



SMILE STRIVE SUCCEED  
**SNIPPETS**

THE SCHOOL BULLETIN OF

M.C.T.M CHIDAMBARAM CHETTYAR  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

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***EMBRACE SELFLESSNESS***

We are once again elated to furnish the creative and artistic endeavours of our students and the workings of the past few months. The pandemic is teaching us many lessons, one of which is the imperative need to redesign ourselves to rapid changes. But more importantly, it has taught us that self-preservation is only possible when we truly understand that our existence, in the larger scheme of things, is directly dependent on others and on how much we respect and abide by the laws of healthy social co-existence. Therefore, inculcating selflessness is a vital and inevitable step towards self-preservation.

The word self itself, as an identity construct, so far as it connotes emotional worth, is an objective designation that distinguishes one from others. However, the word is prefixed endlessly today to connote human beings' obsession with their own selves to

the point of eccentricity. In our quest for self-love and self-care, we end up becoming so self-absorbed that we fail to take a peek out of our comfort zones to realise that there are larger issues at stake, a great many voices waiting to be heard, and a multiplicity of causes demanding our attention.

The pandemic has also taught us that a school is essentially a conglomeration of great minds that can continue to exist and extend beyond the physical barriers of concrete. It has also catalysed a debate on how education needs to be rethought in a world of increasing complexity, uncertainty and fragility.

Therefore, if we have to keep pace with the pace of change itself, which is exponential, we need to remodel and restructure ourselves. Embrace opportunities, innovation, transformation in order to forge ahead with the times!



## ACHIEVEMENTS

**Vishaka Devi** loves to read and she writes short stories and poems whenever she can. Her short story, *Spiegelschrift* recently won the third place at the national level story writing competition held by Ultratech last June.

**Anushka Devi Vijayaraj** is a 6th grader at M.Ct.M International school who started her poetry journey inspired by her older sisters. She completed a 31-day poetry challenge, a poem each day for the month of October 2021 and has been recognised by the Chennai Poets Circle.

**Yash Pincha** had the unique privilege of taking part in the 48th iteration of Yale Model United Nations in a 40-hour long conference that lasted for 4 days from January 20th to January 23rd, 2022. The YMUN is one of the largest conferences conducted globally and is specifically limited to delegates who have showcased exemplary achievement in both academics and MUNs. Over the course of four days, delegates passed dozens of resolutions, addressing a range of issues. He had the opportunity to

learn from Yale students in interactive workshops, watch thought-provoking lectures taught by Yale professors, and engage in virtual events.

Two teams consisting of **Abhivanth Sivaprakash, Acyuth, Vilvanesh Sai** and **Dheeraj Aaditya, Anaika Mhetras, Samara Rajaratnam, Advait Shankar** who participated in the Royal Science Challenge competition conducted by Imperial College London were shortlisted. They were invited to present their work in the Science Challenge Grand Final award ceremony held at the Royal Institution in London on 21st March 2022. The individual participants who were also shortlisted were **Yash Pincha, Dhruv Gadgil, and Aanandita Prakash**. This year's theme was Climate Change and students had to answer one of a few questions set by eminent scientists as an essay of 1000 words, a video presentation or a film of up to 3 to 4 minutes and submit their work by 11th February 2022.



### *The Smartphone Call*

They asked me, "Are you ready?"

Right. This is the Alternate Universal Lotteries.

You've won a billion pounds! Or, a million billion,

not that it makes much difference,

once you're a billionaire," and they laughed.

I huffed impatiently, "Well, how much is it then?"

I need meticulous numbers, expertise and...

oh, the cheque! I need a golden cheque, twice my size!

See, I plan on draining my lottery money, but

no one will believe me without a brilliant cheque."

"We had hoped for some surprise on your end.

Aren't you so elated you're dancing around the room,  
or crying happy tears? Tell us," they pleaded.

"I admit, I feel my head about to float away as if a  
the breeze swept through my ears and uncluttered my mind."

"How peculiar, but we've heard such peculiar things,"  
they mused. "And why might you feel that way?"

"I suppose I'm relieved, for now I can buy some friends.

I'm ever so lonely," I sighed. They laughed again,

"Yes, please buy some friends, and line them up like dolls."

"Do you think I can buy myself a Carlos?" I asked.

I cut them off, considering, "But Carlos is loud and annoying."

Maybe a Brian? But Brian is as dumb as a brick.

I know a middle-school bully like Liam isn't worth buying,  
and both Mark and Eric are walking dust bunnies."

They stuttered and spluttered, chattering over themselves.

"How did you know?!" they yelled in unison. I smugly chided,

"No one ever believes in calls like these anymore, and didn't you think  
I'd recognise your number, Carlos? If you plan on pranking  
your big sister again, at least do it right." And the line went dead.

**Harshini Adhithan, 9B.**

## *Music*

**Music** fills you with rhythm.  
**Until** you just can't sit still.  
**So** get up and dance to the beat.  
**Inside** your heart let all the tunes melt.  
**Can** you feel it?

## *Fashion*

**Fashion** is a fun way to present yourself!  
**Accessories, clothes, shoes, makeup, style** that is what fashion is all about!  
**Style** your clothes in a way that wherever you go you leave a mark.  
**Have** no fear; fashion is all about trying new trends and styles.  
**If** you were to describe fashion the list will go on, starting from bold to ending with simple.  
**Over** the years fashion has evolved, so whatever the new trend is, it becomes the fashion.  
**Never** ending fashion will keep on telling us a tale as it evolves..

