

*‘The corridors ring with silence
In the winter of 2020’*



The better part of last year was spent brooding on our hopes of coming back to the school, the constant to and fro for the opening of the educational institutes had driven everyone to insanity. January brought with it the Inauguration Ceremony of Joe Biden-Kamala Harris, Elon Musk's miracle launch of SpaceX satellite along with his rise as the richest man of the world has proven that Covid-19 could not stop the world from doing what needs to be done. From Bollywood celebrities landing in hot water to the result of Bihar elections and PM Modi introducing the farm bill leaving farmers all over enraged (P.S.- find our views on this in this issue of The MGD Pulse), Indian news has been jam-packed all over. As another mutant variant of COVID-19 continues to rise globally, countries across the world have gone under lockdown. Born out of the dark side of the lockdown, the shadow pandemic has crept large and taken the world its victim; the continuing cases of gender inequality during the pandemic has pushed every existing feminist off their ledges of self- control.

We have finally come to terms with the new normal. Teachers and parents have very flexibly and quickly adapted to this change (better than students!). The Aquatic Meet, Athletic Meet, and Annual Day were thoroughly missed as the students gear up for the final exams. MGDians have shown that they are unstoppable even during these trying times by participating in different sports events, whether it be the first-ever Online Inter-House Sports or the CBSE Fit India Run. Though to be fair, it has been quite depressing to imagine our seniors spending their last academic year in their safe homes. The virus has completely degraded mental health and has compelled us to be glued to screens for hours.

Baby Fever was the theme of 2020, with ZiGi baby girl, Khai being the clear winner. We also witnessed Christmas in the utmost drought, satisfying ourselves by constantly checking celebs' story updates. Even though our plans have been fogged by the chilly winds that constantly blow nowadays, a ray of light, Covishield has appeared. In this issue of The MGD Pulse, we aim to please the empty souls with a list of characters to fall for(sigh!), book reviews, a playlist that will make your hearts melt, and much more!

Happy reading!

Ridhima Magon and Ria Dhandia

Cherry on Top

‘Our utmost for the highest’.

Happy 77 years of glory, pride, and gratification MGD. Founded in 1943 by Maharani Gayatri Devi, the aim of the institution is to make its pupils cultured and useful members of society.

Due to this pandemic, the celebration this time was virtual. Students were shown different videos on how their schoolmates are coping up with their work during this pandemic. The school intended to make sure that no pupil gets deprived of basic education during this pandemic and all the events should take place smoothly in an organised manner.

Many more years of peace and serenity MGD.



Maharani Gayatri Devi Girls' School, Jaipur



School Birthday Happy birthday MGD. Every year we look forward to this day to come and wish our dear Alma mater the very best in the year ahead and join you all in the celebrations. This year it is different like every thing else around us. These challenging and testing times have in no way diminished our fervour and excitement for the school's big day. On behalf of the MGD Girls Guild I extend our best wishes and prayers for a very happy and prosperous road ahead. Despite the Pandemic, MGD has the strength from its sacred traditions and values and the resilience drawn from the dynamic leadership and able guidance of Mrs Mankotia and her strong team of Col Sangwan, the dedicated teaching and support staff to overcome this hurdle. We all join you in Singing of MGD. God bless MGD and you all.
Mrs. Jane Himmeth Singh



Maharani Gayatri Devi Girls' School, Jaipur



On the occasion of 77th Birthday of Our school, I would like to congratulate every member of the fraternity for standing tall and sailing high during these torrid times. This speaks volumes of our elders from whom we inherited the ethos of "Nothing is Impossible" Let's adapt the change. Best wishes and God Speed.

Administrative officer
Col. Sangwan



Our Utmost for the Highest And Missed You Shall Be



Ma'am Archana S Mankotia addressed the assembly of teachers, board members, *baijis* and *bairajis* in the quadrangle and paid tribute to our quintessential Her Highness on 29th of July, 2020. Late Maharani Gayatri Devi, known for transforming the lives of many generations of women, was persistent about educating and bringing women out of the restraints of "purdah". Vehement to bring a revolutionary change, she laid the foundation stone of Maharani Gayatri Devi Girls' School on 4th July, 1943. She was, is, and will continue to be a role model for young women, for her legacy will continue to inspire and motivate us to raise the bar and grow in the warmth of MGD.



On the morning of 30th July 2020, the MGD family bid farewell to a very senior member and the students' beloved librarian, Mrs Abha Mittal. The teachers gathered in the AV room to shower Mrs Abha with gratifying speeches and tokens of goodbye. Through the 35 years of Mrs Abha's tenure at MGD, she witnessed new students being accepted and old ones graduating, and always tried to foster a sense of fondness and love for reading amongst them. She remained persevering about managing, organising, and systemising the library for many decades now and never failed to remember the whereabouts of any book. Her warm smile, quick wittedness, and sombre presence will be missed dearly.

Placards Higher

With the theme 'Enliven to Emancipate', MGD hosted the 7th edition of the MGD MUN and the first virtual one. The conference was hosted from 5th to 7th October 2020. The Chief Guest for the opening ceremony was Ms Savitri Kunadi, an esteemed IFS diplomat. The Principal welcomed all the participants with her enlightening words. The three-day conference witnessed heated debates, diplomatic discussions, and practical solutions to the problems which were presented to them. The Executive Board and Heads handled all the committees with diligence and the Secretariat constantly supported everyone. Jayshree Periwal High School took home the best delegation trophy.



