

Editorial

Dear VMites,

The last issue of the Dhvani devoted a large section to analyzing the changes brought about at the beginning of the year, documenting the mixed reactions of parents and students. By this point of the year, the CCE system and SmartBoards, once the hot topics of discussion, have been accepted as a part of school life. The past two terms have been a blur of various events involving an enormous amount of hard work with an equal measure of fun. Starting with the Project Day and ending with the Investiture and Farewell, there has hardly been an idle moment. The Dhvani members have been kept on their toes as well but have had a great time putting this issue together. Happy reading!

-Nayantara Ravichandran, Student Editor

Isn't it strange how, when we are in the process of learning something new, we suddenly realize how little we know about it. That's what learning is all about! The more we learn, we get to know that we have lots more to know.

Rudyard Kipling once said:

"I keep six honest serving-men, they taught me all I know; their names are What and Why and When and How and Where and Who."

If we can take the service of these honest men our 'inquisitive minds' will soon turn into 'ignited minds'. The desire for knowledge then increases with its acquisition.

Let us fill every moment of our lives with effort, energy and enthusiasm to learn something new and thus possess all the power in the world- the key to this power being "Knowledge"!!

-Vijayasri Sarath, Editor



Strengthening



Ties



Letters to the EDITOR...

On the Interschool Exchange programme...

We realized from this program how similar our teaching techniques are. Also we realized how alike students really are, whichever school we come from!

-Tvaritha, 8D, Shwethapriya 8D, Aishwarya 8A; எங்களுக்கு இப்பள்ளியின் மாணவர்கள் பழகும் முறை பிடித்திருக்கிறது. அதன் செயல்பாடுகளும் எங்களுக்குப் பிடித்திருக்கிறது.

(Chennai School Students....)

VM's an amazing school, an excellent place to learn, socialize, and to bring out the best in you whether it is in Sports, Cultural activities or Academics

-Sanjana, Newcomer 11 A.

85 batch, on their reunion...

It was absolutely wonderful. We felt like we were 17 again and back in school. On that day we remembered that VM had given us a lot of freedom, had guided us and had imbibed in us the values which have made us who we are today.

-Meenakshi Viswanathan, '85 batch alumna

On writing an exam draped in their sarees...

Even though it was uncomfortable, it was a new and exciting experience! It was very hard to get out of the farewell mood and write an exam, but somehow we managed.

-Tanvi, 12A and Asmitha, 12A



EDITORIAL BOARD

- Nayantara Ravichandran • Sanjana Sundar • Mahima • Adithya
- Sharanya • Madhuvanti • Divya • Shrinath • Thanvi • Sharada
- Bhargavi • Nivethitha • Raman • Gaurav • Shreyasi • Abhinava
- Vijayasri Sarath • Vidya Vageesh

CAMPUS - Shreyasi, Abhinava



A science exhibition was held by the students of Class 9 where various government schools came to look at the innovative models made by our students. They learnt a lot from this experience.



A series of Interschool Volleyball and Basketball matches were held in our school premises in which a number of schools took part.

An Exchange Program with the Chennai High School was one of the noted happenings of this semester. A Cultural Exchange took place in their school in which students from our school put up a Variety Show. Class 8A from our school was the invited audience. The students of the Chennai High School entertained us with music and dance. Apart from the Cultural Exchange there was also a Sports Exchange Program for which students from the Chennai High School visited our school again. The boys had an interesting Kabadi match while the girls of our school taught the visitors how to play throw ball.



Impressive baritone-Vaidya

The School assembly was made interesting by the students of Class 11, who enriched their fellow students by reciting a variety of poems on all kinds of topics.

Students of Class 10 sang Christmas carols during the assembly and truly aroused the spirit of Christmas in everybody with their jolly and lively singing.

December, or the month of 'Margazhi' was celebrated with students from Class 6 reciting the Thiruppavai through the season with great panache.