## *Education*

**Education** is there to bring out the best in you.  
**Do** it at home or school; education stays the same for all.  
**Understand** its need, understand its power, the person who has it is the most powerful of all.  
**Can** be understood as a weapon, skill or a tool!  
**Allows** one to gain knowledge and apply it.  
**Thoughtfully** use it when you can.  
**Initially** it will be hard to go on the path of education, but slowly-slowly you will get a hang!  
**Opportunities** will be given to prove yourself that you are knowledgeable and strong.  
**Now** it is up to you to be part of this wonderful journey or not, if you choose to be you are changing the world and going on the right path!

## Nature

**N**ature fills the empty land with greenery and makes a simple land a beautiful scenery.

**A**s the birds chirp it brings back all our childhood memories.

**T**akes us back to the time where no honks were allowed.

**U**nder the bright shining sun and the vibrant sky we could see God's love for his children all around.

**R**ewardingly there was very less pollution back in the time!

**E**ach year we celebrate Environment day and many more; why don't we protect our mother nature and make a promise to keep her safe and sound!

**Acrostic Poems, Pooja Mootha, 9A.**

## Online Classes

Do you know what a classroom looks like?  
It has tables, chairs, and loads of books.

Lockers, bags, and a big black board.  
Next to your friends, you never get bored.

But things have changed in this COVID pandemic.  
We thought that without school things would be epic.

But online school just made it worse.  
It is now an unstoppable curse.

We have school even on rainy days.  
At the system we must always gaze.

We can't talk face to face with friends.  
This is surely where friendship ends.

Listen now, there's plenty more.  
Your eyes are sure to become sore.

Internet issues and power cuts.  
This is already driving me nuts.

I am sure that everyone now has glasses.  
I prefer going to school over online classes.

**– V. Anushka Devi, Grade 6**

Ever want to teleport to a fictional world even though it is incredibly deadly? This book made me want to do precisely that! Every time I read through the synopsis, chills run down my spine! The Rise Of Nine is the third book in the series Lorien Legacies by Pittacus Lore, published back in 2012. The Lorien Legacies series is a young adult teen fiction novel. It revolves primarily around an alien invasion on our planet combated by a group of seemingly harmless teenagers (there's so many of them that it's often challenging to pick your favourite).

Due to its utter underratedness, I found the series quite late but was hooked onto it for the foreseeable future instantly. Past me didn't think about the fact that I may be holed up in my room up until 4 a.m. till I completed the series. But The Rise Of Nine was the only book in the series which had me on the edge of my seat for the entirety of the time I spent reading it (which was less than a day because I compulsively kept reading past bedtime). Out of the entire series I loved book three (Rise Of Nine) for a handful of reasons: It began on a light note and had just the right amount of humour throughout; the balance of characters was on point! There was the protagonist (who in my opinion wasn't the best character or the most likeable one either); his not-such-a-damsel-in-distress girlfriend (the strong female protagonist who was much more inspiring than the 'hero' himself); a loving and compassionate character; the hot headed and cocky cynical guy (who was my favourite character and was one of the most interesting personalities and whose character development was the best in my opinion) and the plot-twist entry into the series which left several questions unanswered. The sheer variety of characters gives each a unique voice and makes them unforgettable.

The climax nearing the end was by far the best I've read! (for a book in a series). It left me in a zombie-like trance when I kept the book down after my binge-reading session. And then, when reality began to kick in, I zoomed toward the bookshelf to grab the next book.

The only concept that slightly bothered me was that a different character narrates each chapter and the only way to distinguish was the font for that chapter. The narrator's identity wasn't given off the bat. Hence, it takes a good three to four pages to figure out who is narrating (unless you're a pro at memorising fonts unlike me!PS: I'm not sure if this was the case only in a particular version of the book.

But overall, I'd give it a solid 4! I loved it and I believe I've rated it this way as I only thought of rating it after reading the entire series... So this can be taken as my rating for the series as a whole! If you want to read this book, start with I Am Number 4. It may start slow, but it will pick up the pace and you might even find yourself staying up till 5 am if you have no sense of self-control like me.

## Dare To Dream

Are dreams that which awaken our passion,  
Or have us yearning for our bed a little while longer?  
Are they the ones that feed on our delusions  
Or leave fragments behind in utter stupefaction?

Would you submit to the  
sockdolager of hallucinations,  
And remain blinded by utopian promise?  
Or would you bake a dozen pies in the sky,  
And watch as they crumble down?

Dreams can be the tiniest of reveries,  
Capable of trapping the most resilient.  
Conversely, they may be the magnanimous pipe dreams.  
Attracting controversial stares and devilish smirks.

And the foremost fear of the amateur dreamer,  
A nightmare - holding you in hypnosis, without a way out.  
Where in fact the true ephialtes should be -  
the tormentful possibility of your aspiration slipping out of reach.  
Leaving behind a lackadaisical corpse.  
Potent with emptiness devoid of dreams...

Living in the dream may be the highlight of your day.  
But to live the dream, lay down your bricks for your castile in Spain.  
For foundations are that which cement reality.

- **Vishaka Devi**, Grade 9A

## Fifty Shades Brighter

A fresh sunflower with aureolin petals.  
In a honeycomb a golden bee quickly settles.

The bright sun that wakes me at the crack of dawn.  
In my lemon yellow pyjamas I always tend to yawn.

Using cyber yellow emojis to text my grandmother.  
An American Goldfinch with Munsell yellow feather.

The Cadmium yellow of the minions on my bag.  
The royal yellow on a big Spanish flag.

The golden magic of sizzling French fries.  
The heavenly smell of creamy banana pies.

