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STUDENT EDITION
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020
WEB EDITION

SCHOOLS TO REOPEN FOR CLASSES IX-XII FROM SEPTEMBER 21

The ministry of health and family welfare has issued detailed guidelines for the reopening of schools for students of classes IX to XII on a VOLUNTARY BASIS, starting September 21. However, a student would need a written permission from parents to attend school. According to the guidelines, schools would function at 50 per cent capacity, and online classes will continue. Students of classes IX to XII have the option of attending classes virtually or physically on a voluntary basis. The ministry has also suggested that rather than closed classrooms, schools should utilise open spaces outdoors for student-teacher interaction, if the weather permits. Canteens inside the schools will remain closed.



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AT THE ENTRY POINT

- Entrance to have mandatory hand hygiene (sanitiser dispenser) and thermal screening provisions
- Multiple gates/separate gates, if feasible, should be used for entry and exit. ■ Only asymptomatic persons (teachers, employees and students) to be allowed in the school premises
- If a teacher/employee/student is found to be symptomatic, he/she should be referred to the nearest health centre ■ Posters/standees on preventive measures about Covid-19 to be displayed prominently

- Proper crowd management in the parking lots, in corridors, and in the elevators – duly following physical distancing norms to be followed
- Entry of visitors should be strictly regulated/restricted



Guidelines before reopening

- 1 All schools reopening on September 21 would be required to have thermal guns at the school gates to check temperature of teachers and students
- 2 Before opening, schools must completely sanitise

the classrooms and ensure the availability of 1% hypochlorite solutions, alcohol wipes and sanitisers, the SOP said

- 3 Schools that were turned into quarantine centres would need to ensure deep cleaning of the premises before they reopen, it added

The SOP

- Masks would be mandatory at all times for students, teachers and the non-teaching staff
- Frequently-touched surfaces, like the door knobs, elevator buttons, hand rails, chairs, benches, washroom fixtures would be cleaned with hypochlorite solution
- Teaching materials, computers, laptops, printers, shall

be disinfected with 70% alcohol wipes. ■ Deep cleaning of all drinking and hand washing stations, washrooms and lavatories would be ensured. ■ There would be no assembly, sports or events, which could lead to overcrowding of schools.

SANITISING MEASURES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

- Students and teachers would be asked to dispose of used face covers and masks in separate covered bins placed in classrooms and common areas. ➢ These would remain stored for three days in the bins, and then disposed of as dry general solid waste after cutting and shredding
- Students would not be allowed to involve in cleaning activities

You share your BIRTHDAY with

JACK MA

SEPTEMBER 10

Chinese business magnate, investor and philanthropist, Jack Ma is the co-founder and former executive chairman of the Alibaba Group, a multinational technology conglomerate. Often listed as one of the world's most powerful people by the Forbes magazine, Ma retired from Alibaba to pursue educational work, philanthropy, and environmental causes, in September 2019. He stepped down in favour of Daniel Zhang, who succeeded him as the executive chairman of Alibaba

WORD WATCH

ASUNDER

Means into parts; apart from each other. Asunder can be traced back to the old English word, sundor, meaning, "apart." It is a relative of the verb sunder, which means, "to break apart" or "to become parted, disunited, or severed." The "into parts" sense of asunder is often used in the phrase, "tear asunder," which can be used both literally and figuratively (as in "a family torn asunder by tragedy").

BOOK REVIEW

THE POWER OF NOW

Author: Eckhart Tolle; Price ₹499

Teachers often have this beautiful blend of loving unconditionally their students and yet, having the power to snap them to their attention almost in a military regime-like manner. What is the connection of educationists with this book? The book talks about how the teachers inculcate in you the very nature of how to live your life to the best, while realising your own worth and staying grounded. 'The Power of Now' has been dismissed as mere mumbo-jumbo by few critics, while many have found it a complete wholesome experience, wherein you grow beyond yourself.

