

# **NEWS LETTER MAY-JULY 2020**



***LIFE IS FLUID, LIKE WATER..... .. IT FINDS ITS WAY AROUND ALL OBSTACLES. AND WE FOUND OUR WAY TO OPEN WHAT WAS SHUT, LEARNT TO REBUILD WHAT WAS BROKEN- WITH NEW INTERPRETATION, WITH NEW MEANINGS...***

*The spirited late evening of December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 was nowhere unlike its predecessors. The fireworks, parties, friends and guests, none betrayed the slightest streak of the rumbling pandemic. The invisible monster wreaked havoc and locking us down took charge of our lives. Amid the pervasive pessimism and uncertainty, education too faced unprecedented challenges.*

*But, dear readers, life is fluid, like water it finds its way around all obstacles. And we found our way to open what was shut, learnt to rebuild what was broken - with new interpretation, with new meanings. So after an interlude of providing children once in a lifetime pleasure of skipping exams and of having extended vacation, the new order, the new normalcy has prevailed.*

*The school opened virtually and since then e- learning has been going on smoothly and effectively. However, this seamless takeover demanded a completely new mind-set, tremendous preparation and a focused effort. The management, principals, coordinators and teachers spent their entire summer vacation to become adept in ICT through numerous hours of webinars, CBSE workshops, and practice sessions, self-training, modifying lesson plans, gathering resources and transforming the very approach of learning process to suit the new environment.*

*Starting with Zoom classrooms before summer vacation for grade 10 and 12, educators shifted to Microsoft Teams for grades 1-12 which provided an efficacious platform. We also successfully conducted our first ever online entrance test for grade 3 to 11.*

*Dear readers, a warm welcome to our first edition of newsletter in the session 2020-21. We extend our heartiest welcome to our new students who have joined the NPS family.*

## **Achievements**

### **Results of AISSCE and AISSE 2020**

No matter what the challenges are, our students of Grade 12 and 10 have proved once again that perseverance, diligence and belief in self always pay off. Here are the splendid results.

### **Grade 12 (AISSCE 2020)**

#### **School Toppers**

- **First position shared by Abhinav S Menon and Raunak Prasant with 97.6%**



- **Second position- Ishita Bharadwaj with 97.2% and Third position- Aryaman Lath with 97.0%**



**Ishita Bharadwaj**



**Aryaman Lath**

#### **Subject Toppers**

- **English-** Abhinav S Menon, Anushka P Nair, Prahlad Anand, Sumona Sood, Archita Agrawal and Vidhi Ashish Kothari with 98 %
- **Mathematics-** Raunak Prasant, Ishita Bharadwaj, Aryaman Lath with 100%
- **Physics-** Pranav Nandan Parigi with 99%
- **Chemistry-** Raunak Prasant, Advait Suresh with 96%
- **Biology-** Janhavi Prasanna Oke, Nithya Manickavasagam with 99%
- **Economics-** Archita Agrawal with 96%
- **Comp. Science-** Abhinav S Menon with 99%

## Subject Toppers



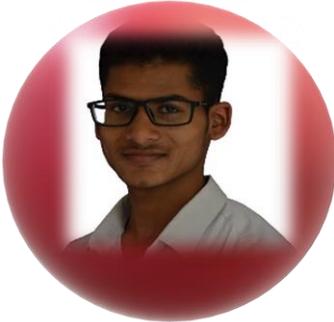
**Computer Science - Abhinav S Menon**



**Economics- Archita Agrawal**



**Physics -Pranav Nandan Parigi**



**Mathematics- Raunak Prasant, Ishita Bharadwaj, Aryaman Lath**



**Chemistry- Raunak Prasant , Advait Suresh**



**Biology- Janhavi Prasanna Oke, Nithya Manickavasagam**



**English-** Abhinav S Menon, Anushka P Nair, Prahlad Anand, Sumona Sood, Archita Agrawal and Vidhi Ashish Kothari

## **Grade 10-(AISSE 2020)**

### **School Toppers**

- **First position - Nikita Kiran with 99.2%**



**First Position**

**Nikita Kiran with 99.2%**

- **Second position - Adithi Harishankar with 97.8% and Third position - Pradyun Goel with 97.6%**