These things always make me smile.  
For I am at all times a Xanthophile.



Friendship. What a word. It's something that can break apart bonds, like when one friend doesn't like you being friends with another. It can also create strong bonds for life, like when friends are all sitting around, old and wrinkly, in their rocking chairs, reminiscing about their friendship back in high school. Friendship is something that all people experience at some point in their lives, and the pressure to have a very big social circle, yet, a close one, when you are a teenager is immense. Trust me, I'm a teen.

When people start the movie-worthy quest called high school, they already have this 'ideal high school life' in their head, which is probably influenced by movies and TV shows. High school life is something that is unique to everyone, but when people start it, some tropes remain in their head as references not to follow and those to follow. Some examples of this are the 'bullied kid rises up' trope and the 'popular kid has a second face' trope. Another important component of this 'perfect life' is, of course, the type of people you hang out with.

You have the jocks, the popular kids, the studious ones, and many more categories in high school. If you don't fit into one, you probably won't fit in at all. That's the kind of mindset many people have when they start high school. They start to change themselves to fit into either one of those groups, and if they overlap over two of them, well, it's bye-bye for that part of their personality. This will mean that they would become a shell of the person they once were: smiling and laughing on the outside, torn up and confused on the inside. And while they may call their 'group' their friends, they may lose identity and what friendship means to them.

Some people find a friend who they could be themselves with and not have to feel guilty about, but many others don't get that opportunity. While the people in these 'groups' may be your real friends who care about you, it is also possible that they may not, and I have personally seen the latter happen more. A kid may enter into their adult life confused and alone, and this is not going to turn out good for them.

However, it is also not right to believe that the right friend will find you; it is possible they are thinking the same thing. So, talk to people. Join clubs to meet new people. Do something which you truly enjoy. Have fun. And I'm sure, even if you don't find the 'right friend', you will enjoy yourself, and that's what, I think, matters most.

## *Water, Water Everywhere!*

Have you ever thought about water? We drink it, bathe in it, cook with it, farm and garden with it, and we even produce electricity using it. We think about thousands of things every day, so why not give a little time to something that we cannot spend a day without. Have we ever pondered on how little we know about this crystal-clear liquid that we take for granted? Most of these facts will certainly help us reflect, and make us dive into the depths of our heart, where we'll truly start to wonder about things that we may not have wondered about before.

We all know things like 'Water is essential for life' or 'it makes up 71% of the earth's surface', but one shocking fact that you definitely would not know is this: in the course of just one bath, we use up around 70 gallons of water, and for one shower, 10—25 gallons! This sounds ridiculous at first but as we think about it more and more, we realise the true quantity of water we are using up in our daily lives.

Remember I said that water sustains life? And that water is something we cannot live without! Well, a jellyfish and a cucumber take this statement to great heights, 95% of both of them being water. However, before we laugh at them, know that we are not far off with water making up 60% of our bodies.

Another point to think about is the experience of water, that is, a single water molecule. Have we ever thought about what it goes through? We all know about what this essential chemical compound means to our lives but what about their lives? Did you know that the average water molecule, over the period of 100 years, lives in the ocean for 98 years, stays as ice for 20 months, settles in lakes and rivers for about 2 weeks and is found in the atmosphere for less than 7 days? I would, with no doubt, bet that 99.99% of people weren't aware of that, or anything remotely like it.

Water comes from the tap. That's great, but what about it before the tap? Well it is not abnormal to say it comes from a system of pipelines. These pipelines though, what are they made of? They're made of several materials, namely, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), cast iron, copper, steel and in older systems concrete or fired clay. Now you may be thinking, why is this important? Well it isn't required to know for the next 'interesting' fact I am about to reveal, but it does give a good opening. We can see that pipelines today are made up of all these complex materials, some of which are hard to read, but in the U.S, the earliest water pipes were made from hollowed logs.

Speaking of taps, pipes and plumbing, another bolt from the blue is that 3,000 gallons of water can be lost annually due to a tap that leaks one drop every second! This also faces us with the reality of what tap leakages can really do and why we should devote our utmost care to fix such an issue if we come across it. Another thing to know is that water can only help us if it is clean. Clean water may bring life to millions and billions of people, but perilous water kills 200 children every hour. Out of all the illnesses in the world, four fifths (80%) are linked with faulty water.

When we continue on with our own lives, we should strive to remember these tiny, yet extremely important facts, and aspire to be better people by caring for every drop. After all, it is the unity of individuals that make up a population, just like how it is the unity of several drops that makeup a river, sea or even an ocean.

**Pradyun Ravishankar**, Grade 9A

## *Book Review - Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo*

### ***Plot and Setting:***

The first half of the story takes place in the city of Ketterdam, the capital of Kerch, known for its trade and crime. The writing and world-building are excellently done, and I was able to vividly imagine the crowded streets of the West Stave, the knotted roads and run-down buildings, and smoke-filled air.

This book is part of Bardugo's Grishaverse series, and in this world, there are people with magical powers who are known as the Grisha. There are many types of Grisha, an example being the Heartrender. They are capable of slowing down or speeding up someone's heart rate.

The plot follows 17-year-old criminal mastermind Kaz Brekker as he assembles a team (known as The Crows) to break out the creator of a deadly drug, jurda parem, that could affect the world of Grisha magic forever, in exchange for thirty million krug (the currency of Kerch). The first two chapters dragged on, and I felt uninterested. However once the story started picking up, I was completely hooked. The plot never slowed down and always kept me engaged and curious about what was going to happen next.

### ***Characters:***

The characters were all very unique and distinguishable from one another with distinctive personalities and back stories.

