# HOW



Teacher: Where does God live?

Little boy: I think he lives in our bathroom.

Teacher: Why do you say that?

Little boy: Well, every morning my daddy bangs the door and says, "God! are you still in there?

Teacher: What's your name?

Student: "Mera naam Suraj Prakash hai".

Teacher: Please answer in English. Student: My name is Sunlight.

Teacher: Megan, why are you doing your sums on the floor?

Megan: Ma'm you only said that we had to do it without the help of tables!

Teacher: Sunny, I wish you'd paid a little attention.

Sunny: Ma'm I am paying as little as I can.

The shortest relationship in life is between students and books.

They hook – up only a day before the exam and break – up right after the exam!!

#### **EXAM PATTERNS FROM 1995 TILL 2020:**

1995: Answer all the questions.

2000: Answer any five questions.

2005: Select the correct answer (A,B,C or D)

2010: Write either A or B

2015: Please only Read the questions!

2020: Thanks for coming!



Arijit Majumder, VIII A

**IVWS Chess team** with their coach Mr. Niloy Chakraborty. This team consisting of Anupam Dutta –Grade III, Ishir Narayan – Grade I, Eka Narayan – Grade III, Mehul Tantia – Grade VII, Brishti Hazra – Grade VIII and Melisa Pal – Grade IX have been winning trophies in one tournament or other. Congratulations!

Keep up the winning streak.





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# PENS & BRAINS

**Quarterly Interactive Magazine for IVWS Parents & Students** 

### EDITOR SPEAKS

# India's Roadmap from Rote Learning to Holistic Learning

The school educational system of today's India is trying its best to scrap the 'factory model' that remained in vogue ever since the pre-independent 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century era. That model might have suited the times of Industrial Revolution, but today there is a different world out here. In the last two decades, there have been dramatic changes in the overall social environment of India and lifestyle of the common Indian. Our education must reflect that change. Old techniques and systems must give way for fresh approaches.

We have all tried repetition as a learning technique. The idea is that the more we are exposed to repetition of some material, the deeper it will sink in. However, this approach often has disappointing results. This technique is a really bad one when applied to a composition or an essay or a literature answer. And that same technique becomes almost evil when we try to cram up the steps of solving a particular mathematical problem. You get my point, don't you?

When you simply memorize or learn something through rote, you are not really trying to understand its deeper meaning, you are overlooking how it works and you are ignoring the mechanics and the logic at work. So you may retain a photocopy of that knowledge in your brain cells and replicate it on a piece of paper, but you will never be able to transfer that knowledge into real-life application.

On the other end of the spectrum, there is holistic or meaningful learning. In this system of education, you will not simply retain knowledge in your memory cells, you will rather understand how things work. So the key to meaningful learning is "understanding" rather than "memorizing". What you will acquire through this process will be true knowledge, something that will stay with you forever and will make you an empowered citizen.

This is the new direction that our modern education system has embraced and now promotes. If you don't start travelling the same path, you will be stranded. So, let's start walking before it is too late.

- Sanjukta Ray

# FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

#### THE LOST WORD - 'LOVE'

Generation after generation lived on food but lived happily on LOVE. Whenever love was denied or taken away man lived in misery and sorrow. This is true even today. However today's generation has learned to live (apparently happy) without love but with the substitutes of love. Young minds are made to believe that material comforts are better than the abstract LOVE. More and more young people believe and experience that getting things or giving things is love and if you don't get something desired or asked for then love is denied. The consequence of this trend is disastrous. Young adults and teenagers are ready to give anything in the name of love and alarmingly they are ready to go to any extent to get what they desire – all in the name of love. The sad fact is that the generation of today are willing to accept anything that comes in the guise of love. Why this misconception? Family is the first society and it begins there. If real love is denied or taken away and substitutes are operational in families, children will learn and practise this unethical and unhealthy trend and soon it will become operational in a larger society. What's the solution? Families should become centres of love, right values and discipline. These virtues should be inculcated and above all right family environment has to be created. Young minds should not be allowed to be polluted by materialistic ideas but be nurtured with love, care and discipline. If family fails, no institution can succeed to discipline a child. So let us go after the right meaning of the word LOVE.