### **Second Position**

Adithi Harishankar with 97.8%



### **Third Position**

Pradyun Goel with 97.6%

## **Subject Toppers**

**English - Varnika Jain with 98 marks**

**Hindi - Mrigaannkaa Singh with 100 marks**

**French- Nikita Kiran, Pradyun Goel, Shreya Das, Anupama R Bagade, Aarabi Balakrishnan, Shubhi Agarwal, Sagnik Sengupta, Daksh M Desai, Priyaditya Kar, Rohan Nachnani, Anusha Roy with 100 marks.**

**Sanskrit- Adithi Harishankar, Rysha Sultania, Malavi Raman, Parvathi Annamalai, Pravallika Pallapothula, Meghana Narayan and Pranjal Srivastava with 100 marks**

**Mathematics- Anupama R Bagade, Pradyun Goel, Vedansh Pandey with 100 marks**

**Science- Nikita Kiran with 100 marks**

**Social Science- Nikita Kiran, Kriti Gupta, Rysha Sultania, Shubhi Agarwal, Tavishi Mukherjee,**

**Divyanshu Mitra, Priyangshu Kar, Sanjana Kumar, Sagnik Sengupta, Pravallika Pallapothula, Daksh Mayank Desai, Meghana Narayan, Sanjana Sudeep,**

**Priyaditya Kar, Rohan D Nachnani, Priyam Roy, Anusha Venkatramanan, Pragati Sakhuja, Purvi Ashwath, Sharanya Deshna with 100 marks**



**English - Varnika Jain**



**Hindi - Mrigaannkaa Singh**



**Science- Nikita Kiran**

**French**



**Nikita Kiran**



**Pradyun Goel**



**Shreya Das**



**Shubhi Agarwal**



**Anupama R Bagade**



**Daksh M Desai**



**Priyaditya Kar**



**Aarabi  
Balakrishnan**



**Sagnik Sengupta**



**Rohan Nachnani**



**Anusha Roy**

**Sanskrit**



**Adithi Harishankar**



**Malavi Raman**



**Parvathi Annamalai**



**Rysha Sultania**



**Pravallika  
Pallapothula**



**Pranjal  
Srivastava**



**Meghana  
Narayan**

**Mathematics**



**Anupama R  
Bagade**



**Pradyun Goel**



**Vedansh  
Pandey**

**Social Science**



**Shubhi Agarwal**



**Pravallika  
Pallapothula**



**Rysha Sultania**



**Daksh M Desai**



**Pragati Sakhuja**



**Kriti Gupta**



**Nikita Kiran**



**Sagnik Sengupta**



**Meghana Narayan**



**Anusha  
Venkatramanan**



**Priyam Roy**



**Divyanshu Mitra**



**Priyaditya Kar**



**Rohan Nachnani**



**Sanjana Kumar**



**Sanjana Sudeep**



**Tavishi  
Mukhe**



**Priyangshu Kar**



**Purvi Ashwath**



**Sharanya Deshna**

## **Student Council Elections**

Online elections were held for the Student Council 2020-21 on 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July. Just like the previous years, the contenders for the various coveted positions fought by their persuasive campaign (video) speeches. And the results are as follows:

**SCHOOL PREFECT: Anika Khandekar, 12 B**



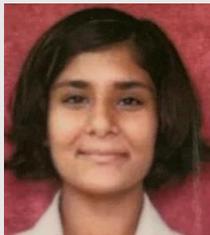
## **HOUSE CAPTAINS**

**Challengers-** Prarthana N B 12B,

**Explorers-** Ananya Shivraj 12B

**Pioneers-** Trisha Mukherjee 12A,

**Voyagers-** Katyayani Pande, 12A



Katyayani  
Pande



Trisha  
Mukherjee



Prarthana N B



Ananya Shivraj

## Other achievements

### SOF Academic Excellence Scholarship 2019-20

**SREEJANI BHADURI**, presently studying in grade 5, was awarded the coveted **SOF Academic Excellence Scholarship** for her superlative performance in grade 4 in the year 2019-20. Sreejani is one among the 158 students from 20 states/zones who will be receiving the award for their performance.

