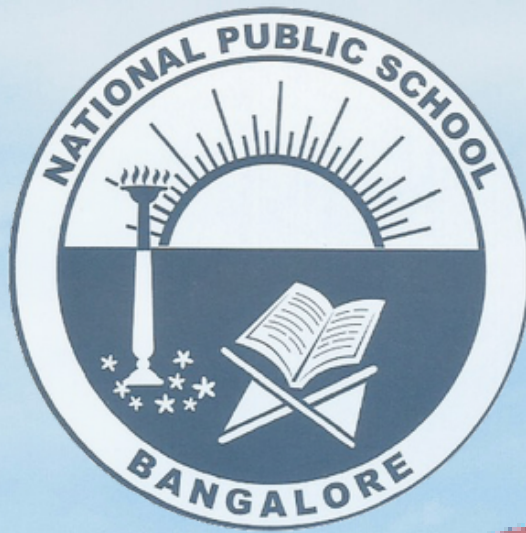


Volume 7

National Public School Koramangala

REVERBERANCE

1st January–31st January 2023 Newsletter



Dear Readers.

With the beginning of the new year, we move toward the end of an exciting academic year. Having had an action-packed year replete with exciting events and competitions, it is time to wrap it up gradually. Our Grade 12 leaders passed on the baton of their responsibilities to their deputies in the Handing Over ceremony.

Following the rigours of studies and examinations, students had time to rejuvenate with friends during field trips. And, as always, there is more about celebrations and victories.

Please don't miss the article by our alumnus Vinayaka M, pursuing BS (Research) Mathematics at IISC, on studying pure sciences. He also shares his experiences with the challenges students and parents face while choosing the right stream. Find the article in the Career Counselling Section-Udaan.

Achievements

14th Bangalore Regional Brain Bee was conducted in Narayana Hriduralaya on 8th January 2023

Adrija Thakur (Grade 11B) was the winner while **Nihal V G (Grade 11 B)** emerged first runner up.

Adrija will represent the state in the national level INBB-2023 championship to be held in Delhi in April 2023.



DQLabs Design Hackathon

Five students of Grade 8- Amoghavarsha P, Akshay N, Manan M, Shivank J and Sohham J, took part as a team in a Design Hackathon conducted by DQLabs along with Confederation of Indian Industry CII, on 13th and 14th August, 2022.

The Hackathon had teams of students participating from all over India, and our school's team won the Junior Architecture Category, with a cash prize of Rs.2000. The aim of the Hackathon was to promote design thinking among students. In the Hackathon, the students were asked to imagine and design architecture with the theme 'India at 100'. Our school's students came up with a self-sustainable and eco-friendly house, built using stronger geopolymers concrete which is more environment -friendly and uses raw materials which are found in industrial waste. The house also featured rainwater harvesting and renewable energy sources like solar, wind and geothermal energy.

The students won the Junior Architecture category after their idea were assessed by a panel of judges from CII and various prestigious design institutes across India.



Riyansika Verma (Grade 7 B) was crowned Girls Under 13 (GU13) squash champion of Karnataka for second consecutive year. She defeated her semi-final opponent by 11-0, 11-1, 11-1. She won the Final by 11-0, 11-2, 11-2. This is her 4th championship win in a row.



Major events

Republic day celebration



NPS, Koramangala celebrated India's 74th Republic Day on 26th January with patriotic zeal and fervour in the school grounds. Flanked by members of the Student Council, the Principal Ms. Jyotsna Nair unfurled the tricolour to a mellifluously patriotic rendition of the National Anthem by the School Choir. As Basant Panchami coincided with Republic Day, students of Grade 8 dedicated a spiritually enriching and devotional 'Saraswati Vandana' to the Goddess of Knowledge. Ardently eloquent and insightful speeches by **Muskaan Mittal (Grade 10)** and Faculty Member, Dept. of English, **Ms Anupama Singh**, paid homage to the selfless sacrifice of our brave freedom fighters and the defence forces. They exhorted the people of this young nation to strengthen the endeavour of nation-building. The dance performance, 'Bharat Ka Chehra' by the students of Grade 8 portrayed the future of our nation with the promise to lead the nation to greatness. The aspirations and ideas of the members of the historic Constituent Assembly of 1949 – which included stalwarts like B. R. Ambedkar, Sarojini Naidu, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and our first Defence Minister Baldev Singh Chokkar, among others– as well as the adoption of the Indian Constitution as the law of the land, was brought alive through an excellent skit by the students of Grades 6-8. Students of Grade 9 ignited the blaze of patriotism by singing a melodious rendition of 'Bhati me Bharatam' in Sanskrit. Finally, a mellifluous medley of patriotic songs by the students of Grades 7 and 8 concluded the fantastic celebration of our freedom, our rights and our duties as Indians.