-Joseph Mathew



#### **QUOTES TO REMEMBER**

1. People who cannot find time for recreation are obliged sooner or later to find time for illness.

- John Wanamaker

2. You can never love someone more than you love yourself, since it is impossible to give more than you have.

-Gene Ange

3. Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love.

-LaoTz

- 4. The greatest gift you can give to your children is the gift of love and teaching to love.
  - J.N
- 5. There is no surprise more magical than the surprise of being loved. It is God's finger on man's shoulder.
- Alfred Charles Morgan
- 6. People who fly into rage always make a bad landing.

-Will Rogers

# **IVWS. YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW**

Three months of hectic preparations, celebrations, picnics and other engaging activities. Yes, we are talking about the past three months of December, 2012, January & February 2013 in relation to life at IVWS.

#### CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL – 2012

As soon as the FA3 examinations got over, IVWS began preparations for Carnival celebrations. Prior to the X'mas Carnival a number of Inter-school competitions were held and the finalists performed on the 'D' day.

23<sup>rd</sup> December dawned on IVWS children and they were bundles of excitement eager to reach school. When they reached school, they couldn't believe their eyes! A total transformation had taken place with wonderful decoration, colour, lights and sound. The whole ground looked very inviting. Slowly the food stalls came alive with a variety of delicious



Though it was the coldest day of the month, young and old thronged to the well-lit, beautifully decorated IVWS ground to play a number of lucky games, to be entertained, to be participants etc.

There were competitions like 'T' shirt painting for husband and wife combination, Mother & daughter dance and family Antakshri etc, In these competitions IVWS parents / family performed exceptionally well. The participation was overwhelming and the mood of the audience was exhilarating.

The whole programme was culminated with the prize distribution ceremony. The evening was made more colourful and happy with the presence of one of Bengal's leading actor, Ms Debasree Roy.

When the whole celebration came to a close at 7.00pm, everyone returned home with the resolution to keep this day embedded in their heart and mind for all good reasons.

## INTER-HOUSE BADMINTON COMPETITION



Inter-house badminton competitions was organized at IVWS for the first time. The competitions were held in the month of January 2013 and it 22nd January 2013 at the went on for two weeks as there were numerous participants. Children had been practising for months in preparation for

this event. The highlight of the event was that IVWS discovered a number of fine talents who could be future Sainas and Gopichands.

The championship title for singles seniors (boys) was won by Sarthak Pandey, girls (seniors) was won by Moumita Dutta and the girls' and boys' (juniors) title went to Sania Srivastava and Soumyadeep Dey respectively.

In doubles, the championship for boys was won by Sarthak Pandey & Soham Mukherjee and the girls' title was won by Moumita Dutta and Saptarchita Dutta.

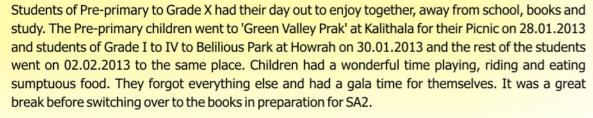
# ANNUAL SPORTS

More than a month's intense preparation and IVWS was ready for Annual Sports Meet. This great event was held on



Gitanjali Stadium ground. It was a very successful sports meet. Each and every child was part of the sports day events. Besides a number of Athletic events, there were a number of entertaining events as well as drill displays. The drill displays were exceptionally well choreographed and displayed with apt skills by all the students. At the end of the students' events, there were some races for the parents and teachers. Even one of the grandfathers was on the track to be part of 100mtrs.race for gents. Days of intense and tough training for the annual sports meet has helped the children to learn discipline, perseverance, co-operation, sportsmanship and many other values.

#### **SCHOOL PICNIC**





# **SARASWATI PUJA 2013**

Saraswati Puja was celebrated amidst much devotion and meaningful activities by the entire IVWS family on 15th February. The Saraswati idol along with its background was beautifully decorated by the students and teachers. Children who turned up in traditional Indian attires offered pushpanjali to the goddess of learning and thereafter they were offered the delectable bhog. In the TTIS organized Saraswati Fiesta, the event 'Two Minute to Fame' provided the pupils



an opportunity to showcase their talents in dance, recitation, singing and in instrumental music like violin, guitar, table etc. Shresth Biswas danced away to fame and grabbed the first position. The spot quiz was equally exciting but the cynosure of all events was the fashion show titled 'Style Icon'. In it, students dressed in various innovative and stunning costumes enthralled the audience and the confident Priyanshi Mondal walked away with the first prize.

