

Education Today's - India School Merit Awards



Ajmera Global School continues to soar to greater heights! We are elated to announce that we have once again secured outstanding rankings in the prestigious India School Merit Awards 2024, conducted by Education Today at the Taj, Bangalore. Amongst 400 participating schools, AGS proudly stands as:

No. 8 in Mumbai

No. 9 in Maharashtra

No. 19 in India

This remarkable recognition places us among the Top 20 International Schools (CAIE/IB) in the country.

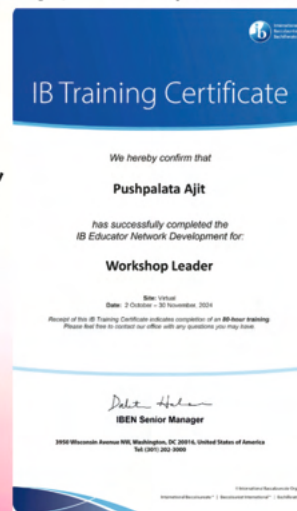
Our esteemed Director, **Ms. Prachi Ajmera**, and our beloved HOS, **Ms. Hima Doshi**, accepted this honour on behalf of our incredible AGS family. This milestone is yet another feather in our cap, celebrating the relentless pursuit of excellence by our students, staff, and community.

A big and hearty congratulations to our directors, HOS Ma'am, leaders, teachers, students and the entire AGS community.

Congratulations to Our Inspiring Leader



It gives us immense pleasure to announce that our Primary Principal and IB PYP Coordinator, **Ms Pushpalata Ajit**, has completed her rigorous training and is now an IBEN (International Baccalaureate Educator Network) and Program Leader. We are extremely proud of her. Her dedication, hard work and passion have truly paid off. We wish her all the very best as she continues to inspire us and make a lasting impact in the world of education. May she go on to further elevate the reputation of our school and continue to lead with excellence.



Annual Day Celebration 2024-25

Our Theme - As the year unfolds ...



The much-awaited Annual Day at AGS was celebrated on 20th December 2024, giving a sneak peek into a vibrant and unforgettable journey through the twelve months of the year. Our theme, 'As the year unfolds ...' was a culmination for all to witness and to reflect on the experiences, growth, and joy that each month brings. From the first chill of January to the subtle cosiness of December, we are ready to celebrate the spirit of unity, enthusiasm, and endless learning that defines our community.



As we stepped into this grand celebration, we saw the year gone by - a walk through the calendar, where each month came alive with its unique story. January kicked off with fresh beginnings, and as we moved forward, every month showcased the strength, energy, and passion that we share at AGS. Whether it's the rise of new ideas, the laughter of friendships, or the lessons learned through challenges, every moment worth cherishing was displayed for a mesmerised audience that watched enchanted as our students took centre stage to display their acting, singing, dancing and communication skills.



COME, WITNESS THE YEAR GONE BY

Come hither, come close,
Join us now, let the journey unfold,
We'll celebrate the months, one by one,
From January's start to the December sun.

Rising, shining, laughing, crying,
Through each month, we'll keep on trying,
Learning, growing, having fun,
The year ahead has just begun.

No surprises, no shocks,
At AGS, we'll always rock!
Together we'll face what's to come,
With smiles and joy, we'll all become one.

- Rashmi Dubey (Secondary Teacher)

Wait! There's more to say ...

The AGS Annual Day is not just a celebration of the past, but also a preview of the year ahead. It's a chance for us to come together as a family, to shine, to learn, to laugh, and to grow. We promise no surprises, no shocks—just pure joy, creativity, and the unwavering spirit of AGS that makes every day here special.

Let's rise, shine, smile, and make memories that will last long beyond this day. Together, we'll continue to rock the world, one month at a time.



National Excursion 2024-25

To the city of Pearls - Hyderabad!

Our National Excursion from 18th to 22nd of November, 2024, took us to Hyderabad, the city with a rich and vibrant history also known as 'The City of Pearls' as it once flourished as a global centre for trade of diamonds, emeralds as well as natural pearls. Though it continues to still be famous for these commodities, its newfound status as the cyber hub and home to the biggest film studio in the world, **Ramoji**, which is now even a theme and amusement park, was one of the highlights of this exhilarating trip.



Car Museum



Dulatabad Fort



Lumbini Park



Pochampalli



Ramoji

We were at ISRO- the space agency of India!

152 AGS students had a once in a life-time opportunity to visit ISRO which became the ultimate highlight of the excursion. The students had the opportunity to learn so much about India's space success and understood about the new developments in space science and technology. Students interacted with ISRO scientists and visited the ISRO museum, while being enthralled by the various exhibits on display.



National Excursion – The Hyderabad Experience

National Excursion 2024-25

The Hyderabad trip had various highlights all through the five days. Students visited the Golconda Fort, Hussain Sagar Lake, Lumbini Park and had a wonderful time exploring the Pochampalli weavers' factory on the last day of the excursion, where they saw handlooms being made from scratch which enraptured them while experiencing the entire process.

Students visited 'The Sudha Car Museum' and saw some of the most spectacular vintage and creative vehicles that hold a place in 'The Guinness Book of World Records' for some of the most innovative yet efficient designs.

Students had a gala time during the whole trip with hearts filled with everlasting memories and stomachs filled with the most scrumptious biryani, khubani ka meetha and other delectable foods.



Sudha Car Museum



ISRO with the Scientist



Lumbini Park



Nehru Zoological Park



Salarjung Museum



Handloom Pochampally Weavers Workshop



Ramoji Film City



Golconda Fort



Adieu!