An Inter Class Basketball match was held for Class 10. Determined boys and girls were seen playing the matches, each hoping to bring pride to their classes. The audience cheered for their class teams. The final trophy for the boys was bagged by the students of class 10A and by 10D for the girls.



During the Annual Singapore Exchange program, the students from Methodist Girls School and St. Josephs Institution of Class 9 spent two periods with the Class 9 students of our school and had a lot of fun learning about Indian culture and tradition and

interacting with the students.

The Annual Scholastic Book Fair was a smashing hit. Students of various ages, book lovers and serious readers alike were all seen at the book stalls flipping through the new arrivals and queuing up to purchase a few.

The Library Week, back again this year, held a number of fun and exciting competitions for the students like Crosswords, Book reviews, Poster designing and so on. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all the students, who were very eager to win prizes in the respective categories.



The birth centenary celebrations of our school's first Principal, Mrs. Padmini Chari was honored by the presence of her grandson Mr. Rishikesh, an alumnus of our school, and a former Principal, Dr S Anandalakshmy. They shared their thoughts on the life of Mrs. Chari, one of the most inspirational people our school has ever seen.

Mrs. Gowri Ramnarayanan, a famed personality in journalist circles, gave a lecture on the Raamayana, a very engaging and enlightening experience for class 8. She talked to us on the various aspects of the great epic and made it much easier to understand. She truly changed many opinions and shed new light on the subject.



Two antennas got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

CLUB REPORT - Nivethitha, Bhargavi

Literary & Dramatics : Class 10 saw two plays as part of the L&D Club activities this term - "Work in Progress" which was a comedy and "A Christmas Carol" which was a musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' original work.

Interact : The members of the Interact Club visited the Old age home "Vishranti". They danced and sang for the elderly. The Club also had Bakery ,Nail painting and Mehendi stalls put up on the day of the Funfest.



Interact members at Bala Vidyalaya

Nature : The Nature club had an interesting activity this term wherein the members made placards about the various trees in our school. As part of this group activity the members stayed after school to explain their work to parents. The Banyan tree group was declared the winner.

Heritage : On 22nd November, all the students attended a lecture-demonstration by Dr.Kala Shreen which highlighted the customs of the Chettiar community. 51 lucky students were taken to Sathyam Cinemas to watch the documentary "Different Pilgrimages". The members were also taken on an overnight trip to Tranquebar, Karaikal, Poompuhar, Chidambaram and Pitchavaram and were shown a variety of historical and culturally significant places. Ten members attended a workshop organised by INTACH and conducted by Mr. Anil Srinivasan at the end of which there was a competition in which the participants bagged the first place. On 2nd February, the members who participated in the INTACH movie-making competition were taken to Asan Memorial School and given certificates and the special prize for maximum number of entries.



Commerce : As part of this term's activity, the members of the Commerce club advertised their own products. " It was an experience that helped us learn a lot, we really enjoyed it,' says an excited member with a broad smile.



Exnora : On the 22nd of January (Fun Fest day), the Exnora members campaigned for the segregation of waste. They placed two sets of bins - red for non-biodegradable wastes and blue for biodegradable wastes – all

round the school while they held up placards with innovative slogans on the segregation of waste. The members also participated in a quiz about the environment on the 5th of February. The Nature Club joined the Exnora Club for their annual trip to Vedanthangal on the 12th of the same month.

Scouts : 2010 saw a change of guard in the scouts of VM, as zealous new scouts took up new responsibilities. The scouts were present and helped with many events held at the school, including the primary and the K.G. school days. The new set of scouts will hopefully retain the trophy that has been with us for the past three years at the much-looked-forward-to Annual Scout Camp.



Dedicated scouts at work

Math club : The members of the Math club attended various demonstrations and a lecture by Dr.Rammurthy on 'Zeta Functions' at FULCRUM. They were also introduced to the life of India's very own genius Srinivasa Ramanujan and his immense contribution to 'Number Theory'. On 27th February, the students participated in the 'Science Day Celebrations' conducted by 'The Institute of Mathematical Sciences'.