With an objective to promote all-round academic development among students, the SOF-AES selects one student from each class (classes 3 to 10) each zone who scores highest cumulative marks in 4 or more Olympiad exams i.e. IEO, NSO, IMO and IGKO for this award.

Sreejani received a scholarship of Rs.5000 along with trophy and citation for her dazzling accomplishment. Our heartiest congratulations to Sreejani, her parents and teachers for having guided and supported her throughout her endeavour.

### IEO 2019-20

The second level of the International English Olympiad 2019-20 was conducted in February for classes 3-12. **Swati Nair**, currently studying in class 10 C, placed 3<sup>rd</sup> internationally and 1<sup>st</sup> zonally in the test. She has won a cash prize of Rs. 10000, a bronze medal and a certificate of outstanding performance for her achievement.

### Melio Speaking Challenge #5

The finals of Melio Speaking Challenge #5 were conducted online on 31<sup>st</sup> May for students in India, as well as Indian expats. Each of the participants chose one topic from the given list to present a three minute speech. This list included pertinent topics such as wildlife conservation and child labour, amongst others.

**Swati Nair from class 10 C** placed first in the Under 16 category, speaking on the topic of women empowerment.

**Ananya Mahesh from class 7** placed second, speaking on wildlife conservation.

In the Under 12 category, **Sreejani Bhaduri** from class 5 placed first. They received e-certificates and cash prizes.

### The KAMP toppers:

Knowledge and Awareness Mapping Platform 'KAMP' is an International intellect E-based assessment platform to evaluate cognizance of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, awareness and knowledge of Science, Technology & Humanities among students.

KAMP is an Initiative of CSIR-National Institute of Science Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS), it intends to develop creativity, meaningful learning, critical reading and thinking skills that brings to fore the inherent abilities of the students.

KAMP organised a National Assessment for Scientific Temperament & Aptitude in January 2020. Our students did well to garner a few top spots:

### District Toppers -

**Arjun Sahai- grade 5,**  
**Ananya S Mysore- grade 6,**  
**Dev Upadhyaya- grade 8,**

**Diya Agrawal –grade 8,**  
**Anjali S-grade 9.**

### State Toppers-

**Sohham S Joshi- grade 5,**  
**Pranit Goel- grade 6.**

*\*class mentioned is of 2019-20*

## Scholastic- Write

### Now

**Simrun Kaushik of 7 A** and **Akshaj Sharma of 8A** got selected after 2 levels of online selection tests in **Write Now, a guided writing and publishing programme by Scholastic-Quill Club Writers.** They are just about to become published authors with **Scholastic**, under the **Write Now** programme!

The selection process was a stringent one, identifying talented writers from among 1200 plus aspiring kids from across the country. They went through an intensely creative and interactive mentoring process (to come up with a fine story) conducted by renowned and experienced literati's from the industry. The brilliantly written and well edited anthology is soon getting ready for the launch. This would also include a short bio sketch of them with a mention of our school, **National Public School, Koramangala.**

## WGS Hackathon

NPS Koramangala team comprising **Ayantika Sen, Devarati Mukherjee and Lavanya Kalia of Grade 8** bagged second place in the interschool hackathon – Wings of fire- organised by Whitefield Global School.

Competing with fifteen other schools, the all-girls spirited team conquered their opponents by sheer confidence, teamwork and quick thinking. In their own words- *It was a wholesome learning experience which taught us to handle pressure, to manage time and to stay calm in a time crunch. We hope that we continue to get such opportunities in the future.*

## Workshops '20

As part of **NPSKconnect**, an effort to keep the NPS Koramangala community actively connected online during the Corona crisis, a one of a kind student initiative named **Workshops '20** was initiated by a few enterprising students of Grades 10 and 12. They interacted with their juniors online while exploring and transferring their knowledge of various fun topics in which they are experienced.

This programme had its inception in the desire to help students utilise their time productively during the unprecedented lockdown. At the beginning of May, senior students started conducting regular online sessions on ZOOM on varied topics such as machine learning, participation in Technothon, Mathematics, competitive coding, cryptic crosswords and linguistics. Interested students were asked to register online

through Google Forms and a schedule for conducting classes was created based on the number of students who registered. The response was truly amazing. Parents were also involved in the entire process and our principal herself attended a few sessions to get a feel of the programme. Everything- from conception to planning and implementation- was handled by the students themselves, which in itself was a huge learning opportunity for them.

