

PRIMUS

Rhapsody

2019-20

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PRIMUS RHAPSODY

2019-2020

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From the Principal's Desk



As I sit at home and ponder over what I must write for the latest edition of Rhapsody, I wonder about the state of the world today and the devastating impact of the Covid-19 virus on the entire world. We are all overwhelmed with the forced 'physical distancing', the feeling that each person can be a threat to another and the complete shutdown of all activity that we never thought possible. As a school, we have used technology to help keep our students in touch with academics and made sure all children and staff are at their homes, safely away from the campus. This is supposed to keep us healthy--- at least physically!

Humans are creatures of the mind and it is difficult to stay calm and not panic during these trying times. We need to focus on a brighter future and believe that we will all get over this (like China seems to have) and that life will get back to 'normal' again. What we need in abundant measure is HOPE. Hope is one of the most powerful emotions we can feel. It is an elixir that elevates us from within. When you are able to visualize a positive and fulfilling tomorrow, the present will seem easier to deal with. As Joseph Addison aptly said, "Three grand essentials to happiness in this life are something to do, something to love and something to hope for."

Being hopeful makes one happier which in turn triggers the activation of happy hormones which keep you healthy physically, emotionally and spiritually. I am sure we can find many reasons to hope all around us- the joy, trust and curiosity of the children; the cleaner, greener surroundings; watching the beauty of dawn and dusk; the relaxed time spent with the family; having time to listen to music, read books, indulge in creative pursuits and watch movies and shows that we never had time to earlier; the peaceful walks; the long conversations with friends; taking the naps you always yearned for; the kind and helpful acts we see around us every day - the list is endless!

Hope is the ability to see what can be rather than only what is. A big part of being hopeful comes from having an imagination. Children are naturally imaginative because they haven't yet been told that something is not possible! Each of us has an imagination but, just like a muscle, it gets stronger, the more we use it and becomes weak if we don't. Let us all use our imaginations to give wing to all the ideas that we may have wanted to try but 'thought better of it'!

Knowledge is very important of course. As Einstein said, "Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere. Imagination is more important than knowledge." Knowledge helps us use what we have learnt and understood. Imagination, however, helps you make the leap to what could be. This is how we learn and understand abstract concepts at school. It is creativity in action.

It is this imagination that inspired Steve Jobs to create Apple, Jack Ma to create Alibaba, Elon Musk to start Tesla and so many others who helped design our future. Any dramatic scientific invention came only because the scientist dared to dream and imagine.

One of the techniques most sportspersons employ is to imagine themselves winning their game. This helps them push themselves to achieve their goal. Similarly, it is the imagination of artists that gives us such spectacular creations that bring amazing beauty into our lives whether they are in visual media or performing arts, gourmet chefs or brilliant authors. It is this imagination that takes us places even when we are confined within the four walls of our own homes. It gives us hope and keeps us motivated to stay mentally and emotionally healthy through trying times.

Let us help our children develop their imaginations and teach them that hope springs eternal and will keep them going through all the challenges that life may throw at them. Imagination is inherent in each of us and we must all use it to shape our reality.

As you read and see all that this new edition of Rhapsody has to offer, I hope it kindles your imagination. Seeing the wonderful creations of the children should help you believe in the power of imagination and make you hopeful of a brighter day for our children!

Regards,

Anuradha

Mrs Anuradha Krishnan
Principal



Annual Report

Dear Parents,

Greetings! Primus is proud to celebrate today for yet another successful year. It is a celebration of our dear children and their achievements in the current academic year. Our children have proven their excellence in academics, sports and co-curricular activities as well. Their persistent efforts to continually keep doing well have shown unmatched results.

Our year begins with the **Investiture Ceremony** when the students, selected as Prefects for the year, are invested with their honours. It is a solemn occasion and a matter of great pride for students and their parents.

Academic Awards Day is the day we celebrate our scholarly achievers. This includes those who do well in their school exams as well as those students who have passed their IGCSE, AS, A Level and PUC Board Examinations with flying colors. This year we have introduced ICSE syllabus for grade 6 and above.

Results

Our outstanding students Sidharth Sudhir and Kushal Mohta have secured the coveted positions of World Toppers in Biology and Mathematics in the **IGCSE exams** conducted in March 2019. The overall topper Sidharth Sudhir has scored a whopping 94.38%, followed by Kalidas Pradeep with 93.13% and Medha Murti who has scored 93% and A* in all 8 subjects. This year, 95.65% of grades were C and above and 67.59% of the children scored A or A*. 32 students of Grade 10 class have earned their ICE certificate with Distinction, while 13 have secured their ICE with Merit.

In the **A level exams**, Pranav Muralidhar has topped with 92% and 4 A* and an A in English. He is currently a student at Erasmus University, Notre Dame. Divit Singh of **AS level** has been another high achiever of 3 A grades with an astounding 94.33%.

Out of 64 students who appeared for the **II PUC exam**, 30 students secured a Distinction (above 75%). Almost 90% of our students scored either Distinction or First Divisions.

In the Science stream, Greeshma Vishnu, the college topper secured 95.1% followed closely by Rhea Adhikari with a score of 94.8%. In the Commerce stream, Gayathri Vinod topped the college with 94.7%.

11 students scored centum in Mathematics, Computer Science, Accountancy, Statistics and Sanskrit.

Currently, from the same batch we have Aman Chandra, Harsha Vardhana Vishakha, Neel Kabra, Shreyas Gupta and Kushan Raj pursuing undergraduate programmes in IITs, Sidharth Varghese and Akshat Shisodia in BITS, Pilani, Pranav Muralidhar in Erasmus University, Sneha Gupta in University of Washington, Priyanga Gandhi in University of Glasgow, Tejas Poolu in Ohio State University, Supriya in De Anza Community College, California and Kavya Suresh in Budapest, Hungary and Manas Tiwari and Sohini Roy in University of Illinois.

ASSET Exam: Omkaar A Nerurkar and Prisha Karn (**Gold Scholar**), Anuranan Nath (**Silver Scholar**), Tvaritha S Guzar (**Bronze Scholar**)

Olympiad Highlights: Tushara Bharath Singoor was ranked 4th, Ritvik Madhukar Rao was ranked 8th and Aditi Verma was ranked 10th in the International English Olympiad. They won a Gift Voucher worth Rs.1000 each. In the NCO Keerat Singh Bhasin scored International rank 61 and won a Gift Voucher worth Rs.1000.

The other events of the year were **Independence Day, Rajyotsava Day, Hindi Diwas, Teachers' Day, Children's Day, Diwali, World Environment Day, Commerce Fest, The Annual Sports Day, Republic Day, Annual Day** and **Graduation Day**. A large number of projects and activities were also undertaken by our students of kindergarten to grade 12. You can peruse the detailed reports of all these events in the magazine.



For the first time at Primus, Tara Kurre of the Chemistry Department hosted **Empowering Women in Chemistry: A Global Networking Event** in which chemists worldwide came together as part of IUPAC's global breakfast initiative in honour of the International Year of the Periodic Table and the 100th anniversary of IUPAC.

The first **Primus Alumni Meet** was held on 13th July 2019. The meet started with a welcome address from the Principal. Thereafter, there was a meet-and-greet session where our ex- Primus cubs spoke about the trajectories of their lives since they had left school. The meeting was then put into high gear with the elections where the alumni body chose its leaders. The current students of Grade 10, AS and A levels and PUCs put up cultural programmes for their seniors.

Our alumni Pranav Muralidhar (currently a student at Erasmus University, Rotterdam) and Sanjivini Singh (Celebrity Manager with Times Group) visited our students and spoke at length about their experiences and motivated students to what it takes to ensure that they excel in what they do.

At Primus students' initiative is always encouraged. As part of the Awareness Week, the kindergarten children made tiger masks and placards and went on a procession inside the school premises calling out 'Save our Tigers' and 'Don't Kill our Tigers'.

This year delegates from **Krea University, Ashoka University, University of York, University of Roehampton, The University of Buckingham, Tokyo International University (Japan)** and **Indian School of Design and Innovation** visited Primus campus and shared with our students the variety of undergraduate programmes they offered. AS, A Level and PU students also attended a **Career Fest** at Ebenezer International School, Bangalore.

Students of grade 9-12 participated in a hands-on **DNA workshop** conducted by Escherichia Genomics Pvt. Ltd. on 27th July, where they learned

to extract, observe and analyse DNA samples. 'A' Level students visited DPS North to attend **Brihat: A Cosmic Dance**. The students interacted with scientists from CERN who gave them an insight into mysteries of the universe and upcoming potentially ground-breaking projects.

Mr Siddhant Shah, representing **Access For All**, a design and counselling business, visited Primus to conduct a workshop for AS and A level students. 27-year-old Siddhant Shah is India's first architect to render heritage projects and museums accessible to the visually impaired.

This year for the first time, football enthusiasts at **Primus hosted a Football Tournament For Parents** and it was a grand success.