- Reviewed by Malini Menon

Think about our future: 12-year-old climate activist writes to PM Modi



FOR A CAUSE

On the occasion of the first International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on Sept 7, a 12-year-old environmental activist wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding clean air for all. If nothing is done, everyone will have to carry oxygen cylinders, she warned. In a hand-written letter to the Prime Minister, **Ridhima Pandey** from Haridwar, said, "Sir, kindly help us by making sure that an oxygen cylinder does not become an essential part of the life of children, which we have to carry on our shoulders everywhere in the future." I worry, if a 12-year-old like me finds it difficult to breathe, think of the babies or children younger to me living in cities, like Delhi and others," the 12-year-old rued.

Last year, the United Nations General Assembly had adopted a resolution to hold an International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies during its 74th session. The day aims at raising awareness at all levels – individual, community, corporate and government – on the importance of clean air

FACTOID

900 MILLION TONS

That's the amount of carbon dioxide soaked up by the oceans across the world in a year, according to a new study. Carbon dioxide in the marine environment literally turns the water more acidic, causing coral bleaching. It also forces animals to flee to more hospitable regions



- Carbon dioxide (CO2) is one of the biggest contributors to global warming. After the gas is released into the atmosphere, it stays there, making it difficult for the heat to escape, and warming up the planet, in the process.
- It is primarily released from burning fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and gas, as well as cement production
- The average monthly concentration of CO2 in the Earth's atmosphere, as of April 2019, is 413 parts per million (ppm). Before the Industrial Revolution, the concentration was just 280 ppm.
- CO2 concentration has fluctuated over the last 800,000 years between 180 to 280ppm, but has vastly been accelerated by pollution caused by humans.

Daily Mail

NEWS IN BRIEF

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TIPTONIC



Planning to eat out? Follow these safety measures

With restaurants getting a green signal to reopen, after remaining closed for almost five months, restaurant owners are expecting that eating out culture will get a boost. However, as the threat of the virus still remains, follow the safety norms to minimise the risk of contracting the infection. Here are some precautions that you should take, while venturing out to eat...

- 1 Do some homework beforehand to check if the restaurant is following safety practices as laid down by the local health authorities. Pay special attention on whether the staff is wearing masks, disinfecting surfaces regularly, and practising social distancing; and whether tables are kept sufficiently apart to increase the distance between two sets of diners
- 2 If you have any Covid-19 symptoms, such as fever or shortness of breath, stay home. By venturing out to eat, you may be putting your loved ones, friends, and the general public at risk
- 3 Make sure that you maintain a distance of six- feet from other people inside the restaurant, while standing in a queue, for instance. At all times when you are not eating at your table, use a face covering to cover your mouth and nose
- 4 According to some experts, it is preferable to order food that is hot and well-cooked instead of cold and under-cooked
- 5 Avoid hand contact or paying by cash. Prefer cards or digital payment

KRITI SANON SHARES MANTRA



Actress Kriti Sanon has penned her mantra on Instagram. "You can never please anyone. So, don't even try. As long as you know your truth, as long as your heart is in sync with your conscience, as long as you still like the person you wake up as, and you understand the one you see in the mirror, you'll find peace in any storm," Kriti wrote.

CELEB TALK

Kriti has been sharing her thoughts on social media for a while now. Recently, people created one of her posts as "cryptic", and linked it with the late actor Sushant Singh Rajput, who was found dead at his Bandra residence on June 14

IMAGINARY PLACES IN LITERATURE THAT BECAME ICONIC

SHANGRI LA

Shangri-La is a fictional Tibetan land of eternal youth in James Hilton's 1933 novel, 'Lost Horizon'. Meaning 'mountain pass' in Tibetan language, it is described by Hilton as a mystical, harmonious valley, guided by a lamasery, enclosed in the western end of the Kunlun Mountains



HOGWARTS

For those of us, who grew up reading the Harry Potter books and watching the movies, it has been a collective fantasy to study at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. It is a place of learning, where children learn how to practice magic in several forms, including potions and spells. It is full of magical creatures, enchanted plants, and all kinds of magical adventures.



MALGUDI

Malgudi, a fictional town, located in South India, is a regular feature in the novels and short stories of RK Narayan. Malgudi, a blend of two Bangalore localities – Malleshwaram and Basavanagudi, was successfully portrayed as a miniature India by Narayan through his stories



RIVER HEIGHTS

A fictional town in the Nancy Drew series, River Heights is the place, where Nancy Drew lives with her father, attorney Carson Drew, and their housekeeper, Hannah Gruen. It is where all the action, suspense and drama takes place.