RSP : The second semester began with the induction of new candidates. A few cadets participated in the prestigious Republic Day parade. They also participated in the Road Safety Program conducted by the Lanson Toyota group.



First representative from VM to lead a band contingent
- our V. V. Sir

SPAM : The highlight this term for the SPAM Club was Nada Vaibhavam (The Art of Living) wherein 5700 singers participated in the mega event. For this event the members of the SPAM Club had spent hours after school practising over and over again. In addition, the club conducted its Annual Music Competition.



Arts : The Arts Club conducted two original and interesting activities this term. The members learnt how to use shells to make their art come to life through shell craft and also learnt the technique of spiritual drawing. "We loved learning how to work with shells, it was simply superb", chirps an Arts enthusiast.

Chemistry : The club organised a poem reading competition in which the members wrote and recited rhythmic poems based on various chemical reactions. Two of the groups surprised their fellow members by reciting poems which kindled their thought process. The club also organised dumbcharades along with a model making activity.



"SAYING GOODBYE WITH A HEAVY HEART.."



Shakuntala miss who has been teaching English in our school for close to 36 years will be retiring next year. She is loved by our teachers and students alike and we are sure to miss her presence and experience. On behalf of the school, dear Shakuntala miss, we thank you for all those years of tireless service and here's wishing you the very best of everything life has to offer you!



In conversation with Rupa Miss

-Madhuvanti, Sanjana

share a VM with us! So tell us- what inspired you to become a Kindergarten teacher?

VD : Good morning, Miss. We've heard that you're retiring from your post this year, and would love it if you could share a few memories and experiences at us-

Rupa Miss : My mother retired as a Principal of a Central school and she wanted me to do my B.Ed. As my kids grew older, I found that I had started to miss them. So, I did my nursery training and later my B.Ed and took up a job as a Kindergarten teacher.



VD : Tell us a little about your life here at VM.

R : Being a North Indian, I walked into VM

completely clueless about the language here, which I thought would pose a problem. Over the years, with the help of my wonderful and helpful colleagues, I've been able to understand and appreciate South Indian culture.

VD : What will you miss most about VM?

R : Everything!! My colleagues- we've always made an amazing team! The smiles that I see on the children's faces every morning, planning events like School Day- it's all priceless!

VD : What are Rupa miss' words of wisdom?

R : No matter how bad you feel or how many problems come your way, always keep a smile on your face! It will help you bounce back and succeed.

DOWN THE MEMORY LANE

With Radhakrishnan Sir - Divya, Sharanya



VD : Good afternoon, sir. Your journey here at VM has indeed been a long and eventful one which sadly is now coming to an end. How has it been through the years?

RK : I began as a cashier in 1977 and went on to be a typist. Soon after I was promoted to the post of Asst. Manager and now, after 34 years with VM, I retire as a manager.

VD : It must have been a tough job to come to this position, can you tell us about the people who inspired you during those days?

RK : Tara Miss, Rangamani Miss and Alamelu Miss were with me through thick and thin.

VD : What would you be taking back from VM?

RK : I've learnt so much from my years here. I have learnt how to work efficiently and respect the people I work with.

VD : A word to the students of our school...

RK : Hard work will lead you on to success!

A TIME IT WAS AND WHAT A TIME IT WAS

-85 Batch Alumni

Prologue: On May 1st 2010 in San Francisco, a place as far from Vidya Mandir as possible, a group of ten former classmates got together to remember, celebrate and bid farewell to a fallen star. Some of these friends had stayed in touch. Some had not seen one another since they left school. They recollected and reconnected and recalled their lost friend, and as the day dipped into the wee hours of the morning, the soul of the school stretched across the night sky, a realization dawned upon them that this ending also marked a beginning. It had been too long since they had all left school, but it was clear that the school had not left any of them.