### Details of each workshop:

**1. WML, the Workshop on Machine Learning,** It aims to help participants gain an intuitive understanding of machine learning and its widespread impact on today's ever more computerised world.

It truly is a fascinating field, and as its impact can scarcely be understated, the enthusiastic response from students of the junior classes was no surprise.

**2. Technothon** is an annual competition conducted by IIT Guwahati - a part of their fest- Techniche. It is purely logic-based and the questions are unlike those of any other competition in our experience. Through the sessions in WT, the Workshop on Technothon, students' creative problem solving ability is enhanced,

and they become eager to participate in the competition in future.

**3. Mathematics** is probably considered the most complex subject by the high schoolers.

WM, the Workshop on Mathematics, aimed at softening this attitude and showing students the fun side of mathematics, while at the same time helping them to learn more and delve deeper into the subject. It focused mainly on recreational mathematics, involving puzzles and various other interesting pieces of Math.

**4. The Workshop on Competitive Coding** was initiated in order to get students interested in this field through discussions on problem-solving.

**5. WCC, the Workshop on Cryptic Crosswords**, was an effort to introduce students to this interesting variant on typical crosswords, which is slowly but surely gaining popularity.

The participants, once familiar with the basics, are given clues to solve and distinguish themselves with their ready grasp on the idea and their quick thinking. CBSE's Cryptic Crossword Competition (CCCC) is an ideal place to practise and develop one's skills,

and we hope to augment our school's success in this area.

**6. The main idea behind WLing, the Workshop on Linguistics**, was to rid students of a commonly held misconception – that linguistics involves fluency in multiple languages. The essence of the field, far from being rooted in mere knowledge, lies in logic and its application, like any other science. Problems from the Panini Linguistics Olympiad (India's national-level Olympiad) and the International Linguistics Olympiad were discussed and the participants were also given a fun, simple problem to solve by themselves.

Workshops '20 was a great success and the organisers are confident that future editions will be no less.

### **1M1B (1 Million for 1 Billion) Future Leaders Program – Level 2**

16 students from NPS Koramangala were selected for Level 2 of the **1M1B Future Leaders Program** after undergoing the 7-month Level 1 of the program at the school. The students were selected based on the position paper

presentation of the problem they have chosen to address. Considering the unprecedented times we are facing,

Level 2 of the program was conducted in a completely virtual format. The students have shown that we all can lead from home and create positive impact in the world even from the comforts of our home. Our students are simply unstoppable. They are doing great work by taking their passion forward and are more determined than ever to transform the world. In Level 2, students have undergone 15 hours of online training on ideating innovative solutions for their problem statements, creating successful online campaigns, facing criticism and creating a business model for their projects to make them sustainable. They were also provided special one to one mentoring by 1M1B mentors to ensure they get individual attention to implement their projects on-ground. The students pitched their projects in front of friends, family and school faculty during the Future Leaders Online Mixer and they were well appreciated for their incredible efforts by all the guests. During the mixer, **Dev Upadhyaya of Grade 9**, who is currently in Level 1 of the program amazed the

attendees with a beautiful musical performance. The 16 students are now preparing for their Level 2 presentations to move to Level 3 where they will have the opportunity to represent India as youth ambassadors and showcase their work at the 1M1B Activate Impact Summit at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in front of global leaders and UN delegates.

### WEgan initiative

WEgan is an initiative started by **Ishana Modi (10C)** and **Ria Raghu (10B)** as a part of the 1M1B Future Leaders Program. The campaign focuses on the benefits of following a plant-based diet for the environment, our health and the future. In a world where sustainability is a growing issue, cutting out dairy and animal products from your diet can save resources and possibly the future of human existence. Via Zoom sessions and webinars, more and more people are being urged to try eating at least one completely plant-based meal a week.

