

PENS & BRAINS

Quarterly Interactive Magazine for IVWS Parents & Students



RAUNAK DAS VII C



SAINA SHANKAR VI C



Shreya Ghosh VI C



EDITOR SPEAKS

What lies in the Future is in the Truth of Today



The most frustrating aspect of your past is that it's completely unchangeable. The

die has been cast, the dice has been rolled, the stone has been etched and the water has already flown under the bridge. It's gone. Future, on the other hand, may seem unpredictable, unknown, mysterious and scary. You are not sure what will happen, how it will all pan out. It promises a lot, both in the positive and negative scale of things. But you can never be sure, can you?

All you have real control over, really, is the present. Today. Now. Your decisions today are going to shape your tomorrow, what you decide to do or not to do now, is going to carve your next phase of life. You see, future isn't that mysterious after all. Unlike past, you can have a large degree of control on your future by becoming pro-active in your present. What you know now needs to be leveraged if you are to improve your future. What you have learnt so far needs to be sharpened and deepened and strengthened to make your future brighter.

You can't have success without action and action without planning. Plans generally work only when you make them well in advance and when you are ready to put in the hard yards towards realizing them. Without a plan, the world takes control of you. With it, you are in control of yourself.

The life of a person is nothing but a series of choices and consequences. Sometimes, choices are forced upon us, but most of the time we choose freely. The choices we make today, whether big or small, will forever affect our future. Whether you decide to consume junk or healthy food now will decide your health in the coming years. Whether you decide to invest more time on Facebook or text-book is going to decide whether you just win virtual "likes" or real admiration in the future. Once a choice has been made, the actions play out, and the consequence is delivered. There's no escaping it. We just have to live with those consequences.

So choose carefully, plan patiently and act arduously from this point onwards. If you do that, the future will take care of itself. And **YOU.**



big or small,
lies are lies.

From the Principal's Desk

It was a beautiful starlit evening in January 2017, Ajay was at his study table gazing through the window, observing how the leaves of the banana tree moved in the light wind of that evening. Suddenly he heard a cry, 'Ajay, Ajay come quickly, call your mother !' He knew that it was his father. Startled as he was, he called out his mother and rushed to his father's room . There he saw his father pressing his hand against his chest. He knelt before his father on his bed and tried to lift him up. In the meanwhile his mother and his little sister rushed into the room in panic. Mother asked Ajay to call the neighbour and his car and began to attend to her husband. The little girl was in tears. The good neighbour, Mr. Anand came with his car and seeing the seriousness of the situation, helped Mr. Raju to get into the car. Mr. Raju was still in terrible pain and his wife sat at his feet and his head was in the lap of his son. Ajay held his father tightly and soon he realized his father had lost consciousness. Before the car could approach the hospital, Ajay was shocked to observe that his father's pulses were not functioning. He wondered trying to control his tears, " Is my father dead ? Should I tell mother ? What am I to do ?? He looked at his mother who was sitting speechless, head touching the feet of her husband. He bit his lips to control his fear , sorrow , shock and all other emotions. Tears rolled down his cheek and told his neighbor, " Uncle please drive a little faster !? " Yes my boy, I'm trying !? said Mr. Anand. Finally they arrived at the hospital and Mr. Raju was taken to the I.C.U. Mother and son waited outside the I.C.U., with eyes fixed on the door. It took only 5 mts for the doctor to come out and meet the anxious mother and her son. He said to her, " Your husband is no more ! You brought him dead. He had a severe heart attack." Ajay saw his mother falling off and he held her and sat on the long bench on the corridor. Soon Raju's neighbours and relatives began to gather. Ajay heard some of his neighbours talking. One of them said, " He was only 48 years. He could have avoided this end if he had cut down his smoking . He used to smoke six to seven packets of cigarettes every day !? Another man said, " He has gone, now who will take care of his little daughter, son, wife and his aged mother !? No one had any answer.....

Smoking Kills ! Smoking shatters families Say No to SMOKING ! (Based on a true incident happened in January 2017)



Sanjukta Ray

Joseph Mathew



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FAILING IS NOT FATAL - GIVING UP IS !!

Roshan born to a music maestro grew up basking in his father's glory. He remained complacent thinking that his inborn talent would fetch him success one day. Years went by Roshan turned out to be a victim of his laziness. He remained unnoticed in the crowd. Before long he realized that he was doomed to stagnate. On the other hand, Aarmaan scripted his success story himself. He was not the most talented in his field neither had he a rich legacy to support him. But he chose to believe that nothing is impossible by dint of hard work. He set realistic and measurable goals for himself, stayed focused, paid attention to quality and details, learned from his mistakes and eventually he exceeded all expectations.



So friends this is a beautiful example of the famous saying that hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard and all that I would like to affirm is talent can be a blessing but it can also be a curse. Whether we live in potential throughout our life or allow the fountain of our latent talent to burst open with undying conviction is the choice we and only we ourselves need

to make. Talent alone does not guarantee you anything in this world. It can only be the starting point but never the destination. Ordinary talent when nurtured with extraordinary determination, hard work and prudence reaps success. Moreover making the right choice at the right time followed by the right actions have always produced more of Aarmaans and less of Roshans and would continue to do so in future.

In their journey to success most people give up because life often unfolds situations which are not favourable. However a true life player never gets baffled instead embraces life with open arms and resilience and march forward even the rugged terrain with similar zeal and courage.

Failing is not fatal but giving up is a sign of weakness. Always remember an eagle uses the storm to reach unimaginable heights. So be an eagle. Soar high. Stay focused with renewed vision and integrity because winners focus on winning but losers focus on winners. Each one of us is unique. Enjoy your uniqueness by unleashing your talents to the fullest. Believe in yourself and let success bless your efforts!

Ms Reshma Bhattacharya, Vice Principal

IVWS - Yesterday, today, tomorrow

Come this March, IVWS will start the 10th year of its existence as a centre of holistic development for young learners and impressionable minds, a place where psyches are shaped and thinkers are created. The year 2016 had been special for IVWS in so many ways.