Looking back, Vidya Mandir doesn't seem like just a school, it seems like a way of life that we were blessed to have had. Our teachers made it a haven of warmth, learning and fun and just 'let you be'. Exposing us slowly and consciously to the world in beautiful ways, through games and play, music, stories, dramas, labs, projects, trips, social service, we learnt along the way without pressure, simply imbibing the values and lessons of life.

The pre reunion months were filled with many emotions, on the top of the list being excitement. Add to this a concoction of "butterflies in the stomach", worry of not being able to recognize a guy or a girl, and bumping into someone you had had a crush on etc etc..... It



was interesting that all these emotions melted on the day of the reunion and the moment we were at school meeting each other, all that we felt was deep compassion, joy and oneness.

It was also starkly obvious that all of us carried with us those wonderful values of love, sharing, joy, companionship obviously something we had imbibed during those glorious days at school. To me it seemed that it had never been 25 years ago..... In many ways I equated it to simply returning after our summer vacations.

As the 25th year reunion approached, there came an excitement that could not be described! We longed to say THANKS to our beloved teachers, and meet our long lost classmates.

Age and all the years could not hide the pure joy of meeting a very OLD FRIEND! For all of us, it was very emotional. Put simply, It was once again a time of innocence, a time of confidence! Here's to OLD Friends!

An entire batch got together with our teachers after 25 years to celebrate our school years ! Every one of us could pick up a thread after years of complete silence and connect instantly with another without any awkwardness. Every heart swelled with the same sense of pride of being one of VM85 ! Every heart wanted to give back and every heart did ! 'Saha Veeriyam Kara Vavahai' came true.



Epilogue: While all of us looked forward to, and imagined a grand time, in the end no one really foresaw how easily we would all slip into our past childlike selves. When, without any effort whatsoever, "Yaakundendu" rolled off all our tongues together, we realized then that we had never left school either.

BIDDING FAREWELL - Adithya



It was time to bid farewell to yet another amazing batch of students who will leave the school with memories both sweet and bitter. The "Mock Awards" were given out by the Class XII students in the morning. The Farewell Party was organised marvelously by the

students of Class XI, who took great care in perfecting each and every detail. The evening saw a variety of events-music, dance performances, games and much more. Sitaram of XII-D and Saranya of XII-B were adjudged the winners of the much awaited "Mr. & Ms. VM "event. It deserves special mention that the boys were smartly dressed in their kurtas, dhotis and formals while the girls looked stunning in their half-sarees and sarees!!

THE SPL. ONES - Sanjana

Winston Churchill once said, "Politics is almost as exciting as war, and quite as dangerous", and the saying came true as Vidya Mandir rushed towards its SPL elections. The nominees this year were Adithya Rajagopalan (11-A), Debashri Shankarraman (11-A), Mahima Viswanathan (11-A) and Vaidya Pallasena (11-D). On the day of campaigning the candidates came out with colourful and expressive charts. The unofficial campaigning rule this year was eco- friendliness, a proposal to which our candidates responded admirably.



On the day the votes were cast, they delivered their confident, fiery and heartfelt speeches. When the votes were counted, Adithya emerged as the winner with Mahima and Vaidya close behind. Here's wishing them a good year ahead!

CELEBRATING THE 64th REPUBLIC DAY

- Sharada

The Republic Day celebrations proceeded smoothly as our students managed to rekindle the patriotic flame with energetic songs, colourful dances and inspiring speeches.



This was followed by the solemn and traditional investiture ceremony, which saw our old batch of prefects bid adieu to their posts, as the new team took over. All the best guys!!!

FOUNDERS' DAY - Thanvi



Founders' Day on the third of February was a short but memorable occasion this year. Our President, Mr. Viji Santhanam spoke about issues regarding globalization and how we, as students, could contribute to the welfare of our country! Chief Guest Dr. Geetha Arjun – Director of EV Kalyani Medical Centre, enlightened us on the history of our founders and the various qualities required by an ideal student. As she says, "Opportunities are like buses- it is up to the individual to catch them at the right time!"

