the comments is masked behind a screen. He admits that though he was initially sensitive towards these. As a word to students, Mr. Kakumanu emphasises on the battle of “You vs You” rather than against someone else. He stresses that being a better version of yourself compared to the earlier one, is what propels self-growth, and encourages students to develop this attitude.

Mr. Kakumanu is the chosen one for this year’s APL Synergy. As a massive Star Wars fan, he likens himself to young Luke Skywalker, for he is an introvert who tries to do the ‘good thing’. In his acting career, he likes to take on, in his words, “roles with flaws”. He feels that heroes as an incarnation of god is highly unrealistic, and feels that flaws make it more humane and natural. He feels that versatility will help an actor avoid becoming associated with one particular style of acting, therefore, allowing them to explore a variety of styles in the future, without disappointing fans. He also feels that for himself, he finds it easier to act as a character, rather than make a speech as himself.

On a more light-hearted note, referring to his recent movie, Pizza 3, we asked his opinion on whether pineapple belongs on pizza, a topic that has been debated longer than that of the existence of god. On this, he says that he has tried out the ‘Hawaiian Pizza’ and said it was decent. He however, never tried it again. He also comments that he finds certain sweet and savoury combinations, “slightly weird”, such as bacon and ice-cream.

Regarding school events in his days, Mr. Kakumanu says that he preferred recording from behind the camera. He says this may have translated to him filming short films with his friends, and tries to include some sort of message. When asked if not an actor, what would he have been instead- he says he’d have done something related to art. He says he really enjoys creating art and has started drawing online art as well.

- Adithya Kashyap and Thrish Karthik, Gr 12

MONTAGERS (Gr 9-12)

The ‘Montagers’ event teased the inner child from within the participating teens, as they were stationed at a UKG classroom alongside toys. The topics offered were ‘geometrical patterns’, ‘perspectives’ and ‘dream world’. Intense planning went into each montage, with many taking inspiration from APL’s architecture and infrastructure. Harini from Vaels was quoted saying “The APL infrastructure is very unique, enabling me to brainstorm for the geometrical patterns topic.” While each of the digital artwork pieces were remarkable and piqued the passer-bys’ interest, Nanditha of Hiranandani Upscale School won the first prize with a particularly thought provoking montage.

- Mohamed Raihan, Grade 12

Vijay Meenakshi, Grade 12





Quiz Preliminary (Gr 6 -8)



-Anush Grade 11 & Divyadarshani Grade 12

This event was an interesting spectacle- watching the six teams of scholars undergo an intense brain workout as they worked on their papers. The room was tensely quiet- all until the timer began, as teams commenced their tense discussions. Without a doubt, the Quiz Prelims for Grade 6 to 8 was a tough event, consisting of 31 hard questions but the participants fought their way through the challenge. At the end of the event, it was pretty clear that Quiz Up! had been a success, leaving everyone with something memorable.

Winners-Sri Sankara Secondary school,
Runner up-Vales International School

- Vasupradhha, Gautham, Adhitya, Grade 12

Fair Play (Gr 9-12)

The world's game football was a magnificent and very competitive event. Eight teams fought valiantly in an effort to win the elusive tournament in a knockout format. The four teams that qualified from the quarter finals to the semis were Js, Boaz, DAV, and Sri sankara. The first semi finals between DAV and Sri sankara started off with DAV dominating the game. The mistake from the Sri Sankara goalkeeper lead to DAV scoring the first goal of the match. DAV asserted their dominance on the pitch by scoring a second goal. The sensational strike by DAV's striker scored a third to wrap up the game. The other semi final between JS and Boaz was one sided from the start.

Although the Boaz keeper pulled off some sensational and heroic saves, it was no match for the relentless pressure the JS players put on Boaz. With a few amazing shots JS completed the demolition by scoring 4 goals whilst maintaining a clean sheet. The momentous final between JS and DAV started off rather unceremoniously with the DAV keeper making an immediate error that almost lead to a goal. A few plays later found JS on an amazing counter attack which they capped off by smashing a goal top bins to make it 1-0. DAV did manage to regroup themselves and were putting constant pressure on JS and forced two magnificent saves from the JS goalkeeper.

However, another blistering counter attack by JS lead to a deflected shot that rolled into the net. The second half started with JS forcing the DAV goalkeeper to make some astounding saves but despite this JS did score their 3rd goal of the match. All hope seemed lost until the DAV striker slotted in a goal for DAV. DAV continued to apply pressure but this attempt was futile as JS scored another goal through an amazing counter attack that would make Jose Mourinho proud. The one sided final ended with the celebrations of the jubilant JS players and the sorrows of the dejected DAV players.