The month of August kicked-off all the actions. On the 15th of August 2016, students & teachers of IVWS celebrated Independence Day by hoisting the National Flag and carried out a sombre cultural programme culminating with the National Anthem. The cheerful and upbeat Inter-house Dance Competition set the stage on fire with Ganga and Yamuna Houses acing the main categories. The special screening of a thought-provoking film on wild-life was arranged in late August and the students were deeply touched by its underlying message. Further, our students embarked on a variety of interesting study tours and visits under the supervision of their teachers. These included a tour to the magical wonderland of idol-makers in Kumaltuli and Heritage Walks in famous food spots of Kolkata as well as walking tours of historic sites like the Victoria Memorial and St. Paul's Cathedral. Along the way, they enjoyed a fascinating tram ride through the heartland of their beloved City of Joy.



The first Summative Assessment of the session took center stage in September, but that didn't stop the students from their heartfelt and sincere celebration of Teachers' Day. The Inter-House



Quiz Competition in October was keenly contested before the students went in for the Puja vacations.

November was chock-a-block with lots of exciting events & happenings. On the 4th of November, students from Grades IX and X took part in the Indian Oil Debate on effects of RTI on corruption. Our socially aware students performed admirably and presented a strong case with valid arguments. The Quiz Competition for Grades IX to XII was a roaring success while the workshop on "Safe drive save life" was enthusiastically appreciated by all the participants. Children's Day was celebrated with a lot of warmth and affection, while the Creative Writing Competition witnessed amazing manifestation of imagination and budding literary skills. Racket skills of IVWS Badminton champs came on the forefront during the Badminton Championship and the Indoor Games Camp proved to be extremely popular. Based upon their study tours and heritage visits in August, the students organized various exhibitions in the school premises in November where they shared their fond memories and the accumulated knowledge with their friends and family who visited and enjoyed these exhibitions.



IVWS fraternity welcomed 2017 with a spectacle of radiance, luminance, eminence and substance in the form of INDCON 2016, the Mega-Annual Concert, held in the Science City Auditorium on the 8th of January. The soul stirring event celebrated performing arts and their unique ability to blend boundaries. In the Annual Sports event in Geetanjali Stadium and in the Grand Marathon event organized by IVWS, both taking place in January 2017, each participating student gave their hundred percent and were dead serious about winning. But the spirit of competition never

outgrew the spirit of sportsmanship. January ended with the patriotic fervour of India's 68th Republic Day celebrated in IVWS with lots of excitement and vigour. First week of February witnessed the celebration of Saraswati Puja in-campus and a mega-exhibition organized by the



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students based upon the collective experiences, information and knowledge they had acquired earlier in the term.

The 2016-17 session has been extra-ordinary till now in every sense of the term. With excellent and brilliant performances in their final Summative Assessment of the year, the students will make sure the session ends on an even higher note and that we get ready for another new session in lofty spirits.



A STRESS FREE EXAMINATION

Board Examinations are knocking. You have to respond. You have to meet them head on. It's possible that you face the exam boldly and it's also possible that you become a victim to stress. Whatever may be your state, just remember that you are not alone, for there is

no such thing as stress free student. It's absolutely normal to feel a little stress; you just need to find ways and means to manage stress.

A FEW STEPS ON MANAGING STRESS AS THE BOARD EXAM APPROACHES

1. Students should remain positive. Negativity never helps anyone. Approach exam with a challenging attitude and learn to 'challenge the challenges'.
 2. Remain focused and it's the 'mantra' to face exam bravely.
 3. Do not compare yourself with other students or their preparations. This will distract you from your own preparation and your abilities.
 4. Do not face the exam with the thought "I could/should have prepared better". But be in the 'present' and go with the idea that you have done what you possibly could. No regrets please.
 5. Learn to compete with yourself as you are preparing. Do not take anyone else as your competitor. Compete with your previous performance.
 6. Follow a strategy when you face the examination/question paper. Read the question paper carefully and as and when something strikes you, write them down on rough sheets.
 7. Begin with the answers to the questions you are very sure of and this will boost your confidence to do the rest of the questions more confidently.
 8. During examination, try to get enough sleep and make sure to remain relaxed with happy and positive thoughts.
 9. Dump the junk food and eat something nutritious. Drink sufficient water. Take water with you to the exam centre if the centre doesn't provide you with pure water.
 10. Start your day with a little exercise/yoga that will give you an energy-boost.
 11. Give some time for yourself, not for studying but to relax. May be listening to music. You can also go for a walk with your friend. It will help you to remain relaxed.
 12. As soon as the examination of a particular subject is over, do not check where you have made the mistake. If you find you have made mistakes, it can demoralise you. Whatever checking you want to do, do it at the end of all the exams.
- Hope these guidelines will help you to face the examination confidently and with less stress.



Joseph Mathew

What is Stress?

Stress is an emotional strain such as fear, anxiety, etc due to worry over the outcome of an activity or fear of facing an activity like an interview. Stress before examination is normal because everyone is anxious about the outcome. Students have to learn to face it with a positive attitude.

THE LETTER

Dear people of Pakistan,

I hear that our countries have a lot in common. Even we like kebabs hot from the tandoor, and the chutney which is loved in my country as much as yours. We wear similar clothes and are as religious as you. Our temples, mosques, churches and gurudwaras inculcate the same ethos and ethics, as the mosques in your country. God is one. You know. We know. Our alleys and lanes are alike and so are some of our cultures and traditions.

We borrow your actors and musicians. You watch our movies and listen to our music. And both, you and me, celebrate the essence of life. My history books remind me that we both were once one. Circumstances make us two and choices welcomed hatred. Wars have always lead to destruction and we surely do not want a third one to become true.

So, let us both throw smiles at each other and not weapons. Let's choose to shoot love across the border and not bullets. And for once, lets become the colour of the same flag. For we know that love knows no borders, and peace has no nationality.

- A proud Indian.