"Of Charts And Models, Fun And Learning" - Sharada

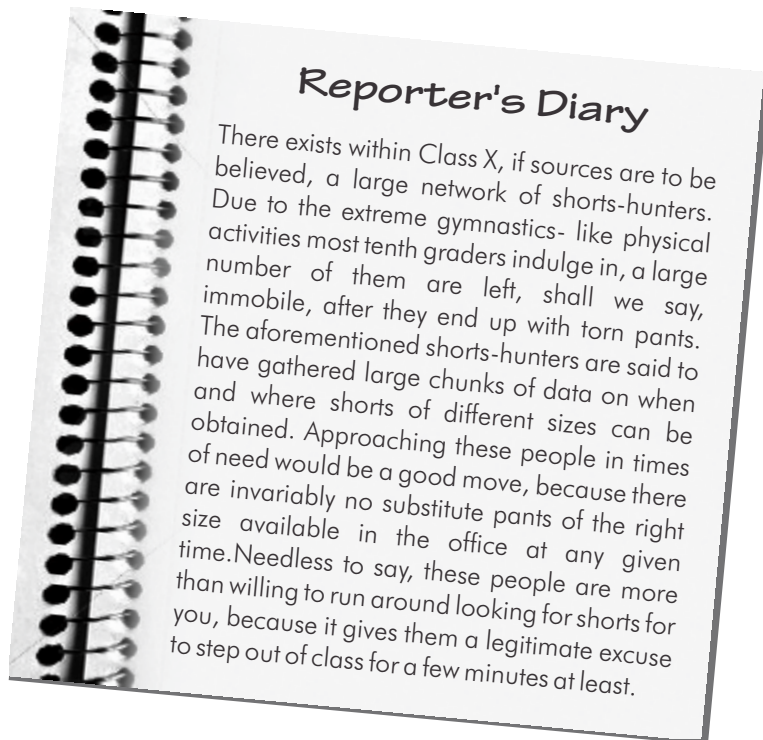


VM's project day has always been synonymous with creativity and enthusiasm, and this year was certainly no exception. Held on the 14th of November, this day saw each class exhibiting their innate artistic and creative talents.

While the sixth graders took us on an exciting journey "From Legyam to Laser", the eighth graders drove us down memory lane with their models and charts depicting "The History of the World". The seventh graders did a project based on religion, which left us wiser by the end of the day. The tenth graders wowed us with their innovative ideas and models based on 'City Planning'. The Primary and KG charmed everyone with their brilliant charts as well.



All in all, the event was a huge success- as always!



PACKED WITH LOADS OF FUN! FUNFEST 2010 - Sharanya Eshwaran



The Funfest was, predictably, one of the most awaited events of this year. The event was a major crowd puller, with students turning up in large numbers to catch all the action. The Interact Club's bake sale was one of the busiest stalls of the day. Special mention to the

Exnora club for doing a great job in making the event eco-friendly. With eye-catching stalls, food and lots of games, the day was a big hit!

Are We Environmentally Aware?? - Sanjana

The latest trend in today's world is to "GO GREEN". The students of 11 B lead by Sneha and Janani have created a chain of plastic refills (which is about 25 ft long) to show all of us how much plastic we use and waste in our everyday lives.



Aren't we placing our environment at stake??

