



SMILE STRIVE SUCCEED
SNIPPETS

THE SCHOOL BULLETIN OF

M.C.T.M CHIDAMBARAM CHETTYAR
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

179, LUZ CHURCH ROAD, MYLAPORE, CHENNAI - 600 004.



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DISCIPLINE – FOUNDATION FOR RESPECT AND DIGNITY

Maintaining dignity is all about living a life that is worthy of respect.

It may not seem that hard to maintain dignity, but it is indeed very easy to fall short on your values. Dignity might be an intangible quality; nevertheless, it's crucial to deem every human and other living beings as equally dignified as yourself. Human beings can fall short of their moral duties, and dignity means treating everyone with honour and respect. To bring back dignity and respect into our lives, it's necessary to take a step towards discipline. As the world spins rapidly into a daily dose of newness, age old learnings are falling out along the way.

There has been a marked downward curve in the understanding of how respect is a two-way street and the recent seclusion and isolation are cited as the reasons for the lack

of the present generation's due diligence towards respect – towards their elders and more specifically towards their teachers and parents. One of the first lessons we are taught as students is to wish people whom we meet with – in the past youngsters were made to come and greet anyone who came home – and this is the very first lesson that has been sacrificed by today's new gen children who believe it is either not necessary to greet their teachers/mentors or its cool to defy age old traditions. Many might consider that this insistence to greet people is parochial but studies have proven that this is the first indication of a constantly evolving person. It is also an indicator of a mind that is ready to "learn" and prepared psychologically to move to the next level of growth. This has had a direct and very negative influence on the understanding of dignity of work and stature – that everyone needs to be respected for the work they do is a concept that most of the young ones have not imbibed and many have chosen to forget thanks to the new dynamics that present in their daily interactions.

It is time to step back from focussing only on the growth that leads to economic and professional success and rediscover the merits that identify us as one of the oldest but still constantly evolving societies in the world. Dignity of self and respect for the work done by others is a value that brings with it a sense of responsibility and awareness and both require constant iteration. It is up to the teachers and parents to instil this value in their wards – the future teachers who will instil the same in future generations. Unless and until all of us work at implanting this value, today's learners will not connect growth with intrinsic values and only see it in terms of material and tangible things.

At M Ct M Chidambaram Chettyar International School, the ethos has been one where tradition is never sacrificed for progress. We believe very strongly that our students are able understand the significance of progress through the lens of tradition, culture and modern circumstances. It is with this in mind that we share with great pride, the *LIST OF ACADEMIC TOPPERS* of the **May 2021 IBDP** and **IGCSE** Examinations conducted by the respective boards. awarded with a certificate and a book.

MAY2021 – INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM

OUT OF 45 POINTS

RAHUL SHIVRAM KUMAR PRABHA	43
VEDANT VIJAYAKRISHNAN	43
SANDHIYA SURESH	40
GAURESH PONSUBRAMANIAN	39
ANAY BHARATH KUMAR	38
KAUSHAL RAJ	38
ADITI VISHWANATHAN	37
SWASTHIKA SWAMINATHAN	37

Rahul, Vedant and Anay also have the distinction of scoring 3/3 in the Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge matrix.

QUALIFICATION IGCSE AND ICE

ANAIIKA MEHTRAS (10 subjects)	10 A* + DISTINCTION IN ICE
ANANYAA PREMANAND (9 subjects)	8 A*, 1 C + DISTINCTION IN ICE
ANSH PINHA (10 subjects)	6 A*, 4 A + DISTINCTION IN ICE

QUALIFICATION IGCSE

YASH PINCHA (9 subjects)	6 A*, 3 A
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We extend our heartiest congratulations to these students who exhibited a strong sense of commitment and will to pursue academic excellence during the very challenging times of the Pandemic.

It has been our credo to ensure that the learning process be a holistic one and we have continued the conduct of co and extracurricular activities through the academic year. The primary virtual platform has been Google Meet and the students have had opportunities to express themselves and explore presentations of different types over these months.

UNIVARIETY– Launch and Induction, 12th -16th July 2021

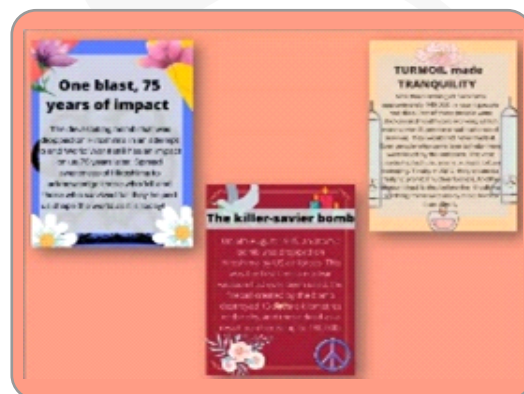
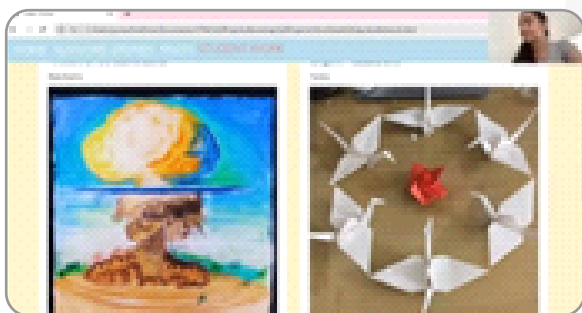
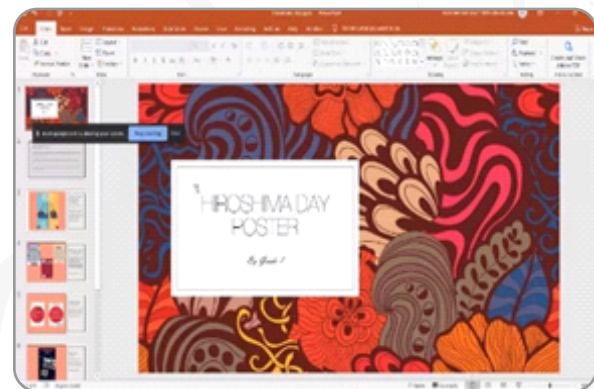
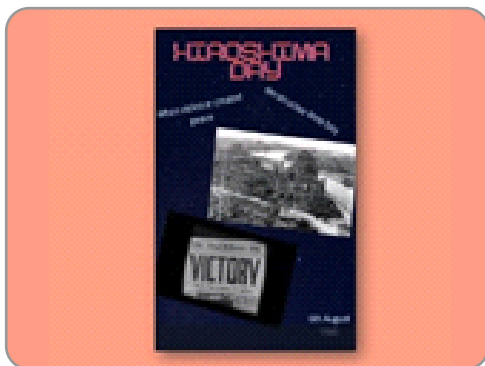
The school management strongly believes in providing every form of support to the students to determine and shape their learning and future choices. To facilitate the same, Univariety, a career counselling and guidance platform has been working with present students and alumni to help in creating awareness of choice in further study. The staff , students and parents were inducted to the process of using this platform from the 12th to the 16th of July.