Simarpreet Kaur, XA

RISKS

Risk is something which we take
And is not the thing to be felt
Or to be seen
Risk is a courage for everyone
To take up
Not all people have the courage
To take risks.
Only people who have a determination
To succeed in life take risks
And if anyone takes risk
He is sure to succeed
Other than thinking how to take risks
Think how to face the risks
This is the true challenge
For one to face.
At first the path to risk
Is full of obstacles
But as time passes by
These obstacles will be like paths
That will lead us to success
So to take risks do not fear
Instead, take risks without your fear.



Priyadarshini Goenka, IX C

PARENTING TOOLS FOR THE YOUNG GENERATION PARENTS

Introduction :

All parents want to bring up their children the best way possible and have great dreams about their children and for their children.

The question is how do parents bring up their children, their hope. There is a difference between good upbringing and bringing up. And this difference will make all the difference when they grow up to be adults.

Some good parenting tools :

Intro: I would like to discuss with you how some of the following guidelines can help you to bring up your children the best way possible.

1. Good habits & character:

Haven't you heard – "Habits seldom die"? Yes! Good habits in early childhood transform children into men and women of good character.

Parents must inculcate in children from a very early age excellent habits, so that they can reap the harvest of fine character in future.



2. Saying 'Yes' or 'No' to children :

Some parents have the extreme generosity of saying 'Yes' to their children for their every demand. If children get used to only 'Yes' to their demands, a day will come when they will not accept a 'No' for anything and if compelled they might revolt.

3. Selfless Love and Selfish Love :

Parents, do you know the difference between Selfless Love and Selfish Love for children? Selfish Love is one of pretention. They provide their children with lots of material things so that children would leave their parents free to do whatever they want. Selfless Love demands sacrifice and they try to spend quality time in loving and caring.

4. Satisfying the curiosity of children:

Parents, doesn't your child ask you questions and that too same questions again and again? Do you lose patience? Let's be patient enough to answer your child's every curious question. If you lose your cool, your child will have lost his/her curiosity.

5. Exhibition of Wealth :

You may be rich, very rich. Please do not exhibit your wealth before your children. It's advisable that children grow up with the desire to stand on their own feet and not live in a fool's paradise thinking and dreaming of their parents' wealth.



6. Time spend with children, never a waste :

Don't you know parents, that quality time spend with your children is never a waste? It's an asset, it's an investment. When children grow up, they are going to remember every beautiful moment they have spent with their parents.

7. Speaking negatively about school and teacher :



Young parents, aren't your kids going to school? Do you ever speak negatively about your kid's school and their teachers? If you do, you will have a problem in hand! Your child will grow up disobeying his/her teacher and hating school and study. Discuss your grievances with the school authority or else you will have a rebellious child at home, neither studying nor obeying.

8. Home environment :

If the family ambient is formative and exemplary, even the worst school cannot spoil your child, but if the home environment is negative and unexemplary, even the very best school will not be able to do any good to your child.

9. Role-models :

Two little eyes of your child watch every expression on your face and the little ears, hear everything you utter in the presence of your child. Please remember parents, if you are kind, patient, humble, caring and loving, your child will grow up to be like you. But if you are angry, rude, egoistic and uncaring, your child will also be like you in his adulthood.

10. The Comfort zone :

Most of you parents of today have a single child or may be two and you are very possessive about your children. Consequently you throw a protective net around your kids, i.e, keeping them in the comfort zone. But remember parents, that all the success stories we hear, have taken place out of the comfort zone.

11. Bribe your kids? :

Hello parents! Have you ever tried to bribe your children? Surprised? Well, have you ever told your child, 'If you complete this task, I will give you an ice-cream/a toy car...'. It's bribing. Your child will get used to this bribe and a day will come when he/she will do nothing without getting something.

12. Rewarding your kids :

What about rewarding your children, dear Parents? A reward is given not on any condition! Nor is it announced before the task is completed. It's given depending on the outcome of the task that is given. A reward can always motivate your child to do better in the days to come.

Joseph Mathew

A DAY WITHOUT ELECTRICITY



In this world of technology, one of the necessities of life is electricity. We cannot imagine living without it. What if there was no electricity for the entire day ! How would it feel ? Well, It's Sunday morning and there is something different – the electricity has gone and life has come to a standstill. After waking up, I always begin my day by heading to the bathroom to brush my teeth, followed by a relaxing shower. Today, I experienced a chill when cold water hit me. I realised there is only cold water available. The geyser was not working as



there was no electricity. Feeling refreshed and revitalised after a cold shower, I headed towards the frost-free refrigerator for a snack, only to discover that the food in the refrigerator was warm and had turned stale, and was therefore, inedible. Refrigerators play a very crucial

role in food preservation, but without electricity they are of no use. Surely, a cup of hot coffee would help me forget the ordeal that I was going through till now. So, off I ran to the coffee vending machine for my coffee fix, but I was disappointed realising that without electricity, the coffee machine was not going to work. Now my wish for a mugful of steaming coffee seemed more like a dream Alas!!

Darshana Datta, VII C

CINEMA IN INDIA



The cinema has been a very popular medium of entertainment for all the of people. This is especially true in case of India where the Bollywood stars are held at a very high esteem by the common man.

The concept of cinema was developed by Thomas Alva Edison, the famous American scientist who invented cinematography. When a series of photographs of moving objects are thrown very rapidly on a screen, in the backdrop of light, they merge into each other and produce a moving picture, it is called a motion picture or movie. The first real film was produced by French brothers, Lumières, in 1895.

In India it was produced, a little later. In the beginning, there were only silent pictures in black and white. Later colour, voice, sound, music, etc., were introduced in movie.



Today cinema has become the most popular and the cheapest means of entertainment . Besides providing entertainment and amusement, cinema also provides a kind of education. Films have the ability to enlighten and enrich our knowledge. The movies like, 'Border', 'Lagaan', 'Bhagat Singh', etc., have contributed to the growth of national fervour. A movie like Mani Ratnam's 'Bombay' where the Bombay riots of 1992 after the Babri Masjid demolition is re-enacted, depicts very well what man has made of man in this modern world.