- Prajan & Smrithi, Grade 12



VJjay Meenakshi , Grade 12



Rhea, Grade 12



The Upscale Power (Gr 6 -8)

The recycled art event for grades 6-8 had a total of 6 participants. Students employed their creativity keeping in mind sustainable principles to produce thought provoking crafts and objects. Anubhani Bhandari from Sankara got first place. She used egg shells, origami, and other compost items for her invention. Second place was won by Sahana Vikram from SV High school with her DIY lamp out of cardboard and an electric candle. Minimalism and elegant, natural touches such as leaves were contributing factors for both the top prizes.

- Rithwik, Grade 12

PAPER SYMPHONY (Gr 6-8)

Paper symphony, our quilling event, was one of the most intriguing. Participants were required to create decorative designs by rolling and manipulating paper. There were three talented participants who made intricate designs. Ruthva Harish of 8th grade crafted a beautiful pendant. Vendanayaki of 6th grade attempted to create a rainbow, although he was not able to complete it, the vivid colours were mesmerising. Last but not least, the winner of the competition was 6th grader Stuti from KSN sankara senior secondary. A worthy winner of this competition.

- Shruthi & Thenmozhi, Grade 12



Vijay Meenakshi, Grade 12



- Navanidha, Grades 12

ONE CUT TWO FOLDS (Gr 3-5)

There were 4 participants and they were each given an hour to make their origami based on the three topics- Flower, Bird, Animal. The participants were enthusiastic and asked plenty of questions regarding their event out of curiosity and doubt. They were being marked on creativity, idea, neatness, concept and presentation. One of the participants finished first within about 10 minutes which was a surprise as he doubted his capabilities in the start. There was so much enthusiasm that one of the participants wanted to make more than the required origami. One of the participants forgot how to make his design and was feeling down but his other comrades refused to let him be so and encouraged him to try harder showing the true spirit of sportsmanship.

- Maanya, Raihan, Grade 11

"Pitch was very good, enjoyed the competitive energy between fellow students, great infrastructure."
- Vishruth, Sri Sankara

"First time here, never heard of APL Global school before, referees helped us and were very cooperative, the students were very approachable."
- Lohit DAV Public School Velacherry

"Volunteers were helpful, I personally enjoyed the Digital Monologue event the most, really looking forward to coming back!"
- Nanditha, HUS

"Big school, many different people, the events were very enjoyable. A ton of new memorable experiences."
- Jeshwanth, JS Global



"Our experiences were very nice, the teachers were very kind and supportive, enjoyed the environment of the school."
- Sehaj, Vales International

"Very good infrastructure, good management, very new experience."

- Sai Deepak and Nithin
Alagesh, Shrine
Vailamkanni

Broadway Beasts

Watching the street play event was like watching all of the students present at the venue undergo a reincarnation as they took on their new personas and put in their fullest efforts to deliver a perfect performance, bringing out their inner Laurence Olivier. Despite the one hour delay, all the schools performed with utmost jubilation- voices piercing through the minds of the audience and the judges. Not one participant underperformed; each of them went all out on every aspect- costumes, performance, emotions, everything. At the end of the event, it was pretty clear that the event was a success.

- Maya Damodaran, Grade 11



- Aditi, Grade 11



- Navanidha, Grade 12

BAKE SALE

The APL bake sale was a hit from the word go. It was hosted by Anjana and Navanidha of grade 12. The Brownies just melted in your mouth. The Vanilla and chocolate chip muffins were yummylicious. The proceeds of this bake sale will go to the cow foundation.

When asked about the muffins Ms Sarija our Principal said, "Awesome. I love the chocolate drops in between the muffin. It melts in my mouth, beautiful texture"

Ms Gomathi Head of Senior School had this to say about the Brownies,

"I loved the Brownies, right amount of sugar, soft inside, crusty outside. Very tasty"

"Texture is very good, the consistency was perfect"

- Jaya Lekshmi Ma'am

word from editors

After a 4 year hiatus, we can confidently say that APL's Synergy has returned from the shadows with a bang! This year featured a diverse multitude of events, each bringing out the talents of more than 400+ students from various school contingents attending the occasion. Be it Chess, Football or even Dance; every event, at the end of the day, brought about grace and humility among all the students, reinforcing APL's theme of 'Respect' for this year's Synergy. The emotions of students ebbed and flowed, as expressions ranged from ecstasy to brief moments of befuddlement. Yet, in the end, students congregated together and had a laugh to celebrate this wonderful event.

Documenting this event as part of Synergy bytes, we, the reporters and editors, have written over 4500 words, crossing the word limit of your average job resume!

Working on the Synergy Bytes has been a memorable experience, whether it be the easy-going and light-hearted moments of jamming to Pink Floyd in the editor room or it be the serious rush hours of reporters reporting back from their events, or the photographer running around from event to event with a soda in one hand and cameras dangling off their necks. As the editors, we can confidently say that this has been a whirlwind experience. The paper you are currently reading is a collaborative effort of many individuals who have worked tirelessly to produce this edition and we hope you enjoy reading this as much as we enjoyed the production process!