Sports Achievements

- Won the **Bangalore Shooters Cup Interschool Football Tournament** (U-14 Boys).
- I place for Football (below 8th Grade) at **Gopalan National Inter-School Tournament**, Hoodi.
- I place for (U-15 Girls) and (U-12 Boys); II place for (U-10 Boys) at **Just play Sunil Chetri Trophy Inter School Football tournament**, Electronic City.
- In Football (U-14 boys) - I place, (U-14 Girls) - II place, (U-16 boys) - III place, (U-18 Boys) - III place, (U-14 boys) - III place, (U-18 Boys) - III place.
- In Basketball (U - 14 girls) - III place, (U- 18 boys) - III place, (U-18 girls) - III place
- In Badminton (U-16 girls) - III place, all held at Gear Innovative International School, Doddakanneli.
- At **St. Patrick's Academy**, Ambedkar Nagar we won II place for (U-16 Girls) - 4X100 Relay and III place for (U-16 Boys) - 4X100 Relay
- III place for Football - (U-15 Boys) held at New Horizon Gurukul, Bellandur.



Student Achievements

- Medha Shashidharan will be representing Bengaluru Raptors in Premier Badminton League, Season 5.
- Akshay Bhave won silver medal in Junior Boys category (Age 14-16) in the Karnataka State Sports Climbing (Lead) competition held on 26 May, 2019. Akshay Bhave has also participated in Sports Climbing Nationals in Darjeeling.
- Ananjan Kaushik won the Van Horn Cup team event for golf, after finishing T-11 at the European Championships, Scotland. He finished T-38th at the Junior World Championships in North Carolina, USA. Ananjan also achieved Podium finishes at National tournament in Chandigarh, Coimbatore and Bangalore.

Other Achievements

- III for quiz and II for Creative Writing in Grade 7 Category, at **Vistas 2019**, Innisfree School.
- I (Grade 8 Category) and III (Grade 7 Category) in **Quiz at Reach Out Event**.
- I place (Junior & Senior Category) at **Quizatron**, Inventure Academy Debate
- Shashank J Rao was identified as the Best Speaker at **Quizatron**, Inventure Academy Senior category debate.
- Chinmay, Aditya, Syed Nabhan received a special mention for their performance at **Amateur Scientist, PES University Science Exhibition**.

The students were taken for **OUT-BOUND LEARNING** trips to camp sites; Avaaniya, Eagles Unbound and Area-83. About 80 students along with teachers went on a 7-day trip to Delhi-Agra –Jaipur. It proved that when students and teachers are together outside classroom, new learnings and experiences are possible.

Professional Development Training

As part of our ongoing professional development, our teachers attended workshops on and off the campus.

- The teachers of Primus Public School had a session by Dr Thimappa Hegde on **Mind Mastering**. Dr Thimappa Hegde is a Consultant Neurosurgeon and the Director of Neurosciences in Narayana Health and a coveted speaker on Neuroscience.
- Drishti Counselling Centre held an interactive workshop on **Inclusive Learning**.
- Ms Sujata Nanda Kayal spoke about green measures for educational measures through her presentation **An Effort for a Better World**.
- Teachers of Kindergarten and Grade I attended the **Chrysalis**, a hands-on activity-based learning workshop at Primus.
- Divya Anish, Joyti Gupta, Atherunnisa and Ashuta Karandikar attended a **Core Skills** workshop organized by the British Council at Harvest International School Bangalore and a two-day workshop conducted by Mr Christopher Thompson, Associate Professor, Monash University, Australia, at Chancery Pavilion, Residency Road.
- Rajita Manoj, Kavya Venugopal, Mary Jommy and Rama Sudha attended **CreatiWITTY**, an idea triggering workshop for Kindergarten educators and teacher trainees at PSTTI.
- Rajita Manoj attended a workshop on **Serious Play with Lego**. The Pedagogy of Play project aspires to change the way educators and policy makers think about play and playful learning at school.
- Swati Shrivastava attended a two-day workshop **Cambridge IGCSE Hindi as a Second Language-Extension Training** in Mumbai.
- The teachers from Humanities Department Ms Anna, Ms Bhadra and Ms Anamika attended a two-day workshop at Mallya Aditi International School learning much about the **shifting sociological landscape of our country**. The sessions covered a myriad of topics such as ‘interrogating the Indian constitution’ to ‘teaching humanities in the age of nationalism’.

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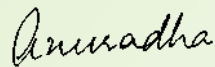


We have always strived to make Primus one of the best schools in all aspects. Our efforts were recognised. BITS Pilani, Dubai has presented Primus with **Global Innovative School Award for Scale of Impact in STEM. Education World** has ranked Primus Public School, as the 3rd best International Day School in Bangalore. **Times Education Excellence-2019** has ranked us as the 6th best International Curriculum in Bangalore. Primus Public School was ranked No.14 in India, No.3 in Karnataka and No.3 in Bengaluru in a survey conducted by **Education Today. Spell Bee International** awarded Primus Commitment to Excellence award. Primus was awarded Excellence in Technological Advancements in Learning by **ELDROK India K-12 Summit**. Brainfeed has selected Primus for the **Brainfeed School Excellence Awards 2019-20** as one of the Best Schools in India!

Our students have proven that they have what it takes to be winners in the academic, sports or cultural arena. Our children have been happy and their joy is what inspires us to come to work every morning!

Parental participation, support and encouragement are key to the success of the students. You, dear parents have contributed greatly to the success of the children and the school. We look forward to your continued affirmation of what we stand for. Thank you all very much!

Thanks and Regards



Mrs Anuradha Krishnan
Principal



Mastering Mind

The teachers of Primus Public School had a session by Dr Thimappa Hegde on Mind Mastering which is also referred to as Manojaya. Dr Thimappa Hegde is a consultant Neurosurgeon and Director of Neurosciences in Narayana Health and a coveted speaker on Neuroscience. The session was an eye opener and helped one realise that meditating on one's thoughts and cultivating an attitude of positivity are imperative. An individual's mind is bombarded by a myriad of thoughts every moment and when one is able to alienate their self from the negative thoughts and steer oneself to believe in something which we can accomplish, our journey truly starts. In his presentation he discussed many cases where the person has met with life threatening accidents and disease but with the help of medical care and positive reinforcement is able to lead a normal life.

There is a saying, “Manjeet, Jagjeet” which means if you have conquered your heart, you have conquered

the world. The session was very interactive and he kept quoting examples from day to day life to keep everyone engaged. In between he kept asking us to read from his presentation which kept everyone listening to him in rapt attention. He discussed the three modes of listening i.e. Mumuksha, Kutuhal and Jigyasa mode. The concept of “You control your mind and the mind should not control you” is really significant. Although we all are aware of this but sometimes we tend to forget this in our life. Hence it is important that we believe in ourselves.

Summarising the learning, we are the one who control the mind and not vice versa. We are the masters of our destiny but also need to understand that everyone is equally important, no-one is superior or inferior. Our dreams are manifestations of our thoughts and the mind has power to achieve what we dare to dream.



Metacognition

Metacognition is the awareness of one's thought process or simply "thinking about thinking". As teachers we are a judgmental lot, we expect our students to get a concept right the very first time they hear it and a couple of minutes before the quota of forty minutes with them is up. We often forget to remind ourselves that we had spent hours refining that single theory in our heads before reproducing it in class. On May 2 2019, as part of the teacher's training session we were reminded of just that.

If you dig a little deeper into theory of metacognition, it will tell you that the way each person observes, evaluates and reproduces the same problem or situation varies drastically. This informs us that the efficiency of a learner varies depending on the environment he/she is in and also the tactics through which information is dispelled. The session by Ms Minni Adhikari highlighted these very ideas and made us wonder. Could we be doing more for our students? Creating a nonjudgmental classroom environment is simply the first step. Arming yourself with the right tools to help learners explore their individual skills and style of learning is essential.

Teachers who attended this session can now add several tools to their teaching kits and vouch for them too. The partakers participated actively in all sample activities during the session. Teaching tools like "Think-Pair -Share" and "Pose-Pause-Pounce-Bounce" encourage equal class participation without the teacher having to struggle with time management. Strategies like "Think-See Wonder", "Awe and Wonder" leaves the learner with space for contemplation and opportunity to contribute to discussions. The group favourite was "The Six Thinking Hats", this strategy required members of a team to mandatorily defend a single perspective of an argument whether they personally believed in it or not. This task proved to be extremely challenging and enjoyable as well.

The session concluded with the concept of "fixed and growth mindsets" which informed the learners that adaptability in the face of adversity in and outside the classroom is the key to success for both students and teachers.

Enabling for Inclusion & SEN- Drishti

Drishti Counselling Centre held an interactive workshop on 'Inclusive Learning' for the teachers'.

'Is every child being included?' This was a thought provoking question that was thrown open to everyone at the beginning of the session. Through the discussions that followed, everyone was made aware of the fact that teachers' need to give an equal opportunity to every child, irrespective of their individual capabilities.

Inclusion is a challenge. It is different from integration- where extra adaptation helps the child fit into the classroom. The main purpose of the session was the need to modify and change the teaching and learning process to support the success of each child by including them in various activities and celebrating their diversity.