S. No.	Name	Class	Committee	Award
1	Aditi Kumar	X F	WLS	Verbal Mention
2	Yashvi Jain	X G	SPECPOL	Special Mention
3	Zainah Choudhary	X D	CCPCJ	Verbal Mention
4	Kashika Agarwal	X F	CCPCJ	Verbal Mention
5	Shivranjani Sharma	XI E	CTC	Verbal Mention
6	Manasvi Chaturvedi	XI C	FUNEP	Verbal Mention
7	Rashi Kushwaha	X B	AIPPM	Verbal Mention
8	Anisha Kankariya	XI C	AIPPM	Verbal Mention

Tricolour Pride

“At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom”. These words by Jawaharlal Nehru, in his speech, *Tryst with Destiny*, will always linger in our hearts. Even during the pandemic, MGD celebrated India's 74th Independence Day with pride. Flag hoisting, singing of patriotic songs, and virtual videos of the ceremony, wherein many girls sang, danced and recited nationalist poems, started the day on a high note. Our Principal's speech reminded us how privileged we are to be free and how grateful we should be for the sacrifices made for us



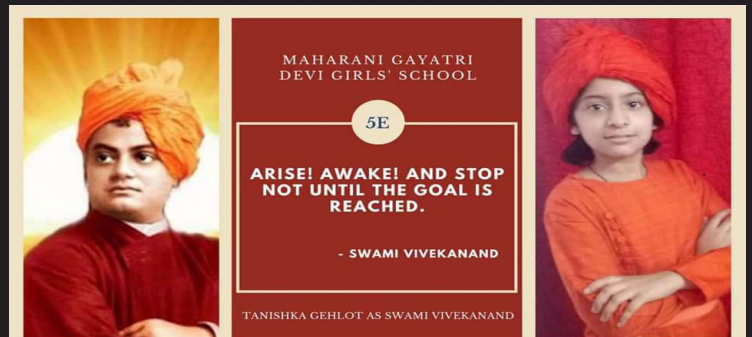
Kargil War Day

The Courageous Cadet Club of MGD organised a virtual programme on 26th July 2020, widely observed as “The Kargil War Day” across the country, to offer tribute to the brave martyrs of the Indian Army and to celebrate the victory of India in the Kargil War of 1999. Colonel Sangram Singh Mankotia, Guest of Honour, revelled in the cadets' curiosity, and was keen on motivating the students to pursue a career in the Indian Army, during the session. It was followed by an inspiring movie showcasing the stories of Kargil wartime, a dance performance, a poetry recitation by the cadets and a quick round of Quiz based on the Kargil war. Prior to this, a poster making competition was also organised on 23rd July 2020 wherein the cadets participated with full gusto.



To Teach is to Inspire

To honour our teachers for their priceless efforts, MGD Girls' School celebrated Teachers' Day on 5th September 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic might have shaken up the world, but the teachers displayed immense enthusiasm in tackling the problem with their expertise in innovation and their tenacity to impart knowledge even in the most tedious situations. A short virtual celebration, through pre-recorded videos, was organised by the students, in which they engaged themselves in an unbridled capacity to shower love, admiration, and respect on their teachers through song and dance and by conveying regards from their homes.





Joys of Janmashtami

To mark the auspicious day of Janmashtami, the birth anniversary of Hindu Lord Krishna, our little munchkins of MGD dressed up as Lord Krishna and Radha, sketched their portraits and decorated the lord's idol. Virtually, bhajans and prayers were recited and the day was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm.

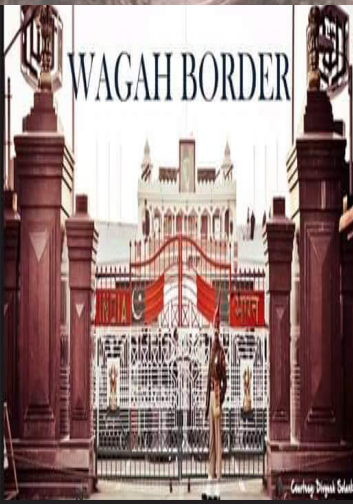
Language of the Land

India is the epitome of diversity and culture where numerous traditions, customs, religions, and languages flourish. And among all the languages, Hindi is considered the chief as well as the most widely spoken in India. On the occasion of Hindi Divas, MGD Girls' School organised several activities for the students, ranging from Doha Antakshri to slogan writing, from poster making to poetry narration, and many more. The key emphasis of the activities was to instill feelings of love and pride for one's language and to convey how it is linked to one's identity.

Charkha That Spun a Revolution

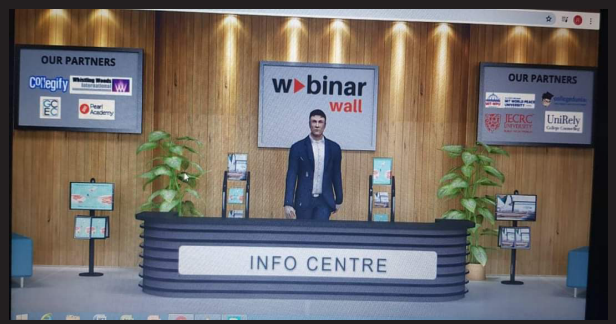
"You may never know what results come of your actions, but if you do nothing, there will be no results." - GANDHI JI
 In commemoration of the 151st birth anniversary of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Maharani Gayatri Devi Girls' School, Jaipur organized the inter-house Monoact and Gandhi In Me speech competition. The judges for the events were Ms. Benu Puri, an Alumna of MGD Girls' School, currently the Coordinator of the Primary section at MGD Girls' School. The second judge for the event was Ms. Seema Chaturvedi who was awarded a gold medal for representing the AKFI as Media officer at the 2010 Asian Games, Guangzhou. Each house pitched one participant for both the events making it a total of eight participants. Overall Florence Nightingale House bagged the first position followed by Madame Curie House, Helen Keller House, and Sarojini Naidu House. Apart from this, we had beautiful video presentations by the primary section as well. The performances of the participants invoked the ideals of our great leader Mahatma Gandhi. Each performance inspired us to be a better version of ourselves and taught us to be the change in the world we wish to see.





Cadets Assemble

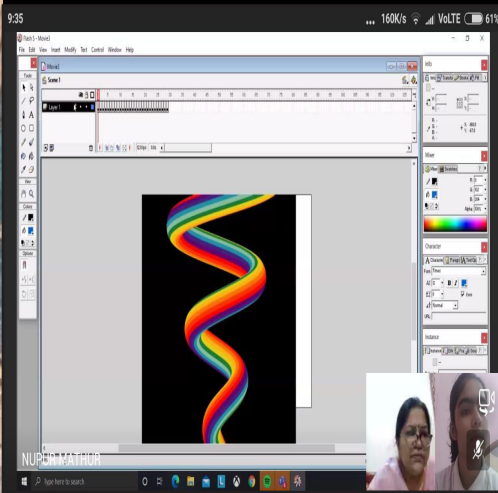
MGD Girls' School organised its first virtual National Integration Awareness Program on October 10th, 2020. The Chief Guest for the event was Col. Ajay Singh Shekhawat, Director Military School, Ganganagar, accompanied by the jury which included Dr. Anshu Verma, GCI Nidhi Rathore and Mrs Nupur Mani Mathur. NCC cadets of MGD participated with full enthusiasm, depicting the diverse culture of India.