LILLIPUT

Lilliput, a fictional island that appears in the first part of the 1726 novel, 'Gulliver's Travels' by Jonathan Swift, is located in the South Indian Ocean, and inhabited by tiny people, who are about one-twelfth the height of ordinary human beings. Lilliput is ruled by a self-styled emperor, and its capital is Mildendo



QUOTE UNQUOTE

This will not be the last pandemic. History teaches us that outbreaks and pandemics are a fact of life. But when the next pandemic comes, the world must be ready – more ready than it was this time

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, chief, WHO



19th Dr Amidas Goradia National Inter school Debate in English

The Indian School hosted the 19th Dr Amidas Goradia National Interschool Debate. 28 schools from diverse geographies covering all regions—north, south, east and west, made their presence felt.

Principal, Tania Joshi welcomed to the participants and wished them luck. She announced that being host, The Indian School would not compete for the rolling trophy but would offer worthy competition in the individual categories to participating debaters!

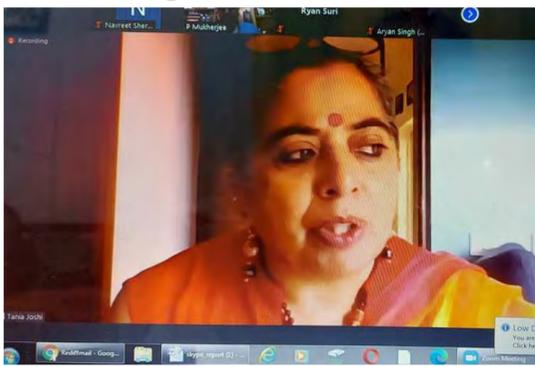
The dignitaries present on the memorable occasion included School Chairman, Prafull Goradia, Vice-Chairpersons, Dr Nayana Goradia and Brinda Shroff, Lal Raisinghani, Director; Principal Tania Joshi, Vice Principal Dr Anu Singh and senior PTA representatives.

Chief Guest, Lord Meghnad Desai, economist, author and British parliamentarian was welcomed by Brinda Shroff. In her welcome address, Shroff spoke of Lord Desai and expressed the unadulterated joy one experienced at the debate on witnessing convictions being cut, then demolished only to be re-crafted in an exuberant battle of beliefs, knowledge and communication.

The vice-chair further shed light on this year's theme commemorating four great pioneers in history- Drs Vikram Sarabhai, Hanumanthappa Narasimhaiah, Vladimir Ilyich and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The common thread among them is that each ushered a revolution leaving a lasting impact on their societies.

The panel of judges included Sahaj Umang Singh Bhatia, Assistant director at White Balance Social Media Influencer for the extempore round, Parnab Mukherjee

for the turnout debate, and Abhishek Pal, writer and re-



THE OUTSTANDING RESULTS

Best Speaker (finals)
Siddhant Nagrath, Vasant Valley School, New Delhi

Best Outstation School
Singapore International School, Mumbai

searcher to adjudicate the bridge round.

The extempore topics covered themes from 'This number does not exist', 'The taste of words', to 'Objects in the rearview mirror appear closer', and such.

Manan Kakkar of class IX represented the The Indian School effectively in this round.

Aryan Singh (XII) adroitly constructed the motion 'This house knows that climate change is both

endemic and pandemic in the true sense of the word.'

For the Bridge round, the topic was 'This house will implement a negative income tax.' From the host school team, Ekveer Sahoo of class IX convincingly interpreted the motion.

The dialectics on Day 1 culminated on a note of anticipation with all teams looking forward to the announcement of the results the next day, with bated breath.

On the second day of the debate, the six qualifying teams were announced by Principal Joshi. The six best teams included Mayo College for Girls, Ajmer; Mahadevi Birla World Academy, Kolkata; Singapore International School, Mumbai; The Mother's International School, Vasant Valley School and The Indian School.

At the end of the debate, Mayo College Girls' emerged as the consistent winners and Vasant Valley School was declared runners-up. The Indianite debating team member, Aryan Singh did the School proud by bagging the title of Best Speaker in the Semi-finals.