Thus, we find that cinema can have a very constructive impact in a multicultural country like India.

But all the steps should be taken to see that films do not damage or change the moral values, culture and traditions of our country.

Medha Dey, VII B

P.V. SINDHU – A ROLE MODEL

Pusarla Venkata Sindhu (P.V. Sindhu) is an Indian professional badminton player. At the 2016 summer Olympics she became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic silver medal. She was born on 5th July 1995 in Hyderabad, India. Her coach and inspiration is Pullela Gopichand. She started playing badminton at the young age of 8. She has won many medals and reaching finals is an honour. She used to travel 27km everyday to start her practice early in the morning at 4.00a.m. She was awarded with the fourth highest civilian award that is Padma Shri in the year 2014 for her excellence in the badminton sports. After her win Saina Nehwal's coach _____ Vimal Kumar said that he sees Sindhu as future no.1 in badminton. Sindhu's passion made her touch the top. I am a fan of hers. Aren't you ?



Khushi Yadav, VIII A

SURVIVAL

In this world of death and fear,
With stones of sorrow and rays of hope,
What our fate is we don't know.
Even if obstructions obstruct us
The power of will should never leave us,
When the people we love abandon us,
Their thoughts in our mind haunt us.
Deep inside our heart we know,
That survival is the key to grow.
In this wide world of sorrow and joy
Life is a mystery,
A puzzle, difficult to solve
Give up your thoughts of survival
But solve them and walk ahead,
To live in this world.
Thus don't trip over the stones of sorrow,
Instead follow the rays of hope.
Which will lead you to a world full of sunshine,
With rays of expectation and happiness all along.



Simarpreet Kaur, X A

WHY LIFE IS NOT A BED OF ROSES

We all have to deal with our hectic lives,
Though we do not know in which way it drives
All sorts of problems, that's what we all face
Why is life not a bed of roses ?
It pulls us to strange corners
And makes us cross all borders,
Daily we face various obstacles
Only a few perfectly tackles.
We are fed up with it as turning points clinches,
It's nothing but full of deep trenches
Darkness dawns as our path closes,
Why is life not a bed of roses ?
The answer my friend to this puzzle
I know it I think :
If life is all a bed of roses
Life itself will be boring days and days.



Shreya Ghosh , IX C

LOVE AND TIME

Once upon a time all the feelings in the world lived together on a beautiful sunny island. They were Happiness, Sadness, Love, Vanity, Knowledge, Anger and many others.

One day, it so happened that all the feelings came to know that the island was about to sink. Now, they all planned to leave the island as soon as possible. All of them packed their bags except for love. "Why Love, aren't you going to get out of this island?" asked Knowledge. "No," replied Love, "I will hold on until the last possible moment."

When the island began to sink, Love looked out for help. She saw Richness pass by on a boat. "Richness!" Love cried, "Please save me! Please give me some place in your boat!", "sorry Love, there is no place in my boat because of bags of gold and silver!"

said Richness. "Why don't you ask Sadness, all she needs is a friend to cheer her up!" she added jokingly.

Then came Sadness. "Sadness!" cried Love, "Please give me some place in your boat!"

"Love, I am so sad that I want to be alone!" said Sadness and rowed away. Then came Vanity.

"Love! You are so wet!! I can't spoil my dainty little boat! I am sorry I can't help you!" Finally Anger, angrily said to Love, "You are a fool, you think people have all the time in the world for you. Goodbye. You can stay all alone on this island!"

Just when Love was about to give up hope, someone got hold of her hand and pulled Love into a boat. They rowed away to safety. When they were on dry land, the old man walked away even before Love could thank him. Confused, Love asked Knowledge, "Who was that elderly person who saved my life?" Knowledge replied, "That was Time. Only Time knows the value of Love. He knows it is the greatest emotion for it's invaluable."

Oindrija Chatterjee, VII C

MY FRIEND

My friend when I think of you
I think of all that we've been through.
All the times we argued and fought
I know deep inside that isn't right
I, then feel bad and a lot of pain.
It feels like I've fallen from the sky like the rain
I love you dear friend with all my heart.
But now that you're gone I've fallen apart
I wish sometimes this was all a big lie
I dream to be by your side every night.
It's like you're my fire, a burning light.
My dear friend, I miss you a lot.
I still wonder why you were put in that spot.
I know you're in a place much better than here.
Watching and helping me with all of my fear.
Our friendship my dear friend,
We will have till the end.
Friends till the end is what we will be.
Someday we'll be together,
Together you and me; may forever.

Sthiti Bhadra, VIII C

INSECURITY

I got to know about the fact that everyone's existence on earth is not forever but temporary. By the time I was five, this fact began to bother me as I saw myself in the mirror. The next thing that bothered me was my height/. The fact that I would stand in front not because I was the best, but the shortest. Well, looking back at what had been, looking at what is, and what will be are just memories and phases of life. But what I want to tell you is that, things like these don't matter; your dreadfully uneven teeth which even scare away the dentist, your curly unmanageable hair or your dark unforgettable scars don't define who you are, but you do; you define who you are! Don't let your own insecurities colour the way you interpret someone else's intentions. So bottle up your insecurities and flush them down because you my comrade, are beautiful and unique with merits to be discovered by you.

Indrani Nandy, VIII C

ARE WE HAPPIER THEM OUR FORE FATHERS ?

It is the nature of life to change and adapt itself to the surrounding circumstances. What is true of life in general, is also true of human life. There is a change in the venue of our life and also in our own character. We do not live in the way in which our ancestors lived. So far as comforts and luxuries go, we are surely much better of than the people who lived a century ago. The easy, cheap and rapid means of locomotion has brought in a revolution. The barriers between man and man are breaking down; science and literature are teaching them to realise the affinity of men all over the world. Our outlook has widened. We no more live shut up in our villages unknowing, and, by the world unknown. Better opportunities for education and better methods of teaching are available now. The standard of comfort has been raised. Better methods of coping with the diseases and better hospitals are here. Today man is too much a victim of greed and ambition. He knows no rest. He is constantly prompted by a spirit of competition. A sense of 'hurry' has come over his life. Life has become a scene of strife. But what is more appalling, is the general disappearance of joy from life. We have ceased to live for the community and the country. We have become horribly selfish and less humane and pious than our predecessors. Where are we to look for happiness in such conditions? Who will solve this enigma of modern life?