Presentation Skills

A presentation always demands skills to deliver effectively and engage a variety of audiences. This is not new to teachers. While some take this in their stride, others find it quite challenging.

Ms Anamika in her talk on presentation skills covered areas such as content, structure, voice modulation,

intonation and body language. She emphasized on the fact that presenting information clearly and effectively is a key skill in getting across a message.

The one hour session also included a MAD AD show by the teachers.



‘Design Thinking’ workshop

The design thinking workshop was conducted by Mrs. Minni Adhikari (Vice Principal) Primus public school. It was a very insightful workshop with hands on activities on how to be creative. It was a two-day workshop which gave an insight into the process of design thinking.

The first day started with an activity of making a small bag as per the requirement of our partner. This activity was enjoyed by everyone and it was amazing to find that no two bags are alike. Hence it was proved that everyone can be creative.

The second day was quite interesting with hands on activities. The teachers were divided into groups and they were given certain problems that they come across frequently in school and they had to design a solution to those problems like cleanliness of toilets, classroom arrangements etc.... The process followed by everyone was to empathize, define, ideate, prototype and test. They came up with solutions that were workable.

Be A Passionate Teacher

A life without passion is not living, it's merely existing.

The above quote by the American author and motivational speaker Leo Buscaglia perhaps best sums up the message that our principal, Anu ma'am, conveyed to us all, at the beginning of this academic year.

It is only passion that makes great things possible and makes life worth living, and perhaps no one needs it more than a teacher. The concepts that we wish to explain to our students, can come alive only when we are able to transmit our own excitement to the class. It is our enthusiasm that makes the whole process of teaching magical.

At the start of the session, we were asked to close our eyes and think of a favourite teacher. We were then asked to share qualities about this person that made him or her so memorable. Most of us were surprised to discover that we could recall details from the past and how touched we had been by small gestures or impressed by how they carried themselves.

With this activity, we were able to see ourselves as students again, and then think of everything from a child's point of view. Placing ourselves in their shoes, we would be able to empathise and ensure that all our actions would be geared towards their well being.

To press the point home, Anu ma'am suggested that just as we have a checklist of expectations from the students of our class, it would be good to also list out what they may expect of us -

for e.g. a student may say "I want my teacher to have respect for me."

The best thing about this session was that there were many practical tips and suggestions on how to keep our passion flying high especially in the face of challenges. For instance, if a particular chapter was difficult or dull, we could look for ways to make it interesting - by conducting an impromptu debate, or asking the children to create a questionnaire and conduct a survey.

Even assessments could be made fun, by getting a class to teach a lower grade, thus testing their own understanding of concepts.

The session ended with a questionnaire that made us reflect on our own teaching styles, and how committed we are to making students realize their fullest potential.

It left us all energised and was looking forward to the new academic year!



World Environment Day

As part of World Environment Day celebration A level students of Primus organised a campaign for school students. This was in support of UN agenda of this year's environment day

#Beat Air Pollution. The shirts were put up with messages for the environment and trees. Students were asked to print their thumb imprint on messages displayed on the trees. Many students dropped in to give their thumb imprints while others came and hugged the trees.

This event was recognised as one of the important global awareness initiatives by the UN for World Environment Day 2019.

The students of Grade 8 took up the UN World Environment Day mask challenge. Their creativity manifested itself in the uniquely designed masks. The face mask was symbolic of the need for clean air in today's society.





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Plantation Drive

On the 24th of September, the AS level students set out on a journey to help our environment by planting trees. After much effort, we were glad to have finally found a place to plant the saplings that our school brought from the forest department.

Each of us hauled a total of about 107 tree saplings into the bus – and we're happy to say that we found a place in the ground for each and every one of them! The saplings were of *Pongamea pinnata*, *Ficus religiosa* and *Tabubea rosea* (also known as pink trumpet tree).

The first area we were instructed to plant in was around a football field. Fortunately, pits had already been dug by the supervisors, which helped us save on time and energy for the rest of the day. But that's not to say that the rest of the job was easy. We gingerly placed the saplings into the pits and shovelled soil over them. It was a tedious task, but we learned a lot about teamwork and patience.

We also came across some crawly critters as we moved the mud around – from millipedes to centipedes and earthworms to beetles: it was definitely not the most pleasant thing, but we had to work around them.

As the sun rose higher into the sky, we moved to the next piece of land – the very end of the plot. Here the soil was a lot harder to work with as it was carpeted with all kinds of pesky weeds and P, but we pulled through. After some hours of hard work, perspiration, parched throats and muddy shoes and hands, we were given the reward of walking to a nearby artificial lake to wash our hands and cool down. Here we met a cute furry friend who was delighted to be around so many dog-lovers.

At such a time where the future of our earth is at stake and where we must all do our best to contribute to reviving our planet, we were immensely proud and pleased that we got to plant around 100 saplings in half a day. It's not much – but in the long run it will definitely make an impact.

At the end, we learned about teamwork and labour, and found ourselves amidst the bounties of nature. We had a lot of fun in the process, taking back the scratches and muddy nails as brief souvenirs to remember this worthwhile day.



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Save Our Tigers

Kindergarten children created awareness for a week about 'Save the Tigers'. Teachers spoke to them about the reasons why the tigers are endangered animals and discussed on how one can save tigers from going extinct. As part of the awareness week,

children made tiger masks, did tiger puzzles and made placards with slogans written on them. On the last day of the awareness week children went on a procession inside the school premises while calling out 'Save our Tigers' and 'Don't Kill our Tigers'.



Investiture 2019

Leadership is the ability to persuade others to seek defined objectives enthusiastically. It is the human factor which binds a group together and motivates it towards goals. These are the words of Keith Davis, a former footballer, now a motivational speaker. On 5th July 2019, the young talents of Primus Public School were conferred with the responsibility of leading the School. The Thirteenth Prefects Investiture commenced with the School song Aude Sapere. The Appointments trooped in, accompanied by the strains of Lara's theme. The honour of pipping the Appointments was given to the parents of the Prefects – a Primus Tradition. The appointments began with the houses Aristotle, Einstein, Newton and Socrates, then the Prefectures for Science and Technology, Arts and Culture, Student coordinators

and the Sports Captains. The House mottos were presented to the respective Houses by the House Leads. The Principal, Mrs Anuradha Krishnan handed out the House flags to the House Captains. The House Captains stood upright with their hearts in humility as each picked up the house flags. Then the school Captain received her mantles, and were pipped by her parents. The Vice Principal, Mrs Minni Adhikari presented the motto of Primus Public School to the Senior Student Coordinator. The School Captain received the School flag from the Principal Mrs Anuradha Krishnan. After the oath and the march back, the Bugler sounded the retreat, signifying the culmination of the event. The outgoing Prefecture, the newly appointed Prefecture and their parents joined for a high tea on the lawns.



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Awards Day

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all love of what you're doing or learning to do." – Pele

At Primus, the hard work and perseverance of our students is recognized and appreciated with a sense of pride. Awards Day was celebrated on 5th July 2019, to commend students who have done excellently in the academic year 2018-19 in academics and other fields. Students, teachers and parents wait with bated breath for each student's accomplishments to be read out. It is with great pride and joy that students go up on stage to receive their certificates and medals of achievement.

It gives students great satisfaction to receive awards for doing well in as many exams as possible. Nothing equals the joy of teachers who have taught these

students to present them with medals and certificates that they truly deserve.

The top three students who have secured 85% and above in each subject are presented with gold, silver and bronze medals and certificates. Starting with the students from Grade 5, awards were given to students of all classes upto Grades 11 and 12. The outgoing prefects were also presented with certificates to recognize their efforts through the academic year 2018-19 for going out of their way in helping teachers maintain discipline and also in conducting various school events.



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As many as 460 medals and certificates were given out to students. The Raji Award for Debate was presented to Einstein House of Middle School and to Aristotle House of High School. The outgoing prefects presented the trophy to the newly installed prefects amid much applause and cheer.

This year the IGCSE (10th Grade) students really outdid themselves by securing a total of 137 A stars. The top three students were Siddharth Sudhir, Kalidas Pratheep Paramadathil, Abhigyan Prakash

and Medha Murti who shared the 3rd position. Medha Murti was the only student who secured eight A stars.

Students who secure 7 A stars or more and who continued their education at Primus are eligible for Scholarship which is a full tuition fee waive for the academic year 2019-20. Medha Murti, Kalidas Pratheep, Sneha Angela D'Souza and Kushal Mohta were the proud recipients of this scholarship.



Pranav Muralidhar was presented with a cash award of Rs.20,000 for his exemplary performance in the A-Level examination where he secured over 95% in two subjects.

Akshay Bhawe of Grade 8 was presented with a trophy for his excellent achievement in Sport Climbing. Medha Shasidaran was presented with

a trophy and a Primus Sports Scholarship for her wonderful achievement in Badminton. Medha has been a winner in two state level tournaments held in Bangalore and was also a semi-finalist in the under 19 category. She is a ranked player in the National under 19 Badminton rankings. Medha has always managed to strike a commendable balance between Sports and Academics.