The IGCSE Farewell on 4th January 2025 was a heart-rending event, when all the students of IGCSE were given a warm farewell by their peers from Grades 8 and 9, who put up a rocking show for them.

The boys and girls were all dressed like a million bucks, flaunting their glitzy and glamorous best. They were welcomed beautifully with lovely introductions for each one making them feel so special. The students of Grades 8 and 9 put up an amazing array of songs, dances and skits to entertain the IGCSE batch of 2024-25.

Captivating and motivating speeches were given by all leaders including HOS Ma'am, the PYP and Cambridge principals and other leaders and teachers. Emotions ran high, words made sense and a day was made with some scrumptious food served to all.

The highlight of the event was the 'lazy dance' performed by the teachers of the secondary section showcasing all feelings and emotions of students at different junctures of their time as school students.

Some beautiful memories as well as pictures were made that day ...

And for posterity ...

Here's an abridged song dedicated to our lovely students.

If you know the tune, then hum along!

I wish somebody would have told me babe
 Some day, these will be the good old days
 All the love you won't forget
 And all these **hardworking days** you won't regret
 Someday soon, your whole life's gonna change
 You'll miss the magic of these good old days.

-Song by Macklemore

P.S – We love you!





AGS KI DHAMAKEDAR DIWALI!

Diwali Dhamaka at AGS – Light, Laugh and Celebrate Together!

Kudos to AGS for embracing the true spirit of Diwali with their heartfelt 'Joy of Giving' initiative this year. The students of the secondary section came together to create beautiful Diwali décor items, infusing their creativity and festive spirit into the project. These handcrafted items were then sold, and all the proceeds were generously donated to charity. This initiative allowed the students to share the joy and celebration of Diwali with those less fortunate, making it a truly magnanimous occasion. It was a wonderful way to blend the festivities with a meaningful cause, fostering a sense of community, compassion, and social responsibility among the students.



Cyber Security Session with Dr. Rakshit Tandon!



On 30th November 2024, AGS organised an enlightening cyber security session with renowned cyber expert **Dr. Rakshit Tandon**. The session was aimed at educating students and staff about the numerous pitfalls and dangers that lurk in the vast digital world. Dr. Tandon shared a wealth of knowledge and real-life anecdotes that illustrated the various threats that can compromise both internal and external security.

The session proved to be an eye-opener, offering valuable insights into how cybercriminals operate and the measures that can be taken to protect personal and organisational data.



Cambridge A Level Computer Science Training Session

DAY 1

Ajmera Global School organized an engaging Cambridge A Level Computer Science training session, facilitated by **Ms. Pauline Hewgill**. The interactive workshop provided A Level educators with innovative strategies, enhancing their capacity to deliver dynamic, student-centered learning experiences effectively.



DAY 2

On Day 2 of the Cambridge workshop at Ajmera Global School, **Ms. Pauline Hewgill** guided participants through advanced teaching techniques for A Level Computer Science. The session covered practical applications, collaborative methods, and assessment strategies, helping educators deepen their understanding of how to create impactful and engaging lessons.



Session on Career Talk for Grade 8 and 9 students



On December 14th, 2024, **Mr. Vivek Bhatt**, a highly regarded career counselor, conducted an engaging Career Talk for the Grade 8 and 9 students of Vijaynagar Group of Schools. Through his vast experience, he explored a wide range of career options, stressing the significance of thoughtful planning, self-reflection, and aligning one's interests with career goals. His talk inspired students to take initiative and actively work towards building a successful future.



Teaching Math through multisensory experiences



AGS Math teachers attended a two-day workshop on 'Teaching Math the Multisensory way' conducted by **Ms. Masarrat Khan** of MDA on 4th and 5th October 2024 to learn about various techniques to make math learning more fun and engaging in classrooms.



Surpassing Limits and Finding Common Ground- The AGSMUN Way!

Theme for 2024 AGSMUN- Dialogue not Destruction!



AGSMUN 2024-25 was a dynamic two-day seminar and conference held on the 24th and 25th of October, 2024, on the school premises, offering students a hands-on and immersive experience in understanding the workings of the United Nations. The event aimed to broaden their perspectives on global issues while providing them with the skills to engage in meaningful debates.

Preparations for the seminar began a month before the event, with students forming committees and setting agendas for various caucuses. The Secretary General for this year's conference, our IGCSE student Ms.Saheba Kaur Modi, along with the guidance of Humanities and Commerce teacher Ms. Trupti Dave and Cambridge Principal Ms. Nisha Bhatia, worked tirelessly to organize the event.

The students underwent a fair and transparent election process to determine committee members and positions. Over the two days, participants engaged in discussions covering diverse topics such as women empowerment, the ongoing conflicts in Gaza and Chechnya, and other pressing global challenges. This provided a valuable opportunity for the students to dive into global issues and contribute their thoughts to finding solutions.

On Day 1, students dressed in formal attire, while Day 2 celebrated cultural diversity with traditional clothing. The event was a complete student-led initiative, which allowed participants to take charge of the entire process. It also served as an excellent learning experience, offering insights into the democratic process of governance. The AGSMUN 2024-25 conference not only fostered academic growth but also strengthened camaraderie among the students, making it a memorable and enriching experience.



EVENTS & COMPETITIONS

Christmas Celebration with the Tiny Tots

The children celebrated Christmas by dressing up in festive attire and enjoying art activities. The event was filled with laughter, excitement, and a sense of togetherness as they embraced the season's traditions.