Education Conclave



Ganesh Chaturthi



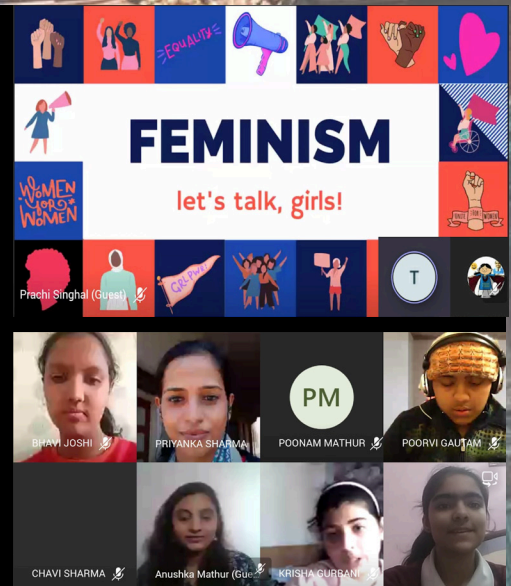
Technothon

The IT club of MGD hosted a two-day online class activity - 'Technothon' for the students of classes 6th to 9th. The workshop covered a plethora of topics- Powerpoint presentation using Microsoft PowerPoint for class 6, Animated clipping through Flash for class 7, E-cards using Canva for class 8 and Movie making for class 9 using VN video editor. The sessions were conducted by IT teachers who were assisted by their student volunteers. The team ran the workshop smoothly and recieved a positive feedback from the students. These topics were chosen to help the students with their daily online projects.

F for Feminism

A workshop, dated 21st January 2021, was organised for the girls of Class 8 and focused on raising awareness about feminism and creating gender socialisation. Students had to answer certain poll questions related to the agenda.

A variety of thoughts and beliefs were discussed in the workshop such as patriarchy, gender discrimination, gender roles etc. The resource persons of Team Equa were Ms Anushka Mathur and Mr Tanmay Mathur; they interacted well with the girls and encouraged them to share and open up in a society bent on pulling them down.





कोरोना काल में कार्य करने की चुनौतियाँ

शीर्षक के अनुरूप विद्यालय के कार्यालय विभाग ने कोरोना संकट में विषम परिस्थितियों का सामना करते हुए अपना कार्य किया लेकिन विद्यालय के हित में यह आवश्यक था। यह दुष्कर था क्योंकि अकस्मात् आई हुई चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए कोई सावधान नहीं था। सभी कर्मचारियों के लिए "वर्क फ्रॉम होम" की संरचना की स्थापना कम समय में करना असंभव था किन्तु माननीय प्राचार्या की सोच असंभव होने को नकार रही थी उनकी सोच किसी भी कर्मचारी के वेतन, बालिकाओं को जारी करने वाले स्थानांतरण पत्र, अंकतालिका में परिस्थितियों के कारण विलम्ब को स्वीकार नहीं कर पा रही थी। माह मई 2020, जब प्रदेश में जन हितों को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकारी नियम सख्त थे उस समय प्रशासनिक अधिकारी द्वारा प्रत्येक कार्यालय विभाग के कर्मचारी से फ़ोन द्वारा लगातार संपर्क में रहना और कार्य की आवश्यकता नुसार कर्मचारी को विद्यालय बुलाना इसके लिए सरकारी सक्षम अधिकारी द्वारा पास जारी करवाना ताकि कर्मचारी को विद्यालय आने में किसी भी प्रकार की असुविधा का सामना नहीं करना पड़े, इसके साथ ही जो कर्मचारी घर से कार्य करने में सक्षम थे उनके लिए उनके घर तक आवश्यक संसाधन(प्रिंटर, स्टेशनरी) विद्यालय से भेजे गए। ऐसी परिस्थितियों में सभी कर्मचारियों ने जिनमे ऐसे भी थे जिनके घर में वृद्ध, छोटे बच्चे थे ने भी इसे चुनौती के रूप में स्वीकार किया इसी दौरान जब कार्यालय के कर्मचारियों ने कई परेशानियों का सामना भी किया सीबीएसई के कोरोना सावधानियों के मानदंडों के अनुरूप परीक्षाओं का आयोजन, अभिवावकों द्वारा बोर्ड रजिस्ट्रेशन, प्रमाण पत्र लेने-देने एवं शुल्क जमा करने हेतु विद्यालय में अवागमन परिणामस्वरूप कुछ कर्मचारी भी कोरोना संक्रमित हुए परन्तु ये सभी संकट विद्यार्थियों के हित से सर्वोपरि नहीं थे।

विद्यालय के विस्तृत प्रांगण को जीवंत रखने के लिए कर्मचारियों जिनमे श्री जसवंत, श्री दर्शन एवं अन्य कर्मचारियों ने अपना मत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया, पौधारोपण जिनके फलस्वरूप विद्यालय की मानो काया पलट हो गयी, रंग बिरंगे पुष्प, मौसमी फल जो मानो विद्यालय में बच्चों को आमंत्रित कर रहे हों। उपरोक्तानुसार परिस्थितियाँ एक संकट के रूप में अभी भी विद्यमान हैं लेकिन पूर्ण विश्वास है की शीघ्र ही इस महामारी से देश मुक्त होगा एवं बच्चे विद्यालय की शोभा बढ़ाएंगे जिनकी हम सभी प्रतीक्षा कर रहे हैं क्योंकि उनके आगमन से ही विद्यालय प्रांगण जीवंत होगा।