The students of II PUC were given cash awards amounting to ten lakhs this year. Students securing a centum in any of the core subjects received a cash award of Rs.50,000 while those securing more than 95% received a cash award of Rs.10,000. Gayathri Vinod and Rhea Adhikari received cash awards of Rs.1,20,000 while Gehna Goel received a cash award

of Rs.1,00,000. These awards were presented to the students of II PUC by the Principal, Mrs. Anuradha Krishnan.

The Awards Ceremony was brought to a close with the National Anthem. Students, parents and teachers left the venue with great happiness and pride.



AREA 83 OBL

On the 25th of July, 9th and 10th graders left on a 2 day trip to Area 83, in Bilwaradahalli. We started from school at around 8 am, in a huge coach bus with an unforgettable musical horn. The bus ride was a comfortable 1-hour-journey via NICE road, during which everyone talked and shared their social calendars. We reached Area 83 at around 9 am in the morning to be greeted by some representatives of the place. They gave us a small talk about how our attitude should be positive and soon left us for breakfast.

Breakfast was delicious. There was a huge buffet with several options of cuisine, including some South Indian dishes, toast, and some cereals. After breakfast, we started the activities.

Our first activity was aeromodelling. We all put on our masks and got down to sanding our gliders into shape. Sanding the gliders took most of the time and by the time we put the parts together, it was time for lunch.

Lunch was also delicious. There was another huge buffet with lip-smacking goodies. We could choose between a variety of curries, rice, and roti. We all filled ourselves and then went out to the field to fly our gliders. Most of our gliders dive-bombed and broke themselves, while a lucky few flew a few meters... before dive-bombing and breaking themselves. Either way, aeromodelling was an enjoyable activity.

After flying our gliders, we split ourselves into groups of three to continue with the other activities. We started with Human Foosball, where we all gripped huge metal rods and kicked a football around, aiming to score a goal. It was a miracle no one was severely injured.

We then continued with Archery Tag, which most people took advantage of to shoot their teachers. It was pretty fun, even though some of us came out of the game with bruises on our elbows.



Cont...



We finished the day's activities with Bubble Soccer, which is basically a game of soccer...in a sweaty plastic ball. It was very exhausting as we found ourselves helpless and upside down with each collision sending us rolling halfway across the field.

Tired and drained after the day's activities, we had a minute break, in which most of the people sat down and chatted while eating snacks. After the break, everyone pitched their tents, after a brief tutorial on how to.

After pitching our tents, we headed to the assembly area for tea, where some of us may have had a bit too much coffee. After tea, we had a long break in which some of us played a game of badminton or table tennis.

Soon it was time for the bonfire and dinner. We had yet another delectable meal with multiple cuisines, such as pasta and noodles. We all sat down in front of the warm bonfire as we sang along with songs playing on the speakers. After dinner, it was time to sleep.

Now, I'm not going to lie and say we all slept early as soon as possible. In fact, that is the exact opposite of what we did. We stayed up until late hours in the night, talking and playing games. At some point in time, we may have realized that we needed sleep and rested for at least half an hour.

We woke up the next day, sleep-deprived and exhausted. At around 7 am, we met up at the assembly area for tea, where, yet again, some of us had several cups of coffee. After tea, we set off for a trek in the region.

The trek was more of an uphill climb in which we crossed streams and climbed up one steep incline. After the trek, we had breakfast, which was the same as the day before. We gorged ourselves on the food, making ourselves ready for the next activity.

Unfortunately, this may have not been a very good idea, since the next activity was the Giant Swing. They took one up to a height of forty meters and suddenly released you, giving some of us mini-heart attacks.

After the Giant Swing, we had the last activity: a low rope course, where we divided ourselves into three teams and tried to finish the course as quickly as possible.

After finishing the activities, we headed to the cafeteria to have another tasty lunch. Once finished with lunch, we had a small period of free time in which we could take calming strolls around the area or just sit down and talk.

At around 3 pm, we had tea, just before we left. At 4 pm, the teachers called out attendance and we knew it was time to leave. We all boarded the buses, after taking a final few group pictures and making sure we hadn't forgotten anything.

I hope I speak for everyone when I say that the OBL was an enjoyable and adventurous one, filled with twists and turns, here and there. I am sure everyone left the place with happy memories and look back at the experience with satisfaction.

Shalin Palil, 10A



Avaniya - Grades 6 and 7 OBL

Well, I can't deny the fact that the rope course in Avaniya was the most enjoyable activity there. Who wouldn't want to finish the largest high rope course in India? Nobody would want to miss an opportunity like that. Certainly, I wouldn't.

We took about 3 - 4 hours to finish the whole course. By the time we finished, our hands were crimson and withered from gripping on to the rope.

Without the harness, I don't think anybody would have gone for the rope course. In the course, there was a seesaw that creaked whenever it fell to the opposite

side, which made some people think that its screw was loose. Maybe it was, who knows?

There was even a rope which tore after someone walked on it! He had to jump to make it to the next platform!

What I think was the best part of the rope course was the trolley, where you had to sit on the trolley and pull on a rope. For me, it was both the easiest part and the most satisfying part as it was so entertaining.

Shreeyak, 6A



OBL to Ima Receptions

On February 17, 2020, students of Grade 3 were taken on a field trip to 'Ima Receptions', a city based traditional games promoter. A treasure trove of traditional games, it is a social enterprise, passionate about recreating old, golden games for recreational purposes.

Children had an exciting and fun day, taking part in a variety of board and dice games. It helped them improve their concentration, memory, logical thinking and team spirit.

The tower of Brahma, Pallankuzhi, sea shore game, cycle tyre race, tennikoit, goat and tiger, fire on the mountain, slingshot, hopscotch and seven stones were some of the interesting and innovative games that they played, keeping our tradition and culture alive.

It is a good initiative by the promoters to set aside the much maligned gadget screen settling instead for traditional indoor board games from grandma's times.



Gari Resorts

On February 12, 2020, a group of 93 students and 4 teachers from Grade 3 went to ‘Gari Resorts’, in Bidadi for their OBL.

An exciting group of children boarded their bus and set out early on their journey to the resort. Music, loud chatter and laughter filled the air as they eagerly waited to reach their destination.

‘The Gari resort’ is a place with gardens, groves, trees and never-ending chirping of birds. It offers acres of greenery, peace and tranquility.

On arrival, everyone was treated to a sumptuous breakfast. The organizers had arranged a range of fun games and interesting activities to keep the students engaged throughout the day. Human foosball, low rope course challenge, musical chairs, lemon and spoon race, pottery making were some

of the activities that they took part in, under expert supervision and guidance.

Children participated in all the activities with great enthusiasm and kept going back for more. It was heartening to see the bonhomie and team spirit among the students as they encouraged, cheered and motivated their classmates to complete their tasks. This kind of learning and bonding is something that they very rarely experience within the four walls of their classrooms.

By noon they were all famished. They had a delicious spread for lunch, which they relished. At the end of the day they boarded the bus, completely exhausted after the day’s events.

It was a wonderful and worthwhile experience which they talked about for the next few days. They returned home with happy memories to cherish.



Grade 2 OBL - A Day in De ROOTS

An outbound learning trip enhances individual and team behaviour through outdoor activities and experiential learning. Primus cubs of Grade 2 started their outbound learning trip to De Roots on 7th of February 2020. The children and teachers boarded the buses at 8.45 am. The group reached De roots at 9.30 am and was served breakfast. Then the children were split into three groups and each group took to different activities.

The session at the 'Pottery and Clay Art Workshop' was a fabulous experience for children and it served to increase their intrinsic inquisitiveness. After the pottery session, they danced to the tunes of their favourite songs. Then they went on to do activities

like rope and plank walking. There were numerous merry-go-rounds of different shapes and sizes. They also enjoyed horse and a train rides

The children were also shown a puppet show. The marionettist also taught the children a few Indian dance steps. There was without doubt a lot of budding dancers among the children. The Domestic animal park was a great place to see and learn about familiar and not-so-familiar animals. This was an unforgettable experience for the children. There were several breeds of rabbits, chickens, roosters, guinea pigs, turkeys and a big emu.

The group left De Roots and returned to school after Lunch.



My Experience at De Roots Resort

On Wednesday 12th February 2020, we children of grade 1 went for an OBL to De Roots Resort at Jigani. When we reached there they served us breakfast. They gave us idly, sambar, chutney and vada. Then we went to dance. Suddenly drops of water started falling from the middle and then a splash of water came from the back. I jumped off the stage because I didn't want to get wet.

After that we went for the dragon ride. Next was the rope course. We had to walk on a long rope by holding other rope. At first I was scared but ma'am encouraged me and then I found it simple. There were hanging bridges. We had to cross them, Anish helped me. We enjoyed a lot. After that we went

on the merry-go-round, car ride, spinning peacock which went very fast. We went to see a puppet show I didn't much like it. We also saw ducks, chickens, horses and a turkey.

It was lunch time by then. We washed our hands and had poori, curd rice, biryani, chole and gulab jamun. It was yummy. After lunch we played tag, but soon ma'am called us to go back to school. Most of us slept in the bus. As soon as we reached school I went and used the washroom. As soon as I came back the bell rang and it was time to go home. I enjoyed the day.