Just A Minute

The children participated in a "Just a Minute" event, where they spoke on age-appropriate topics drawn from chits. They spoke confidently on the given topics. It was a fun and engaging way to improve their communication skills.



Unleashing Creativity

On 9th January 2025, the vibrant imaginations of PYP 1 to PYP 5 students came to life during the much-anticipated Art and Drawing Competition. From colorful masterpieces to expressive sketches, the young artists showcased their talents, creativity, and unique perspectives, making it a truly inspiring event!



Field Trips



Vet Hospital

Our enthusiastic young learners of Nursery explored the world of care and compassion at the vet hospital, learning about our furry friends and the importance of keeping them healthy.

Neelkanth Industries

On November 28th, 2024, PYP 2 students embarked on an exciting field trip to Neelkanth Industries as part of their inquiry of the unit of 'Simple Machines.' The trip was both informative and hands-on, giving students the opportunity to see firsthand how simple machines are applied in real-world scenarios, enhancing their learning experience.



Exploring Houses and Homes: A closer look at houses around us!



K1 children went for a field trip to observe the houses in the nearby vicinity. They had a great learning experience observing the structure of a house, making their learning journey both fun and educational.

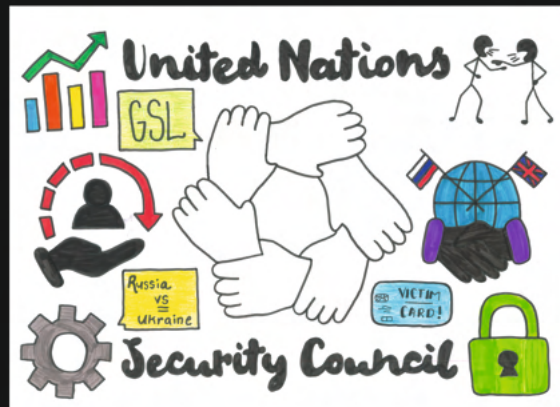


Nature Beckons- Nature Trail at Shilonda!

Students of the Secondary Section from Grades 6 to 10 went to Shilonda Nature Trail in Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivali along with the science teachers on 19th October 2024. **This trail takes you to a small water body, through an enchanting forest full of exotic butterflies and insects.** Our students had a fun and enriching experience learning all about the flora and fauna that surround our city and gained insights into a thriving ecosystem around them.



MUN Doodles



Special Assembly on Curiosity

A special assembly with the theme 'Curiosity' was conducted on 27th November 2024 by our PYP 5 students, targeting the inquisitiveness of human minds, and giving students a reminder that every new invention or discovery is the result of a curious mind. It was a perfect blend of fun activities, skits, music and puzzles.



Special Assembly on Design for Change

A special assembly was held on 21st October 2024, where students presented their innovative "Design for Change" ideas. This initiative, organized by the school, aimed to empower students to step forward and develop creative solutions that could bring about positive transformations in our community. Through thoughtful, sustainable, and impactful ideas, students showcased their passion for creating meaningful change. The event highlighted the power of youth-driven innovation, with each presentation offering an inspiring glimpse into the potential for a better, more conscientious future.



Pajama Party

The introduction of the letter P was made exciting with a Pajama Party. Nursery students thoroughly enjoyed this fun-filled activity alongside their new letter P friends.



Fostering Creativity: PYP 4 Special Assembly

PYP 4 students showcased their talent and imagination through a vibrant and thought-provoking special assembly on creativity, held on November 11th, 2024. Highlighting creativity as a vital 21st-century skill, the students captivated the audience with engaging performances, insightful reflections, and creative displays. Their presentation emphasized the role of creativity in driving innovation and solving problems in today's world, leaving everyone inspired to think outside the box and explore their creative potential!



Special Assembly - Honesty

EYP children learned about honesty through a special assembly, where they watched a story highlighting the importance of speaking the truth. They also sang a song about honesty and shared their thoughts on why honesty is important.



Special Assembly- Makar Sankranti

K2 students welcomed the harvest season by conducting a special assembly. The participants were dressed according to the festive attire. They were excited to share the importance of the harvest festivals celebrated all over India.



Guest Speaker

A Motivational Session with Dr. Mehul Vora

PYP 5 students had the opportunity to attend an enlightening guest speaker session with **Dr. Mehul Vora** on December 13th, 2024. Dr. Vora shared practical strategies for analyzing assessment answer sheets, helping students understand how to reflect on their performance, identify areas for growth, and use assessments as tools for self-improvement. His motivational insights inspired the students to embrace challenges as opportunities and foster a mindset of continuous learning and growth.



Health and Nutrition session

The Health and Nutrition session, in collaboration with Ayaksha and led by **Ms. Kamna Desai**, a clinical dietician, sports nutritionist, and certified diabetes educator, provided AGS parents with valuable insights. The impactful session received immense appreciation for its practical approach to improving children's dietary habits.



Guest Speaker

Museum On Wheels

On November 26th, 2024, PYP 4 students had the unique opportunity to learn from archaeologists at the Chatrapathi Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sanghralaya. The session provided valuable insights into the fascinating world of the Indus Valley Civilization. Students were mesmerized by the ancient artifacts on display, sparking their curiosity and deepening their understanding of the civilization's rich history and culture.



A Journey Through Generations

PYP 5 students were captivated by a heartfelt guest speaker session with **Dr. Vaibhav Kumar Shah**, held on December 24th, 2024. Dr. Shah shared the inspiring story of his grandfather's migration, offering a glimpse into the challenges, resilience, and significance of such journeys. Through this narrative, students gained a deeper appreciation of history, family heritage, and the experiences that shape individual lives across generations.