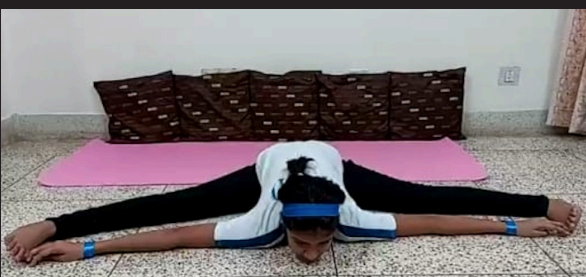
Glory Awaits

The Inter-House Sports Competition for Classes 6th to 12th was organised on 26th September 2020. The Yoga event, judged by Mr Virendra Sharma, Mr Amit Sharma and Ms Priyanshi Khuneta, witnessed the participants put their best foot forward; the judges appreciated their striking balance, and poise. The premiere event ended on a positive note with the sounds of Om and yoga mantras echoing. Ms Shefali Jain, Ms Shivangi Sarada and Ms Soni Kumari judged the Zumba competition as the teams put forth stellar performances, filled with zeal and zest. The immense preparation and dedication of the participants were generously appreciated by the judges.

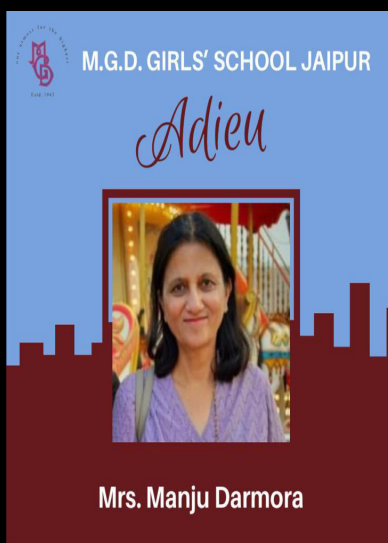
ZUMBA	POSITION	HOUSE
	1	Helen Keller
	2	Sarojini Naidu
	3	Florence Nightingale
	4	Madame Curie



YOGA	POSITION	HOUSE
	1	Helen Keller
	2	Madame Curie
	3	Sarojini Naidu & Florence Nightingale



Miss Manju Darmora, our beloved Hindi teacher, has begun another beautiful journey in her life, thus ending her teaching years at our campus. As we wish her good health and the best of wishes, we display our affection and respect for her and also acknowledge the role she has played as a teacher, the lives she has touched in her teaching years. A Google Meet was organised on August 31st, 2020 to bid her adieu. Various subject teachers showcased their love and reverence for Ma'am Manju and her impeccable teaching methods by writing and reciting heartfelt messages.

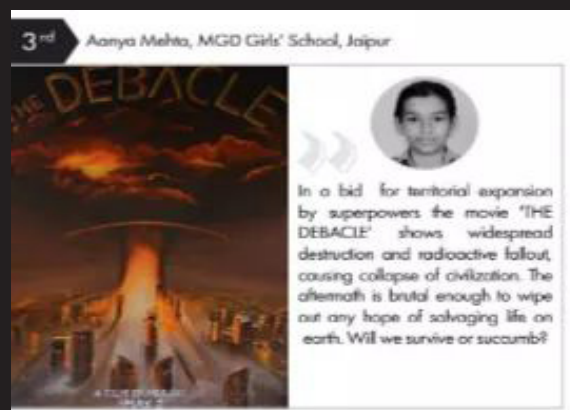


Saarang sa Safar

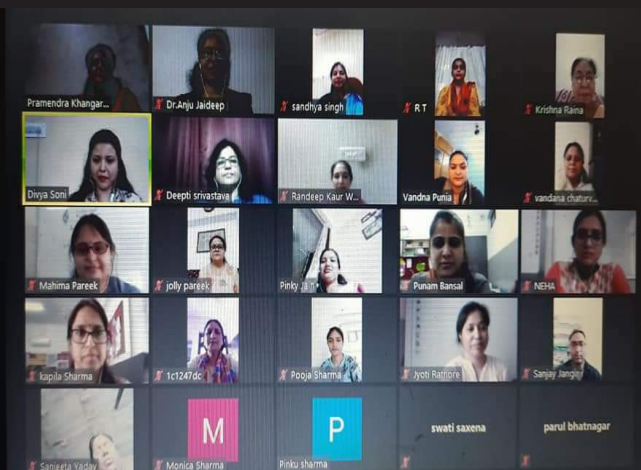
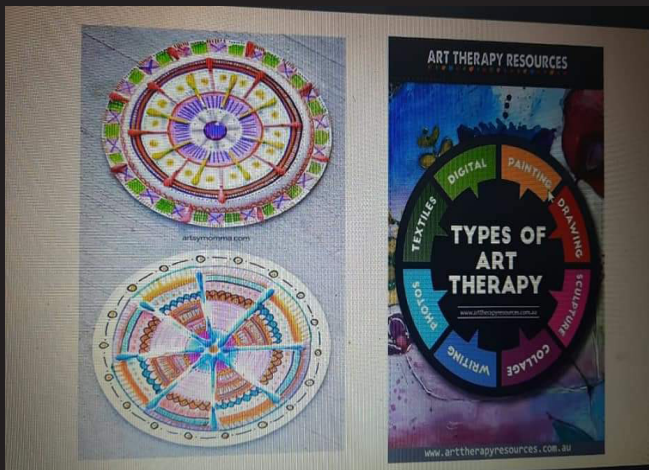
मंजु ! मंजुल आकृति तुम्हारी
 प्रकृति भी सहज-सरल है
 मित भाषी तुम, कोमलता की निर्झरणी ।
 घुल-मिल जाती सब में ऐसे
 जैसे प्रीत-पुरातन, हो चिरनूतन ।
 स्मित हास ,पदभार वहन,
 पूर्णकाम, दायित्वबोध त्रुटिहीन सदैव,
 गरिमामयी सुहृद सखी तुम,
 सदैव आप्तकाम हो
 शुभेच्छा यही है मेरी
 डॉ कल्पना सक्सेना
 विभागाध्याक्षा
 हिन्दी ,संस्कृत ,फ्रेंच विभाग.