Amidst all these activities and competitions, the school never lost sight of the academic progress. Academic competitions like Creative writing, Spell Bee etc were organized.

The students of Grade V to X have just completed their FA4 tests and these tests were a good preparation for their SA2 which will commence 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

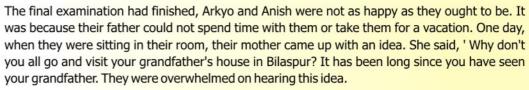
Students of Grade V to IX will complete their SA2 Examination on 15th March 2013. Grade X will begin their Board Examination on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Let us wish all our students All the Best for their Exam and let us keep them in our prayers.

Parent-Teacher meeting for the Pre-Primary will take place on 16th March 2013, from 8.30 a.m to 12.30 p.m. For Grade I to IV it will be held on 20th March from 8.30 a.m to 12.30 p.m and for students of Grade V to IX the P.T.M. will be on 23th March from 8.30 a.m to 12.30 p.m.

New Scholastic Year 2013-14 begins on 8th April 2013 for the students of Grade I to X.

The Editorial team of PENS & BRAINS wish all the students BEST OF LUCK for their Examination and a fantastic start to the New Academic Year 2013-14.

#### **GHOST AT BILASPUR**





Within a few days, they boarded the train to Bilaspur. They reached their grandfather's house. He had been once the station master of Bilaspur and after his retirement, he and his wife decided to settle in Bilaspur. Their house was located in the outskirts of the main city. They lived there with a caretaker.

When they reached there, they were welcomed by their grandparents. They lived in a very big house. The house, though looked old was equipped with modern amenities. Anish and Arkyo were given one room to stay. After a hearty dinner, they both fell asleep. From the next day, they started visiting many places in the village. They were accompanied by the caretaker Ramu to various places. They were shown many small hillstations. They were also shown various agricultural fields, where various vegetables were being cultivated. They saw the markets of Bilaspur.

One day while they were returning home, they noticed a big palace in a very dilapidated condition. They asked Ramu, 'Whose palace is this?' Ramu said, 'This is the palace of a zamindar who used to live here a few decades ago.' Arkyo asked 'Can't we explore this palace? It looks like it has lot of hidden treasures in it?' Anish supported him and said, 'Even I want to go inside the palace'. As they were going towards the palace, Ramu said, 'Don't go there. There are ghosts in this palace'. Arkyo said, 'I too want to go but later'. They returned to their grandfather's house.

Arkyo and Anish then decided that they would explore the palace that night. After dinner, when everyone went to sleep, they both crept out of the house and went to the palace. When they reached there, they were totally shocked! From far, they could see some women standing in the dark. They were wearing saris and moving their hands as if they were calling them. Arkyo fainted on seeing this. Anish ran back home and called grandfather. He soon came running with a guard to see the matter. They took Arkyo and Anish home.

The next day, they along with their grandfather and the caretaker went to the palace. Grandfather asked Anish to show the place where they saw the ghosts. Anish and Arkyo along with the grandfather went to see where the place was. They found nothing else, other than some banana trees standing there. They understood the matter and laughed off the incident.

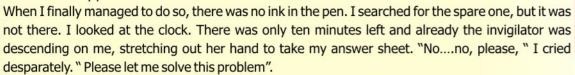
They visited the palace, went around but found no ghosts.

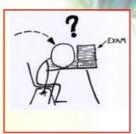
Soon their vacation came to an end. They returned home with the sweet and adventurous memories of Bilaspur.

- Rishika Pal, VIII A

#### THE NIGHT BEFORE THE EXAMINATION

The question paper was right there, but the words were dancing in front of my eyes. I could not understand what that black and white jumbled –up figures and sketches were. Suddenly I realized it was my Mathematics paper. I knew it – every single question – but my hands felt so heavy that I could not lift my pen to write.





Just then, the bell rang, signalling the end of the examination. I shrank in my seat, crying bitterly, with the sound of the bell growing louder in my ears. But the teacher was shaking me violently, forcing me to get up. I opened my eyes to broad day light. Oh my God! It was the day of the mathematics exam. What I had just undergone was merely a bout of the night-before-the examination fever!