Mysteries of the Majestic Owl

- Panth Panchal (Grade 8)

1. Owls Can Rotate Their Heads 270 Degrees

Unlike humans, owls have special adaptations in their necks that allow them to turn their heads nearly all the way around without damaging their blood vessels or cutting off circulation. Imagine having that superpower!

2. Silent Flyers of the Night

Owls have serrated edges on their feathers that muffle the sound of air as they fly, making their flight virtually silent. This gives them a stealth advantage while hunting in the dark.

3. Their Eyes Are Tubes, Not Balls

An owl's eyes are fixed in place like telescopes, which helps them see far distances clearly but means they have to move their entire head to look around.

4. They Swallow Their Prey Whole

Owls don't bother chewing. Instead, they swallow their prey whole and later regurgitate the indigestible parts, like fur and bones, in the form of pellets. These pellets are often studied by scientists!

5. Not All Owls Hoot

While we associate owls with their iconic "hoot," many species have unique calls. For example, the barn owl screeches, the barred owl sounds like it's saying, "Who cooks for you?" and some owls even bark!

6. The Tiny Elf Owl Is as Light as a Golf Ball

Measuring just 5 inches tall and weighing about 1.5 ounces, the elf owl is the smallest owl in the world. It might be tiny, but it's feisty when defending itself.

7. Owls Have Asymmetrical Ears

Their ears are positioned at different heights on their heads, helping them pinpoint the exact location of prey based on sound. This makes them excellent hunters, even in total darkness.

8. Owls Have Three Eyelids

Each eyelid serves a purpose: one for blinking, one for sleeping, and one for keeping their eyes clean and healthy.

9. Some Owls Can Swim

If an owl accidentally falls into water, it can use its wings to paddle to safety. However, swimming isn't their forte, and they won't take a dip voluntarily.

10. Ancient Symbols of Wisdom and Mystery

Owls have been revered in various cultures for centuries, symbolizing wisdom, knowledge, and even death. In Greek mythology, they were associated with Athena, the goddess of wisdom.

Owls are more than just creatures of the night—they're silent hunters, clever survivors, and symbols of mystique. Who wouldn't be fascinated by these winged wonders?

Mishika Shah, a compassionate Grade 4 student from the PYP, has once again demonstrated her selflessness by donating her beautiful hair to cancer patients through Madat Trust. This marks the second time Mishika has taken this heartfelt initiative, driven by her desire to bring happiness to those in need. Her thoughtful act serves as an inspiring example of kindness and generosity.

Spreading Joy through Kindness



From UCL to Global Icons: Coldplay

What happens when university friends start jamming in their spare time? For Coldplay, it turned into global stardom. Formed in London in 1996, this British rock band—featuring Chris Martin (vocals), Jonny Buckland (guitar), Guy Berryman (bass), Will Champion (drums), and creative director Phil Harvey—began their journey at University College London under quirky names like Pectoralz and Starfish. Thankfully, they switched to Coldplay before becoming household names.

Their 2000 debut album, *Parachutes*, propelled them to fame with the timeless hit “Yellow.” It earned them a Brit Award, a Grammy, and a Mercury Prize nomination, setting the tone for their meteoric rise. *A Rush of Blood to the Head* (2002) followed, delivering classics like “The Scientist” and “Clocks,” the latter winning a Grammy for Record of the Year. By 2008,

Coldplay had cemented their legacy with *Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends*. Its title track became the first-ever song by a British band to top charts in both the UK and US in the 21st century, while the album itself topped charts in over 30 countries.

Coldplay constantly reinvents their sound. From the vibrant pop of *Mylo Xyloto* to the introspective *Ghost Stories*, the experimental *Everyday Life*, and the cosmic *Music of the Spheres*, their music spans electronica, funk, jazz fusion, and beyond. Their live shows, described as “euphoric,” turn stadiums into dazzling spectacles of confetti and light.

With over 100 million albums sold, Coldplay is the most successful band of the 21st century. They’ve dominated the Brit Awards, achieved the sixth-highest-grossing tour ever, and landed *A Rush of Blood to the Head* on the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame’s “200 Definitive Albums” list. Even their breakout hit “Yellow” sits in the Hall’s “Songs That Shaped Rock and Roll” exhibit.

Love them or not, Coldplay’s influence is undeniable. From their humble Starfish days to becoming musical titans, their journey is a melody the world will never forget.

-Shachi Desai & Swaraa Rane (Grade 7A)



Markey & Melanie

- Tanishka Bhatia & Samicah Ebenezer
(Gr. 8)



Songs & Poems

The 12-Month Rap

Yo, January's here, gotta show respect,
Salute to the country, keepin' it in check.
February vibes, self-love's the plan,
Taking care of yourself, yeah, that's the jam.

March rolls in, got colors to play,
Throwin' that paint, we're brightenin' the day.
April's all study, exams in sight,
Books open, heads down, workin' all night.

May hits up, it's time to chill,
Breakin' from the grind, let the mind be still.
June restarts, new year, new mind,
School's back in session, ready to grind.

July's got rain, drippin' down the lane,
Streets all wet, feelin' that change.
August heat, rockin' saffron style,
Red flames high, burnin' bright for miles.

September's here, teachers we praise,
Showin' respect in so many ways.
October comes, Dr. Kalam we hail,
Visionary genius, never to fail.

November's for kids, every girl, every boy,
Celebratin' youth, bringin' the joy.
December wraps it up, the last month shines,
Joy and giving, feelin' so fine.