Avyan Mittal, 1A



Toy Story OBL

Everyone enjoys a movie. The benefits of watching movies are immense.

Sitting in a theatre with your friends munching on warm popcorn and sipping on juice can be very comforting and enjoyable. Students of grades 1 and 2 were taken for the movie 'Toy Story 4' on 25th June at the Central Mall, Bellandur.

Children were exuberant that morning and their excitement was contagious. They enjoyed their short bus ride to the theatre.

The movie was great with a touching theme of friendship, loyalty, imagination and power of play to which the children could relate. Some of them had watched the prequels to this movie and were familiar with the characters. They had a good laugh in some of the scenes and grew closer as friends. They were served warm and buttery popcorn with juice which they really looked forward to and relished.

The trip proved to be an amazing experience which they would cherish forever.

Trip to the Movies

Spiderman: Far From Home, the much anticipated movie of the Marvel Cinematic Universe! We, the students of grade 8 were going to watch it. The excitement had begun a day before the trip to the theater. Everyone was in their highest spirits. And now, we were on our way!

The bus ride was all about the usual fights for the last seat and fun games. All the students were relieved to get a day off from boring studies. I think the teachers were also secretly happy that they got a break from teaching us. We finally reached the mall after a long bus ride and loads of traffic.

Once all the students were seated, the movie began, or so we thought but of course, a movie is never complete without the classic "VICO" advertisements in the

beginning. After fifteen minutes of the monotonous commercials the movie actually began and the dashing Spiderman appeared on screen to a round of applause and cheers from the audience. Aerated drinks and popcorn arrived soon after the movie began and we all enjoyed the show thoroughly.

The movie ended with a nail biting cliffhanger (I am not going to spoil it for those who have not seen it yet, but they should really go see the movie), it left us all wishing that the next movie would release as soon as possible. We went back to school talking about the amazing movie and what might happen in the sequel. It was truly an extremely entertaining experience.

Kashvi Gupta, 8B



Eagles Unbound

What a day it was! As we set off on a journey to the 'Eagles Unbound' campsite, all the students gathered were buzzing with excitement, even that early in the morning. Our bus ride was filled with lively songs and animated chatter. Soon, we arrived at the campsite, where we discovered that 'Eagles Unbound' was actually a centre for army training, and that sparked a certain thrill within all of us.

Upon arrival we were sent off to have breakfast, after which we were all given a brief introduction of the various activities we would be doing. The whole group walked for a short five minutes away from the large dining area to reach a field, where we did some quick warm-up exercises. We were then divided into two groups. Our group was sent for adventure sports such as rock climbing, zip lining and rope walking. It was an amazing experience. The second group was off doing multiple team-building activities.

As our group waited for the second one to return, we also had a chance to do archery and rifle shooting, both of which were hard to grasp, but exhilarating. We then happened to spot a few training areas that

had a lot of fun activities like rope climbing and such. We all became pretty competitive while using the training equipment, each wanting to do better than the rest. The return of the other group dimmed our mood a little, since nobody from our group wanted to do the team-building activities. Following an extremely late lunch, my group set off for these group activities. In all honesty, they were actually very exciting and fast-paced, forcing everyone in the group to work efficiently and use our brains collectively.

It was late afternoon by the time we were all done, but our energies were still soaring. Right outside the dining hall, there was an open garden, where all of us played as we liked. I remember playing kabaddi for the first time ever, and I enjoyed it so much. Right before dinner a campfire was set up, and the real fun began. For over two hours every one of us danced merrily to loud music, even when it began to rain. It was a rocking dance party matching our exuberant mood. When it started to rain heavily, we were sent inside for a delicious dinner, and finally the exhaustion of the long day washed over us.



Cont...



After setting up our tents, we all crawled inside, with no intention to sleep. Almost nobody got a wink of sleep that night. We spent all night talking, eating and having fun. The next day we went on a trek in the rain, which was a phenomenal experience. A brilliant view welcomed us at the peak, which had a small temple too. True to local tradition, many of us piled stones atop one another at the peak and wished upon them, according to the instructions of our guide.

As the afternoon was upon us, we knew that our stay was coming to an end, but that didn't find anyone less chipper. Throughout our bus ride back to school, we kept our spirits high and enjoyed ourselves till the last moment. When the goodbyes finally came, it hit all of us that it really was over. Though we knew we would see each other soon enough, it just wouldn't be the same. These are prized memories that I will treasure for a long time, and I can barely wait for the next trip to come around!

Aarushi B, 8B



OBL to the Utsav Resort

Sixty nine students from grade 5 set off in the wee hours of the morning of 27th February, 2020 to Shivgange foothills. After a lively 2 hour bus journey, filled with music and mirth, we finally reached our destination- the Utsav Resort. We were welcomed with a piping hot delicious breakfast and later asked to gather on the sprawling campus for team building activities. The students were then divided into two groups. One group was led through high rope challenges whereas the other engaged in various fun games. After breaking for lunch, the groups swapped activities and continued till tea-time.

Post afternoon, the students and teachers were instructed as to how to pitch their tents. Students eagerly set out assembling their tent equipment and making themselves feel 'at home' in their make-shift accommodations and even inviting each other over to 'visit'. Some hung torch lights from inside while others added personal decor to their tents. As night fell, the students gathered for dinner and then proceeded to gather around a campfire. Students eagerly volunteered to entertain each other with songs and dances while some provided special effects with their torches. After an exhilarating day, everyone went back to their tents.

After a lot of chatter and snacking, everyone eventually settled for the night.

The next morning, everyone was cajoled to rise early and warm up for the trek ahead. With the able help of our guides, we made our way through a craggy and challenging terrain. The astounding view at the end of the trek however, made all the effort worthwhile. Having 'crushed all their fears to explore', the students found it appropriate to sing the Primus School song at the peak of the little hill that they had just 'conquered'.

After a satisfying breakfast, the children then ventured onto a fun aerial runway via a zipline. The adrenaline rush was then followed by a time of quiet learning as the students learned about various knots that could be used in both everyday life and adventure sports. The session culminated with the group breaking off for lunch and gathering their belongings to return. Thus concluded a most exciting and adventurous outbound learning programme for the fifth graders.



Janapada Loka

On 2nd Aug , students of grade 4 went to Janapada Loka, a folk museum situated in Ramanagara District in Karnataka. They reached the destination by around 10.30 am. The Complex houses a museum, an open air theatre, and other structures amidst trees and greenery. The Loka Matha Mandira displayed the amazing life of people and items used by them in their household, during the olden times.

Chitra Kuteri depicted dance forms and traditions from different parts of Karnataka. Loka Mahal had wide varieties of artifacts which showcased the folk culture of Karnataka. Janapada Loka also has a lake called Loka Sarovana. Loka Siri is a building that has sculptures of tribals. The children thoroughly enjoyed the very informative and entertaining trip.



Our Trip to Janapada Loka

Janapada Loka or “Folk World” is a folk museum that has an exclusive display of the village folk arts of Karnataka.

On the 20th of February, the 2nd graders visited Janapada Loka with our teachers. The aim of the Folk World visit was to educate and amuse students about the folk traditions of Karnataka. It is located at Ramanagara district, on the Bangalore-Mysore highway, 70 kilometres away from our school. After two hours of journey, around 11 am our school buses reached Janapada Loka.

The places we visited inside the Folk world are described as given below.

Chitra Kuteera

It is a round exhibition hall with black and white and colour pictures of festivals, fairs and arts of Karnataka. Personal articles and awards received by H.L Nage Gowda founder of Janapadaloka, are also displayed there.

Shilamala

Stone arts are displayed here. We saw a big grinding stone and sculpture of a man who is cutting the log with an axe. Behind Shilamala there is a small temple of Ganesha. We all prayed in front of the temple.

Loka Mahal

This is a two storey building. The first floor has a collection of various folk instruments including a big drum which looked like percussion. There is a place where various arms and weapons are exhibited. We got a chance to enjoy a folk song “Chellidaru Mallige” by a guide standing on the floor while we were sitting on a small amphitheatre.

Arghyamala

This is an exhibition of tools of pottery and smithy, a bullock cart etc.

Open Air Theatre

This is the amphitheatre built in Greek style. We all sat on the steps arranged in a circular shape in front of the theatre and ate our lunch. Then we ran around and played for some time.

After spending a few hours in Janapada Loka, with lots of memories of Folk world we started our journey back to school. During our trip to Janapada Loka we learnt about the artefacts of the local culture that is unique in India.

Ela Menon, 2A



Independence Day

The Independence Day celebrations began with the unfurling of the Tri-Colour and the singing of the National Anthem. There was palpable excitement in the air and everyone was gripped by patriotic fervour.

This was followed by cultural programmes presented by the students, beginning with a soulful rendition of, Ye jo des hai tera. The school captain spoke about

the spirit of nationalism while others conveyed it through their spectacular dance performances, songs and plays. The skit, in particular, which paid tribute to our soldiers, left the audience spellbound. It depicted the Army, Navy and the Air Force in combat with enemy forces, and showed how our fearless soldiers are ready to fight to the very end and lay down their lives for the country.