Md. Sahil Abbas, X A

THE KNOCK

I peep through the white curtain of an old wooden window of our house, into the blood spilled street. Bodies of soldiers and pedestrians lay in an absolute peace. The city has been attacked by the terrorists from the neighbouring country. Marshal law has been imposed. Terrorists thumping doors, climbing roofs, entering houses and killing unarmed people ruthlessly. Continuous shots striking my eardrums. War has been declared. My daughter comes and grasps my leg tightly. Tear rolling down her cheeks, as she looks above and asks in a terrified voice, 'Dad what's happening? Who are these people going to kill, us?' I take a deep breath, clear my throat, wipe the sweat on my forehead, bend down on my knees and hug her. Everything is going to be fine. Everything. I say and hear a sudden knock on the main door...

Arantha Roy, VIII C

UNHEARD FACTS !

Human saliva contains a painkiller called opiorphin that is six times more powerful than morphine.

If you Google 'zerg Ruch'; Google will eat up the search results.

Putting sugar on a cut or wound reduces pain and speeds up the healing process.

Human brain is more active during sleep than during the day.

Bulls & elephants can run faster uphill than downhill.

When the moon is directly overhead, you will weigh slightly less.

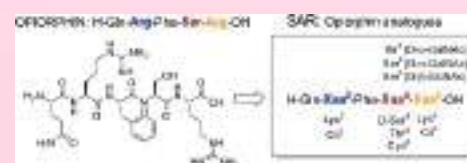
The name of all the continents end with the same letter that they start with.

You can't kill yourself by holding your breath.

The "sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick" is said to be the toughest tongue twister in English language.

Mosquitoes are more attracted to the colour blue than any other colour.

Banging your head against a wall burns 150 calories an hour.



TIMELESS INFINITY

Deep under the grounds
High above the sky
In the sun that looks round
And stars that shine bright
I look for it everywhere
Both in darkness and in light
Yet I wonder where my infinities lie.
When the search began
I thought it brought new life
The trees were like an old canvas
Which were painted with shades of green again
The rivers smiled as if they found relief of all pain
My searches yet continue to fail
With time all leaves have fallen
The water have turned ice cold again
And the skies give out the message
Of the coming hail
In thunder and in storm
I stand mighty and still
But when I look back
All I see is emptiness and in between, just me
The rage in me asks the souls in heaven
If the universe has broken into good and evil
Is it hypocrisy of some kind
Or is it just the prejudice in my mind.

Swagatalakshmi Karmakar, X A

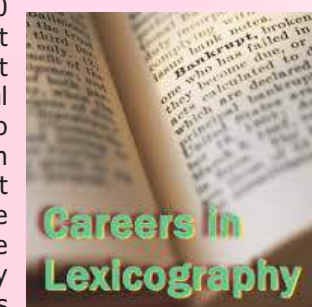
Lexicographer's English

ENGLISH. The language 1,500 million people speak throughout the world; the language that happens to be the international language and the supposed to be the only language spoken in our school itself, also if you didn't notice, it's the language you are reading right now. But the English we speak today is barely just 10% of the English that was supposed to be actual ENGLISH. Well, this is what I mean:

English started coming into existence right after the Romans bid England adieu in the 5th Century A.D. and other Atlantic tribes – The Saxons and The Anglos came to visit the British soil. The Anglo-Saxons brought simple and day to day words like "house", "loaf", "apple" and "king" to the British tongue and also formed a brand new calendar with each day devoted to their Deities. Woden's day, Tiw's Day. Thunor's Day and Frige's day became Wednesday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (the other Three days had to wait for the Babylonians). While subtle Latin kept developing in the background, Vikings joined the party and threw strong words like "threw", "strong" and "words" along with "give", "take" and "war", into the half-baked language. Whilst the Vikings packed, William the conqueror made gigantic contributions to the English language as he brought some tongue twisting French to the English recipe. This brought some fluency to the Language and gave expressions like "Bon Appetite", "A la Carte", "Cliché" and "Déjà vu" to name "restaurants" after. Soon Italy came to rain the parade with their new Prophet – Shakespeare. There's nothing much to say about the man besides that he gave English 2000 new words as he couldn't find existing words to rhyme in his sonnets. Although, Shakespeare did coin a bunch of catch-phrases to make English the language of a "brave new world". In the post-Shakespearean era, the nifty Latin language notorious but boring at the same time but English scientists were the one's who chose Latin over English to show-off their intellectual "cerebrum". So, from Physicists to Biologists, wrote their big brainy breakthroughs in pure Latin, which shine in Italics in our textbooks. After the 16th Century, Britain decided to go on a world tour; and besides gobbling up lands on east and west, they borrowed many words from the east and west. While the Caribbean gave "barbeque" and "Cannibal", India blessed English with "Yoga", "crimson" and "bungalow"; African words were such as "zombie" and Aussie words like "boomerang" made English even more exciting. As large Metropolises emerged, "highways", "subways" and "paycheck" were invented. As the Brits got defeated by a part of their herd in the American Civil War, two broad sub-groups of English emerged. American's played with the language only to make it sound "funky" and "groovy" while the English kept their class. This was the end of the formal formation of the English language. But wait! We are not done yet. The age of the Internet "downloaded" and "email-ed" new words to the English "inbox". Social networking made English even more ridiculous. People started taking "selfies" while they "LOL"-ed like "emojis".

So this, in a nutshell, was how English came into being by long years of influence; and finally transforming itself into a form which has barely anything to do with English or England. So it shouldn't any longer be called "ENGLISH" should it?