The Visual Artifices

Assam Valley School hosted a virtual Inter-School Art and Design Fest, Srijanyaam 2020. The theme of the event was 'Unlocking Creativity in the New Normal' wherein a total of 41 schools from across the country participated. MGD took part in 8 events and secured 3 positions. Diya Kabra bagged the 2nd position in Digital Imaging while Suhani Mathur and Aanya Mehta secured the 2nd and 3rd positions in Poster Designing, respectively.



Meraki Miracle



The first virtual meeting of Hubs of Learning was organized on August 28, 2020. The agenda for the discussion was Art Integrated Learning, a new initiative by CBSE to make teaching and learning more joyful, implement learning outcomes, and enable all stakeholders to follow Competency-Based Education. The resource person for the same was Ms Pramendra Khangarot, School Coordinator, MGD Girls' School. With the help of a PPT Presentation and various activities, Ma'am Khangarot touched the various facets of integrating art in regular classroom teaching and stressed on how this integration will help in the development of life skills, creativity, communication, and collaboration skills in the students. The session was followed by a group discussion in which everyone actively participated. Dr Priyanka Choudhary, Principal, Vidya Gram International School, and Dr Sandhya Singh, Principal, Vidyasthali Public School, also shared their thoughts and made it a very informative and productive session.

Unorthodox Knowledge

The awareness session on 'The Importance of Sex Education and Sexuality in the 21st Century' was conducted on the 18th of July, 2020 on the online platform, Google Meet. Five students each from grades 9th-12th were divided into four teams as they unveiled diverse perspectives in the discussion and highlighted how sex education is not only limited to physical anatomy but also covers life skills like respect, consent, and body autonomy. They also shared stories and instances of how a lack of sex education can lead to confusion, frustration, and fear in minds of the students. Ma'am Archana appreciated the students for presenting such insightful views on the topic along with our guest speaker, Mrs Aaradhana Mahlawat, who commended the students on their confidence and provided individual feedback to every participant. Moreover, she emphasised on how speaking about such issues in school is much needed to change the mindset of the society.



Prose over Poetry

Sangam School, Bhilwara, organized Sangam Fest on August 30th and 31st. Various competitions like Turncoat Debate, Talk Show, Poetry Recitation, Debate were organized for junior and senior students. 15 schools from all over the country participated in the event. For the turncoat debate, the topic was "Alternative Medicine: Pros and Cons." A team of 6 students participated in the virtual talk show- Coffee with COVID. The students had prepared a talk show of 6 comedians who find themselves unemployed due to the COVID-19 Lockdown. The theme for the poetry recitation competition was "Dedication to Corona Warriors". In English Debate for Juniors, the topic was 'Technology intensifies Human Communication Skills.'



Literature Lovers

The 3-day Glendale E- Literature Fest, held from 26th-28th August 2020, consisted of a plethora of events. MGD participated in 5 events viz; Comic Strip Writing, Declamation, Vocabulary Challenge, Blog Writing, and Dramatic Monologue. It was a truly remarkable event as teams from various schools presented many programs. Everyone sat glued to the show as the Chief Guest guided the participants, praised the fest, and inspired them to do better. Agrima Bhatt of Class VIII D bagged the second position in Declamation.

Immortalizing the Glory

To celebrate the 77th birth anniversary of MGD, the annual Rajmata Gayatri Devi Memorial Debate was organised. The first edition of the virtual debate witnessed participation from IPSC schools across the country and a jury which graced the event from different corners of the nation. The Chief Guest for the event was Dr Charu Wali Khanna, an ex-MGDian, and the Guest of Honour for the same was Ms. Jyoti Meena, an IRS officer. The debate consisted of three rounds- Bang Words, Duo Lingo, and Team Tussle. With a little alteration, the debate had a unique format this year with Just a Minute, Bilingual Turncoat, and Parliamentary Debate. The event witnessed researched and confident speakers who put forth their views, unafraid. The prestigious Rajmata Memorial Trophy was bagged by Rajmata Krishna Kumari Girls' Public School, Jodhpur.



War of Words

MGD Girls' School participated in the 19th Dr. Amidas Goradia Online Inter-School English Debate, conducted on 27th & 28th August 2020. The preliminary rounds were conducted on 27th August, 2020 in which Class XII students Khushi Baheti, Muskan Singh, and Reya Malu, represented MGD. The competition with its vast spectrum of topics gave the participants a stage to debate on political, economic, and social concerns of the society. The moderator, Mr Parnab Mukherjee, enlightened the participants on ways to improve their debating skills by using extracts and time period. With 28 schools participating from various parts of the country, Reya Malu was declared the First Best Speaker in the Bridge Round.

The Priory of the Orange Tree

A book full of female domination? Check.

Samantha Shannon's bestselling book 'The Priory of the Orange Tree' is a fantasy novel which despite its size may seem like a lot but it's never enough. The House of Berethnet has ruled Inys for a thousand years. Still unwed, Queen Sabran the Ninth must conceive a daughter to protect her realm from destruction— but assassins are getting closer to her door. Ead Duryan is an outsider; though she has risen to the position of lady-in-waiting, she is loyal to a hidden society of mages. Ead keeps a watchful eye on Sabran, secretly protecting her with forbidden magic. Will she be able to hide her secret and past from Sabran as day by day they get closer together? Across the dark sea, Tané has trained to be a dragon rider since she was a child but is forced to make a choice that could see her life unravel. Meanwhile, the divided East and West refuse to parley, and forces of chaos are rising from their sleep. It is a majestic novel in itself which has covered all aspects in one big hefty book. It has the thrilling danger, LGBTQ+ romance, and the empowering politics enough to take over the world. (If only Donald Trump could've used his brain like the characters, who knows how the world would have ended up).