FOUNDER’S DAY, 2nd August 2021

The 40th Founder’s Day was observed on 2nd August 2021. This day is a celebration where we honour and pay our respects and tributes to the founding pillars of our institution. The proceedings began with a prayer at 8.45am sung by Mangai Somasundaram of Grade 9. The Head of International School, Mrs. Sangita Varma first addressed the group of Grade 9th - IB1 students by 8.45am, followed by grade 6, 8 at 9.45am. She started the speech with the achievements of M.CT.M. Chidambaram Chettyar in whose name the school has been started to honour and revere his memory. She also mentioned about Smt.Sivagami Pethachi, the late wife of our Chairman and Correspondent Sri M.CT.Pethachi, who started the Matriculation school in 1981 in the name of her father-in-law late M.CT.M. Chidambaram Chettyar. A brief background about our school being pioneers in starting the International Baccalaureate program in the year 2009 in Chennai, followed by the Cambridge programme in June 2010 was shared by her. Pi Day Celebrations, 12th March 2021.

WORLD HIROSHIMADAY, 5th August 2021.

Hiroshima Day is observed every year to promote peace, politics and raise awareness of the effects of the bomb attack on Hiroshima. Hiroshima city was attacked by an atomic weapon that killed thousands of lives instantly on August 6, 1945. The students of Grades 6- 8 participated in an online meet where they presents skits and exhibited posters that raised awareness of the devastating effects of the bombing and delivered speeches that poignantly brought forward the continuing effects of this global tragedy. The students had researched extensively to share with their school community, the adverse effects of the bombing and how the coping mechanisms are still in place in Japan. The importance of peace talks and dialogues was also shared during this programme.

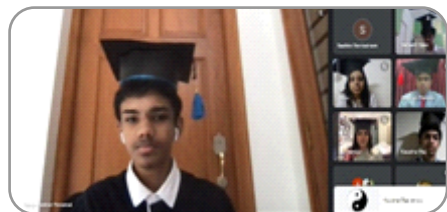
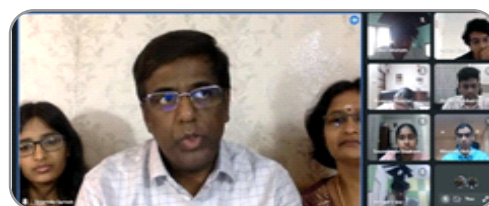
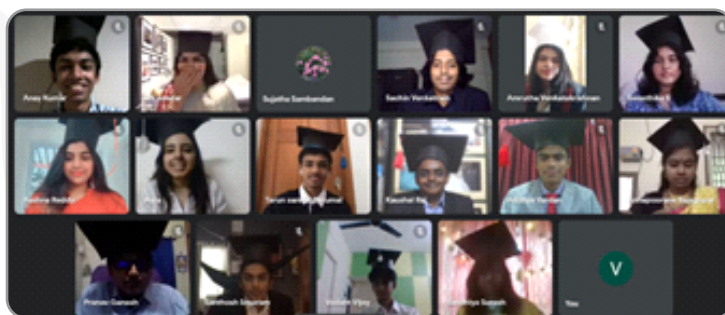


GRADUATION DAY, 14th August 2021

Graduation day for students of the IBDP Batch 19-21 was conducted online via Google Meet on 14th Aug 2021. The students and their parents attended the ceremony organized by the school via Google Meet. During the graduation day ceremony, the Head of International School Ms. Sangita Varma addressed the graduates after a prayer and a musical prelude by present IB2 students Anish, Neha and Uthra. Subject awards were given to the students of IBDP Batch 2019-21 who earned Grade 6/Grade 7 in subjects in IBDP Board Exam May 2021. Special awards – Lifelong learner, Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Creativity, activity and service (CAS) and Valedictorian were also given to deserving students of Batch 2019-21.

TOK award was given on the basis of earning Grade A in IBDP Board Exam May 2021, and CAS award was given on the basis of best performance exhibited by meeting learning outcomes of CAS, continued initiation, interest and involvement shown in CAS activities and CAS portfolio work with reflections written. Valedictorian award was given on the basis of achievement of highest total points in IBDP Board exam May 2021 and Lifelong learners were awarded to students who were identified as those who evolved through IBDP curriculum of subjects and core framework and developed during the course required approaches to learning skills (ATLs) which can be applied and extended throughout life in all opportunities and possibilities in global community.

The Head Boy Santhosh and Head Girl Aaliya of Batch 2019-21 spoke about their successful journey in school. Teachers Ms.Chithra, Ms.Sabina, Ms.Jayshree and Ms.Ranjani each one of them interacted with IB2 students during graduation day. Parents of Rahul and Sachin of class 2021 (who studied in the same school since kindergarden) and parents of Sandhiya who joined the school in IB1 gave their speech on benefits of IBDP programme and also expressed gratitude to School management, Head of International School and Deputy Head of school and subject and core teachers of school for supporting and guidance given to students in IBDP. Rahul Shivram and Vedant Vijaykrishnan – the Valedictorians of the batch addressed the audience and spoke about their methodologies of learning and highlighted momentous times in their journey through the IB programme.