### Faith and Unity

Students from grade 3-12, under the able guidance of the music teachers **Ms. Roopa Keshav Raman** and **Mr. Francis Jaison**,

presented a musical tribute *FAITH AND UNITY* through a video to the Coronavirus warriors of our country who are working relentlessly to keep us safe in these testing times. While the vocalists **Nitya Siri Bharath (grade 9)**, **Preethi Prabhu (grade 8)**, **Snigdha Vijay (grade 6)**, **Pranav Prabhu (grade 3)** and **Elisha Jaison (grade 3)** captivated with their renditions, instrumentalists **Suhas Reddy (grade 12)** on flute, **Ishwar Bharath (grade 7)** on Mridangam touched the soul with their mellifluous performances.

### Yoga Day

योगेन चित्तस्य पदेन वाचां ।  
मलं शरीरस्य च वैद्यकेन ॥  
योऽपाकरोत्तमं प्रवरं मुनीनां ।  
पतञ्जलिं प्राञ्जलिरानतोऽस्मि ॥

I bow with folded hands to the supreme sage Patanjali, who eradicated the impurity of mind with Yogashastra, impurity of speech with Vyakarana Mahabhashya, and impurity of body with Ayurveda literature.

With this melodious invocation by **Swati Nair of grade 10**, NPS KRM celebrated Yoga Day with a difference during the pandemic.

Under the guidance of Yoga teacher **Ms. Sarita Unni** and school nurse **Ms. Smitha** students of Grade 6 – 8 reached out to the entire school through a video

showing various yogasanas and meditation techniques. **Netra Iyer of 7B** cheerfully strung together the various sections of the programme with her engaging narration.

The video was played after the assembly on the morning of 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020 for students to practice meditation and take inspiration from the perfect practice of asanas.

Name of the student yoga performers are - **Judith Binish**, **Pratiksha Rout** and **Ayantika Sen (8A)**; **Nikita Shanbhag (7C)**, **Anisha Kandula (7A)**, **Chitrangada Bhat (6B)**– **Maanyata Ladi (6C)**, **Vihaan C Reddy (6C)**.

### Wellness Programme

School counsellor **Ms Sunanda Vinayachandran** conducted 16 sessions for all the faculty members of the school in small groups to attend to any apprehensions, anxieties or emotional upheavals teachers might be experiencing as a result of Corona pandemic and the unforeseen challenges of online teaching platform. These highly interactive sessions proved useful as teachers spontaneously shared their trials and tribulations, learnings, rewards and the bitter

sweet moments in the journey to the new normal. However, what was common to all the groups in the end was the triumph of spirit which was made possible by togetherness and mutual collaboration as a strong NPS family. Ms. Sunanda congratulated the faculty on winning this great feat. She also imparted a few valuable suggestions to teachers on maintaining their own as well as their students' emotional wellbeing.

## EARLY LEARNING

### Collaborative Workshop –

**“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much...”** – by Helen Keller

A collaborative workshop was held by the NPS QA Team on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 across all the NPS schools. The entire team of NPS Kindergarten from NPS INR, NPS KRM, NPS HSR, NPS RNR, NAFL (North), NAFL, and NPSI Chennai came together to share their thoughts, experiences, resources, strengths and challenges faced to adapt to the new style of teaching (online teaching).

Each participating school spoke about the process they incorporated to begin online teaching.

It was an enriching experience for all the teachers to share, collaborate, get inspired from each other's coping mechanism and also rejoice in common achievements.

Teachers brainstormed on strategies to overcome challenges and build more on achievements. The treat of the meet was an address by someone who never fails to encourage and motivate her team and that is **Dr Bindu Hari**.

“If the plan doesn't work, change the plan but never the goal.” keeping this in mind Kindergarten started online classes on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Teachers upgraded their teaching skills from actual to virtual. The online learning platform (Microsoft Teams) provided by the school was highly appreciated. Teachers underwent thorough training sessions and demo classes. A wealth of resources and worksheets were prepared to seal any learning gap that might arise. These supplements were imparted to the children along with other books.

From an online class once a week, to now, twice a week, teachers are extremely happy to hear from parents that the children have acclimatised themselves to the routine of starting and

ending their day with a prayer and expressing gratitude for everything. Now, fun is another word for learning.