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Our principal, Mrs. Anuradha Krishnan took this opportunity to remind us that it was our duty to protect the Earth and be more sensitive to the environment.



The freedom that we enjoy today has been hard earned. While we feel grateful to those who sacrificed everything to hand it to us, we must also remember to do our bit as citizens, to make this a safer, cleaner and greener world. I think this was the feeling that we all went home with.



Field trip to Ashok Nagar traffic police station

On a chilly Friday, the 14th of February, we, the students of grade 4, Primus Public School, set off to Ashok Nagar traffic police station to listen to a talk about road safety and the increasing traffic in Bengaluru. When we reached, we climbed a few flights of stairs with our partners. We then sat down to see a few videos about road safety awareness. We learnt many things like :

- Always wear a helmet while riding a bike. If you fall, you can get a severe injury.
- If you are too young to drive/ ride, please resist the urge. You can get fined severely.

- Do not increase the load on your vehicle. It can fall in rocky areas and also overturn.
- Do not increase the height of the load. Your vehicle can get stuck under overbridges.
- Get your vehicle checked if it lets out smoke and get a certificate for it too.
- Do not talk on your phone while driving. Park your vehicle safely on the side and then talk.

After that a traffic police officer explained the uses of road signs. Then we went down and returned to the bus. From there, we came back to the school.

Naavya Tomar, 4A



Science Week at Primus

The 28th of February is celebrated as National Science Day in honour of the Indian physicist and Nobel Laureate, C. V. Raman. He was awarded for the discovery of the Raman effect which completely changed what we know about light. To commemorate this day, our school, Primus held a whole week of celebrations organised by the science teachers and students of grade 8. This served as a great learning experience for the whole school.

The first event that was organised was a daily quiz for which the winners were given plantable pencils as a gift to do our part in preserving the earth. These questions encouraged students to don their thinking caps.

On the 28th of February, Science Day was started with a speech by our principal on the advancements in science. Post this informative speech, one of our very own teachers prepared a presentation on the theme for this year's Science Day "Women In

Science". We were informed about Marie Curie, Gertrude B. Elion and Wangari Maathai - three admirable women who excelled in their respective fields. Subsequently, we had three students from Grade 8 present on educative topics such as Neuroscience and Neurotechnology, the Journey of Salmon and the Ideo - Motor Effect.

Later on in the day, the students of Grade 8 put up exhibits for all students and teachers to come by. These exhibits demonstrated many enjoyable experiments. There were also numerous games that taught various science concepts to children in a fun and enjoyable way. Judging by the number of people who attended these stalls, it was quite evident that everyone enjoyed and learned something new. After all, Science is a way of Thinking and we at Primus strongly believe in this.



ISA Projects

Folk Dances Of The World

ISA Programme For Kindergarten : August-September 2019

UKG – Kandyan Dance from Sri Lanka

In the first week of the commencement of the Kindergarten ISA programme, children were briefed on the folk dance form of Sri Lanka. Pictures and videos of the dance form were shown for better understanding. They were intrigued about this art form and watched the video with utmost interest. We discussed the elaborate costumes and jewellery they wear for the dance. Children made their costumes using chart papers, silver and gold foil, sequins and glitter (which they would wear on the culmination day of the ISA programme). This process was a lot of fun as they enjoyed making their head gear from scratch. We loved the way they said that they felt like kings and queens while wearing the head gear! Children also decorated a worksheet which had the picture of the dancer, with beads and sequins.

In the following week, as a part of the Show and Tell activity, children were asked to prepare a few lines about the dance and the costumes of Kandyan dance. We were pleased to see our children speak in front of their classmates with a lot of confidence.



LKG – Bihu Dance from Assam

Children learned that BIHU dance is from a state called Assam in India. In the first week children prepared their props. Their props included musical instruments called 'Pepa' and 'Japi'. 'Pepa' is a hornpipe like musical instrument that is used in traditional music in Assam. It is usually made with the horn of a buffalo. LKG children prepared their version of 'Pepa' using handmade chart papers and decorating it with sequins.

The 'Japi' is a traditional conical hat from Assam, which is made from Bamboo, cane and large palm leaf. It is usually placed at the entrance as a welcome sign. Children prepared the 'Japi' using a leaf plate, on which they painted and stuck colourful triangles and decorated it with sequins.

In the following week children made their costumes. The girls prepared 'Ghamkaru' which is a kind of bracelet. They prepared it using the carton of the small tissue paper roll and beautified it by decorating it with paint, shiny gold and silver paper stickers. The girls were so excited about their handmade bracelet that they wanted to wear them throughout the day. The boys and girls respectively painted their 'Gamocha' which is a cloth tied around their head and their 'Riha', which is a Sari. They used vegetables, thin banana stem and paint to make beautiful designs on their Gamocha and Riha. The children also did a worksheet on the props and musical instruments they made. They drew and labelled the pictures of Bihu dance props and musical instruments.



UKG - Hopak Dance from Ukraine

In the first week, children prepared their headgears that is donned by the dancers during the performance. The girls made their own headgear, which is called as the 'Vinok' – a Ukrainian wreath, using colourful crape paper and chart. They cut the crape paper into the shape of flower petals and they stuck it together to make their beautiful headgear. The boys made their headgear which is called the 'Ushanaka' which is originally made of fur. The boys cut pieces of black leggings and tied a knot at one end and used them as caps for the dance.

In the second week, children did some research on Hopak dance with the help of their parents. They spoke in the class about this dance in front of their friends for Show and Tell, where they showed the costumes they made and the pictures they brought from home. In the same week, they made booklets in which they traced the outline of the Ukraine's map and wrote a few lines about the dance and pasted pictures of the costumes and headgear. This was a good learning experience for them.



UKG - Barn Dance from Ireland

The first week of the ISA programme was very eventful. The children made their head-dress and costume. The girls and the boys together made the cowboy hats and vests using brown handmade chart paper. Children cut the chart paper and stuck the pieces together to make the hat and used glitter and lace to decorate it.

In the second week of ISA, the children did some research on Barn dance with the help of their parents. Children were asked to learn a few lines about the dance and about the costumes for Show and Tell day. We were very happy to see our children speak with confidence. They then made booklets in which they traced the outline of Ireland's map and pasted costume and dance pictures. Children were also able to write a few lines on the folk dance form. After the completion of the booklet children decorated the cover of the booklet using colourful polka dots and satin ribbons.

Finally we invited the parents to see how much their children have learned about the folk dance forms. Our children put up a delightful show for them where they dressed up in their costumes, spoke about it and danced the traditional folk dances they learned. The parents were very impressed by all they had learned in such short period of time.



Charisma Of Ancient Traditional Games

ISA Programme for Grades 1 and 2 : Sep-Oct 2019

Primus Public School strongly believes that the influence of schools and peers is of utmost importance when it comes to the overall development of a child. In aid to this, the students of Primary, Grades 1 and 2 were involved in ISA project with the Topic - “Charisma of Ancient Traditional Games”.

Ever since the invasion of screens in the lives of children, parents are battling on a daily basis to divert the children’s attention towards something that can be more interesting than being glued to the screens. We tried to achieve at a solution by exploring the thought, “How did our grandparents survive their childhood without having such discoveries?” The mystery behind their engaging childhood was the charisma of traditional games! The modern day’s children need to understand how they can enjoy these ancient games. They can achieve this only by learning the classic games that have in-numerous benefits. This should be a priority, as the traditional games stimulate the physical as well as the intellectual growth.

The ISA team of teachers did a research on the Ancient traditional games played around the world. We narrowed down to learning one indoor and one outdoor game from 5 countries - USA, Greece, India, China and Japan. The children of Grades 1 and 2 were first educated on the importance and benefits of playing indoor and outdoor games. Then they were introduced to the games of chosen countries through a presentation, which also covered the rules and other details needed to play these games. The amount of excitement shown by the children just to know about these ancient games was truly motivating.

Once the children became familiar with the games and its rules, they were actively involved in playing these games.

The board games which were an integral part of the indoor games were taught in a unique manner using the blackboard. In this manner the teacher could get the attention of every child in the class. The children were given an opportunity to play and explore these board games created by the ISA team. The children displayed great enthusiasm and vigour to master every game.

Model of a traditional game was also made by the children as a part of learning.

Games included Math, Art and Language concepts integrated into the learning process. These subjects were used to explore games in an activity form and the interdisciplinary approach gave another dimension to the learning process.

For the evaluation process, children made booklets, they wrote about their favourite game and also a quiz was conducted. The written work about the favourite game was a treat to the teachers’ eyes.

As a concluding part, chosen children were involved in a nearby Government School interaction. About 20 children from primary school were introduced to the Ancient traditional games by Grades 1 and 2. They were also given an opportunity to play and explore them.

The amount of learning demonstrated by Grades 1 and 2 at the end of the ISA project brought a great sense of fulfillment to the entire team.