***Kaz Brekker:***

Known as Dirtyhands, Kaz Brekker is the manipulative criminal mastermind, second in command of the Dregs gang, and leader of the Crows. He will do anything for anyone, for the right price, and is willing to do whatever it takes to achieve his goals. His most distinctive feature is his limp, for which he uses a cane with a crow head atop it to help him walk around. Occasionally, this cane also gets used as a weapon. He is calculating, ruthless, and always has a trick up his sleeve.

***Inej Ghafa:***

Kaz's 16-year-old right hand who is known as the Wraith. She can move stealthily, almost silently on all surfaces, and spies for the Dregs. Her specialty is knives, which she is incredibly skilled at using. Inej is reserved and always listening, and will show kindness when necessary.

***Jesper Fahey:***

A 17-year-old member of the Dregs and skilled sharpshooter. He has a gambling problem. Jesper is sarcastic and loves testing his odds. He is also very impulsive, which leads him to feel guilty due to his actions.

***Nina Zenik:***

A 17-year-old Grisha Heartrender whom Kaz enlists to help him on the mission. Nina is the most carefree of the bunch and is bold, loud, and unafraid to share her opinion. She loves her friends sincerely and also loves to enjoy different foods, especially sweets. She is also very loyal to her home country of Ravka. She is my favourite character.

Matthias Helvar: An 18-year-old convict who became rageful and cold during his year in prison. He hails from Fjerda, and is, at first, ashamed of himself for breaking into the Ice Court in his home country. He feels as though he is a traitor. But as the story progresses, he comes to care for the other crows and puts their protection above all else.

***Wylan:***

A 16-year-old runaway with a privileged past. He is skilled at music, art, maths, and also has some knowledge of demolition. He is kind, quiet, and shy, and does not share his opinion unless asked. However, he becomes a bit more confident as the story goes on.

The book is very diverse in many areas such as disabilities, race and racism, and LGBTQ+ representation. Trauma is also handled very well and is given proper understanding and never made

fun of. The bonds and dynamics the characters had with each other were, to me, the best part and made this book all the more entertaining.

***Overall thoughts:***

Overall, I think *Six of Crows* is a phenomenal book that is worth reading for the characters alone. The world is written in rich detail, the plot doesn't slow down and the characters are never boring. If you like heists, violence, found families, and fantasy, I think *Six of Crows* is a must-read for you. I recommend it for people ages 13 and up. I give it a 5/5.

**Prakrithi Prasad (Book Review), 9A.**



*Short Story*

I floored the accelerator en route to my home, ecstatic that my team had finally made the most ground-breaking discovery ever known to man. My car tires squealed as I turned the curb and reversed parked into my garage. Hopping off the vehicle, I yelled for my mother with the same excitement I had as a third-grader who was about to tell an overly dramatised story about a mundane experience at school.

The ambrosial aroma of chicken quesadillas wafted throughout the house as my mother gingerly removed them from the oven and transferred them onto the earthenware plates which lay in wait. As we dived into supper, I recounted the day's work to her - leaving out all the jargon. My team and I had been working on uncovering the existence of mirror dimensions for about seven years until we finally cracked it today. I still remember my first day to the very last vivid detail: The brand-new lab with all the up-to-date equipment and the internationally greatest minds who sat around the modernised Round Table as I adumbrated what we would commit ourselves to for at least a decade. I even theorised about the possibility of Leonardo Da Vinci being from the mirror dimension! The all-nighters and micro-sleeps had finally borne fruit and the satisfaction was most definitely not describable in words.

The mirror started to show weird signs right after the team arrived from their month-long breather. It was suddenly reactive to the experiments as if it were alive. And traces of fingerprints riddled its surface — from the other side. The team was overjoyed that we had finally made a

connection. Our files would soon be the very foundation of modern science. When I looked up at my mom, I saw that her face beamed with pride. She donned her I-knew-you-would-do-it smile and I felt yet again like a kid. When we then turned ourselves in for bed, I could not stop dreaming about the possible upcoming Nobel prize in my near future. A content simper spread across my face as my eyelids slowly closed as I drifted into a deep slumber.

Being awoken by the obscenely loud clanging of pots and pans as opposed to the subtle tune of my morning alarm made me quite grumpy. Wobbling my way down the long flight of stairs, I noticed the unusual, suffocating stench of smoke. I raced down, got a hold of the fire extinguisher and dashed into the kitchen. It was a miracle! My mother had burnt breakfast and this was the first time I had seen it happen. I quickly offered to help and put together a lousy pancake stack and served it up for my mom. She rapidly scarfed them down, grabbed a pen and paper and began to jot down the grocery list. My heart skipped a beat when I noticed that my mom was writing with her left hand. Lunging for the newspaper to cover up the confused expression on my face. I quietly wondered what had I done wrong, where was my mom and was she alright and then the train crashed into me. To my horror, when I laid eyes on the fresh print before me, it was the retro graphic script that seemed to manifest into a malicious grin and taunt me. All my life, I wanted to achieve my ambition just like everyone else. I never knew that one day, I would be living it.

– **Vishakha Devi**, Grade 9A.



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### *They Will Not Go Quietly*

They will not go quietly,  
they will not go quietly,  
the pets who've shared our lives.  
In subtle ways, they let us know,  
their spirit still survives.  
Old habits still can make us think,  
we hear them at the door,  
or step back when we drop,  
a tasty morsel on the floor.

Our feet still go around the place,  
the food dish used to be,  
and, sometimes. coming home at night,  
we miss them terribly.  
And although time may bring new friends,  
and a new food dish to fill,  
that one place in our heart,  
belongs to them...  
... and always will.