Arsheya Mathur X E



Map of Seoul

Annyeonghaseyo (bows down exceptionally)

This is from a fan who regrets joining the fandom late (2019) and not witnessing the complete 7-year journey. But even if I joined later than others, I got to know 7 perfect humans who have taken over this world with their compassionate souls. BTS has taught me many things which include random Korean words that I use almost every second of my life AIGOOOO and of course, life lessons. Even the simplest of things said by them can mean the world to me. They can provide comfort to a sad soul or bring even more joy to an already happy person. Their music has a way of touching my heart in ways normal words might not always do. Their lyrics have such deep meanings that you'd fall heads over heels for them (at least I have) and how they can simply connect with us army with one song (MOON) is magical. Another thing that comforts me the most about them is their down-to-earth nature and how they can make you cry with happiness, sadness, and their hilarious personalities all at once. When staning BTS, the hardest path I had to go through was choosing a bias (and trying to translate during their lives) and it wasn't easy at all but I have finally found the one now and Kim Seokjin has my heart forever. One thing I'd never forget is how hard it must've been for them to reach where they are right now and it is heart-breaking but them saying 'Life Goes On' is all I need. Their latest album BE is a work of art and the way it melted my heart, it is sure to peak at Billboard. The Love Myself campaign reigns my heart and other social issues raised by them (Sewol Ferry) only go on to prove how beautiful they are. 감사드립니다 (*Thank you) Bangtan Sonyendon for coming into my life and making it magical forever. Saranghae <3.

Arsheya Mathur X E

Sweater Weather.mp3

- Maula- Anuv Jain
- Tune Kaha- Prateek Kuhad
- Aaftaab- The Local Train
- Tere Jeya Hor Disda- The Yellow Diary
- Khoj- When Chai Met Toast
- Tera Woh Pyar- Momina Mustehsan, Asim Azhar (coke studio)
- Tere Bina- Zaeden
- Waqt ki Baatein- Dream Note
- Parindey- Fiddlecraft
- Jahaan Tu Chala - Jasleen Royal
- Pardo- Nishu

TEDy Talks



The Ted-Ed Club was initiated on 24 September, 2020 to give our students an international platform to present and put across their vibrant ideas, without the fear of judgement. Every meeting of the club helped students create and develop a captivating TED talk and articulate the ideas that motivate and inspire them. The members of Ted club came up with pensive ideas like- "What your grades really mean" and "The lost art of observation".

FALL FOR FALL

BrightWin

Tired of watching vanilla English shows *coughs* Riverdale *coughs*? Welcome to 2gether The Series - a quirky, Thai rom-com show full of hilarious moments and heart-warming songs. Meet our main characters - Tine (aka Tine the chic guy) and Sarawat (aka the charming prince); the former an energetic student who is insistently pursued by another college freshman. To escape the unrequited love, Tine pulls a card from the famous deck of romantic tropes*: the fake relationship. Tine enlists the help of the on-campus superstar, Sarawat, who reluctantly (or so we think) agrees. Over the course of thirteen off the wall episodes, we see the pair grow from acquaintances who yell saraleo** at each other, to something there is no text-book definition for. How long will Tine convince himself that everything is still a farce? The series aired earlier this year and rose to popularity, making it an international hit. The stars, Bright Vachirawit and Win Metawin are an inseparable duo and possible ship***. Win's antics and adorable bunny-face, despite his huge physique, make it impossible to not love him and Bright's dry humour and sarcasm make him and Win the perfect pair. 2gether (see what we did there?) they've dominated the international scene. If this wasn't enough to make you fall for them, they're also up and coming musical artists and the entire series consists of beautiful covers and original numbers by them. You'll find entire live concerts magical and we dare you to differentiate between Sarawat Tine and Bright Win. Don't forget to catch the special sequel episodes: Still 2gether! And find them on IG at @winmetawin and @bbrightvc.

*Note: Only found in fictional worlds and not real life.

**Saraleo: Thai slang for a jerk (and our new favourite word)

***This claim is disputed.

Arsheya Mathur X E and Saanvee Tewari X G

Damon Salvatore

"You know you are obsessed with me!"

Damon Salvatore started off as the annoying brother and a high functioning serial killer but eventually grew up to become a best friend, a caring brother, and a lover. Damon Salvatore's character is sketched in a way that grows slowly on you (because he's got some moves you've never seen), and once it grows there is no going back. We all love the big bad vampire who may act as the villain but has a heart of gold. Apart from his charismatic personality and striking looks, his mesmerising crystal blue eyes and witty one-liners win your heart all over again because let's be real, who doesn't like the character that gets all the best dialogues? The best part about this greek god is his dark yet pure chemistry with Elena, while he may not live up to people's expectations but he sure does transcend all levels of fun for the viewers. From 'Hello Brother' to 'I will never give up on you', promising Stefan a life of eternal misery to sacrificing their lives for each other, you end up having a soft spot for Damon; the 'good' elder brother. Damon may not be the ace at writing (unlike Stefan) but he is sure to melt your heart with his adorable nicknames. Damon is a grey character who will add colours to your world, he may not be the 'ideal' person but nonetheless, our psychological need to fix broken things draws the audience to him. If anything, we'll forever be grateful to him (no pun intended) for teaching us that, 'if you're gonna be bad, be bad for a reason..... otherwise you're not worth forgiving'. Fall for Damon because he is worth forgiving because at the end of the day he will take a bullet (read: stake) for his loved ones.

Zainah Choudhary X D

MRS CHANANDLER BONG

"I'm hopeless and awkward and desperate for love!"

Chandler Bing entered our lives as the adorably awkward, sarcastic, and goofy 25-year-old with the best responses (and, usually, the best intent) for all life situations. In the following years, he turned out to be a great friend, a better boyfriend, and the perfect husband. We've all, knowingly or unknowingly, used the Chandler approach to get out of life's uncomfortable conundrums. Just one look at that sweet, cute, and awwdorable smile of his is enough for anyone to blush, melt the negative vibes away and fall for him at the first sight. It's no surprise that in all of the situations, his expressions are more than enough for you to laugh out loud AND he has the best sense of humour; his timings, his lines are amazing! HE'S A FUNNY GUY! We need a moment to appreciate his dancing skills; even though he's a pathetic dancer, he looks so cute when he dances *heart eyes*. Chandler is never afraid to accept whatever he feels. He may be nervous but he says it anyway! From the moment he confesses his love to Monica to proposing to her and showing up for the wedding, he is husband material. Along with his goofiness, he is a sensible man and knows when to act. Hands down, the best conversation of the entire series is between him and Erica. It reflected how much he had matured during these years, from a nervous geek to a doting dad. The character development is phenomenal just like the character. He's not afraid to communicate his feelings and is perfect to suffer singledom with. You never have to worry about getting a bad picture with him by your side. No doubt, Chandler is the ideal friend.