- Tandra Choudhury, VIII A



#### THE BRAVE GIRL

It was dark and quiet as a chilling breeze blew over the posh streets of London. Two dacoits were planning to raid the house of a rich jeweller and his family. Everybody in the house was asleep which the dacoits considered was good for their plan. The two entered the house through the chimney without making a sound a nd started scanning the house for valuable items without wasting any time. However, what they couldn't notice was that the 12 year old daughter of the jeweller was awake as she had woken up to get a glass of water and was hiding and viewing the activities of the thieves. She was thinking of informing her father about it when

her father came out of the room woken up by the suspicious noises. Just as he came out of the room, he spotted the thieves and started screaming. The thieves heard this and ran straight towards the man attacking him and knocking him down to the ground. The two then took the man to his bedroom where his wife was also awake, and tied them both to the bed and put tape on their mouth so that they couldn't speak a word. The daughter was watching all this and was ready to handle the situation. When the dacoits got back to their search for treasure, the girl quietly crept to her parent's bedroom where she explained to her parents that the thieves had not spotted her. She then took her father's cell phone and called the police and told them about the situation the whole house was in. The police then told her that they would be there as soon as possible and that she should keep her calm. The daughter then untied her parents and told them to stay in their bedroom quietly. She then ran out of the back door and came back carrying the shot gun her father kept for emergencies and started firing it in the air. The two thieves were startled by the noise and started to run out of the house leaving everything else behind. Just as they left the house, the police were already waiting for them ready with their police dogs. The police then arrested the two thieves and congratulated the girl for her bravery. The next morning the girl made it to the front page of all the leading dailies, story about her brave action was published. Her parents were very proud of her and the girl then went to school where she was congratulated by everyone and was presented with an award for her bravery. The government also awarded her and it was telecast on the national channel.

- Aditya Rohan Minz, VIII A

#### IF I WERE A BIRD!

Man since the ancient times has envied the bird for its ability to fly and cover long distance in less time with less energy. Even I feel the same about the birds. They can roam anywhere in the world, they have no restrictions, they require no permissions to fly in any country as our aeroplanes do; they do not require a visa and a passport to enjoy the beauty of a country. If I were a bird!

Had I been a bird, I would never have stayed at one place for too long. I would have loved to travel far and wide and enjoy the beauties of nature at every place. People would see me and marvel at my beauty and capture it in their cameras.



If I were a bird, I would undertake a world tour which is costly for humans but for birds it is free of cost. Whenever I would enter a new region, I would not leave it until I have seen each and every part of the region. Not only the natural beauty, but the ancient man made monuments also allow unrestricted access to birds. Thus visiting a new region would only make me wiser. Becoming a bird would mean complete freedom from rules and restrictions of man.

Thus, becoming a bird would release me from all the worldly tensions and I could roam anywhere in the world and enjoy it as one world without any cast or colour distinction.

- Shreya Ganguly, VIII A

#### **GREEN CONSERVATION**

"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need. But not for every man's greed"-Mahatma Gandhi. Natural disaster destroy the earth around them. But once it is over calmness prevails and nature regains its pristine splendour. It is ironical that man the most highly advanced of all species can make a fatal mistake – the depletion of nature in the name of prosperous future. Little does he realize that unwillingly he attacks nature's most complex and critical level of organization- the ecosystem. Deforestation, pesticides and high water usage leave the land depleted of its natural resources like forests, minerals and animals have a drastic effect. Two-third of the earths rainforest have disappeared, ninety five percent of



Brazil's coastal forests have been cut down for the sake of urbanization and development. At the current rate of deforestation, forest or green will be unheard in the next 50 years.

One of the most alarming ways in which man has endangered its nature is environmental pollution. It refers to the ways in which human activity harms the natural environment. Thus we are ultimately playing with the very chain of life. With deforestation the primary procedures of the world will no longer exist. Plants are the only organisms that maintain the level of oxygen (O2) and carbon-di-oxide (Co2) in the air. It is on them that the herbivorous animals feed and these become prey for carnivorous animals. Hence plants form the essential infrastructure of the food chain which can never be underestimated.

Depletion of green leads to the deprivation of soil nutrients. What we fail to realize is that when we tamper with nature we are actually digging our own grave by destroying natural resources.

What the earth really needs is care, consideration and love for nature and her bounty. Let sanity prevails. Let us have a 'clean Green Earth' for the future generation.