– **Harshita**, Grade 7.



### *The 'I' in Her*

This human that lives because I am alive, keeps telling everyone that they have a space in her heart. Could someone please tell her that I am full. She makes me store so many memories and love for others. I might be needing some credit for that because I could burst out anytime storing all this. There are some pros and cons about me but mostly pros. One thing that I enjoy doing being a heart is to be a guide or a mentor. Many times I don't just work for my girl, I also invest time in others.

Whenever she feels bad about her friends or family, I urge the Big fellow, 'the brain guy' to make her say something nice to make the other person happy. What I hate doing the most is to store a lot of memories. I am so tiny and my human friend expects me to store all this. I wish she knew how hard it is to be a heart. As a heart my responsibility is to give love to my family, friends and teachers and bring 2 souls together. I don't get any holiday for doing all this, but my human friend on the other hand gets winter holidays, summer holidays etc but I don't get any. It does make me relax though. But there is something special in me that no other body part can pull off. Yes, you need me to show love and receive love. When I give love to a person, I become reddish pink and start glowing at the same time. The same thing also happens to me when someone gives me love and I receive it. Is it not fascinating to be a heart?

– **Niyvrithi Karthik**, Grade 6.

### *CHILDREN'S DAY*

Children's Day was celebrated on 13 November, 2021. The Celebrations commenced with an awareness programme on Mental Wellness during The Pandemic organised for the students of Grade 6 to 10 of the CBSE and International School. The session was conducted by the IMA (Indian Medical Association), Chennai South. Ms. Vandana, guidance faculty, welcomed the IMA members and the students. It was inaugurated by Dr. Shantha Narayanan, Honourable Secretary, IMA Chennai South. The Chief Guest was Dr. Maragathamani, Vice President of IMA and the speaker was Dr. Janani Brahadeesh, Consultant Psychologist. The topics covered by Dr. Janani were on how the brain handles anxiety; problems during covid; the importance of safety measures; tips and suggestions on how to handle issues with regard to fear, anxiety, and stress; and recommendations for a holistic wellbeing.

Some of the suggestions included the development of coping skills, of positive thinking, of focussed and motivated thinking, managing emotions, seeking help, breathing and mindfulness exercise, physical exercise, diet, as well as sleep. It was an enriching session since awareness on mental health is the need of the hour. The vote of thanks on behalf of IMA was delivered by Dr. Yashoda Thanikachalam. The IMA members thanked the School Management for organising the session and expressed their willingness to conduct more such sessions by eminent physicians. Ms. Deepa Venkat, Faculty Psychology, delivered the vote of thanks on behalf of the School.

The Head of International school and the Deputy Head expressed their thanks and gratitude for the session. This was followed by Children's day celebrations put up by the teachers for the students of Grade 6 to IB2. This was conducted in two sessions. Ms. Uthamie, the English faculty, gave a musical rendition which was followed by a game for the students. The teacher speaker was Ms. Nandhini and the concluding address was by The Head of International school. The students enjoyed the day's programme and thanked the teachers for all the efforts in making the day memorable..

### *NATIONAL MATHEMATICS DAY*

The National Maths day events for the year 2021 took place virtually on 22 December, 2021.

The programme commenced with a prayer song followed by a presentation by Grade 6 students on the life history of Sri. Ramanujan and Mercator projection. The programme from Grade 6 came to an end after Pranav posed some questions on math tricks.

Then it was carried over by the Grade 7 students. It began with the presentation of the Ramanujan magic square presented by Harshita followed by a magic square by Pranav of Grade 7. Then there was a presentation on Fascinating numbers in which Nityaan, Uddhav, Mekhala, Krishna Santhanam and Athreya shared with all the beauty of numbers 21,11,23,9,7 and 8 respectively. Following this, Navya and Ayra Saif made a presentation on the Fibonacci numbers in nature. Then there was a small clipping from the movie 'The man who knew Infinity' by Miraya Denil to talk about the taxicab number, otherwise known as the Hardy-Ramanujan number. This

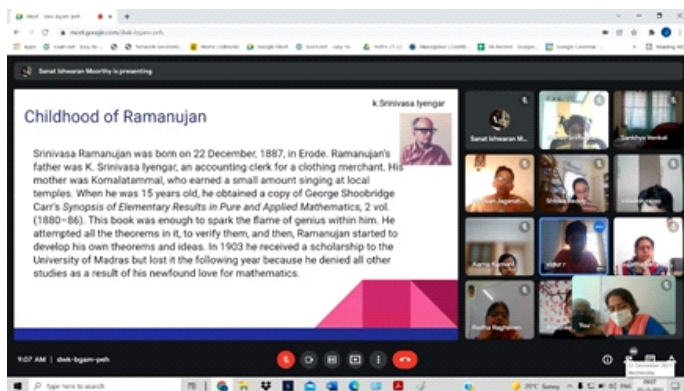


was followed by a presentation from Aarna Sawhney on finding the product of numbers using the area model.

The programme concluded with a presentation on 'contributions of Ramanujan' by Aarna Karnani. The children were overwhelmed with the various fascinating numbers and the mathematics they find in nature.

For Grade 8 and 9 celebrations, Arthi of Grade 9 spoke about the contributions of Srinivasa Ramanujan. Krti of Grade 8 presented on Platonic solids and their nets and Agneyan on the Euler's formula. Following this, there was a demonstration by Vyas on fallacies in Maths and a power-point on the game of life. Aarohi explained about the Napier's device used for multiplication.