Farewell Note

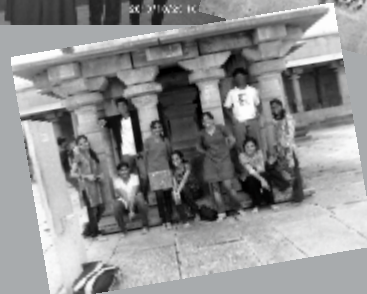
My past four years in the 'Dhwani' have been an amazing experience for me. From running around on my first assignment to putting together the Campus News to writing my last editorial- it has been a blur of exciting and rewarding work. Coordinating events, allotting articles and obtaining photographs could have been stressful and annoying if it weren't for the sheer enthusiasm and spirit of the entire team. I am definitely going to miss everything about the Dhwani, even those last stressful days before the issue goes to print! I wish Sanjana and her team the very best of luck for next year. May the reporter's ink never run dry!

-Nayantara Ravichandran

Ymites + Excursions = Fun!

-Madhuvanti Bharadwaj and Divya Vijayakumar

Bus-loads of students, teachers and excitement - these were the ingredients chosen to create the perfect excursion! The 6th graders played to their hearts' content at Green Fields, while the 7th graders got to visit Sushil Hari International. In the meantime the 8th enjoyed a "suite" day at Maamalla Resort. The 9th had fun enjoying in the rain at Camp Gloria. The 10th frolicked at the TTDC Resort. The overnight trip to Coorg and Mysore was thoroughly enjoyed by the 11th graders and the 12th lived it up in Mahabalipuram- it was their last excursion in school!



News From The Primary - Gaurav



The new term saw a lot of fun filled activities. Project day, held on November 13th was first on the list. The students and teachers also participated in the "One Nation Reading Together" sponsored by Scholastic. The PTA poetry, SPAM and Arts competitions were also held this term. Next in line was the much awaited "Fun Fest" held on 22nd and 23rd January. The Primary School Day held in our school on the 11th of February was a grand success. The enthusiasm, spirit and talent of the children resulted in a breathtaking show which received whole-hearted appreciation. Starting off with a bang was a melodious performance by none other than our very own orchestra, "Amrita Lahiri", which was followed by the play 'Birds of Different Feathers'. This play was put up by the students of Class 1 which set the tone for an entertaining evening. The students of Classes II, III and IV performed with gusto, holding the audience spellbound. The Hindi and Tamil plays brought in a lot of variety and colour. Concluding the day's events was a well executed Dance Drama. A special mention should be made of the scouts and prefects who helped keep the proceedings running smoothly.



Winners of the Sishya sports meet

KG School Day - Raman



From the way they pulled it off, you'd think they were professional performers. The KG School Day, held on Feb 25th, 2011 owes its success to the perseverance of the teachers and kids alike. The show, which began with a prayer, had eight acts; and each one was carried out with complete confidence. If the little 'uns had no clue about what all the noise was about, they had no intentions of showing it. The themes for the acts ranged from "Our Tree and "In the Garden" to "Colours in Nature" and "Celebrating Nature".

Needless to say, the audience was thrilled with the entire event. Our Principal, Bhavani Miss, was seen smiling and enjoying every bit of the evening. Excited parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, siblings, grannies and grandpas clamoured around the stage. The prefects and scouts were scurrying all over the place, maintaining order. It sure was a day well spent!!

Take Three - Shrinath

Take three is back... back again!! With more cricket... oops, sorry about that; this year we are diversifying. And hence we grilled VM's tennis, rowing, and swimming champs; Rithwik.R(RR), Mahima.V (MV), and Shivendra.S. (SS) Here's what we got-

VD - Hi guys, thanks for joining us today. You're the senior-most achievers in your respective categories... can we say the best?

RR - (grins) Definitely.

VD - So, what got you interested in the game?

SS - My uncle played an instrumental role in introducing me to rowing.

RR - Well, everyone in my family plays cricket, and when my elder brother took up tennis instead, I decided to follow in his footsteps.

MV - I started swimming at the age of three for recreation, but my coach convinced me to train for competitive swimming. The rest is history (laughs).

VD - Wow, that's pretty impressive. Can you tell us what you have been up to recently?

RR - I recently took part in the Casa Blanca tournament in Mexico and performed well.