Rohosen Bhattacharya 9 A



SWACHH BHARAT



It was 8th of November 2016 when the largest democracy witnessed a historic step taken to fight corruption, black money, terrorism and counterfeit currency. The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the nation with a very important announcement of demonetisation of the existing 500 rupee note and 1000 rupee note.

India, though a promising developing country, is plagued by a parallel economy which is slowly capturing the society. Corruption has been a daily part of the life. The amount of fake currency notes, especially in the form of 500 and 1000 denominations, are increasing day by day. A huge amount of black money is used for funding terrorism and other illegal activities. India remains a cash based economy, hence the circulation of fake currency note is a menace.

The government of India with their financial advisors and other intelligent brains are constantly fighting against this social evil. It was felt that time has come to ensure India's wealth benefits the poor and law abiding citizens get their due share. The result was the demonetisation of existing 500 and 1000 currency notes with immediate effect. New currency notes with denomination of 500 and 2000 are introduced with advanced security features. A slow and regulated procedure is to be followed to allow the law abiding citizens to exchange their old currency. The sudden blow made the money launderers stranded with massive amounts of black money, without any clue as how to circulate them. The following day witnessed a huge flow of legal money into the banking system. News of abandoning black money started flowing in from different corners of the country. The hard working people of the society started celebrating, anticipating the joy of breathing in a clean atmosphere. The people of India, strongly supported their Prime Minister and acted to their best effort to materialise this project. The bank employees working day and night also in holidays helped the common people to exchange the old currency notes or deposit them in account as per norms laid down by the government. Ignoring the temporary hardship the common people joined this festival of Integrity and Credibility.

Long years ago, we made a tryst with black money and now that time has come when we shall redeem our pledge, may be not in full measure, but very substantially. Let us enlighten ourselves against the evils of the society, work together to make this country a paradise where people live their lives in dignity.

Rounak Das , VII C

LIFE AFTER DEATH

Right from my childhood I had an alacrity to construe conundrums. But, as I usually don't acquiesce with unaberrant answers I usually have to end up in contingencies which are often equivocal. So I am going to tell you about a very abstract topic that is :- Life After Death.



The Afterlife is an area of human consciousness we all enter upon leaving the physical world at physical death. Throughout history we've questioned if there is a life after death. Along the way, our religions and various philosophers offered beliefs and opinions to answer this commonly asked question. But these answers are difficult to accede with as they are very addling and often cryptic. According to me, 'Belief in life after death is a source of personal security, optimism and spiritual betterment.' As I believe, nothing offers more courage than the confidence that there is a better life for those who use the present to prepare for eternity. While some believe it is impossible to know whether there is life after death, belief in immortality is a timeless phenomenon. Reading through sources I got to know that many great philosophers did not believe in Life After Death. David Hume, a British imperialist, believed in things only that he could see. He felt if you can't see your soul and God they must not exist. The same holds true for after life or heaven. Even Buddhists do not believe in After Life. According to them, when one dies he is reborn again and this continues unless the person reaches 'Nirvana.' It is a state where one has attained disinterested wisdom and compassion. Then, there are philosophers who did believe in After Life. One of them was Spinoza, he believed there was a heaven and a hell and life here is the physical realm which is just a small part of God's greater plans. His famous quote states, "Man is a fleeting incident in an infinite and eternal universe." In the Christian religion it is believed that life after death does exist. The argument to support it being that after Jesus died he rose from the dead, proving that the soul is not destroyed after death.

I won't be annoying you with more philosophies. What we do when we leave our cadaver will be known only when time comes. Till then, we must take all contingencies into consideration and choose the one that makes sense to us the most.

Rishi Raj Mukherjee, X A

SUPERSTITIONS IN OUR COUNTRY

A German poet Goethe said – "superstition is a part of the very being of humanity."

Superstition can be defined as belief without reason and it's wide spread among people. There are very few people who are quite free from it. Our country India is where many superstitions are followed by maximum people. In simple words we can say that it is a term of disgrace for senseless belief based on ignorant fear.



A large number of people believe that superstitions have originated from accidental coincidences. 13 is an unlucky number, if someone sneezes or calls from behind, it is considered to be bad omen, a cat crosses our path, it's bad. These are all common superstitions. Before the advent of science, man was more superstitious. Superstitions destroy our self confidence. Believing in ghosts and evil spirits are mostly followed superstitions in our country. It is high time that we turn sensible and wise and stop chasing superstitions.

Sehnaz Parveen, VIII C

NOT FOR REAL ...

One night I encountered something very dreadful and would like to share it with you. It was a dream which could be the most horrifying dream I have ever had.



In my dream I saw my cousins, my parents, sister and my friends and I were celebrating Diwali. After bursting the crackers we decided to have a game of badminton. While playing, the shuttle cork fell inside our neighbours compound. One of my friends, Tojo, went inside to get the cork. It was dark and there was no light. He had taken a torch with him. After a few minutes we heard a scream and saw Tojo running towards the gate. He came to the gate and fainted. We went in because we were very curious to know why he faint ed. When we reached the backyard of the house we were astonished because the backyard was different. Usually it is small and has many flowering plants but now it was like a big picnic park. We went ahead and saw a big graveyard. A few yards away we saw some people standing. I went forward with courage and asked "who are you?" My heart almost stopped beating when they turned to me as they were HALF ROTTEN CORPSES. We screamed and ran out of the compound, the corpses ran behind us but could not cross the gate.

Suddenly the street lights went off. My father came up with the idea of taking a rickshaw and going to my grandparents' house. However suddenly we saw that a few dogs appeared out of nowhere. They were not normal dogs, they had their mouth split into four and dangerous teeth inside. My father also got very scared and came running back. Meanwhile Tojo was up.