Arthi and Vishakha of Grade 9 presented on the fascinating Golden Ratio and the Fibonacci sequences. They were supported by Mehr, Aananditha, Samyuktha and Aiswarya. This was followed by Pradyun who explained an interesting extract from Ramanujan's notebooks that relates geometry to his claims similar to Pythagoras and other interesting algebraic identities which could have been by intuition.



Mangai and Samara followed up with a presentation on the Sierpinski triangle and how fractals are created and how it leads to generalisation of patterns.

The students had made interesting presentations on the topics and were able to

relate them to different areas, which was a learning experience. The programme came to an end with students sharing their take aways.

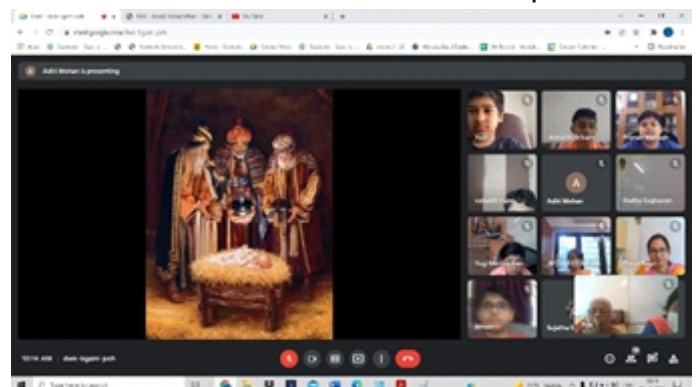
## CHRISTMAS

Given the continued mode of online teaching and learning, it was decided to conduct Christmas celebrations virtually on 22 December, 2021. This year's celebration was indeed special as all the classes got to participate and enjoy the last festival of the calendar year. The respective class teachers of all grades were in-charge of this celebration and the event was conducted during the first hour/period of the day. The students were all excited eagerly volunteered to participate in different programs like singing carols, drawing, sketching, reciting stories from the Bible, and speaking on how Christmas is celebrated in different parts of the world.

In Grade 6, Nivithi and Shloka sang a carol song; Anushka played a Christmas song on the piano; and Anika, Prakruthi, and Pranav danced for the event.

In Grade 7, Miraya told a story about Christmas and sang a carol along with Mekhala and Aarna. Harshita shed light on how Christmas is celebrated around the world. Aadhavan and Muhammad elaborated on the Christmas spirit of giving. Navya and Aarna Sawhney made a Christmas card.

In Grade 8, Tarika did origami while Akash and Harshil did the Kahoot Christmas quiz.



In Grade 9, Mangai hosted the event, and recited a speech on Christmas. Aishwarya created a Kahoot quiz and presented videos of celebrations that took place in various places. Samara wrote a poem and helped with the quiz. Mangai, Harshini and Samara sang Christmas carols.

In Grade 10, Aditya and Ashwin spoke on the origins of Christmas; Adyanth made a presentation on how Christmas is celebrated around the world; Keren Nikitha sang Christmas carols and Mira Rajiv presented a video of popular Christmas carols.

In Grade IB1, For Christmas, Pratham spoke on Christmas while Advait explored the history behind Christmas and its Carols. The event itself was put together by Ansh, who also made a Christmas-themed quiz along with Arnav. Carols were played throughout the event to rekindle the Christmas spirit.

### ***AWARENESS SESSION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FOLIC ACID***

A virtual awareness session on the importance of folic acid by Medical Professionals of the Indian Medical Association, Chennai South Camp, was held on 22 January, 2022. The session was attended by both M.C.T.M Chidambaram Chettyar International and CBSE Schools. The participants were the Head of the International School (Ms. Sangita Varma); Deputy-head (Ms. Lavanya Venkatesan); Principal (Ms. Uma Narasimhamoorthy) and Vice principal (Mr. Santhanam) of the Matriculation School, Dr. C V Nadarajan (President IMA Association); Dr. Shantha Narayanan (Secretary IMA Association); Dr. Y Vedakumari (President Elect); Dr. Rukmani Gopal (Vice President IMA Association); and the

teachers and the girl students of Grade IB1, IB2, 11 and 12.

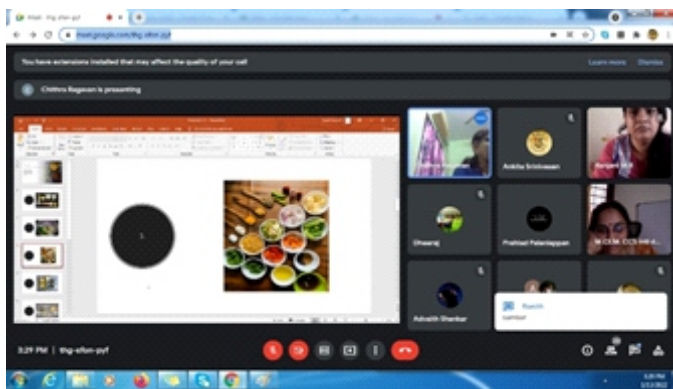
The session commenced with a prayer by Dr. Shantha Narayanan followed by a welcome speech by Ms. Sujatha. Dr. Chitra, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, St. Isabel hospital, Chennai spoke on the importance of folic acid. The event was mainly concentrated on women's health, and the iron and folic acid deficiency that can occur during pregnancy and childbirth. The importance of including folic acid intake in our regular diet was highlighted. A question-and-answer session followed and the session came to an end with Ms. Nithya proposing the vote of thanks.