Teachers are Lifelong Learners

September 5, is celebrated as 'Teachers' Day' to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, the Second President of India and a renowned teacher and a philosopher for his commendable contribution to education. This day is rightly set aside to honour our teachers for their



sacrifice in making a significant contribution to society. Due to the current pandemic situation, over the past few months, the Indian K-12 sector has evolved with a transition taking place from offline to the online mode of learning. We

witnessed teachers unlearn and relearn, and learn new strategies and tools that were available online in order to provide a productive learning experience for the students. As a result, there was a seamless transition for many schools from offline to the virtual interactive mode of learning. In the years ahead, hybrid blended learning with 'face-to-face classrooms and virtual lessons' is likely to be the future of education that will provide engaging and meaningful learning experiences for our students. Virtual learning as an integral part of the education system is here to stay, however, the holistic development through school activities with teachers as mentors will continue to remain integral part of a child's education.

While we appreciate our teachers for their relentless effort to guide children, with the National Education Policy (NEP2020) the whole pedagogical framework has undergone a change and therefore we will stand to benefit if our teachers as lifelong learners embrace the changes proactively and redesign and redefine the learning outcomes to make our children more global citizens. On this 'Teachers' Day, we urge all our dear teachers to rededicate themselves for this noble cause of education. There is a wealth of talent and potential within every child and teachers would serve them well to facilitate the unlocking of this wealth and empowering them to discover their true purpose in life.

DR MADAM GRACE PINTO, Managing Director, Ryan International Group of Institutions

E-ComBat 2020

TAKES ON THE NATIONAL PLATFORM

E-ComBat 2020, the annual commerce fest of Ahlcon Public School, Mayur Vihar organised by the Commix Club took on the national platform in this academic session of 2020-21 and was conducted online with over 25 schools participating from all over India. The event was held with

the Navin Agrawal, Senior Partner with KPMG as the Chief Guest and Neha Manglik Mittal, alumnus of school as the Guest of Honour. A total of four competitions were included namely- Insta Biz, Face-to-Face, Pitched In, and Wolf of the Wall Street.

The digital event began with the obeisance to Lord Ganesha followed by the speech of Dr. Ashok Kumar Pandey, Director of Ahlcon Schools. He stressed on the importance of economic equality, exploration and efforts to stop environmental degradation. All the guests were welcomed by the Principal, Ahlcon Public School and he also wished the teams the best. Navin Agrawal, the Chief Guest for the day, emphasised on the

increased use and importance of technology which has now come to the forefront during the pandemic. He also highlighted the three qualities of integrity, humility and giving one's best shot as integral to the success of any human endeavour. The event was declared open by the President of the Club, Saumya Jain. The event Pitched In was conducted on the very same day whereas the other three competitions were held over a time period of three days preceding the day of the Opening

and Closing Ceremonies. The winners were announced during the Closing Ceremony which began with the speech of the Guest of Honour, Neha Manglik Mittal who congratulated all the participants and motivated the students to learn as much as possible through practical experience gained by the way of internships. The overall champion's trophy was bagged by Father Agnel School, NOIDA. The event culminated with a Vote of Thanks read by the Vice-President of the Club Arushi.



Sky is the limit for a teacher when it comes to exploring creative avenues of learning for her pupils

Where are all the fun classrooms and activity centres, which filled the school walls with kids' joyous laughter? Well, it is right here, at VGS! In the times of fundamental change, education system also needs to be revamped and that's what we are trying to achieve. We, at VGS, have come up with yet another enthralling way of teaching-learning, and are extremely thrilled to share the same with you.

We have initiated Augmented Reality (AR) in our classrooms that adds virtual objects to the real world. Wel-

come to the superior digital learning world where AR not only enhances learning, it even provides students with opportunities to create their own content. AR has great potential in revolutionizing the world of education. This endeavour aims at restoring the elements of surprise and inquisitiveness of students in class, so that even in absence of physical classroom, they can feel closer to reality. Imagine how interesting it would be if kids see a giant dinosaur amidst their classroom or experience a tour inside the human brain! A virtual world tour from the comfort of their homes, and how about a travel in space amidst the beautiful constellations! The purpose here is not only to make them

understand and remember things but we also want them to experience things. As a school community, we are trying to incorporate this technology as a constructive tool to make learning better than ever.