So that's the year, each month with a vibe,
From start to end, that's how we ride.

- Aarav Kulkarni (PYP 5A)

Citizenship Poem

Everyone here needs freedom
and dreams
Each perspective needs to be counted by
all means

Hands should be held together tight
For then will we flourish and shine bright

Put behind our diversity
We'll stand for what is right, you and me
We shall always rise together
If we cooperate forever

With each challenge, we will stay strong
Side by side, we can never be wrong
It doesn't matter who's soil it is
We'll embrace it all, whether hers or his

Citizenship isn't about emotion
Or forms, history or diversion
It is all about unity
Living together peacefully

So that is Citizenship, thorough
and through
There is always an identity for you!
For citizenship is not just a name
It's the flame of unity
that lights our aim!

- Heti Gandhi (Grade 6)

My FOREVER Friends

Verse 1:
We've been
through every season,
every shade of blue,
From sunny days
to the darkest hue.
You've always been
the one I trust,
Oh you, I find my
strength, my must.

Chorus:
You're the one
who knows my story,
Every high, every low,
every little glory.
No matter where
the road may bend,
You're my forever,
my best friend.

Verse 2:
We've laughed
until we cried,
stayed up 'til the dawn,
Every secret shared,
every line drawn.
You're the calm in
every storm I face,
The one who holds
me in a safe place.

- Samicah Ebenezer
(Grade 8)

Rap Song on Fractions

Yo! Fractions are cool,
let's get them right
Proper on top,
improper takes flight
Mix it up, don't break a sweat
Equivalent is the same,
no need to fret

Like or unlike,
fractions on my mind
Breaking them down,
I'm one of a kind
Improper, mixed, or proper too
Fractions in the class,
I know what to do.

- Suparna Gaikwad (PYP4)

The Light of Compassion

If kindness soothed each weary cry,
And love embraced the aching soul,
No tear would fall, no dream would die-
The world would mend and become whole.

If hands reached out to calm despair,
To lift the fallen, light the way,
We'd find a warmth still burning there,
In every heart to guide the day.

So, may we strive, with hearts unbound,
To weave a world of endless grace,
Where every voice, each joy profound,
Will shape a brighter, better place.

- Tanishka Gupta (Grade 7B)

ARTICLES

What is the Guinness Book of World Records?



The **Guinness World Records** is a globally recognized brand that celebrates extraordinary achievements and feats across a wide range of categories. It was conceived in 1954 when Sir Hugh Beaver, the managing director of Guinness Brewery, was involved in a debate about the fastest game bird. Unable to find an answer in any reference book, he realized the need for an authoritative source to settle such disputes. He partnered with Norris and Ross McWhirter, two journalists with a passion for research, and together they compiled the first edition of the book, which was published in 1955. It quickly became a best-seller and laid the foundation for what would become one of the most famous brands in the world.

Today, **Guinness World Records** operates internationally, with offices in cities such as London, New York, Beijing, Tokyo, and Dubai, and ambassadors and adjudicators worldwide. The mission of the brand has expanded beyond the book to include TV shows, social media platforms, and live events, offering people everywhere the chance to witness and attempt record-breaking feats. Whether achieved individually or as part of a team, Guinness World Records continues to inspire people to reach beyond their limits, showcasing the power of human potential and creativity.

- Shanaaia Gadhia (Grade 9)

Sunita Lyn Williams (born September 19, 1965) is an Indian-American astronaut and United States Navy officer renowned for her contributions to space exploration. She holds records for the longest single spaceflight by a woman (195 days) and the most spacewalks by a woman (seven). Williams has participated in multiple missions aboard the International Space Station (ISS), serving as both a flight engineer and a commander.

Williams graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1987 and later earned a Master's degree in Engineering Management from Florida Institute of Technology. She became an astronaut in 1998, transitioning from a naval career as a helicopter pilot. Her first space mission was in 2006, aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery, as part of Expeditions 14 and 15.

As of January 2025, Sunita Williams remains aboard the ISS due to technical challenges with Boeing's Starliner spacecraft. Originally launched on June 5, 2024, for an eight-day mission, her return has been delayed due to thruster failures that rendered the spacecraft unsafe. NASA has scheduled her return for no earlier than March 2025, pending the readiness of a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft.

During her extended mission, Williams continues to perform scientific research and station maintenance. She celebrated the New Year in orbit, experiencing 16 sunrises and sunsets each day. Her prolonged mission highlights the resilience required in human spaceflight and her significant contributions to advancing space exploration.

Dr. Manmohan Singh: A Journey Ends but His Legacy Lives On



India bid a solemn farewell to its former Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, who passed away on November 29, 2024. A visionary leader and a statesman of unparalleled integrity, he was honoured with a full state funeral, reflecting the nation's deep gratitude for his lifelong dedication to public service and his monumental contributions to India's progress.

Dr. Manmohan Singh, a renowned economist, served as India's Prime Minister from 2004 to 2014 and played a pivotal role in India's economic liberalisation during the 1990s as the country's Finance Minister.

Under his leadership, India experienced significant economic growth and gained global recognition. His tenure was marked by his calm and composed leadership, navigating the country through both domestic and international challenges. Known for his honesty, humility, and scholarly approach to governance, Singh earned respect across political and social spheres.

The state funeral was a fitting tribute to his contributions, with numerous political leaders, dignitaries, and citizens joining in paying homage to his legacy. His passing on **November 29, 2024** marked a significant moment in India's political history, and he is remembered as one of the most influential leaders of his generation.