Handing Over Ceremony

Handing Over Ceremony, a day when the Grade 12 leaders entrust their responsibilities to their deputies, was celebrated on 31st January 2023.

The program commenced with students of Grades 6-8 invoking the blessings of the almighty in a symphonious rendition. In her address, Principal Ms. Jyotsna Nair extolled the virtue of teamwork behind an institution's success and congratulated all the students for being an incredible team in making 2022-23 a year of significant action and achievements. The Principal also urged the student leaders to self-appraise and persevere to be better versions of themselves. Then, Grade 12 badge holders handed over the School and House flags to their Grade 11 successors, with a firm belief in their abilities to carry forward the rich legacy of NPS. The School Prefect, Ankita Anand reflected on the year that went by, expressing gratification and gratitude at being able to achieve all the set goals with the support of all the stakeholders. Then, the most awaited announcements were made by the principal. The Best Outgoing Student award was bestowed on the school prefect Ankita Anand, a remarkable leader, and a true all-rounder. Grade 12 badge holders, and winners of inter-house club events, as well as Rashavi V, of 12 B, was felicitated for 100% attendance in Grade 12 were felicitated. The cultural trophy for the year was bagged by Voyagers House amidst high jubilation.

Melodious rendition of songs and an electrifying western dance by students from Grades 6-12 delighted the audience. Ankita Anand, on receiving the title of Best Outgoing Student, expressed her gratitude and delight at receiving the title in poignant words. The school Vice Prefect, Adrija Thakur drew the curtain on the ceremony with the Vote of Thanks.

Handing over ceremony



Handing over ceremony





Inter House competitions – Middle School

Sandpainting

Sandpainting is the art of creating painting through coloured sands, and powdered pigments from minerals or crystals, or other natural or synthetic sources onto a surface to make a fixed or unfixed sand painting. Eco Club organised the Inter – House Sand Painting competition on 13th January. Six teams from the different Houses produced a piece of art using natural sand as the primary material along with other organic decorations. The participants enjoyed the experience, trying their hands out at something new. Voyagers emerged as the winners, Challengers secured second place, and both the teams of Pioneers tied in a close third.

The event encouraged students to enhance their creative skills and be more aware of sustainable materials in their surroundings.



Music Event

Music Club hosted its much-anticipated Interhouse music event for Grades 6-8 on 20th January 2023. The competitions had two categories- A Capella, and the Battle of the Bands.

A Capella, where each House representatives had to form a cohesive and rich melody with solely their own voices, saw the stunningly talented young singers perform many popular Bollywood and pop songs, attracting a keen audience. The Voyagers emerged winners, followed by the Pioneers in second place, the Explorers in third, and the Challengers in fourth place.

The energy was high and the atmosphere charged, when each band gave their best during the Battle of Bands. They not just rocked with the music they made but pleased the audience with the classic look of bands such as Green Day and the Rolling Stones. The crowd went wild with the rendition of many iconic rock and pop songs. The Voyagers came first, with Pioneers second, Challengers third, and Explorers fourth.





Field Trips

Grade 11

On the 12th and 13th of January, the students of Grade 11 visited Elim Resort in Kanakapura, Bangalore for an overnight field trip – a perfect chance to escape from the digital world. The trip commenced with a set of warm-up games, followed by some adventurous and engaging activities like ropes-course, archery, football, and volleyball. Post delicious lunch, leadership games were conducted for students where they had all possible kind of fun– from dressing up as tribal kings, to pitching tents! The night was incredibly entertaining with a bonfire set-up, as well as a disco night. Both students and teachers took to the dance floor, making it a core memory for everyone.

A short energizing trek to a hillside, taking in the picturesque view of nature was something never experienced in the city. Back at the resort, children availed a plethora of amenities like swimming, game room etc. and bonded with one another. Departure was a bittersweet event, as the students had not shared such a memorable experience with each other and their beloved teachers in a long time.

Overall, the field trip was one of a kind, as is the batch of '24!