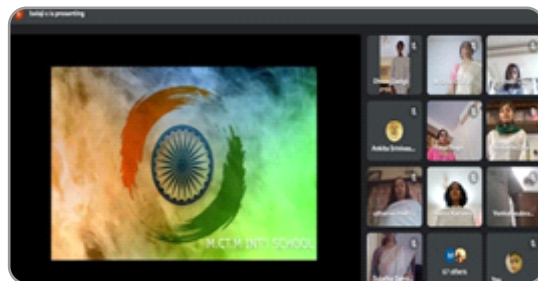


INDEPENDENCE DAY, 15th August 2021

Independence Day celebrations were 2 fold this year too due to pandemic conditions. The Head of International School, Deputy Head and members of the staff and administration conducted the ceremonious hoisting of the flag at school and this was followed by an online celebration that was attended by students of Grades 6 -8. The programme was compered by students of the IB1 class. Student speeches in Hindi, Tamil and English along with presentations about lesser remembered freedom fighters were the highlight of the programme. The



Head of School Ms. Sangita Varma delivered her speech and this was



followed by a rousing rendition of the National Anthem.

NAVRACHANA NIMUN, 2nd – 4th September 2021

In the first week of September 2021, students of the IB1 class participated in NIMUN, a virtual MUN conference organized by Navrachana International School, Gujarat. Though it was a virtual MUN as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, the spirit was just the same as any other regular MUN and it gave the students an opportunity to participate in a MUN conference organized outside Chennai for the very first time. The students were assigned a committee and debated on international conflicts and controversies.

The theme of NIMUN 11 was "In Pursuit of a Humane World". Our students were part of Disarmament and Security Council, Special Political and Decolonization Committee, Security Council, Human Rights Council, Historic Security Council, Economic and Financial Committee and the International Press Corps. The countries assigned were Sudan, Colombia, North Korea, India, Canada, Egypt and USA. The topics discussed were stability in South Sudan, the role of Pro-Government Militias in post-conflict stabilization, the Hong Kong and China conflict, the Arab-Israeli discord, tax challenges

arising from the digitalization of the economy, racism in the US etc.

Samara Rajaratnam won the best delegate award for UNHSC; Yash Pincha won the best delegate award for ECOFIN; Advait Shankar won the best delegate award for UNHRC; and Ronith received an honorable mention for his participation in the IPC. Our school won the overall best school delegation award as well.

Our students have adapted quickly to the virtual mode of MUN and grabbed the opportunity to interact with students from different countries and from different walks of life during the conference sessions and to learn about the various conference methodologies. The NIMUN experience will certainly help them to actively participate in other MUNs in the future.

NATIONAL SPORTS DAY, 2nd September, 2021

This is one of the pilot events envisaged from this academic year. All our students were greatly inspired by the achievements of our Indian athletes in Tokyo during the Summer Olympics. The dedication of the likes of Neeraj Chopra and Mirabai Chanu impacted the whole nation and it was no different amongst the students. While the nation celebrated National Sports day on the 29th of August, the Physical Education Department conducted the programme on the 2nd of September. Students of Grades 6- 8 participated in the Virtual event with great enthusiasm and fervour. Videos, Presentations and talks about the significance of Sports in the daily life were presented during the virtual meet. The students had compiled data and made a riveting and educative presentation that showcased the influence of technology on sport over the past 100 years. Students also compiled photographs celebrating momentous happenings from the recently conducted Tokyo Olympics and shared their ideas on why these were significant moments.

TEACHER'S DAY, 5th September, 2021

The students celebrated Teacher's Day by sharing their heartfelt thanks by posting notes of Gratitude on the Edmodo platform.



Tarika:

These 2 years that I have been in this school have not felt like two years at all. They have felt like two days, and it's all down to you all. All my classes don't seem like classes, they seem like fun sessions where I still learn something that helps me lifelong. Teachers are the one of the best sources of comfort and wisdom. Thank you again for putting up with all of us.

Vyas Krishnan:

It's been less than a month since I joined MCTM and I can proudly say I have the best teachers and I am lucky to have them. They have made me feel very welcome everywhere and helped me settle in too. All the classes are very fun to participate in too and thank you all the teachers for doing that since I am sure it takes a lot of effort to plan these really fun classes for all of us to enjoy. Thankyou and have a great day. Happy teachers day!

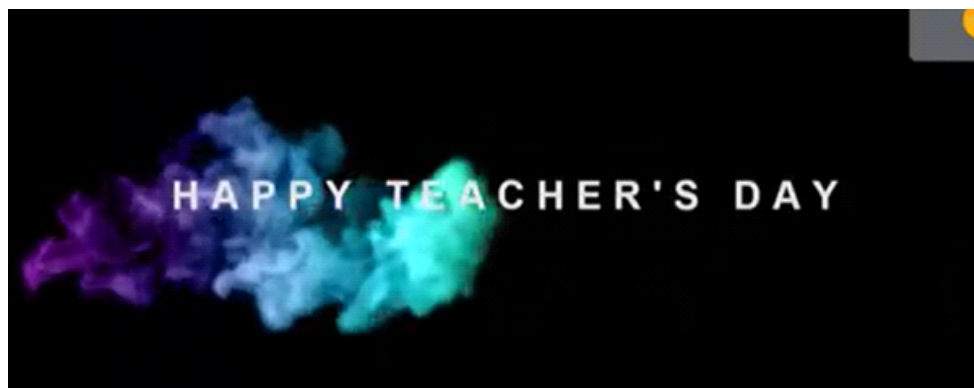
Our Superstar

**You teach us through these online classes.
While clearing a doubt time slowly passes.
Teaching us this way is surely a task.
How did you adapt? I really must ask.**

**You care for us in every single way.
You try to help us during night and day.
Social science and Mathematics.
To teach these you use different tactics.**

**With your support you make us braver.
We too must return this favour.
You love us even if we are bizarre.
You, the teachers, are our Superstar.**

– Anushka Devi.