Ridhima Magon XI B

Neil Perry

To Be Read At The Closing of Dead Poets Society Meetings, Henceforth & Forevermore.

In the woods we wandered, in it we shall try, to live a little, before the world renders us wry.

As we embrace the romance of poetry and try to imagine the beauty in the poet's muse, as we bare our faces against the strong wind and always listen to our fragile hearts, we remember Neil Perry, the brave, the gentle, who will live forever in our hearts because death don't do us apart. The soul in us reaches out to his.

Those who suck the marrow out of life and live to uphold our four pillars and those who stay alive for poetry, beauty, romance and love, are those whose hearts and souls are willing casualties in this battle.

Jahnvi Koolwal XII B

Sorry I only have a crush on people that I never have a chance with.

I either have a crush on someone for .03 seconds or 2345348 years; there is no in between.

Jai Javaan Jai Kisaan

By Vedika Patel XII H

On 27th September 2020 the Indian Government, formed by the leading Bharatiya Janata Party, passed three farm bills in the Rajya Sabha, unilaterally.

The three bills approved by the Indian Parliament were-

1. Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020

It frees the government from the responsibility to set up regulated markets or 'mandis' where, previously, the farmers sold their crops at auctions. In short, it liberates the farmers from the constraints of mandis like Apna Bazar and Rhaytu Bazar which were regulated by the Agricultural Produce Market Committees.

2. Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020

It allows the farmers to sell directly to buyers and bypass the government to enter into contracts with private companies, thus giving them the freedom to set their prices.

3. Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020

It removes edibles such as cereals, pulses, potatoes, onions, oilseeds, and oil from the list of essential commodities and thus successfully removing them from stockholding limits.

While taking a glance at these policies it may seem as if they are revolutionary reforms that may hit the economy with a boom and help yield a greater GDP for the nation, but when we carefully analyse them, not from a capitalist point, but by putting ourselves in the shoes of these farmers we come to a realisation that the uprooting of government-regulated markets not only demolishes the prospect of a completely open market for sale but also puts the farmers in a vulnerable position as they will be forced to sell to corporations, which opens floodgates to exploitation. The 'freedom to set prices' is on paper but the harsh reality entails no real MSP, implying, the mighty corporations looting the farmers to yield high profits for themselves. To make the matters worse, the bills break the glass ceiling of stockholding limits, again putting the farmers in an overwhelming position. This means that the traders can hoard the crops in their sanctity and thus manipulate supply and demand in the market. Overall, the critics claim that these bills are 'anti-farmers' and 'pro-corporation' as they will decrease the earnings and bargaining power of the farmers, weaken or end the MSP system and potentially lead to unemployment and more debt while simultaneously making it harder to take cases to court.

Just like every drastic change comes with its own set of consequences, these bills, too, paved the way for the biggest protest in the history of India. Change is never welcomed with open arms, stepping out of set patterns takes a while to set ease with and so is the case in India at the moment. The Indian Farmers have taken to the street to display their anguish and dissent over the passing of the three bills, The Dilli Chalo Andolan or the Let's go to Delhi movement has gained momentum over the past few months, wherein thousands of farmers have marched to Delhi from parts of North India, joined by civilians. The key demand of these protests is to reverse the 3 new agriculture policies that could hurt the farmers through exploitation by corporations and result in fewer earnings. They desire to keep the minimum support price for their crops, amongst other changes such as: legally define MSP, withdrawing the electricity use law, removing the fine for crop burning. Overall, they want support and representation from the government. The farmers have been a victim of tear gas; they faced barricading and water cannons amidst the name-calling and being labeled as 'anti-nationalist'. While there have been talks between the two, we have yet to settle, because while the government offered to create a committee to discuss the laws, all the farmers want is the renunciation of the same, and in the pursuit of their demands the public has effectively tilted in the support of these farmers. Be it food or shelter, the common people have left no stone unturned to lend them a hand. The dissent has turned into global propaganda with support for the farmers pouring in from across the borders.

While the centre has agreed on giving the respective state governments authority to levy cess on the private Mandis along with giving written assurance for the continuation of the existing MSP system and proposing that under the contract farming law, farmers will have the alternative to approach the court and their land will be safe as it won't come under collateral for loans, the Supreme Court has decided to suspend the implementation of the three farm bills for a year and a half meaning that implementation of the same by the centre cannot be put into force.

I would like to leave you all with a teeny tiny question i.e., if these reforms were in fact for the betterment of the farmers, and if there is such a massive protest, the biggest in the Indian history, by the farmers themselves to stand against it, what 'democratic' government doesn't budge? If indeed, they were to serve the interest of the said farmers, why is the government so adamantly imposing these reforms despite such resilience by the "beneficiaries"? Why would even NDA's long-time ally Shiromani Akali Dal turn its back on them? It is almost as if it were pushing a self-serving goal.

Depressing District 2

“The odds were not in his favour.”

It was a hard drill today. Gale supervised as the young boys practised under the sun, their cheeks turning peach. After preaching young Peacekeepers in the making for the most part of the day, he was pretty tired by the time he turned the doorknob to enter his little quarter.

He is always reminded of her when he sees the stark differences between the two districts, one that he called home and one that he is still trying to accept. He opened his boots and lay down on an armchair, his face in his hands. He knew he shouldn't be upset, Catnip was alive and healthy, and that's what mattered. In the end, she chose who she couldn't live without; the fact that she'd spent years hunting side by side with him lay forgotten under the huge pile of emotions she had for Peeta. Peeta.

Gale got up and grabbed the watering can kept at the edge of the sink. He opened the tap to fill it and stood there thinking about how much trauma she'd been through. It was enough to drive anyone mad. He closed the tap and walked out the kitchen door, ducking because of its low frame. Barefoot, he bent low over the little purple flowers, freckled yellow, a little ritual he religiously followed, everyday. The whole backyard was an indelicate shade of purple. He watered the primroses and stared at the sun setting in the distance.