- Shayori Banerjee , VIII A

# **Technological Advancement**

Technology has changed our lives in a big way and will continue doing so in the future. I am going to highlight the technological advances that I believe have changed the world.

#### MEDICINE

Because of the invention of new machines and cures for diseases, human life as a species has extended. There are three categories of medicines – Antibiotics, Surgical Transplants and Vaccines. I think that without medicines our lives would have been miserable and death rate would have doubled the birth rate.



#### ENVIRONMENTAL

There have been technological advancements in treatment and processes with water and sanitation. In developed countries, there is water treatment and sanitation disposal which have led to virtual elimination of diseases.

#### COMMUNICATION

The field which I am now going to talk about is very much use in today's life MOBILE, INTERNET- We almost cannot think of life without mobile and internet. These have made world a small village as communication is faster and cheaper.



#### > TELEVISION

My next category is Television. Wow! many of us have television at home? Everybody . Right? What should I talk about T.V. Life is impossible without television. Television is a visual medium in the world of communication, entertainment and information.



#### REAL TIME NEWS

The television gave society its first look at various news items, sitting at home. And the first pictorial messages from government leaders. Society has been able to follow news items including weather forecasts and disasters, presidential elections, and news of other countries.

#### TRAVEL

There has been a drastic change in this field. First people used to take months and months to go from one country to another. Then, came the boats, ships, then train, cars, buses and now aeroplane. Now we can go from one country to another in just a few hours. Aeroplane is the easiest and fastest mode of transport.



#### HOME IMPROVEMENT

Our life at home has become so comfortable with electronic gadgets and other implements like the refrigerator, washing machine, dishwasher, microwave, air conditioner etc. Each person's 'day planner' would be much different if not for these technological advancements in personal home-life case.



WITHOUT TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS Our life would have been something else.

Definitely technological development has made our lives easier but it also has an adverse effect on the environment. Like, global warming, pollution and environmental degradation.

-Brishti Haza – VIII B

# **MICHAEL JACKSON: THE KING OF POP**

Michael Jackson was four on 29th Aug'58. At the age of 5, he joined his four b rothers and they came up with the idea to start a band called "The Jackson 5". Michael Jackson, even though a kid, people knew that one day he would outsmart the group. The Jackson 5 had many hits including "I Want You Back", "Ben "& "ABC". They released 6 albums before they finally decided to end their wonderful journey with a last song, "One Day In Your Life" which was sung by the teenaged Michael Jackson. Five years later he released his



first single album, "Off The Wall" which included hits like "Don't stop till you get enough", but nothing compared to his album, released 2 years later - "Thriller", which not only won him 7 Grammy awards, but also became the largest selling album of all time and the album has still not lost that standing. Thriller had 4 of the Top 10 Hits, "Thriller", "Beat It", "Billie Jean" & "Wanna be startin something". Then he released his 3rd album, titled "Bad" and then "History" and then "Blood On The Dance Floor" and his last album, "Invincible". "You Rock My World" was the last song which was in the USA billboard Charts. Michael Jackson performed 49 concerts. He became the "King of Pop". He died on 25th July 2009. The last concert, which Jackson said would be his last ever, never took place as he died before the concert. Michael Jackson always owned the stage, & his death affected the whole world. The world is lucky that the world got 50 years of beautiful music from the one who always owned the stage — Michael Jackson. Rohil Bhattacharya, VIII B

#### ROUTINE

School is a daily routine for us. In the morning we are sure to make a fuss When the sun is still not up, We are, awake at 5.30am sharp.

Then, at the last minute we have to run. Eyes half-open, shoelaces undone We reach school and meet our friends, Immediately, the sleepiness ends.

We chat and move with a flow Then the bell rings, it is time to go Together we meet at the assembly in prayer Then off to the class rooms to be under teacher's care, Talking back to the teachers, and detention we serve No doubt, it is sometimes what we deserve Sometimes they are hot as fire. And other times they're full of care.

So, some may see school as a torture chamber Some cannot wait for the holidays in December But it depends on how we look at school HONESTLY, POSITIVELY, SCHOOL IS COOL!!!

- Priyanshi Mandal, VIII B



Roshni Das, VIII B



Sohini Sutradhar, VIII B

# The Negative Side of Facebook and other Social Networks

No doubt social networks, especially Facebook (due to its incredible expansion), have their positive side as they can be the exhaust valve and even comfort for many people. Can be used to vent, relieve the pain, share experiences or share ideas and impressions. So we can conclude that expose personal life in a social network can be a therapy for some people.