***WORLD LITERACY DAY,
8th September, 2021***

The importance of literacy in the evolution of mankind requires constant iteration and across the world, there are many initiatives undertaken to ensure that Literacy is made available to all irrespective of economic or social divides. This year the theme was Literacy for a human-centred recovery: Narrowing the digital divide. Students of Grade 7 and grade 9 participated in this event where they showcased the new challenges brought on by COVID19 and how the learning divide had become much larger due to lack of access to teaching and learning. The programme was an opportunity for the students to research into how far reaching the impact of this pandemic was in terms of learning. They had interesting insights about how to overcome these new age challenges and this platform provided them with an opportunity to discuss the options that were in front of both teachers and learners across the world.

***VINAYAGAR CHATURTHI
CELEBRATIONS,
9th September 2021***

The students of Grade 6, 7 and 8 enthusiastically participated in celebrating the arrival of Lord Ganesha into our homes. Their eagerness was most evident during the Virtual celebrations where they showcased their research, communication, collaboration and presentation skills. It was an enjoyable hour where the students took all on a trip around India and showed us how Vinayaka – Lord Ganesha – and his birth are celebrated across India. The programme started with a prayer song on Lord Vinayagar followed by a Veena recital. This was followed by Tamil speeches on Vinayagar Pandigai delivered by Tamil students. Grade 6 students presented four stories on Vinayagar.

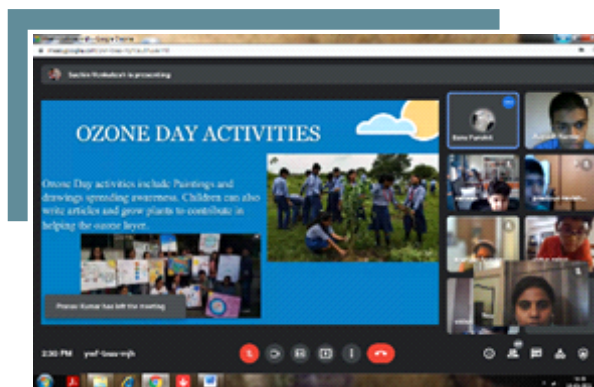
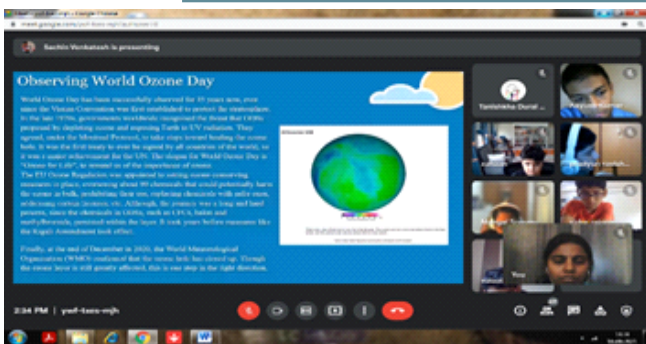
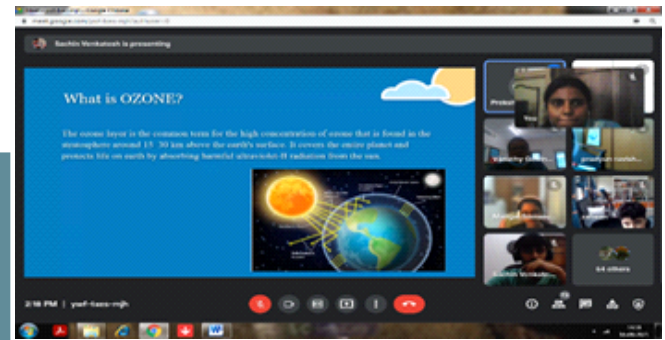
Grade 7 students did a presentation on flowers, fruits, food and slokas that Lord Vinayagar likes the most. The grade 8 students presented various forms of Vinayagar and glimpses of some famous temples of Vinayagar. There was an artwork presentation on paintings, drawing, sketches, clay models and origami models of Vinayagar by the students.

***WORLD OZONE DAY,
16th September 2021***

One of the most important learnings through these pandemic times has been about how vital and emergent our awareness of the environment and our immediate need to rehabilitate it is. The students were introduced to the theme and concept of the day- Ozone layer and the substances - through an introductory Video on the Ozone layer and its depletion. presented the Green Alternatives for popular appliances that contribute to CFC emissions to the class. This was followed by a presentation of a website designed by Grade 8 students. They had provided factual information about the Ozone Day. It was a different visual presentation of the data. The students incorporated what they have learnt in computer science in developing their website. The next event was an explanatory PPT on the Montreal Protocol. The importance of the protocol and its achievements were highlighted. A refreshing break to the presentations were given in the form of a Quiz. The IB1 students had announced to the class that they will be conducting a simple quiz based on the information shared so far. This provided a strong reason for the audience to stay focussed during the presentations. All the students participated in the quiz with zeal. Samara and Anaika of IB1 made a presentatio on vertical gardens and presented data to show how Greater Chennai Corporation as adopted this technique to combat