Not a day passed when he didn't wonder if things would've been different if he'd stayed. But he knew, deep within, he did it for her. And it still seems maddening, but Gale knew he wouldn't take any of it back. He knew she'd choose Peeta. He knew he was making it easier for her. He knew she'd feel guilty if he'd stayed. She was happy. And it wasn't entirely true he didn't like the military district. It was better here; development in the other districts had sure been good but it was better here. He thought what would've happened if he'd agreed to run that day with her, away from everything. He thought what would've happened if he would've volunteered for Peeta. Would she love him enough then? Would she stay with him then? Would she kiss him the way she kissed Peeta? But he knew that wasn't his Catnip. She didn't know how to run away.

She had always braved everything. But he hoped she'd come to the hanging tree with him when he needed to. Because he knew he'd be tired beyond repair soon. He wished she would just stand there with him as he changed his mind. Just help him a little. It was long before he went back inside and made tea that tasted not at all like it did back in 13.

Jahnvi Koolwal
XII B

Tug of Words

The 'For not For' International debate organized by The Vijaybhoomi University was organized from 2nd to 10th October, 2020. A total of 130 participants from across the globe participated in the debate which comprised of 4 rounds. Aanchal Poddar of grade 12 from Maharani Gayatri Devi Girls' School was declared as the winner and was rewarded with a cash prize of Rs. One Lakh along with a 100% scholarship at the University.



Finding

This is a short story about discovering and finding my true identity.

Belongingness: The feeling I desperately long for.

Even if it's just for a while, I would like to belong somewhere.

Somewhere where they would accept me just as I am.

Not more, not less.

It is the first day of school and all my classmates are wondering why I have small eyes and such long hair neatly plaited with a 'Kada' in my hand and the weirdest Punjabi-Hindi accent that they had ever heard. I don't blame them, maybe they were just curious.

It's Gurupurabh tomorrow so we have a special assembly dedicated to Guru Nanak Dev Ji. The choir starts singing the Mool Mantra and all the people around me are wondering how I am able to pronounce each and every word perfectly.

I am about to enter the Gurudwara and this little boy stops me and tells me that when I go inside, I'll see the holy book of Sikhs. He started talking about the history of how the book came into being. I didn't stop him. Because how am I supposed to tell him that every word that he said, I knew all of it?

3 years go by and once again it's Gurupurabh. My teacher comes to my class and asks if anyone knows the Mool Mantra. I raised my hand. She looked at me doubtedly but asked me to sing it in the assembly. And as I stood there in front of everyone, singing a Mantra which represented who I am, despite how I looked, it gave me a sense of belonging.

I visit my mother's hometown in North-Eastern India. They say I look like them but I don't act like one of them. I speak like them but I don't belong there.

So my question is, where do I belong? To my father's hometown where I act like them but don't look like one of them or my mother's hometown where I look like them but I don't act like one of them.

And as I grew up, I always had this strong sense of wanting to belong somewhere. A place where I would look like them and act like them and simply blend in.

So one day, I thought of going up to my parents and tell them how horrible they are because they have left me nowhere.

I don't belong anywhere.

I have no place.

I am stuck in between.

I am stuck in an abyss.

But how can I say all these things when they have brought me up with every ounce of love and care they had in them? How can I call them horrible when they are nowhere near that word?

I often pretended to be a tourist in the city. The shopkeepers of Badi Chopad often mistook me for one and charged me exorbitant rates of kurtis. The look on their faces was a visual treat when I scolded them in Punjabi.

And finally, I understood I was not stuck in an abyss. I have small eyes, a 'kada' in my hand, I speak both my parents' native languages and that's my identity. That is who I am. This small place in between these two worlds is where I stand. This is where I belong.

Manya Singh

XII B

The Beautiful Sunsets of Wakanda

On an ordinary day of 28th August, we lost one of our finest-souls and actors, Chadwick Boseman to Colon cancer Stage IV and the mundane life we were living in 2020 was once again uprooted, by the grave news of his death.

A real-life hero, secretly battling through the illness, Boseman shot his best work, 'The Black Panther' movie in the Marvel Cinematic Universe and became an inspiring figure for youth all over the world. He gained international fame for playing the character of T'Challa/ The Black Panther and earned numerous awards for the same.

The movie is about Wakanda, an advanced land hidden amid the impenetrable rain forests of Africa where Vibranium, said strongest metal on earth, is mined. T'Challa, the king of Wakanda is overthrown by his cousin, N'Jobu, whose very existence had come as a surprise to him. He now struggles with the burden of mistakes and secrets of his predecessors while fending off N'Jobu, who plans on global revolution using weapons of mass destruction. Splendid acting, embedded humour, and beautiful cinematography; I'd say anybody who hasn't watched the movie is missing out.

Ananya Agarwal X E

The Silent Patient

Silence doesn't always mean emptiness. At least in the case of Alicia Berenson, it meant all the answers to her husband's death. Theo Faber, a psychotherapist and the narrator of the story, deals with a patient Alicia who turns mute after her husband's death and is considered the prime suspect. To say the least, it has an attention-grabbing plot that runs throughout the story. The book is filled with twists and turns which are thrown at you when you're least prepared and has an ending which will leave you in turmoil questioning what you just read, worthy of a classic Agatha Christie mystery. The narrative will suck you into a vortex from the very beginning, making you admire the writing skills of Alex Michaelides. As you analyse Theo's discoveries and decisions while getting a glimpse into Alicia's sacred diary, it will surely make you confused as you try to find the reason behind Alicia's silence and the real victim. With an ending which will quite literally leave you silent, The Silent Patient is a captivating psychological thriller that is hard to put down.

Palak Jain XI H

Patron and Editor in Chief

Mrs Archana S Mankotia

Staff Editors

Dr Swapna Chandra, Mrs Bhawana Kashyap

Student Editors

Jahnvi Koolwal, Vedika Patel

Members

Ananya Agarwal, Arsheya Mathur, Radhika Das, Ria Dhandia, Ridhima Magon, Saara Sharma, Zainah Choudhary