What we learn with pleasure we never forget. It has an everlasting impact. All the new concepts were introduced to the children during the online sessions in a new exciting and enjoyable way. Activities that have been planned are a product of great diligence focusing on high interaction quality, building awareness, attention, creativity and ingenuity. All the core areas like literacy, numeracy, EVS, art and craft, music and movement become a means to flourish child's imagination and personality.

PTMs are being conducted every Saturday in groups to explain the work for the week. The structured timetable shared week on week with the parents attempts to share the joy of exploring the curriculum through a variety of experiences that is definitely stress-free to incorporate.

We are grateful to our parents for the timely uploads of their children's work. This unquestionably helps the teachers to do corrections in time and provide valuable feedback. Stickers, badges and kind words of encouragement are extremely motivating for

the parents to follow the timeline and the children do look forward to the activities of the following days with great expectation and enthusiasm.

This academic year has been **“A new beginning, a fresh start, little nervous, little happiness, little sadness, little madness, but full of determination!”**

## **MONTESSORI -**

After much anticipation the online classes for the Montessori Seniors and Juniors began on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020, only to be stopped abruptly by the ban on online classes. Asynchronous was the only way forward and so it continued until the government lifted the ban and allowed schools to conduct 30 minute sessions for the EY students. The classes resumed for the Montessori Department on 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2020. In order to provide students with the best possible learning environment, the group size for every session was restricted to less than 7 students.

We also welcomed the youngest members of the NPS Koramangala family, our Freshers during the same week. The students took to the online classes like a duck takes to water.

Though the group sessions were useful, the question whether they are the only or the best way possible, loomed large over the Montessori faculty. So, staying true to the Montessori philosophy of helping every child at their point of need, the Student Teacher Interaction (STI) - an initiative to connect with every child, was conceived.

Now, the teachers spend 30 minutes of exclusive time with the Juniors and Seniors. The focus at this time is to introduce and review the core learning subjects. Special care is being taken to ensure that these are taught as per the understanding and pace of the students. At the end of the session, parents are given tips on how to help the child with his/her specific needs.

Every Friday the students meet for a fun and interactive session called



**‘Miles of Smiles’**. True to its name, we witness the unparalleled joy on the faces of our little ones when they see their peers on screen and participate in activities uniquely planned for each class.

The Weekly Assignments sent as asynchronous material help keep the learning robust and well rounded. Needless to say,



the parent fraternity has backed the efforts of the teachers every step of the way.

It is this co-sharing of responsibility that will help all our children continue their journey of learning joyfully even during these uncertain and challenging times.

## **BOOK FAIR**

**It’s the books you read when you’re young that stay with you always.” -J.K. Rowling**

Reading opens the doors to discovery – discovery of new places, new situations, new perspectives and a new YOU. This drive to lead our young minds to the road to self-discovery NPS KRM organizing a ‘Virtual Book Fair’ for students of Grades 1-8 from 24<sup>th</sup> July- 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

As a part of the book fair, storytelling sessions were conducted on 25<sup>th</sup> July for Grades 1-5. **Ms. Preminda Langer**, our storyteller for Grades 1 and 2, read stories for children and enacted them with props, making the session lively and interesting.

**Ms. Samita Basu**, our storyteller for grades 3 & 4, narrated a short story titled - 'Dragon wants a friend'. The students weaved their own dragon stories during the interactive session. Interesting prompts like the imaginary situation, fantasy places, friends of the dragon and its habits stirred their creativity.

Grade 5 had an author talk by **Ms. Varsha Seshan**, a children's author who has 19 books to her credit. She began with a brief observation and memory exercise where she showed the children an image for a minute and then asked them to recollect the details of the image. She then introduced her latest book, *Dragonflies, Jigsaws and Seashells*. She read out a story from her collection and conducted an engaging activity for the children.

The author spoke about the three kinds of stories in her collection – rural, urban and fantastic. Excerpts from each kind of story were read out and children were

encouraged to read every day, surround themselves with books, and write regularly. She shared her journey as a writer, highlighting the importance of creating a discipline around writing as it is easy to start a story; it is much more difficult to finish it! After a fun jigsaw puzzle activity and a quiz, there was an interactive session, where the children asked questions about reading, writing and where to find inspiration.

The children were very participative, eager and curious. Interaction during Q and A session was very fulfilling!