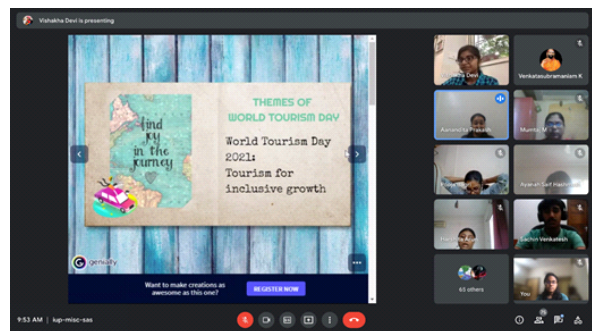
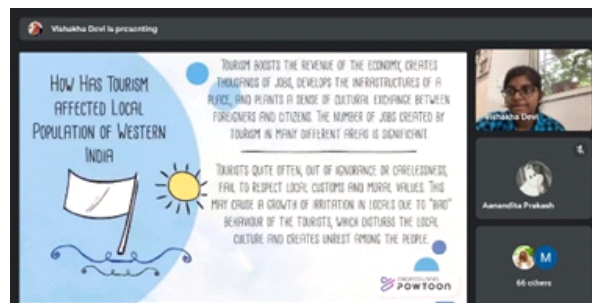
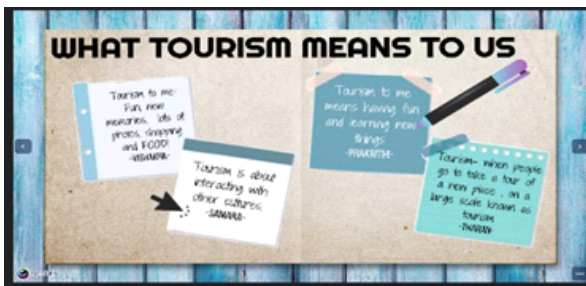
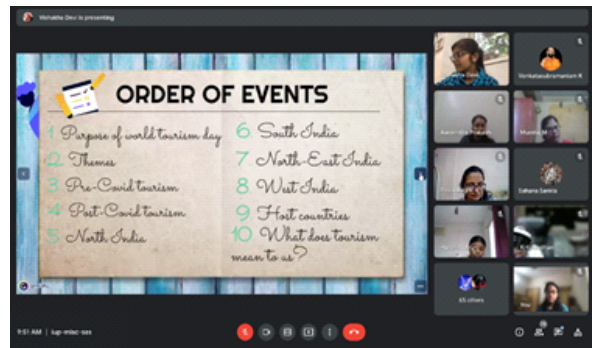
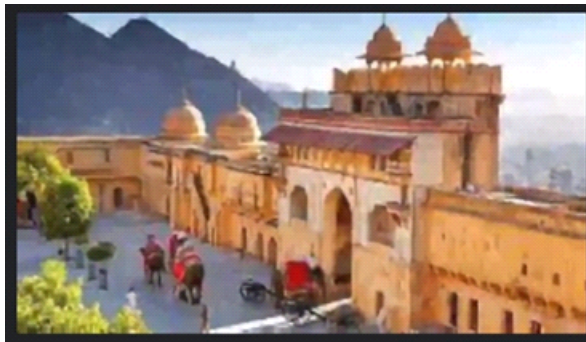
pollution. At the end of the small presentation, they appealed to the students to plant trees and even suggested a few small and low maintenance indoor plants. This was followed by a data story on the pandemic's impact on Ozone layer. It was yet another different presentation that highlighted the importance of curbing pollution. The Grade 8 students conducted a quiz for the IB1 students and it was a fun and informative session for both classes.

In the afternoon, grades 6, 7 and 9 exhibited their presentations on their understandings of how the Ozone layer was being depleted and the measures that are being adopted across the world to curb this depletion. Whilst Grade 6 students focussed on the Posters that highlighted the present condition of the Ozone Layer, students of Grade 7 and 9 focussed on the Montreal Protocol, the guiding programme for protection of the Ozone Layer. All 3 classes were able to exhibit their individual understanding and collaborative work through their presentations.



WORLD TOURISM DAY, September 23rd 2021.

The Economics and Global Perspectives students of Grade 9 spearheaded this year’s observation of World Tourism Day. The programme began with a presentation on why countries require Tourism and went on to showcase the cultural, economic and social impact of Tourism on different countries across the world. The ironical condition that the world is in the present day where travel is not possible either due to health restrictions or economic constraints were very well brought out by the students. The students presented on how the present COVID conditions were impacting Indian tourism and spoke of measures that required to be taken to compensate for the many months of closure that the Tourism industry had to face. Keeping in mind the many restrictions that forbid long travel, the students identified the many gems that could be explored in different parts of India. They also touched upon the different types of Tourism that have evolved in the present day.

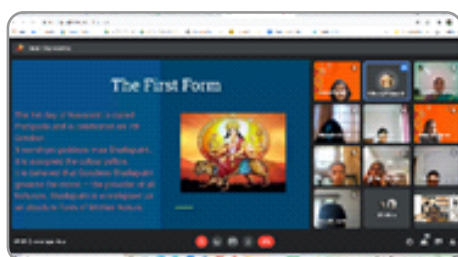
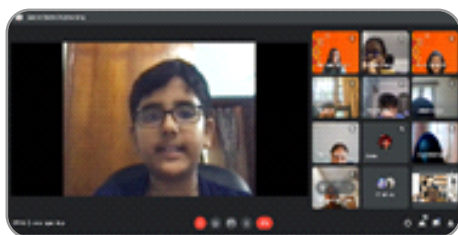


LANGUAGE FEST, September 27th 2021

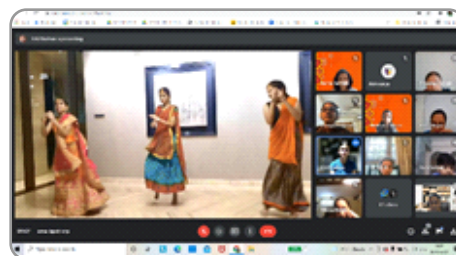
The Annual Language Fest that celebrates the myriad languages and their impact on the socio-cultural and economic panorama of everyone's life was conducted with great enthusiasm by the IBDP 1 students. Activities in the 3 languages that are taught at the Second Language level – Tamil, Hindi and French – were conducted by the IB1 students for the students in Grades 6-9. There were presentations made that spoke of the need to learn other Languages and quizzes conducted that were both educational and entertaining.

NAVRATHRI CELEBRATIONS, October 8, 2021

This year Navrathri celebrations began with a small Golu display just outside the Head of School's Office. This display worked at brightening the entire space and creating an ambience of celebration and festivity. This was followed by a Virtual celebration of the festival. Students of Grades 6 -9 regaled the audience with a plethora of dances, songs and narratives that were



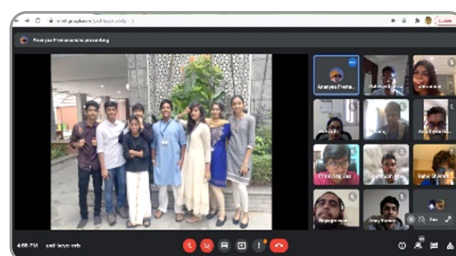
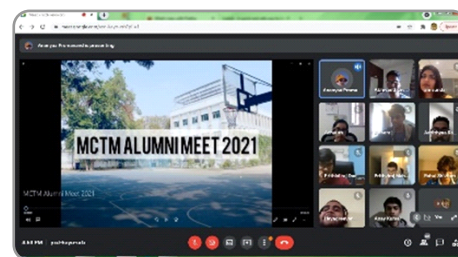
very informative. They also presented on how different parts of India celebrate this festival and spoke of the significance of each day of the 9 day festival.