MV - I've set two National records and won six Individual Championships in Group 1 and Under 19 categories.

SS - Being part of ASRA, I went to Sri Lanka where I won a bronze. I also came 2nd in the Sub-Junior Nationals with a personal best of 500m in 1:40 min

VD - Do you have any pearls of wisdom for the Junior VMites?

SS - Do what you love and love what you do and you'll excel!

RR - When you appreciate the beauty of the game, when you feel the game, work and make it big!

MV - Swimming is a wonderful sport that absolutely anybody can take up. A little hard work with a pinch of dedication and the sky's the limit!

VD - Thanks guys. That was really inspiring and we'll be sure to consider your advice. We wish you luck for your future endeavors!



I just read a list of 'the 100 things to do before you die'.
I'm pretty surprised 'yell for help' wasn't one of them.

Campus Hangout..... Thanvi

Stone Benches

Address :
New No. V/M, Gulmohar Tree Street,
"Adjacent to the Reception" Nagar High School
XOXOXO

Busy during : 7.45 am - 4.00 pm

Contact : Your nearest VMite friend

Details : The ultimate relaxation spot, perfect for last minute exam revision, lunch with friends and of course, Nature's own classroom. There's never a time during the day when there isn't a VMite lazing around here. Be it having lunch at eleven, playing chess during P.T, or just finishing a few pages of Math homework, these shady premises, that receive the soothing breeze of the mid-summer sun, make the Stone Benches win as the "Hangout of the Season" hands down!

"It is the ideal spot for getting yourself updated on the latest Campus happenings with friends!" - Aishwarya-8C



The VM4ever Quiz - Sharada

How much do you know about VM?
Take this quiz-cum-crossword and we'll soon find out!

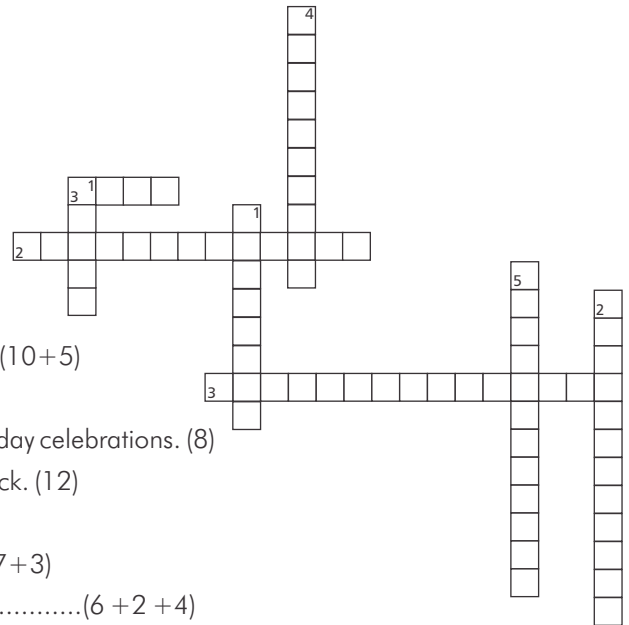
Clues

Across

- The total number of gates in the entire school is..... (4)
- All-time favourite at the canteen-.....(13)
- This tree has large pink flowers, and is found near the.....(10+5)

Down

-was one of the chief guests at our golden jubilee school day celebrations. (8)
-, the famous artist, designed our KG school block. (12)
- 3B is located on the floor (5)
- The KG block is now situated where the old used to be. (7+3)
- The difference between the 10th and 8th grade classrooms is in the(6 + 2 + 4)



'Budding' Photographer

Nithya Shreen of 8B has specialized in the art of photography. With all her passion for nature, especially flowers, she has taken up a detailed study on the variety of flowers and their importance. She has released a flower calendar in association with Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry. We wish her all the best for her future endeavours.



'One Nation Reading Together' - teachers and students



The speech that made a difference



"Never hide your identity" - Anonymous