- Parthiv Merchant (Grade 9)

Sunita Williams: Trapped, But Unfazed

- Aalya Sherwa (Grade 8)



Gukesh Dommaraju Clinches Chess Championship



Indian Grandmaster Gukesh Dommaraju has made history by becoming the **FIDE World Chess Champion** on December 12, 2024, after defeating reigning champion GM Ding Liren in a stunning victory. At just 18 years and six months old, Gukesh shattered the previous record set by GM Garry Kasparov, who was 22 years and seven months old when

he claimed the title in 1985, making Gukesh the **youngest undisputed World Chess Champion** in history.

Gukesh's rise to the pinnacle of chess began in April 2024, when he secured the challenger spot by winning the prestigious **FIDE Candidates Tournament** with a score of 9/14, becoming the **youngest-ever winner** of the tournament. His victory marked an exceptional milestone in the world of chess, further cementing his status as a chess prodigy.

Gukesh earned the Grandmaster (GM) title at just **12 years, 7 months, and 17 days**, narrowly missing the record held by GM Sergey Karjakin by just 17 days. In **July 2022**, he crossed a major milestone by achieving a live rating of **2700**, becoming the fourth-youngest player in history to reach this level. By **September 2023**, Gukesh was ranked **eighth in the world**, and notably, he surpassed GM Viswanathan Anand to become **India's top-rated player**, ending Anand's 37-year reign.

- Nipun Kasliwal (Grade 8)

Jokes

- Dhairya Patel (PYP 4)

1. Why is university built on a mountain?
2. Why do ghosts love elevators?
3. Why can't cheetahs play hide and seek?

My Pet



I have a pet dog. His name is **Rocky**. Rocky is a small brown dog with a wagging tail. He likes to play and go for a walk. He also likes to cuddle with me on the couch. Rocky is my best friend.

Fun facts on wolves

- Wolves can run up to 30 miles per hour.
- They typically live in packs that can range from 2 to over 15 members, with an average of around 6 to 8.
- The alpha wolf does not "light the traitor's nose." Instead, the pack's hierarchy is established through social behaviours, and conflicts are usually resolved without violence.
- Wolves cannot be domesticated like dogs, as they have strong instincts and social structures that differ significantly from those of domestic dogs.

- Abhiraj Singh (PYP2)

Book Review: *Powerless by Lauren Roberts*

Powerless by Lauren Roberts is a hard-to-put-down romantasy novel {romance and fantasy} that keeps you on the edge of your seat and tempts you to read ahead.

Set in the kingdom of Ilya, the Elites gifted with the well-known Plague reside. The book begins with the introduction of the protagonist, Paedyn Gray, an Ordinary masquerading as a Psychic. When she rescues Prince Kai Azer, a merciless royal, she finds herself in a sticky situation-thrown into the deadly Purging Trials against her will. These trials are a spectacle for the people of Ilya, showcasing some of the most powerful individuals and their abilities-except for Paedyn, who must rely on her wit and strength to survive.

The enemies-to-lovers trope (one of my favourites) between Paedyn and Kai is the aspect that kept me most invested. Their quick banter, flirting, and slow-burn tension are captivating. Parts of the book made me blush and kick my feet; some left me dying of laughter, others made me want to slam my head into a wall, but some parts shattered me completely.

Paedyn is a resilient protagonist, driven by her father's legacy to challenge the system. Kai, on the other hand, struggles between his loyalty to the king (his father) and his emerging feelings for the woman he's supposed to destroy. Their chemistry is absolutely electric, even if it occasionally overshadows other aspects of the narrative.

In my words: Powerless feels like a cup of scorching hot black coffee on a dark, cold morning-a soothing sting to relax your nerves with a bittersweet touch. Powerless feels like a forest at the dead of night-dangerous but peaceful. Powerless feels like a tad too much wine at a royal ball-the ceaseless dance between recklessness and elegance.

Although Powerless has its flaws, it is an emotional rollercoaster that will leave readers pleading for the sequel. The narrative has similarities to The Hunger Games; some say Powerless is The Hunger Games with a bit (a lot, actually) of fantasy. Roberts plays with familiar tropes, heartfelt scenes, and poetic writing. Personally, I feel there should have been more elaboration on the Purging Trials.

I definitely recommend this novel to readers who enjoy romance and those who love sinking their teeth into fantasy. This book absolutely changed my life-even more so with the second part (Reckless). The entire fandom is practically beaming with excitement as Fearless, the last book of the trilogy, brews eagerly on the horizon.

- Orra Minda (Grade 7B)



Ingredients

- Fresh cream(250ml)
- Strawberries (as per how many people are being served)
- Sugar
- Vanilla essence

Recipe

1. Cut up each strawberry into 6 pieces and keep aside.
2. Add half of the cream into a bowl (you can add more or less according to how many people you are serving).
3. Add 2 teaspoons of sugar (more if you want it sweeter) and add 2 or 3 drops of vanilla essence.
4. Wisk it and add the strawberries.
5. Let cool in the fridge for 30 to 45 minutes.
6. Serve cold.

- Aniksha Kunder (PYP 5B)

Thrills and Chills

- Saheba Modi (IGCSE)

Not a soul was to be seen. The humongous rides stood there, on the deserted land, waiting in anticipation of the cheer and liveliness that rush through when the gates are opened. The rides were deprived of their usual accessories, restless to be decorated with their usual bright and colourful lights.

The Ferris wheel cast a haunting shadow across the park. The roller coasters, once alive with screams and laughter, loomed like silent giants against the sky.