Grade 9

Grade 9 students had a fun filled day on 23rd January with children enjoying a field trip to Discovery Village situated at Kanakpura, Bangalore. After relishing a wholesome breakfast, the children engaged in an interesting game- an unexpected take on foosball. Later, they were briefed about the facilities available at the resort. A large number thronged to experience zipline while others played a game of badminton or volleyball. A suitable number also made use of the fish spa. Those who yearned for quieter forms of recreation lounged in the garden dotted with numerous sapota trees, or walked alongside the stream/pond. Post lunch, they engaged in eclectic activities like archery, table tennis, mini golf, pottery, unique board games etc. or just bonded with each other. The last half an hour of the trip was spent dancing to well-known Bollywood and popular numbers. The day well spent; students cherished the sweet memories of school life.



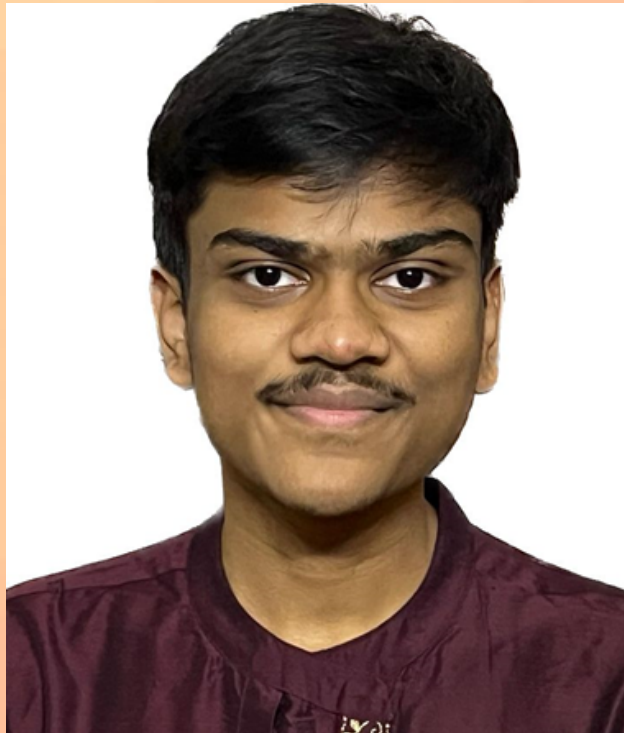
Grade 10

After a rigorous month of exams, Grade 10 had eagerly marked their calendar for 25th January for the much-awaited field trip to Discovery Village, Kanakpura, Bangalore. Following a thrilling bus ride full of dance and music and cheer, the students were welcomed with a wholesome and enriching breakfast on arrival. They were then briefed on the plans for the day and organised into teams after a group dance. After a couple of team building games, they were free to explore the facilities the resort had to offer- from adventure sports like ziplining, to outdoor sports such as volleyball and badminton. Some engaged in a game of table tennis or jenga, which was among the 40+ indigenous indoor games tucked away under the green canopies. Others spent their time at the fish spa, amongst the orange fishes in the crystal blue ponds. The giant chessboard, human foosball and archery were some other highlights of the resort. After a scrumptious lunch, the students once again scattered to wander the grounds. The serene beauty of the lush green resort and clear streams proved to be a getaway from the hustle bustle of everyday life for both the students and teachers alike. The students finally gathered in the amphitheater for the last half an hour for sandwiches and hot chocolate and danced away to some well-known Bollywood songs. The bus ride back to school was equally enjoyable, with a few emotional and bittersweet sentiments as this was their last trip together as a grade.



Udaan – Career Counselling

The Road Not Taken



Vinayaka M.

Batch of NPS KRM : 2020-21

Second-Year, BS (Research) Indian Institute of Science,
Bangalore

Despite hours of research, thought, and planning, most of my decisions regarding my academic journey have ultimately been based on the philosophy that “you need to try and understand it to know if you like it”. I hope sharing my experiences with some of these decisions will provide insight. This is not advice or a guide but rather a story of what I did and learned from them.

My interest in the pure sciences started in grade 8 upon discovering ‘pop-science’ on YouTube. Channels like Veritasium, VSauce and Steve Mould introduced me to Scientific Philosophy. (I highly recommend watching them). I was fascinated by the Curvature of Spacetime, Dark-Matter and Dark-Energy, Quantum Mechanics, String Theory, and other fancy words I had no idea about then (And, of course, Vishu ma’am, who inspired and encouraged me). It’s curious how so many of my classmates at IISc have had similar stories.