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Motifs

ISA Programme for Grades 3 and 4 : July-August 2019

The ISA topic chosen by Grade 3 and Grade 4 was MOTIFS. Admittedly the creation of things for use is the basic motivating force in the practical operations of Man. But remarkably his endeavours have never been merely utilitarian. An unconscious desire to beautify all that he has or does has led him to seek the elements of beauty and to integrate them with the purpose of his living. Since, the day man began to give shape to the materials provided by nature for meeting his rudimentary requirements, he has never been able to resist the inward urge to adorn and beautify his possessions and surroundings.

All these efforts has led to the creation of motifs from different origins, organizing them in suitable layouts. This gave the uniqueness to the motifs used in traditional Indian textiles.

The project started with the slideshow presentation about what is a motif, where and how can we find motifs, different types of motifs, how to identify motifs, etc. Students analysed cultures by comparing and contrasting two similar fairy tales: One from China and one from the United States. They were surprised to know the real meaning behind nursery rhymes and how it connects to their culture. Even in study of insects and mushroom, the folklore behind each insects and the belief in each country was surprising.

They also enacted the culture, traditions, food, festivals etc. about different countries in special assembly. They made a PowerPoint presentation about the same.

Students also learnt that motifs can be found in visual arts. They studied about different famous monuments and made a scrapbook about the monuments and the motifs found in those monuments. They were thrilled to make quilt designs in graph paper and enjoyed making a quilt design on a cloth. They learnt that motifs can be found in textile art and there are different types of motifs in textile art.

Students also made a honey comb tessellation and were able to know why honey bees make their comb in hexagon shapes. They were thrilled to learn about cryptography which also uses patterns and codes to hide information. They learnt how to cipher a code and decipher a code using Polybius square.

Finally, they were given a questionnaire to answer. It was a great learning experience for both teachers as well the students to learn about a new topic through very interesting activities.



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Dwindling Crawlers

ISA Programme for Grades 4 and 5 : June 2019

Primus Public School has always been an eco-conscious and environmentally friendly school. This has been reinstated through the ISA project done by the primary children of grade 4 and grade 5.

The topic chosen by them was DWINDLING CRAWLERS – TURTLES.

Turtles are an endangered species. Endangered species are species that are under the threat of extinction. When an animal or species is termed endangered they are either disappearing fast from the face of the earth or they are sparsely populated.

The ISA team worked tirelessly and designed an action plan which included the study of turtles in other countries. The objective was to enable the students to understand turtles and their valuable contribution to our ecosystem. The plan was put into action involving students and teachers of grade 4 and grade 5. The students and teachers worked in unison to achieve the objective.



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A Healthier World On Your Plate

ISA Programme for Grades 6 and 7 : July 2019

Students of Grades 6 and 7 studied various cuisines popular across the world and vital aspects of nutrition at an individual and community level.

The children of grade 7 were taken to the Akshayapatra foundation, to build awareness about food and its nutritional value. Akshayapatra Foundation is a non-profit organization, headquartered in Bengaluru, India. It strives to eliminate classroom hunger by implementing the mid-day meal scheme in government schools and government aided schools. The first stop on the field trip day was the Radha Krishna temple after which the children were led to the Akshayapatra kitchen. We were asked to wear head caps and remove our shoes. Clean slippers were provided to all the students and teachers to wear inside the premises to maintain hygiene.

Their facility had four floors. First the students were briefed about the history of the organization and its vision. Then the students were shown how initial preparation for cooking happens on the 4th floor. Students observed the cleaning and cutting of vegetables and the other preliminary steps involved in preparation for cooking. Students also witnessed their large storage rooms having a storage capacity of around 8 to 10 tons of ingredients.

The gravity kitchen concept was described and shown to the students. They used chutes to put vegetables directly into the cauldrons on the 3rd floor. Children were excited to see this innovative

and efficient idea in action. Gravity kitchen reduces the human effort, time and enhances the hygiene by preserving the value of the food prepared. On the 2nd floor children saw the cleaning of the vessels by spraying water with high pressure.

On the first floor the food gets prepared in huge vessels and containers, from there it is taken to the ground floor where the food gets packed into large tiffin boxes to be sent to various schools across Bangalore. Their kitchen starts at 4:00 a.m. in the morning and within two hours the food starts getting dispatched to various schools within a radius of 40 kilometres.

Students got the opportunity to eat healthy food prepared in their kitchen. This turned out to be a great treat!

Through this experience the students learned to appreciate the value of food. Students also realized how even a simple initiative by a small group of people can make a huge difference in the lives of millions of children.

Food and Nutrition Week

To wrap this enriching project our last week of activities, July 22nd to 26th was called “Primus Food and Nutrition Week”. Students were reminded to be mindful of their food choices and to reduce wastage of food.



Exhibition (24th July 2019)

The grand ISA Exhibition was held on 24th July 2019. A lot of preparation went into this event both by students and by teachers. The students of Grades 6&7 were divided into 11 groups – each group comprising of 15 students. Each group represented a country. The eleven countries were: New Zealand, India, France, United Arab Emirates, Australia, Turkey, Japan, Russia, Italy, Mexico and Hong Kong.

The students put their best foot forward to showcase food of their country. The stall representing each country took on a festive look with students displaying charts that each one had made describing the unique foods of their country. Everyone got really involved in arranging their stalls so that each one looked better than the next. It was a sight to behold. Two students from each team wore costumes of the country they were representing. The others wore colours of the flag of that country. The students went all out arranging and displaying models of food, or food prepared by them, or ensuring that everything was in order for the visitors to see, taste and enjoy. Everything went like clockwork as children were given a time by which they had to set up the stalls and keep everything ready on display before opening up for visitors.

The Multi-purpose Hall looked bright and colourful while students bustled around ensuring every little detail was in place before the doors were opened to visitors. Each group was supervised by a teacher and everything was in place by 11:30 a.m. The Hall looked resplendent and held a festive air as each “country” took their place ready to share every

detail they had learned about foods of the country they represented.

The New Zealanders had their faces painted like the Maoris and went on to explain the benefits of kūmara (sweet potato). The Indians explained the benefits of eating on a plantain leaf and explained the foods found in different parts of India. The French had a huge variety of breads on display and a baker explaining how bread is made. The Emiratis had a number of foods like dates, Sambosas, Shawarma and Luqaimat on display - and Falafel made by a sixth grader!! The children had done their research well and even knew the recipes of the foods on display which they happily shared with the visitors to their stalls, greeting everyone with the native greeting.

The Australians definitely were a cheerful bunch sharing various facts on the cuisine of their country while one of the students dressed in a beautiful costume shone like a jewel in an excellently made costume. The Turks had several of their foods on display and they had a beautiful dancer who put up a wonderful performance in the centre of the Hall for all visitors to see and enjoy. Then there was Japan. The students of this stall went all out to make this look as Japanese as possible. Three of the students were dressed in kimonos who also put up a spectacular dance to Japanese music which was rather breath-taking. They had a branch of cherry blossom on display and ...the best – a tea ceremony with traditional Japanese teacups! The amount of effort and planning that went into this stall was awesome.



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The Russians also went all out to display various Russian foods. They were all full of facts to share about the ingredients each dish contained and how it was made. The Mexicans were loaded with Nachos, tortillas and quesadillas and had guitarists to add music to the fiesta. The students of Hong Kong had the most beautiful lanterns adorning their stall. They also had a Chinese Ballerina who performed to several pieces of music all chosen by her that kept the audience spellbound. The Italians had several dishes of pasta on display along with spaghetti which tickled many a taste bud and the details they shared about the recipes of these dishes was truly amazing.

The centre of the hall was reserved for the performances that went on as the visitors streamed past to get a glimpse of each country's cuisines. The hall was buzzing with excitement and the grandeur of each country's cuisines was incredible. The learning that took place on that day was extremely enriching as students representing each country shared minute details of the unique foods of their country, the crops grown there, the recipes of the various dishes that are popular in that country. One could find students, who were shy, open up and talk about food and all that they researched and found out about the cuisine of their country. It was truly a great learning experience for everyone present.

There were beautiful charts also placed at several places in the Hall with quotes about food, unique food habits, food utensils, and which in general was a feast for the eyes. Also, to see the students visiting each other's stalls to see the foods displayed there got to learn so much about other countries in addition to what they had learned about their own.

The country with the best display won trophies for each of its contestants and Japan knew their efforts paid off when they were announced the winners. The best costume went to the young Australian lady with a costume that was beautifully created and was carried so well. At the end of the day, everyone went home rich in the knowledge they had joyously acquired by simply visiting a small world created in a Hall – A World on their Plate.

Quiz (26th July 2019)

Quiz competitions are always interesting and informative, which generate much excitement among the students. Students of grade 6 and 7 participated in "Healthy and Delicious" quiz, as part of their project titled- A healthier world on your plate. This quiz was conducted on 26th July 2019, in Multi-purpose hall and was the conclusion of our ISA Middle School activity. Eleven teams representing countries- Australia, France, Hong Kong, India,



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Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, Turkey, UAE, put on an awe-inspiring battle of intellect.