The usual sound of chattering was replaced by an eerie silence. The once-bustling pathways were now empty. The absence of human voices created an unsettling quiet. The silence did not fit in with the venue at all. A place known for smiles that reached till the ear, kids jumping up and down, and the screams and shouts of people was all gone. The vibrant lights were dimmed, not matching the expected joy and excitement of a theme park.

One could almost sense the plethora of stories written in this particular theme park. It filled me with nostalgia, and I zoned out, reaching right back into my childhood. A different kind of warmth engulfed me from head to toe—one that could only be felt here and nowhere else. Blood rushed through me, the adrenaline kicking in as if I were reliving the moment again. The stark contrast in the scenarios astonished me. The theme park, when closed, evoked a sense of longing and mystery, a place that held memories of laughter and ecstasy, now eagerly waiting for the dawn to bring life back to its enchanting realm.

As the sun made its entrance by escaping the curtain of clouds and the gateway to happiness was opened, the theme park burst with life. The air was thick with the aroma of cotton candy and the salty smell of popcorn popping in large vats. Children, bug-eyed and mouths wide open, brimmed with excitement, pulling their parents' shirts to direct them to the games they wanted to play. The laughter, screams, and hollers all felt like a warm hug from your grandmother. The whimsical tunes played in the background, but were softened by the chit-chat and hustle and bustle of the visitors.

The inviting aroma of the freshly made food took control over my body, and I automatically ended up near the food stalls. The tantalizing array of sweet and fried treats could make anyone forget about their diet. The park was a feast for the senses as well, where every step was a celebration of joy. The park was alive and thriving. Performers and artists dressed up in attractive and vibrant colors entertained with music and dance. The sound of coins clinking could be heard, indicating families trying their luck at the carnival games, most of them trying to win an oversized and adorable stuffed toy for their loved ones. The whole day went by in the blink of an eye.

As the sun started to set, people began to leave, all the emotions still lingering like a warm embrace, leaving an indelible mark. The theme park, with its infectious laughter, vibrant colors, and heart-pounding rides, always had a way of vanishing stress and replacing it with joy. The park may be closing again, but the memories created are eternal and everlasting. Every day is a new adventure waiting to be revealed and told to the world.

Riddles

1. I am not alive, but I can grow. I don't have lungs, but I need air. I don't have a mouth, but water kills me. What am I?
2. What has roots as nobody sees,
Is taller than trees,
Up, up it goes,
And yet it never grows?
3. I have no wings, but I can fly. I have no eyes, but I will cry. What am I?
4. I'm always running, but I never move. What am I?
5. I am always around you but often forgotten. I am pure and necessary for life. What am I?
6. I'm an odd number. Take away one letter, and I become even. What am I?
7. I'm not a bird, but I can fly through the sky. I rest on the ground, but I'm not alive. What am I?
8. I can be cracked, made, told, and played. What am I?
9. What can be caught but never thrown?
10. What begins with T, ends with T, and has T in it?

- Anabia (Grade 7)

MATH TRIVIA

- The equals sign (=) was invented in 1557 by Welsh mathematician Robert Recorde. The word "equal" comes from the Latin word *aequalis*, which means "uniform", "identical", or "equal".
- The word "Mathematics" comes from the Greek word "máthema," which means "knowledge, study, or learning."
- The division symbol (\div) is called an obelus. The form of the obelus as a horizontal line with a dot above and a dot below, \div , was first used as a symbol for division by the Swiss mathematician Johann Rahn in his book *Teutsche Algebra* in 1659. This gave rise to the modern mathematical symbol \div , used in English-speaking countries as a division sign.
- The division slash (/) is called the virgule. The virgule is a punctuation mark that is used for many purposes, including division, fractions, and separating lines. The word "virgule" comes from the Latin word *virga*, which means "rod" or "branch".
- The Fibonacci sequence
The Fibonacci sequence is a series of numbers where each number is the sum of the two numbers that come before it. For example, 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, and so on.
The seeds in a sunflower are arranged in clockwise and counterclockwise spirals. The number of spirals in each direction is always a consecutive pair of numbers in the Fibonacci sequence.
The angle between each seed in a sunflower head is close to the golden angle, which is about 137.5° . The golden angle comes from the golden ratio, which is approximately 1.618.
The arrangement of seeds in a sunflower optimizes space and allows for maximum sunlight exposure.
The Fibonacci sequence is named after Leonardo Pisano, also known as Fibonacci, an Italian mathematician.
The Fibonacci sequence is important because it's found in nature, and it's used in many fields, including science, technology, and finance.

- Hridyansh Magniram (Grade 7)

Rebus Puzzles

EYE
EYE



ONCE



- Mahi Sheth (Grade 8)

Idiom Podium

1. "Break the ice"

Origin: This phrase originates from the practice of ice-breaking ships clearing paths through frozen waters for other vessels. It later became a metaphor for starting conversation or removing tension in social settings.

2. "Bite the bullet"

Origin: In the 19th century, soldiers who lacked access to anaesthesia during surgeries were given bullets to bite on to cope with the pain. It now means to face a difficult situation bravely.

3. "Spill the beans"

Origin: In ancient Greece, voters would place coloured beans in a jar to cast their votes anonymously. White beans represented a "yes" vote, while dark-coloured beans represented a "no" vote. If someone accidentally spilled the beans, it revealed the results prematurely. Today, it means to disclose a secret.