When I got selected for IISc, a counselling session was held for all the interested students and their parents. Professors from different departments at IISc were present, and a Question-and-Answer session was held. The question I heard many times, in so many forms (to the point where it was annoying), was, “Why should I/my child choose pure science and not engineering?” I, too, faced the pressure of pursuing engineering in 10th grade and PUC. ‘Engineering’ is promised to solve all problems and a ticket to a good-salaried job four years after high school. Many students ask me about this, and I can see my 9th-grade self in them.

Engineering is problem-solving. It is applying science creatively and innovatively to solve real-world problems. The ‘engineering spirit’ is captured well by YouTube channels like Mark Rober and Stuff Made Here (Again, I highly recommend watching them), but a typical job isn’t always this exciting and fun. It was precisely these (opinion alert) monotonous-sounding IT jobs that repelled me. Engineering is creative, lucrative, current, happening, and stressful. Science, on the other hand, is slow-paced. One can do science only if one enjoys the process and not just the outcome.

This problem of science vs engineering is, however, temporary. With many students pursuing post-graduate degrees and an increase in interdisciplinary studies, there are numerous opportunities to take up jobs in the industry after a bachelor's in science or enter academia after an engineering degree. But it is still a decision that a student must make in grade 12. Ignoring the immediate lucrative jobs available after four years of engineering, I naively chose the path I felt passionate about.

Going back a few steps before the decision and all the competitive exams, I joined FIITJEE coaching in 9th grade. While I hold strong opinions against tuition classes before high school, I do not see a clear answer regarding coaching for competitive exams. Some exclusive coaching helps crack competitive exams, but whether 9th grade is the right time or too early is debatable. The benefit I gained from coaching in 9th grade was awareness of the different Olympiads, such as NSEJS and NSEP/A/C/B and exams, such as NTSE and KVPY. It also introduced me to the ‘competitive’ in competitive exams and prepared me for the lengthy and (opinion) depressing grind that is JEE. But exploring these Olympiads and trying relevant preparation is an excellent alternative to joining coaching centres in 9th and 10th grades.

The question I get asked the most is about Integrated Coaching and Schooling. This brings us to the ugly truth about coaching centres. Most centres today 'segregate' students into different batches based on an entrance test. Once placed in a particular batch, it isn't easy to change to a different one, even after performing well in subsequent tests. Most of the resources and energy of these coaching centres are spent on the so-called top batches, and most of the remaining students are treated with negligence (despite what their marketing may suggest). Even when placed in the correct batch, the constant overload of tests and the constant rank comparison is mentally draining and, in my opinion, not worth the slight advantage it may provide. Some of my classmates disagree with this opinion. But the decision to choose integrated coaching is undoubtedly a bet with far more significant risks than rewards. For integrated coaching to work out and be helpful, many factors must be perfectly aligned. It also may close several non-JEE opportunities later.

Coming back to IISc, the most recent and probably the most significant decision I've taken academically is switching from physics to mathematics. Most pop science platforms advertise physics as the most fundamental and 'coolest' science. From particles smaller than atoms to galaxies and structures that span the entire universe, we're told that physics has all the solutions. This philosophy does hold much weight. But math is often left behind in this flashy pop science marketing. The physics I learnt in college wasn't too different from high school physics. But college math was unique, new, weird, rigorous, axiomatic, and nothing like I had seen before. I was highly fascinated by this unknown alien, all-logical, abstract, proof-based world.

Many of my classmates faced similar issues about deciding between physics and math. While we were exposed to enough physics to enable a well-informed decision, the same wasn't valid for math. Mathematicians care a lot about proofs for any claim and are particular about the correctness of the logical arguments used in that proof. Even apparent facts are explicitly stated and derived. (The twenty-first theorem of the book my first-semester calculus, aka analysis, used was $1>0$!) Physics, on the other hand, is based on phenomenology. It contains some of the most elegant math and the craziest theories (like Quantum Mechanics), but the goal is to understand our universe. This information is probably not helpful for high school students, but it is something to be aware of if you're interested in pursuing math or physics. Many giants in math and physics have spoken about this topic (I recommend watching Richard Feynman's video, among many others).