We heard a strange call "Lutho....Lutho....Lutho" and every second the sound was nearing. We saw a strange figure at the end of the street. As it approached we could see its face. It was covered in blood and it was EATING THE HAND OF A HUMAN. We instantly realized that it was a cannibal. All of us ran but I tripped on a stone and fell. It had almost caught up with me but I got up and ran as fast as I could to the backyard of my house and it followed me. There was a path which only I knew led from the backyard to the staircase. I went in but the cannibal saw me and followed. Somehow I managed to get into my house without being seen. I was relieved to see my family members and friends. Quickly we closed the doors, windows and switched the lights off. We sat in one corner and did not even move a muscle. We heard banging on the door. The door's hinges were about to give in when the banging stopped and the daylight flooded in. After sometime we checked and saw that everything had disappeared. I woke up suddenly and was relieved that my dream had ended.

That evening my cousins, my parents, my sister, my friends and I were celebrating Diwali. After bursting crackers we decided to have a game of badminton. The shuttle cork fell into our neighbour's compound...

THIS TIME FOR REAL .

Agastya Saha , VI A

INTERPRET YOUR DREAMS

With the ever increasing speed of days passing, we prioritize and work accordingly. We take decisions and act on them to achieve success. Chasing our goals may seem a little difficult. Dreams convey secret messages through which we can make our goals clearer and handle small emotional issues in our lives, we don't even know we're going through. The sub-conscious is not a part of our brain rather it is a part of the mind which tells us the difference between wrong and right. We only consider what we 'think' and not what made us think in that particular manner. This sub-conscious mind of ours is the reason why we dream certain dreams in appropriate situations. For example, if a person is planning to go on a trip and is insecure about his



plan, he may dream of his car being crashed, tending to worry and cancelling the trip.

Insecure people generally have negative dreams, and we still do not know the reason behind it. Most of us do not remember the dreams, but for those who do , here are a few messages conveyed by certain types of dreams.

1. Running for your life - What is it that you're running from in your daily life? Responsibilities? Studies? Think.
2. Can't find your class and are lost in the school – This conveys the message that we feel time is slipping from our hands in real life in the career department.
3. Flying high – If a flight in your dream is in your control, it shows that you have the ability to rise above, break free and your life is in your control. If the flight isn't in your control-you're falling down rather than flying, you need to take up a certain matter in your life seriously.
4. Losing your teeth – It may indicate, you allowed something out of your mouth that should have remained in there, like your teeth. It shows a poor way of communication as well.
5. Exposed – Finding yourself naked in public is a very common dream and may reflect feeling vulnerable, exposed and not having control over your emotions in waking life.

Bhavana Bhagwat , IX B

POLITICS OVER THE NATIONAL CAPITAL – DELHI

Delhi, the heart of India and the capital made a world record. Delhi's pollution touched a new high on 7th November, Saturday with levels of particulate matter finer than 25 micro meter crossing the 900 mark in some areas, almost 15 times the permissible limit. Congratulations to our diligent politicians who were busy in the blame game.



So the question arises, what is causing pollution? It will be clearly out in later Para. Few days back Delhi's CM and our all time favourite Arvind Kejriwal said that burning of crops Haryana is the major cause of pollution in Delhi and there is an 'emergency like situation.' Further he said that we should not do politics in a situation like this. I totally agree with him. Yes, the Central Government should cooperate with the State Government. But I feel that BJP's Sarkar will try their best to defame MP's image and they won't do anything in Delhi and not let even him (Arvind Kejriwal) do any work for the people. I call India the best place in the world if someone has to grasp how to do politics. Arvind Kejriwal you can fool some of the people by doing this blame game, but in actuality you stand totally exposed. Burning of crops in Haryana causes only 5% or only 2% of the total pollution of Delhi. In an emergency situation Delhi's CM has now finally woken up. He has now announced that the major power plant of Delhi (Bardapur Plant) will be shut for 10 days and odd even will be again implemented. Mr. CM, by

implementing odd even you are only going to trouble people. What about the numerous old totally no use factories that run in Delhi? What about your scheme to implement ban on 10 year old vehicles? For your kind information the internal factors like emission of gases from factories, running of 10 year old vehicles and power plant contributes to 95% of pollution of Delhi. So please no drama. Diwali is the lights of festivals and not of causing pollution in our environment by bursting the crackers. I really don't find any suitable rational reason to burst crackers. Every year crackers are burnt, they not only cause harm to the air we breathe but also to many animals. The state government of Delhi and central government were totally aware that a situation like this would develop after Diwali. But they didn't take any measure but indulged in their usual blame game.

I feel strongly about this issue because today it is happening in Delhi which is the national capital and same sort of situation may develop in our city. We have to do certain things on our own. We should be aware of what is happening in the world and try to counter these politicians! Using each and every platform that we can and try to become a major role player of our country when our turn comes.



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Siddharth Chaturvedi , IX A

MY MEMORABLE VISIT TO EUROPE



My father stays in Italy due to his job and has been staying there for a term of 2 years and, I had a dream to visit Europe and I ultimately got a wonderful opportunity to visit the scenic Europe. As soon as I landed in Italy, I was overjoyed to see the aerial view of the magnificent lagoons of Venice. After reaching Venice we stayed in our home in Treviso for a few days and we firstly decided to pay a visit to the wondrous Venice (Venezia) which is known for its magnificent bridges and its biggest bridge which is the famous Rialto Bridge. Venice is also known for its gorgeous gondolas and the stunning beauty of the lagoons. So Venice is also known as 'The Floating City' and 'The City of Canals.' After this amazing and the marvellous visit we decided to move on to the capital city of Italy which is Rome (Roma). In Rome we saw one of the biggest historic arena of the world which is the Colosseum. It is designed such a way that viewers can watch

a show from any seat. After visiting the magnificent Colosseum, we headed for the Vatican City which is well guarded by Swiss Military. People are not allowed to go into it. Only the famous church of St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museum can be seen. The Church was gorgeous and beautiful from inside as well as outside. The museum contained a lot of historic artifacts and many beautiful statues related to Christianity. We also travelled to the historic city of Pompeii which was destroyed by the volcanic eruption of the Mount Vesuvius. Though destroyed, the city showed immense development in the architecture of that period. We saw remains of roads of stones and I was surprised to see their footpaths and zebra crossing (like raised stone slabs). I stood spellbound on seeing those remains. I enjoyed my visit to Rome. After the visit to Rome we took a break for few days before visited Paris in France. We stopped at a hotel and then on our first day in Paris we went to see the famous tower of Paris the Eiffel Tower which is a very magnificent tower. Then in our second day we visited the Louvre Museum which is famous for its artistic structures, paintings and many artifacts. At the entrance, we saw a very big glass pyramid and further on we saw the famous painting of Mona Lisa made by the Italian artist Leonardo da Vinci. We also saw the Arc de Triomphe which is a magnificent gate dedicated to the people