- Swanit Chavan (Grade 7B)

Solution for
Issue 3

Jokes

- Dhairya Patel (PYP 4)

1. Because it is a place of higher learning.
2. Because they lift their spirits.
3. Because they are always spotted.



Yuvika Bokadiya - Gr. 3



Samicah Ebenezer - Gr. 8



Tiara Pilankar - Gr. 6



Saisha Jain - Gr.7



Arohi Rao - K2

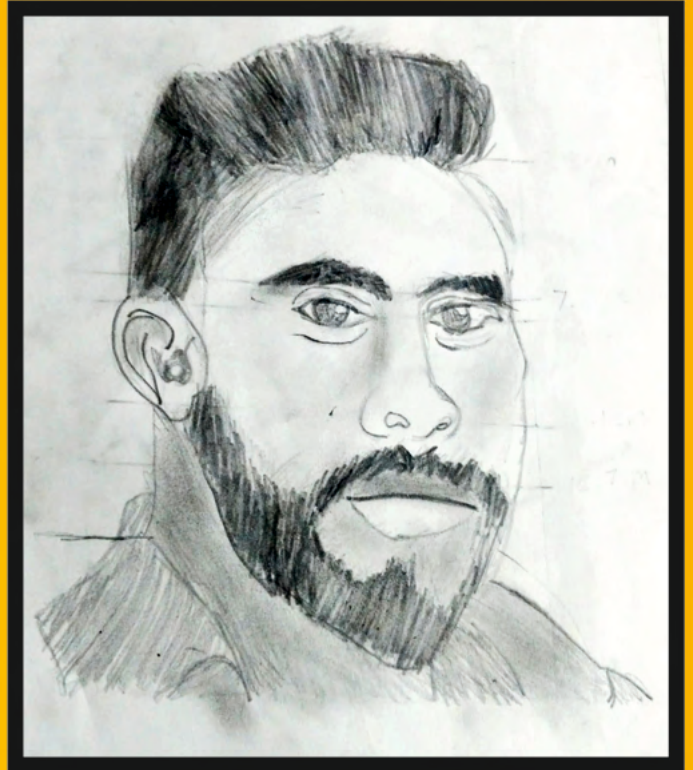
Solution for Issue 3

Rebus Puzzles

- 1- Eyeshadow 3- Once upon a time
- 2- Stepfather - Mahi (Grade 8)



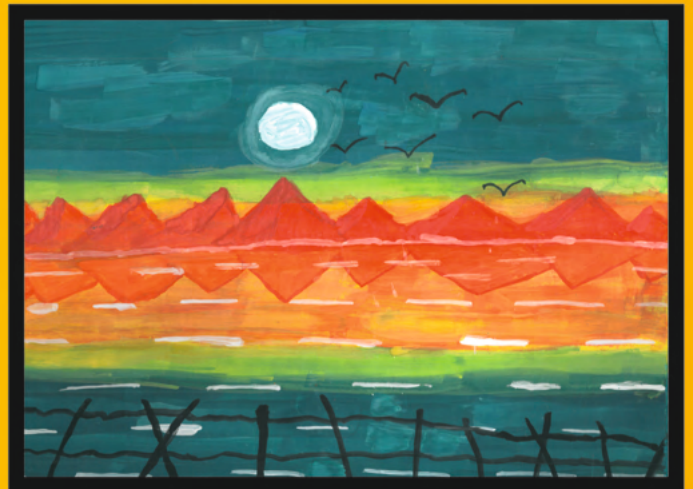
Swara Surve - Gr. 8



Dhiaan Mistry - PYP 5B



Janvi Sheth - PYP 4



Jash Dalal - Grade 6A



Aashvi Sanghavi - PYP 5B

Solution for Issue 3

Riddles

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Fire | 6. Seven |
| 2. A mountain | 7. A kite |
| 3. A cloud | 8. A joke |
| 4. A river | 9. A cold |
| 5. Air | 10. A teapot |

- Anabia (Grade 7)



Mst. Yug Shah

from Grade 8 for securing the first position in 2x2x2 Rubik Cube event and third position in 3x3x3 Blind Folded Rubik Cube event at i.cube 2024 held at Dhirubhai Ambani Information and Communication Technology at Gandhinagar and also winning accolades in Mental Math World Cup 2024 held by Live Math Competition and League (online)

Mst. Jiaan Jain

for winning Bronze (3 lap) in Skating at 34th Maharashtra State Roller Skating Championship 2024 organised by RSFI & Gold Medal in both short & long race in the 12th RGOI Maharashtra State Roller Skating Championship 2024-25



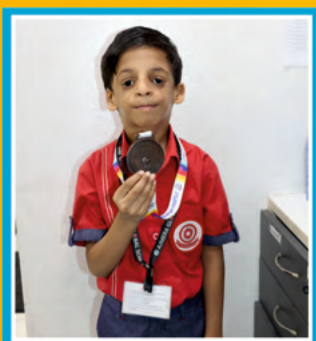
Ms. Ashira Tharthare of Grade 7 for securing the second position in Chess Competition at Prabodhan Krida Mahotsav.



Ms. Yanvi Golwala PYP 1 for winning gold medal in skating, 400m Quads (U-7, Girls Category) at SFA Championship.



Ms. Smahi Jain from EYP-K2 for winning silver medal in Karate-Kumite & Bronze medal in Karate- Kata at Shotokan Karate Championship.



Mst. Shubham Chavan of PYP1 for securing the 3rd position in District Level Skating Competition.



Mst. Pavak Chitania was the runner up of Championship series of 7 days in the category of U16.

We are very proud of each of our young achievers!

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