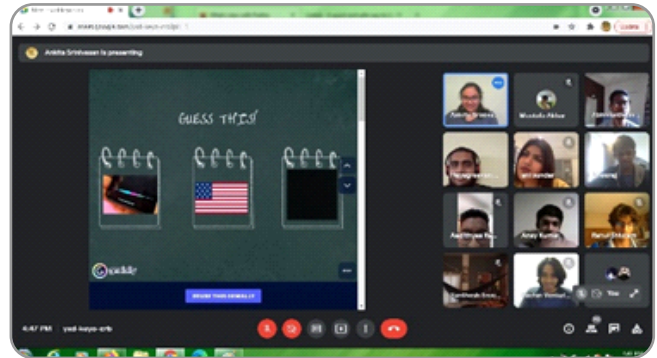
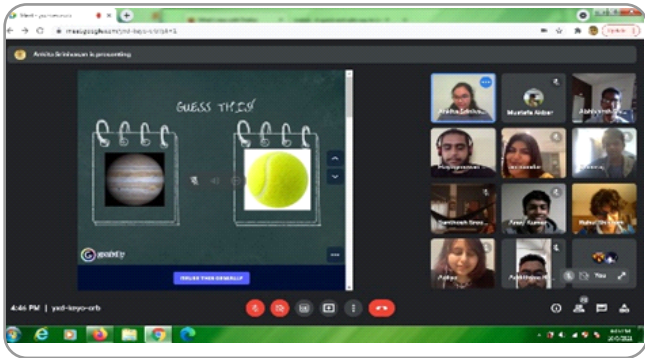
ALUMNI MEET , October 8th, 2021

The Alumni meet for the year 2021 was conducted virtually on 08.10.2021 from 4.00-5.30 pm. It was the third such meet organized in our school. A host of alumni turned up to showcase their solidarity for the school. The program commenced with Dheeraj, Pratham, Dhruv and Abhivanth compering. This was followed by the Head of School, Ms. Sangita Varma, expounding on the need for students to give back to society. She concluded reposing her confidence that they would want to visit their alma mater again and again.

A few games were organized by Ankita Srinivasan and a group of IB1 students



followed by video memories down the lane by Ananyaa Premanand. A number of questions were posed to the members for which they answered eagerly. The first batch was especially exhilarated to be there. It was heartening to know that some of them were pursuing their studies in reputed universities and to witness their growth.



ARTICLES

The Tokyo Olympics certainly inspired and energized all of us. The feats of the Indian contingent and the Neeraj Chopra's 1st Gold medal in Athletics has been a motivator like no other—especially during these dark times of the Pandemic. Celebrating National Sports Day and honouring the spirit of sportsmanship as exemplified by the great Hockey player Major Dhyan Chand, the Department of English asked students to write short essays on what the students thought about the importance of sports in the present day. Following are some of their thoughts

Chances are, you've played sports once in your life. Sports have been around for as long as people, but even if that's the case, everytime we watch or play a sport and something unexpected happens, we are amazed. An example is Sports Day. Happening every year in India on August the 29, it's a day where we commemorate one of the best sportsmen of the last century. His name was Lieutenant Dhyan Chand. Arguably the best field hockey player in India, he won many awards, including the Padma Bushan, the highest civilian award attainable in India.

The recent performance of India in the ongoing Tokyo 2021 Olympics is stellar. Many people might think India is not doing well in the Olympics but quite the contrary. Since 1964, India had been in a dry streak and hadn't won a gold medal since 1980. But the amazing athletes representing India in the current Olympics are truly amazing, since they persevered and gave us 7 medals, and one of

them a gold medal. We also can't forget the amazing olympians representing us in the 2021 Paralympics.

This is what sports are: friendship, passion, dedication, fun, and good sportsmanship. What more do we need?

Agneyan Balaji, Grade 8

Sports has always been an important part of my life. I started playing sports when I was a young child and over the years I have been learning different sports to keep myself fit and healthy. I don't play sports on a daily basis but when I get the opportunity, I am always willing to take part in it. The sports I enjoy playing are Football, Badminton, Basketball and Golf. I used to love the P.E periods in offline school and the coaching classes. But after the lockdown, I wasn't able to play sports frequently so I started doing workouts as an alternative. Though workouts were a good activity to keep myself healthy, it didn't give me the feeling sports used to give me. When I used to play sports, I used to feel excitement and enjoyment which I've always loved.

When the Olympics started, I was very excited to see my favourite athletes compete in several games. When I heard that India finished 48th on the medal tally after 4 decades, I was so proud of my country and I felt so happy I wanted to cry.

Seeing athletes go out there and winning medals for their country, it inspired me so much I can't even describe that feeling.

Sports has always been a vital part of my life and I can't ever be tired of playing sports.

Aarohi Das, Grade 8

Sports have played a great role in my life. It has kept me active and also makes me happy! When I feel sad, anxious or angry, if I play a sport, it instantly vanishes. During this COVID period. I have always been sitting down and watching the screen and I rarely go out. Playing sports, doing yoga, doing workouts has helped me bring back my flexibility and agility. Even during live school, sports was a way I could destress myself and get active. Sports also helped me build my teamwork and leadership skills. It helped me have fun with my friends, lead a team, persevere and coordinate well. I have been fascinated by how contestants in the Paralympics have achieved many medals and ranks even though they have prosthetics. They persevere and don't get distracted until they have finished the race. I feel very inspired to keep going and if there is no pain there is no gain. I would like to thank all the teachers who taught me sports and helped me become better and better every day. Overall, sports have really changed me and helped me keep fit and healthy. I really hope to do more in the future!