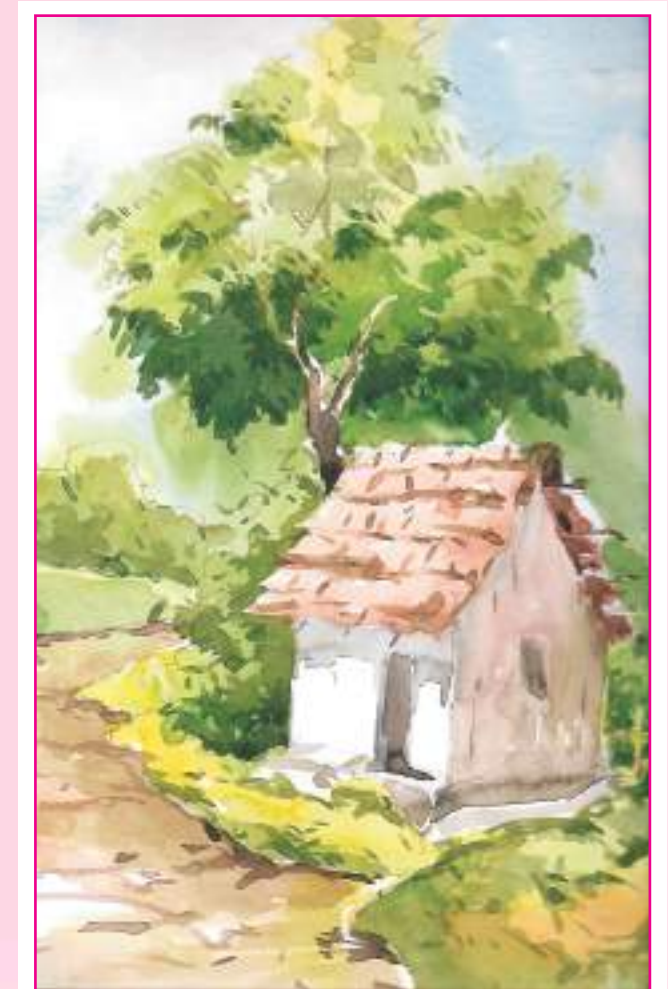
who fought and died in the French Revolution. We had a memorable experience in Paris. Then we headed towards our next destination Innsbruck in Austria. When we reached Innsbruck, I could already see the beautiful and magnificent Alps. It is said that Alps is best viewed from Innsbruck. We rode on a cable car to go to the beautiful mountains. We got a great aerial view of the whole city of Innsbruck from the mountains. We then went to an art museum which contained a three-dimensional painting of the historic Innsbruck known as the Triol Panorama. We enjoyed our trip to Innsbruck also. Then we decided to move on towards our next stop, the magnificent city of Munich (Munich) in Germany. We visited the magnificent and beautiful royal palace of Munich known as Nymphenburg Palace which is also the main summer residence of the former rulers of Bavaria of the House of Wittelsbach. We then visited the glorious Olympic stadium of Munich. It is very big and it also has excellent designs and it also has many beautiful parks surrounding it. Then we visited an aquarium close to the stadium. It has lots of variety of fishes in it and it is designed excellently and it looked as if we were also with the fishes as fishes passed over our heads and sometimes below our feet. We had a wonderful experience in Munich. We then travelled towards our next destination, Prague (Praha) in Czech Republic. At first we visited the famous royal castle of Prague and the gardens surrounding the castle increased its beauty. It has exotic designs and is very beautiful and is marvellous example of architecture. As soon as we moved on out of the Prague Castle, in front of us was laid out the Charles Bridge which is a marvellous example of historic architecture and excellent designs and statues. Then we went to see the Astronomical Clock with excellent designs and we were waiting for the next hour to strike. And as soon as the hour struck a few dolls came out of the clock dancing and it was a fascinating show. I enjoyed that day a lot. On our next day in Prague we decided to visit Kutna Hora which is famous for its Sedlec Ossuary which is a magnificent architecture made of human skeletons. I had a mesmerizing experience in Prague and then we moved on to our next destination Brussels and Bruges in Belgium which is famous for its glass and exotic chocolates. We first stopped in Brussels the capital city of Belgium. In Belgium, we saw the fascinating show of the Grand Palace. Then we visited the beautiful royal palace of Brussels. Then we visited Atomium which is a structure made like an atom. It has seven balls and the highest ball can give the view of very far of places. I saw a great scenery from the hall. It was a fascinating view. We enjoyed our day in Brussels and then we headed towards Bruges, we rode on a boat and we sailed through the canals of Bruges and from the canals we could see the whole city of

Bruges and its beauty as we sailed through. We had a wonderful experience of Brussels and Bruges. Then we decided to move on to



our next stop which was Amsterdam in Netherlands. We saw magnificent windmills and the fields on the outskirts of Amsterdam and as we entered we first saw the magnificent and beautiful royal palace of Amsterdam at Dam square. We also saw the Madame Tussauds Wax Museum which had statues of great honourable and famous people. We enjoyed our day a lot in Netherlands. Thus, we came to an end of our tour of Europe. This tour was an unforgettable and mesmerizing experience for me. I was very happy and overwhelmed as my dreams were fulfilled and all these was possible because of my respected Principal Sir who granted me the permission to travel during school days.

Sombrata Biswas , VII C



KAWSAR ZAMIL VI B