### **Teachers' and students' creative work**

*A positive fallout of Covid 19 was that it made our children as well as teachers more observant, more analytic and more inventive. Their growing talent is visible in the numerous creative work in the form of poems, articles and art work sent to us. With every edition of newsletter we will showcase their admirable work.*

### **Teacher Speak**

#### **B for barbs!!!**

B for barbs!!! The one that divides countries into "narrow domestic walls",

distinctly separates wildlife from humans, between neighbours baying for each other's blood!!

Barbs!! Words that could inflict pain that could thrust you into an everlasting angst.

A quote from Padma Shri Lakshmikutty, poison healer practising traditional medicine, set me pondering. She said that the most venomous object is man's tongue. Absolute truth.

Well, this barb should be accosted with acrimony. We need to find the acumen to immerse ourselves into a contemplative zone to hide our tears or to camouflage by being buoyant or nonchalant.

Is this how we counter barbs?

Or should we be callous and caustic in our retorts to the barbs aimed at us? Sometimes these barbs are circuitous and once they leave the quiver we are filled with self-disdain. Is this the best reaction?

I found my answer in a quote that was forwarded to me on WhatsApp. "The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave the wrong thing unsaid at the most tempting moment!"

That elucidates how to keep oneself unharmed by the

barbs or not to use them at all!!

*-Usha Unnikrishnan- HoD  
English Department*

## **I Didn't Miss School In The Past Two Months Because...**

Most of the children I know would jump with joy if they are told that the school is closed. But I am recognized as someone who enjoys school. So why did I choose this topic?

Well, the free time helped. My father has a demanding schedule. Sometimes he attends two meetings at the time! The lockdown allowed me to spend more time with him than usual, and we spent some quality time together.

Then again, the lockdown was a good change of pace, from the bustle of what used to be everyday life. I used to have a tight schedule-school, basketball, and tuition. However, after the lockdown, I had a lot of free time and I revisited my priorities.

There were many exciting online activities which I participated in. One of my favourite was on astronomy, "Cosmos", which is hosted by the astrophysicist Neil DeGrasse Tyson. It is a science documentary about the universe, Earth, the building blocks of life. It took me on a journey from

the smallest electron, to the largest galaxy super cluster. It piqued my curiosity and gave me a head start in Grade 6.

I watched shows by Berlin Philharmonic; took virtual tours of museums, and watched kids' theatre, entertaining movies and comedies.

We spent more time together – cleaning, cooking, and doing household chores. Cooking allowed me to assist and explore the process of many lip-smacking recipes. We played classic board games like Scrabble and Monopoly and traditional games like Chowka Bara.

I am doing the daily crossword in the newspaper, and I am beating my family in Scrabble nearly every game!

Following George Floyd's cruel death, my father and uncle explained to me race inequality in America, and I have started watching more shows with Black protagonists.

I am giving more attention to my health. I am playing badminton, using a fitness app, and performing yoga.

I have also been reading books by Isaac Asimov, Angie Sage, Phillip Pullman, and Terry Pratchett. I regularly read the online resources sent by school.

Well, on the flip side, I was not allowed to play with my friends and missed basketball. I was hoping to go to Greece when the ban on flights was announced, my hopes were dashed to the ground. I had to satisfy myself with watching great food shows that take you to travel around the world.

It was a new experience, and I made the most of it although nothing can beat the great experience of going to school at NPS Koramangala.

**Chinmay Jujare, 6 B**

## **BRUSHSTROKES**

*The brush glides over the canvas,*

*Leaving a trail of great finesse*

*Every stroke begins full,*

*Then narrows down with a pull*

*And he whose hand is on the stem*

*Looks down awhile and thinks...*

*The next stroke - could either enrich*

*Or damage the canvas*

*What it may cause, no one really knows.*

Only this is certain, that  
create he must!

It is a compulsion. A  
necessity.

Putting brush to paper - a  
need.

A self-portrait

A sunflower in golden hues,  
and

A starry night.

He who paints with his  
soul, is a rare kind of artist

One who creates beauty  
with his brush

And we are all artists,  
painting our lives upon the  
canvas of reality,

Mix the colours and add  
emotion to it.