Krti Madhan, Grade 8

How sports has influenced me as a person
Being introduced to a sport early in your life has many benefits. It not only gives you a new skill but also helps you develop in other areas. As a child I love sports, it has helped me make some amazing friends, learn the art of discipline, work as a team and most of all to keep fit and healthy. It has changed my lifestyle and taught me some very important values. Before the age of 7, I knew how to swim, play badminton and run on the track. For me, swimming has influenced me the most, especially in the past few years. Before the pandemic and the lockdown, swimming was a major part of my life, with me waking up early in the morning at 5 for training, all the way till 7:30. It helped me shape a healthy routine, to sleep early (by 8:30) and to wake up early too! The exertion also meant that I had to eat food properly to maintain a healthy diet(omelette or eggs for breakfast, chicken or fish) and eat in appropriate quantities. I had to maintain discipline as it was competitive training, which meant I had to attend regularly and not miss many sessions. I also made many close friends, and I learnt how to work as a team. When I first joined I was one of the slowest and I had to work hard to improve my timing, it taught me the value of hard work, even though my timing has improved now I know I have a long way to go. Even though during the lockdown, the pool was not accessible we have been having fitness classes in the morning, which has helped

tremendously to continue having a healthy lifestyle through pandemic times. Though sports teach you skills that are useful and that will be with you your whole life, it teaches you so much more than just a skill. I am grateful to have been introduced to sports as a child, it has helped a lot.

Mekhala Charan, Grade 7

Sports has always been a necessity for me from the time I can remember. It helps me focus better. Since my parents are themselves achievers in the field I have had an early exposure to different forms of sports like athletics, swimming , cycling , skating, basketball and shuttle.

I was playing football when I was five and was the only girl to be in the team. After that I started my training for tennis at YMCA and have been aspiring to be a tennis star like my cousin Ashwika Khanduri. I am inspired by the zeal, optimism ,self control, discipline, dedication, hard work and perseverance of all the participants of the Tokyo Olympics. The fact that some of the participants and winners have actually turned their weaknesses to their biggest strengths is very inspiring and motivating.

The Charitable actions of winners also made me realise that sports is all about giving and evolving as a better person. Bringing happiness to all. It is also about true sportsmanship and that winning and losing is part of the game.

I feel blessed and lucky to have things right in my life which make my journey comfortable. Today, I am looking at participating rather than mere winning.

Aarna Sawhney, Grade 7

Sports can be a vital part in people's lives. It can have a small-scale impact, where it would keep people fit, healthy and happy, or a large-scale one, where it would form careers and become a reason to live. Hundreds of sports exist around the world, such as football, rugby, baseball, cricket, and more, and people are encouraged to find the perfect sport for themselves.

However, not everyone may enjoy sports, as it can be tiring, competitive and unenjoyable. Although it is important to keep fit, certain people may lose their zest for sport due to the aforementioned reasons. This is why it is important to make sporting occur in a healthy environment, where it is inclusive for all and leaves people feeling happy and healthy.

An example of this inclusivity is the Paralympics, which is specifically designed for those differently abled. The country of India recently scored 19 medals at the Tokyo Paralympics, breaking all records of the event.

It is important to have sports be a part of our lives as a constant that, rather than bringing us down, brings out the best versions of ourselves.

Samara Parakh, Grade 9

Here's My Pitch (Pun intended)

The closest I have ever gotten to a sport is the annual ritual of buying the precious, neon green bow and arrow which catches my eye every time we step out of the Murugan temple in Thiruchendur. The puppy eyes my sisters and I made never seemed to work on our parents, but they always reaped the best benefits when done to our grandparents. Amid the stone-cold glares directed toward us by our mom and even the sharp pinches from our dad, we persevered to get our dream sports equipment year after year. Mayhem often ensued until the bows wind up broken - as a result of a failed duel - and end up in the trash. This can be compared to the short-lived interest experienced by many of the sports-crazed fans in India - very much like the way summer camps fill up, following the rage of a recent sports flick. These people, after they try out any sport, tend to imagine a future where they are Olympic gold medalists. This mentality is not wrong per se, the major flaw being the

extreme transience of this nature. And equally so is the fad, immediately after the release of a sports movie. Sports dramas ranging from Lagaan and Chak de around 20 years ago and the now, Sarpatta Parambarai and Saina have never failed to pique our interest - that includes me as well.

My interest to pursue a sport - and stick to it - only stays for an hour or two after I watch a movie. Even so, these movies, in their individuality, have many valuable life skills to offer, perseverance being a common point in many. There are no sports dramas that show the protagonist achieving his/her dreams with mere luck but through constant hard work and patience. Jumping on the bandwagon, I too enrolled in classes for several sports like tennis, swimming, roller skating and volleyball just to name a few, but nothing seemed to click. It was not until recently - read as one and a half years ago - that I discovered the passion I had for badminton.

The first time I picked up the sleek navy blue racket, I knew that it would be something I would stick to. It was all fun and games until the first Covid-19 case arrived in India in March of 2020. Soon after, we were locked in our homes, and

I was deprived of my newfound hobby. Fast-forward to the present, my badminton racket still awaits the day I will wield it once again, and smash my way to victory. And so do the dreams of many, who are lying in wait for this hellfire to douse itself so that they too can, as Michael Jordan says, "Just play, have fun and enjoy the game".

Vishakha Devi Vijayaraj

Only one

Julienne walked through the deep tunnel with a torch. It gave her shivers. Being a village girl, she was supposed to know all the underground passageways but this one was odd. Julienne was a stubborn and arrogant girl. She was a 4 foot tall teenager living in the south of Texas with her father and a little brother named Eric. Losing her mother had made her rebellious and disrespectful. She would go wherever she decided to even though her father warned her not to. She would mistreat her brother and relatives. The elders in the village and her father were worried about her future. What would happen to her?

Now, Julienne was stuck in her worst nightmare, without her father or even her brother. All alone to face her destiny. Her only thoughts were 'Who has brought me here?' 'Why

did they choose me?’ and ‘What will happen to me next?’. The only thing she remembered was a stranger coming to her at 2 in the morning and asking her for help. After that her mind was vague. She remembered herself being pushed into a pit, a familiar hoarse voice crying for help and the swipe of a blade. Rethinking this didn’t make her any more confident. But she was in a hard situation. She had no choice but to keep going. After walking for some time, her legs started to get tired and begged her to take a break. Finally she couldn’t bear the pain and sat down on the rocky ground.