However, there are some risks in the social networks that are neglected or that go noticed by users. Just to name a few, Facebook has been involved in at least one third of divorces in the UK. In the United States is no different, where Facebook has been increasingly used as evidence by the end of many marriages.

There are studies that show the harmful influence of Facebook among teenagers, as they are more vulnerable to developing antisocial behavior, narcissism,



disrespect the privacy and even more specific psychotic. Other damaging effects of constant use of Facebook among young people also include mania, holistic behavior, insomnia, anxiety and depression.

Another concern is the fact that Facebook collects personal information, making it an extraordinary machine intelligence. In data centers Facebook are registered names, addresses, phone numbers, relationships, residential location, workplace, contacts with relatives and friends, personal opinions, photos, videos. It is powerful source of information to malicious hackers and intelligence agencies worldwide.

It is important to clarify that it is impossible to completely delete personal information and the contents of the internet. This means that anything you put on the Internet for servers can be spread around the world. And so, the possibility erasing all traces of the web becomes impractical. Also, request removal of personal data can become a nightmare, even as to the owners of sites, blogs, social networks, search engines (Google, Yahoo, Bing, etc.) is more advantageous and profitable to keep information about you. -Sanyam Jaiswal, VIII B

#### WHAT A WONDERFUL DAY!



February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 will remain an unforgettable day in the history of IVWS. Guess Why? It was on this day that we had a great day out, for a picnic. We arrived at school by 7.15 am and then got onto the school bus with smiles on our lips and dance in our steps. It was really a one and a half -hour journey from school. We reached the spot by 9.30am. I should say the spot is one of the best in Kolkata. It is a 'super fantastic' spot named Bellilious Park. At first we had our breakfast and once we were filled, we ran off to enjoy

ourselves. The highlight of the day was the Inter-house Cricket tournament. Ganga house emerged as the champions but the other houses too gave a tough competition. The sides at the park

were just awesome. If we get onto those rides, we wouldn't feel like getting off them. The toy train deserves a special mention. It gave us a great ride around the park. After all this we were served a very delicious lunch. Then the students enjoyed on their own by playing football, cricket, badminton, and other entertaining games. The day ended with a big bowl of icecream each and we made our way to the school buses, tired but very happy. It was the greatest and the most fantastic picnic for most of us. Saransh Agarwal, VIII B

## SCIENTIFIC, AMAZING & FUNNY FACTS

- Cats respond most readily to names that end in an "ee" sound.
- It is estimated that cats can make over 60 different sounds.
- A cat can spend 5 or more hours a day in grooming itself.
- Cats sleep for about 16-18 hours. They are very lazy.
- The world's longest word is 'Pneumonoulteamicroscopicosilicovolcanocosicociosis'. It is the name of a fatal lung disease in which the lungs are inflamed due to inhalation of
- If you see an animal with two or more hoods, don't get surprised. This phenomenon is known as 'polycephaly' in which a zygote fails to divide into two and the division is incomplete, whereas the other parts grow properly. This incomplete division is later seen in the form of an abnormality of having two or more heads.
- If you cut a block of gold at a scale of 15 nm (nanometer), then you will obtain a green liquid. It you cut it at a scale of 20nm, you will obtain a red liquid. This phenomenon occurs because any chemical element on being cut in a nanoscale changes its physical & chemical properties and gets some unexpected properties.
- If you think that Albert Einstein was a boring person who used to give huge and mere lectures and knew huge formulas, then you are absolutely wrong. He was a peaceful person with a perfect passion for physics. He used to play guitar and violin. You shoudn't commit the mistake of calling Einstein, a boring person.
- There is a town in Kerela called twin town where more than 220 sets of twins live. However twins have been born here since three generations.
- Some oysters alternate their gender every year.
- On February 13,,1930, a cow flew in an aeroplane for the first time.
- Thomas Alva Edison, light bulb inventor, was afraid of darkness.
- It is illegal in Alabama to wear a fake moustache.
- A goldfish has a life span of 3 seconds.
- When you eat too much, your hearing ability decreases.
- Lily flowers and chocolates are poisonous to cats.

- Shouharda Ghosh, VIII A