### ***REPUBLIC DAY***

Our Republic Day was celebrated with fervour and enthusiasm online on 26 January, 2022. The programme commenced with a welcome note by the comperes Vilvanesh, Ansh, and Mihir of Grade IB1 and an invocation by Bharath of Grade IB2. This was followed by an opening speech by Advait of Grade IB1 who provided an overview. Next was Pratham who presented a colourful array of scenes with a voice-over in Hindi. This was followed by Adway of Grade 8 singing Vande Mataram. Aishwariya of Grade 9 encapsulated the significance of the day in Tamil, while Abhivanth of Grade IB1 articulated our roles and responsibilities. Sreesanth's Tamil poem had everyone captivated as was Arnav's fiery speech in English oozing nationalistic feelings. The programme concluded with a closing note by the Head of School and everyone joining in unison for the National Anthem.

## *PONGAL*

The Pongal celebration was slated for the last period of the day on 13 January, 2022. The students showed their vivacity in participating in different events like singing farmers' tribute songs, speech, drawing, games, making handmade greeting cards for relatives and conversations flowed about how Pongal is celebrated by Tamilians all over the world. Overall, the event was celebrated with traditional

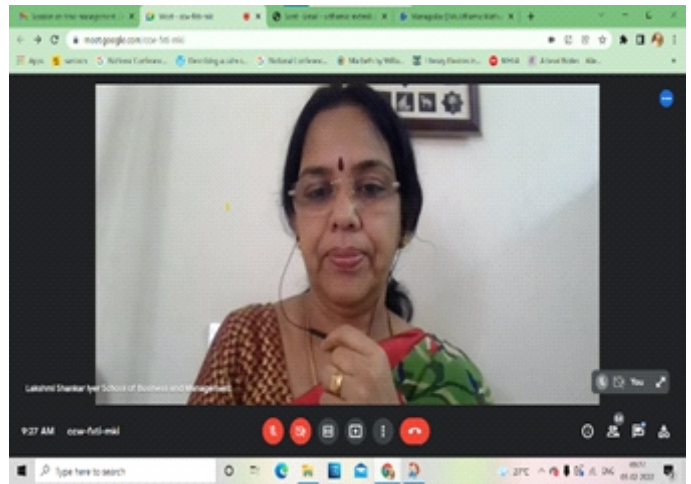


fervour.

### ***A SESSION ON GUIDELINES TO DEVELOP A RESEARCH IDEA***

A session on Guidelines to Develop a Research Idea was organised for Grade 10, IB1 and members of staff on Saturday, 5th January in Google Meet. Ms. Lakshmi Shankar Iyer, Head of Specialisation - Business Analytics, School of Business and Management, Christ University, Bangalore presided over the session.

The session commenced with a welcome note by Ms. Deepa, IBDP Asst. Coordinator. Ms. Lakshmi spoke on the importance of research in academia and industry and the need to map the demand for such research in industry by supply from academia.



The primary aspect while taking on research is the curiosity to understand and learn new things in every field. According to her, whenever we look for an idea, the question arises whether we should find something in google search and take it or is it important for us to conduct a novel investigation ourselves. However, she stressed on the need to identify an appropriate topic as the future career of a student would likely depend on his/her research topic.

She elaborated on three aspects to develop a research idea, namely, contemporary, novel and creative. Novelty could be what you can introduce to an existing research idea even if the research of the topic has already been done. Creativity could be the pathbreaking solutions your research can lead to and contemporary could be mapping your research ideas to solving the contemporary problems in society.

She detailed the need to narrow down the topic of research and choose one where data collection could be feasible during the research. Ideas could germinate from articles and editorials from newspapers, TV debates etc. White papers in govt. websites could also help in ideation.

Literary students must read around 50 research literary reviews before they embark on a research topic.

The session also included the importance of students being able to envision at least 50% of their research outcome before they submit a research proposal. Gaps are likely to occur when there are existing theories which have no solutions. Research gap happen when there are existing theories for which they can't find solutions. She also emphasised the need for research areas to track the marketing aspects for ensuring customer experience.

What followed was a Q&A session where questions were posed on researching on varied topics such as how to use an already researched topic without resorting to plagiarism, conducting a good research, genuinity in research and access to online research libraries and white papers.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Anaika from Grade IB1. Overall, it was very qualitative and a need-of-the-hour for the Grade IB1 batch.

### *INVESTITURE CEREMONY*

The investiture ceremony was back with a bang! Although the pandemic has compelled us to learn from a plethora of social innovations and experiences, and we are becoming experts in online navigation, the ceremony has once again proved that nothing can replace a physical gathering.

The setting in the auditorium on 11th February 2022 evoked a sense of nostalgia, bringing in a



flood of memories of the past events. A surprising element was that students quickly organised themselves to step into their respective roles and within a matter of minutes were ready for the ceremony.

With the invocation as a curtain raiser, the masked council members stepped in tune with the entry march music to take the seats allotted to them on stage. Each one was called by name and designation to receive a scroll of roles and responsibilities from the Head of School, Deputy Head, P.E. Teachers or House Heads. The Head of School then administered the oath for the newly elected office bearers and spoke to them on the school's expectations on them, motivating them to peak their performance with a spirit of oneness.