The dim light of her torch cast shadows on the walls. “Where am I?”Julienne wondered aloud. Suddenly the hissing of snakes filled the tunnel, echoing and reverberating off the walls. A snaky voice said “What a question, Julienne de Vans. Keep walking. You will find your answer. Julienne struggled to her feet and continued. Finally she entered a large room. She was surprised to see that this room looked well furnished. The ground was covered in pitch black obsidian and wooden chairs surrounded her, each one topped with a soft, feathery cushion. She almost forgot she didn’t know this place. Next to her a door swung open and in walked the most horrible looking thing she had ever seen.

Julienne stood there trying very hard not to scream and run away. The creature had slimy

green skin which was burnt in some places. It had yellow eyes like a reptile and long thin legs. The worst part was that it had black vipers sprouting from its head. The only thing that made Julienne stay was the sad look on its face. “Welcome Julienne. You have come to take your turn in experiencing your life. You have to make one decision and that will make your future. It is a sad fate that will befall you. But I must not stay longer. Good luck.”.

Julienne felt empty and lonely at that moment. She didn’t know what she was going to do. Just then, a figure appeared on one of the wooden chairs. Julienne could tell it was a ghost with its dark body. It pointed at the wall and a question came up. ‘If there was a flood, who would you save? Your father or yourself? The question made Julienne freeze. Her mind immediately thought of herself. But something stopped her. After her mother disappeared her only family was her brother and father. In the shock and anger of her mother leaving them behind, she had treated her father badly. “Can’t I choose both?” she asked the figure. It replied with a firm no. She felt very confused but she needed more answers about what the strange creature and whose scream she heard. A dozen questions buzzed in her head as she tried to think straight. Only one option.

The Sunken City

It was a fine day when Aiden had received an assignment from his laboratory. His assignment was to research a new species of plants that were strange and uncommon. Aiden thought it was a good opportunity to learn more about the plants so he decided to research them. When he was learning more about the plants, he found out that these plants have only been seen in Turkey. He was very interested in this project so he decided to visit Turkey and find these plants.

Aiden, booking his tickets, found a seat for a flight on the 1st of January which was 3 days away. He was all pumped up for this research and prepared everything. He knew that 2020 was going to be a good year for him as Aiden, a lonely person, was celebrating New year with his favourite hobby. After the booking of his tickets, he set everything up and was eagerly waiting for the 1st of January.

It was the 1st of January and Aiden left for the Airport. He was sitting in the taxi, wished the driver a happy new year and was solving a crossword puzzle. He reached the Airport within a duration of 45 minutes, grabbed his suitcase, and ran to board the flight. He was spending his time going through the stores in the Airport and when it was 3 in the afternoon, he boarded the flight.

He had a safe but bumpy ride and when he reached Turkey, He head directly to the site of research. He head to a forest and was examining the ground and its surrounding life. He observed the tree life very carefully and noticed that these trees were unharmed and had no artificial help in its growth.

Suddenly, Aiden starts falling. He falls for about 2 minutes, getting dizzier and dizzier. He then lands on the ground, hurt. Opening his eyes and clearing his blurry vision, Aiden gets up and notices huge boulders. He looks around the place and realises he is underground. He studies the place and recognizes it from a project he worked on earlier. He realises that this is Derinkuyu, the underground city that was discovered 3000 years ago. Aiden could not believe his eyes. This was the city he'd always wanted to visit and here he was! But he was heartbroken to see the city in ruins. This city, which could fit 20,00 people at once, was now destroyed. He wished he could do something to build this city back but there was absolutely nothing he could think of to save this town. Then it struck him. If he could raise awareness about this city and have people help him build this city back, he could save this town!

He tried getting out of the underground and back to Athens, but he wasn't able to. There was

no way out. He was tired of climbing up the hole that he fell from. He knew he was never gonna reach the top as he kept falling down the more he tried to go up. Aiden was now exhausted and weary so he decided to lie down and spend the next few hours there. Aiden didn't know what time it was so he decided to go to sleep for some time and think of an idea to get out of here when he's awake.

Within a few minutes, Aiden was fast asleep. He dreamt about Derinkuyu and how he saved this city but suddenly it was all in ruins again. He woke up with a shrug. He didn't want the city to be demolished like it is now. He wanted to save it, but how could he? There was no way out!

Aiden sat there for a long time thinking about how he could get out. All of a sudden, he got an idea. If he could stack the boulders and climb on them, he could maybe get out. Aiden, with all his might, pushed the boulders closer to the opening. After stacking two boulders on top of each other, he climbed on top of them. From that point, he climbed out using the small gibber stones attached alongside the wall. After Aiden gets out of the hole, he decides to help preserve this once beautiful city. He walks a little out of the forest to find a village. There he rests for a day,

deciding on how to preserve Derinkuyu. At the end of the night, he settles on the idea to start a campaign to preserve the once fascinating city. He travels back to Athens and gets the materials for the campaign- "Save the Sunken City". He collects some of his personal savings and puts forward the information about the Derinkuyu starting from Athens all the way to Turkey. People gather around listening to the beautiful Derinkuyu and how he plans to reconstruct it. They start to donate little by little but the number of people increases. Slowly and steadily the amount grows and his campaign expands. Soon he had enough money to start the project of reconstructing the city and enough helpers in case he needed more. Soon the work to reconstruct this city began. It wasn't an easy job and required a lot of hard work and passion, but the enthusiasm was at an all time high when the city started to take shape. After two months of hard work and determination, the city was finally completed and was looking absolutely magnificent. Aiden and everyone who helped him felt very proud of themselves and their work.

Aarohi, Adhwaiy and Sahana, Grade 8



ART
Work



Navya Rajan, Grade 8



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Nakshatra, Grade 8



Agneyan Balaji, Grade 8



Aarohi Das, Grade 8



Eera Purohit , Grade 9



Sevagin Alagappan. Grade 9



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