Don't be afraid to let your  
brushstrokes show.

And above all else, make  
sure your art has soul.

- by Ananya Sukruta  
Mysore, 7A

## **The Hardest Challenge Brought Out the Best in Me**

It was early march. We  
were in the middle of our  
revision for the final exam  
and schools were to close  
by the end of march. I was  
looking forward to my  
birthday and was planning  
a fun filled summer. But  
before all of those could  
happen, the government

announced lockdown due  
to COVID-19 pandemic. It  
is an unprecedented time.  
All of us have to stay at  
home. Listening to the  
Prime Minister's speech, I  
felt sad as I heard the  
lockdown announcement.  
The thought that I had to  
remain indoors made me  
feel unhappy. I didn't  
want the lockdown  
because I had never  
stayed home  
continuously for such a  
long time. So, this was the  
hardest challenge for me  
to face.

I had to make a daily  
schedule to keep myself  
busy .I started helping my  
mother with daily chores  
like sweeping the house  
,mopping the house  
sometimes and  
occasionally doing the  
dishes .Watching my  
mom cook different  
cuisines, I developed  
interest in cooking. I  
learnt how to prepare  
rotis, parathas and other  
Indian breads. My cooking  
interest triggered me to  
check videos of different  
recipes in YouTube. I  
learnt how to make  
pancakes, waffles, hot  
chocolate and many  
more. It was Mother's Day  
on 10th of May. My sister  
prepared White Pasta

with olives and I made  
cheese balls all by myself.  
Everyone praised me and  
said that I made a very  
delicious dish. I started  
preparing tea in the noon  
and served it to my  
parents as soon as they  
woke up from their nap.  
One day, my family was  
astonished when I  
presented freshly baked  
Choco Oat muffins. They  
said those were simply  
delicious.



I also got interested in  
watching 5 min. craft  
videos that helped me  
learn so many cooking  
tips and cleaning tips. In  
addition to cooking I  
developed interest in art  
and craft. I tried out  
coffee painting, canvas  
painting, pencil sketching  
and water colouring. To  
my surprise, my artworks  
came out well!

Now when I look back, I feel  
I have made the best out of

the time I thought was the hardest challenge. I'm quite independent today and can make my own meals and I continue to make tea for my family every day. I'm so glad that I made my parents so proud. Looks like the hardest challenge was not so hard after all!

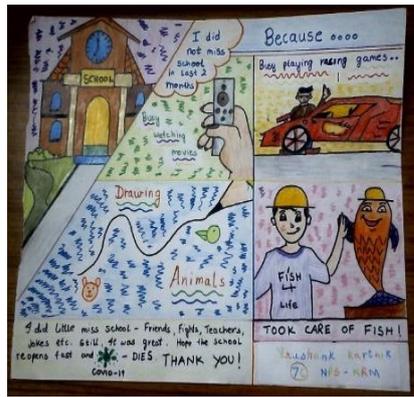
**Sanjana Venkatakrishnan, 6A**



**Aarya Prashanth- 9B**



**Avni Kansal , 8C**



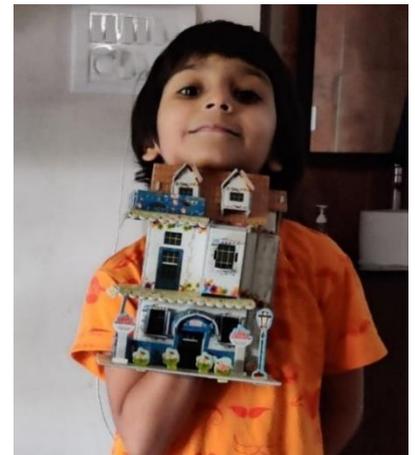
**Vrishank Karthik, 7C**



**Ivana Dwani Chander, 7A**



**Panav Rachh 1B**



**Arjun Sharma 1B**



By Sohham S Joshi- 6C

Human history isn't new to such turbulences as COVID 19. Living through them, we have emerged triumphant. Our children will surely come out brighter and wiser after this unplanned lesson.

*Compiled by - Ms. Geeta Kathait, and Ms. Prathima with inputs from students and teachers. Designed by Ms. Jijy George and Ms. Anupama Rao.*