The VGS Team appreciates the efforts of our teachers who have been working meticulously since day one and are leaving no stone unturned to bring life to their virtual classrooms. With use of AR, they can teach as per their ease as they have the control of the devices and can create fun flipped classrooms. We hope that this style of teaching-learning will open up new vistas in online teaching by bringing extra creativity, interactivity and engagement in all subjects.

OPENING OF AUDITORIUM



Salwan Public School, Ghaziabad conducted the inauguration ceremony of the school's recently renovated auditorium. The state-of-the-art auditorium was inaugurated by 'Asha Garg' school's topper Class X, in a formal ceremonial manner. She felt honoured to get the opportunity to inaugurate the auditorium and spoke about the ways school has groomed and polished her to attain greater heights. The school's Head Boy and Head Girl too expressed their priceless memories, valuable thoughts and gratitude for the auditorium.

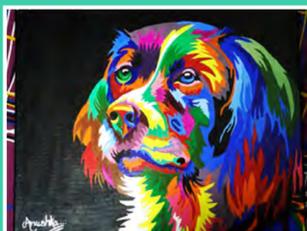
It was the first time in the history of Salwan Education Trust that the inauguration was done by a student. Only few students and parents were invited to attend the inauguration to maintain the norms of social distancing. Rest of the school witnessed the programme on virtual platform. It was the time to thank God for being with the school management throughout the construction of this new beautiful edifice of learning and for blessing all those who have been involved in this project. Students invoked the blessings of Almighty by offering prayers and a hawan was solemnized. Chairman Salwan Education Trust, Sushil Dutt Salwan, enlightened the students to remain resilient in the time of crisis and keep trudging the path of success with confidence.

Chairman of the school, Vice Admiral Retd., Pravesh Jaitley motivated the student fraternity to broaden their perspective and reach out to the wider world. Talking about the auditorium, he assured the parents that school is committed to its goal and will strive to create many such learning spaces for children.

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Student Corner



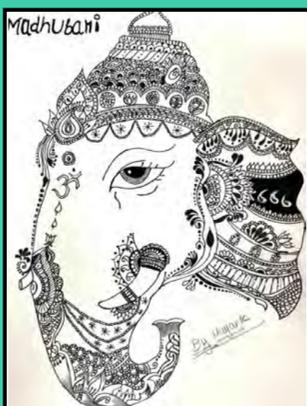
ANUSHKA BATRA, XII, DAV Public School, Sec-14, Faridabad



SIMRAN SURANA VIII, Modern school, Shalimar bagh



GUNRAJ, VII, Manav Sthali Global School, Rajendra Nagar.



MAYANK, X, Sumer Mal jain public school, Janakpuri

Today when we're locked up and feeling blue, Oh mother, what you said to me seems so true

Even though the sun is showering light, How do I go out without being full of fright?

The days feel longer than ever, I haven't taken a whiff of the cool breeze since what seems like forever

My mind keeps meandering away to those dark pathways, I feel frustrated, as if there is no way out of this maze I feel exhausted and weary And the eyes are showing it off looking all bleary.

How do I urge myself to work? And then I think of you, mother and your beautiful smirk

When father used to lock me up while you were away for work, I used to keep on weeping silently, but internally I went berserk.

You taught me a valuable lesson, when I was timid and shy There is more to life than what just meets the eye.

"Do you see these on your hands" I wondered what she was referring to, my hands were empty but wounded and tanned

She explained in her mellifluous voice, "These are the shackles you are confined within by the society" "You need to always behave with a certain propriety"

You are locked up in a relationship, that you're obligated to maintain, Even if it means nothing to you and is all in vain.



A MOTHER'S ADVICE

It isn't always necessary to make others happy, and even though this sounds a bit sappy

You must do what is best for you, Your heart will always lead you to a path that is virtuous and true.

You see things as you are and not as they are everywhere, So, it's up to you which shade of glasses you choose to wear

Don't let trivial things bother you, Otherwise you will feel melancholic and blue

Today I am locked up and feeling content Oh mother, thank you for the edification for I understood what it meant.

VASVI VERMA, XI, Manav Sthali School, Rajendra Nagar