In this article, I mainly wanted to cover the forks in the road. Hopefully, in sharing my experiences, you will be more comfortable about the 'Road Not Taken' if you choose to tread a different route than mine or more confident in your decisions if you do. It often feels like the better path need not be the one we're most optimistic about but the one we're most anxious about losing. I certainly felt this way in all these steps.

Teacher Speak

Republic Day - A Celebration of Our Indian-ness

This year we commemorate the 74th Republic Day of our country. It is an occasion to celebrate what is common to us all, our Indian-ness. In 1950, we embarked on a journey as a republic nation on 26th January, affirming to practice and follow the principles laid down by our constitution.

It is a day when we recall with gratitude the sacrifices of our freedom fighters and the work of our Founding Fathers, for giving to us a country where our dignity and individual freedoms are guaranteed by an enlightened Constitution. It must also be an occasion when we rededicate ourselves to maintaining harmony, peace and brotherhood. Most of all, it is a time to introspect about how we have fared so far, and in which direction are we moving.

We are fortunate that we are the inheritors of the ideals and values of one of the world's oldest civilizations, which has bequeathed to us a rich treasure of human experience and thought. The concept of human race being one, the importance of living in harmony with each other and with nature, the quest for knowledge and truth, find prominence in our age-old culture.

These ideas provided inspiration for our freedom movement and after our independence found a ready resonance in our constitution. As citizens of this country each one of us, therefore, has a duty and a responsibility to demonstrate, that these principles have given to us the motivation and the strength to build our great nation.

It is, however, a fact that there can be no society which does not need to evolve to cope with the changing demands of time, and there can be no nation which does not face challenges. India too has its share of problems and obstacles, constraints and difficulties. We cannot evade these or wish them away, but working in different fields, we must together find solutions.

The strength of a nation is not determined by the challenges it faces, but by its responses to these challenges, especially so when it stands at critical juncture and at a decisive point. What we do in this coming decade in terms of leveraging our advantages and addressing our shortcomings, will shape the destiny of the nation.

Among our remarkable accomplishments has been an unwavering adherence to democracy. For us, democracy is an article of faith, important both as a basic pillar of our Republic and as a guarantor of our freedoms. Its sustenance is essential for the identity of India, hailed as the largest democracy in the world, and one that functions well even in situations of multiple complexities.

We must not only reinforce democratic institutions and processes, but also refrain from any action, taken wittingly or unwittingly, that dilutes or is detrimental to democracy. It is paramount that social, economic, administrative and political activities to be carried out on the basis of moral values and social justice. Hence, I reiterate the great importance of integrity, honesty, good conduct and high values, which are embedded in our age-old culture.

Dear students, You, the youth must carry forward this legacy. As future architects of this vibrant nation, apart from being progressive stay true to our values and roots. Always act responsibly and preserve our national heritage so as to make it shine. When you realize your dreams as young adults, irrespective of the profession you exercise, remember that most important consideration contribution should be to keep the tri colour soaring high so as to make this nation the greatest nation on Earth. India is an ancient civilisation but a young republic. For us, nation-building is a constant endeavour. In these seventy-five years, we have made impressive progress. I am sure that with positive energy, confidence, courage and entrepreneurship, our country will continue to march ahead on the path of progress and will definitely secure its rightful place, befitting its potential, in the global community.

On this special day, let's promise our motherland that we will do everything to enrich and preserve our heritage, our ethos and our treasure.

I wish all of you a Happy Republic Day!

Thank You,

Jai Hind!



Anupama Singh
English Department

Expressions

Inclusivity in the classroom

Every single one of us, the new and the old,
Deserve to be heard of our stories untold.
To have our class rooms be a happy and safe
space,
A place for us to be our true selves and have it
embraced.

It's a diverse community coming together,
Different cultures and interests and ones of
different feathers,
Where all should feel needed and like they belong,
And not isolated, just a tag along.

For it can brutal to be left alone-
Surrounded by a crowd, yet left all on your own;
To be a spectator in a group of partakers,
To just exist, in a buzzing room full of people.

So let us stand up and make a change,
Give a chance to those we think are strange.
Talk to a different person, atleast once each day
And maybe, they'll light up your mundane
Mondays.

-Devarati Mukherjee, 10B



-Deekshanya V, 9B

Good bye!!



Compiled by - Ms. Geeta Kathait with inputs from students and teachers.

**Designed by - Aryaroop Bose(11 B), Devarati Mukherjee(10 B), Ananya Sukruta Mysore(9B)
Ms. Rashme Rajesh**