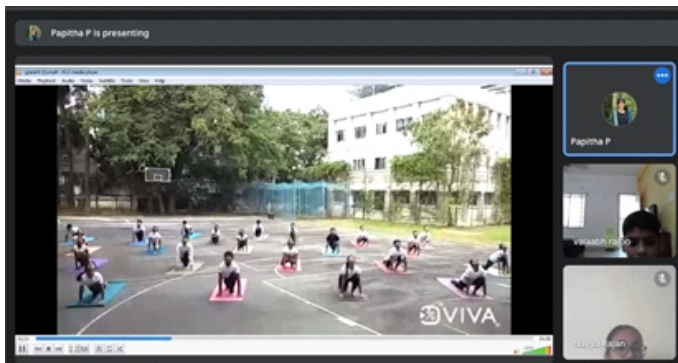
The Head Boy, Yash Pincha, and the Head Girl, Ankita Srinivasan, humbly accepted the honour bestowed on them and committed to working with the student body for the upkeep and success of the school. The programme concluded with everyone standing in attention for the national anthem.



## *ANNUAL SPORTS DAY*

The annual sports day for 2021–22 was conducted online on 12 February, 2022. Although the pandemic had put a dampener on the spirit and fervour, students were provided an opportunity to partake in the sports meet from the comfort of their homes.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by the newly appointed Sports Captain, Abhivanth and Deputy Captain, Preksha Reddy. The oath for the participants was then administered by the Sports Captain. A class drill was then conducted for Grade 6, 7 and 8. This was followed by a speech by Anushka (Grade 6) and Nithyaan (Grade 7) on the importance of sports and its need during the pandemic. A video presentation by Abinav, Riyas and Vyas was an interesting addition to the programme as were the Yogasanas and fitness challenges by Grade 6 to 8 students. Also, a ball dribbling and catching contest as a one-minute challenge was also conducted and winners announced.



Video presentations of parent events conducted class-wise such as balloon bursting, water filling and coffee mug paper ball catch and teachers' doing the Vrikshasana (tree) pose were the highlights of the programme and provided for some lighter moments.

The Head of School, in her speech, applauded the students for their enthusiasm and reiterated the importance of sports.

The students were also shown snippets of the investiture ceremony held the previous day and the programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Arnav of Grade 6 and national anthem.

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### *The MUN Club*

Last month, the MUN club delved into the workings of the six principal United Nations General Assembly organs. A range of relevant conflicts, from the annexation of Ukraine to the Venezuela Humanitarian crisis, were covered. The MUN club also held a specific session exploring the provisions and mandates of the United Nations Security Council with a particular focus on the veto power. Over the next month, the club intends on covering the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict, diplomatic relations, resolution writing and committee decorum. This will be a prelude to the upcoming CASMUN to offer members familiarity with committee knowledge.

**–Yash Pincha, Grade Ib1**

**A  
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T**  
Work



Samara Rajaratnam, Grade IB1



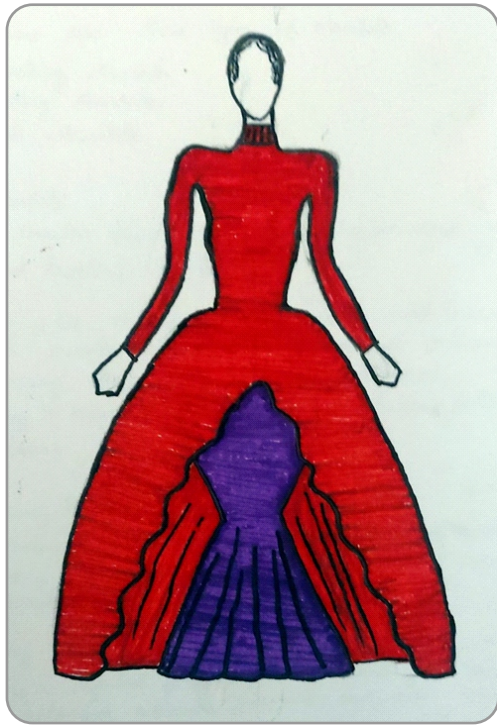
Aarthi, Grade 9A



Ayra, Grade 9B



Eera Purohit, Grade 9A



Pragati Ramesh, Grade 9B

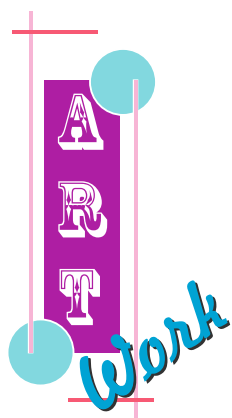


Sachin, Grade 9A



Shruti Ramasswamy, Grade 9A

## HEART DEMISE



My art depicts a skeleton, holding a heart, with wings attached to its frail bones. The meaning I'm attempting to communicate with this piece is in reference to my late and much-missed grandmother. Denial, anger, bargaining, sadness, and eventually acceptance is said to be the five stages of grieving, but when you lose a loved one, your emotions go beyond what words can express. you lose yourself, almost as if a part of you died with them. You start to feel soulless, as if you're breathing but not alive. You desire their warmth and wish to see them one more time, knowing subconsciously that even prodigious amounts will never satisfy you. You miss them, and you miss the person you were when you were with them. This feeling is affiliated with the skeleton and expresses the impression of dying at the hands of death.

"Nothing breaks like a heart" is a lyric from a Miley Cyrus song, and while I normally disregard these things as simply another lyric, it made me realise a spectrum of feelings this time. This is where the drawing of the heart comes into place. According to biology, the brain controls the heart, however, psychologically, we base all of our decisions on the heart, regardless of the consequences. So, while the heart is the most powerful contributing factor to a human, nothing breaks like a heart, showing how powerful death is, powerful enough to break a heart.



Quoting the five stages of grief, you eventually accept your beloved one's death and, rather than mourning, you begin to celebrate their life. The wings represent finally feeling free and flying away from your anxieties and dismal thoughts, as well as coming to terms with the fact that your loved one has departed on to eternal rest.

**Yohana**, Grade 9A



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