Two students from each country were chosen, to represent their teams. Rules and regulations of the quiz were explained at the beginning. It was an interesting three-round competition. First two rounds were elimination rounds. After round one, top 6 teams moved to the next round. Questions were related to food diversity in countries. An intense tie breaker was required to select the top 6 teams. After elimination from second round, top 3 teams battled against each other. Questions in round 2 were based on general food and nutrition. The students showcased their brilliance by rapidly answering the questions. Though some of the questions were very tricky, the teams answered with confidence. Round 3 had 2 cycles of questions; some questions were based on comparative studies of various global cuisines. Although all the teams participated actively, the team that scored the most was JAPAN.

At the end of the quiz Team JAPAN was awarded a trophy for their outstanding performance. They managed to beat the other two teams in the last round by 5 points. All participants were given an appreciation card for their active participation.

The quiz was indeed a great way to assess the students' knowledge on the activity "A Healthier World on your Plate" for which they had worked really hard. It was evidence of the amount of research the students had done for each and every aspect of the topic and how much they enjoyed doing it.

The same quiz was conducted with equal gusto in our international collaboration partner school, Star School, UAE.

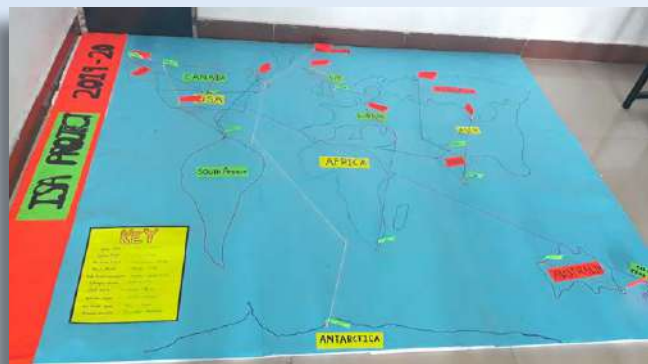


Winged Voyagers

ISA Programme for Grades 8 and 9 : Nov-Dec 2019

Talk with Ornithologist (12th November 2019)

The ornithologist and wildlife expert, Mr. Chayant Gonsalves, visited Primus Public School to give a talk about migratory birds for the students of grades 8 and 9 on 12th November. It was a 1½ hour session and it was indeed an engaging one. He told the students all about migration: why birds migrate, in which seasons do they migrate, and why a few birds do not migrate as it can be too dangerous, the migratory patterns, etc. He showed some data of the population of migratory birds (like the Siberian Crane) moving from the north to the south. He also spoke about iconic migrations of other creatures, ranging from the Monarch Butterflies to the Leatherback Sea Turtles and from the African Wildebeest to the Sockeye Salmon. It was fascinating to hear about the incredible journeys these animals undertook, travelling thousands of kilometers without a single suitcase or passport, crossing international boundaries without a VISA. He also proposed some methods by which the students could start bird-watching. The instructions were surprisingly elementary! A field book, binoculars, and a good eye were all the required components for the observation of aerial creatures! The topics most widely discussed during this session was the identification of the physical features of migratory birds and animals, and their migration routes.



Calculation of distance speed and time of Migratory birds

Students were divided into groups and were assigned one country. They were asked to collect the information like distance travelled, time taken, their speed and wing spans. They plotted the migration path with the help of a toothpick and thread. By this activity, the students were able to describe migratory journey, notable routes and destination made by birds.

Street Play (23rd November 2019)

The students of Grades 8 and 9 staged a street play on Migratory Birds, called “Let’s free up our flyways”. The objective of the play was to spread awareness about the importance and need to conserve our avian friends. The play dealt with the serious issue of the challenges faced by migratory birds in our city of Bangalore. Some of the issues highlighted were air and water pollution and the depletion of lakes. It was a hard hitting look at this very relevant and contemporary issue. The street play carried back an indelible message, which we hope would bring about a change in the way we look at the environment and the flora and fauna which dwells within it.



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Quiz (27th Nov 2019)

The ISA quiz on migratory birds was conducted on 27th November 2019 by the students of grade 8 and 9. There were 20 students in teams of two representing India, USA, Siberia, and Arctic zone, UK, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Alaska and Australia. This was organized entirely by the students for the students, right from the compilation of questions to MC-ing the event.

Rules and regulations of the quiz were explained by the students at the beginning. It was an interesting three-round competition. Students had compiled questions were related to migratory birds from the 10 countries chosen.

The teams participated enthusiastically and the quiz ended with team Africa being the winners. The winning team was felicitated with certificates and prizes. The quiz coordinators also posed questions for the audience, which was answered with lot of enthusiasm.

Bird watching in Kaikondrahalli lake (30th Nov 2019)

On 30th November, 15 students from grade 8 and 9 went bird watching as a part of our ISA project. The activity took place at the Kaikondrahalli Lake, one of the most well-preserved lakes in Bangalore.

Ornithologist and wildlife expert, Mr. Chayant Gonsalves accompanied us and helped them spot and identify birds. The students started their exciting journey at 6:15 am. The first bird they spotted was a Pond Heron, a brown bird with white wings. On their way they spotted birds like Grey Herons and majestic Spot-billed Pelicans catching fish. They also spotted little egrets, cattle egrets, spot-billed ducks, great cormorants, little cormorants and a large number of rather intimidating kites. They also spotted a very royal-looking Purple Heron, which we would say was the prettiest because of its vibrantly colored feathers, the Common Kingfisher, Pale-billed Flowerpecker. This bird is around 8cm long, that's smaller than your palm! It's one of the smallest birds in India.

Other birds they spotted included crow pheasants, white cheeked barbets, reed wobblers, swamp herons, moorhens, coppersmith barbets and white breasted barbets. The expert helped them relate to different features of the birds through a book guide and the students took notes about every detail with lot of interest. The walk ended at around 8:00 am and the students returned home with enlightened minds and an inspiration to go bird watching again. It was a fun-filled morning for all those who took part in this activity.



Speaking Forum and Group Discussion (5th Dec 2019)

A speaking forum on migratory birds was organised on the 5th of Dec 2019, as a part of the ISA related activities. This discussion forum provided the opportunity to students of grades 8 and 9 to talk about the challenges faced by these avian creatures and increase awareness about their plight.

All the participants presented relevant, eye opening information about the challenges faced by migratory birds. The students were judged by members of our faculty and the two best speakers were awarded with certificates and prizes. The students were felicitated by our Vice Principal Mrs Minni Adhikari.

Blog on Migratory birds.

The student's wholeheartedly contributed to creating a blog for their ISA activity. The blog was filled with write-ups, poems, stories, art work about our winged friends and the activities that were done in the class was updated on the site. The students incorporated different languages into the blog. We shared the blogs with our partner school in New Zealand and the students were able to exchange information and findings through this forum.



Progression Towards Integrated Medicine

ISA Programme for Grade 10, AS/A Level : August 2019

Interviews Of Specialist Doctors

Students interviewed four different doctors from various fields of allopathy, homeopathy, and naturopathy during the first week of August. The students of A Level participated very enthusiastically in the activity. Four different groups of 5 students each were formed. Each group came up with the questions to be asked. The questions were asked to understand the progress of their particular field and their opinions on the integrated medicine. The interviews were recorded and a short video showing snippets of the interview was made by the students, which was shared among the participating students. The interviews helped the students to understand and analyse the topic from different points of view and thus expanding their knowledge.

Panel Discussion

On the 12th of August 2019, the students of AS and A Levels conducted a panel discussion on the topic, “Can an integrated approach be the future of medicine? This panel, consisting of four specialised professionals in the field of integrated medicine and one in the field of clinical research discussed their various takes on the questions asked by the students. The panel consisted of five passionate participants: Ms. Sindhu Sreedharan, a yoga instructor and practitioner of over 8 years; Dr. Zankhana Buch, a seasoned ayurvedic doctor; Dr. Swaminathan Subramaniam, a physician, scientist and head of clinical research; Mr. Ramachandran N, a professional from the field of Naturopathy and

Yogic Science and Dr. Tejomayee, a practitioner of Homeopathy for over 20 years.

Integrative medicine in essence takes into account the welfare of the body and mind in tandem, and accounts for the healing of all aspects of the human body. The moderators of the event, Laasya Eluri (A Level) and Abhigyan Prakash (AS Level) asked each doctor a series of questions.

In answering these questions, students learned about what had inspired the respective doctors to get into the field of medicine, realising that a lot of it had to do with the family business and carrying on the family tradition and passion. We learned that naturopathy, allopathy, homeopathy and yoga, although more traditional, has more to offer than we know - which is why the doctors took it upon themselves to spread this enriching knowledge to potential patients. In addition, we learned that clinical medicine is rapidly advancing and is yet to uncover the explanations to so many unanswered questions.

At the end of the discussion, two ideas had a profound impact on the audience – the Placebo effect and the incorporation of the entire human wellbeing into the diagnosis of integrated medicine. The talk took an interesting turn as Doctor Swaminathan explained to students the workings of the Placebo effect in which a patient may experience benefits from substances/procedures that have no medical effect. The doctors also spoke about how medical professionals are sometimes coerced into taking the quick and patient-pleasing way of medical



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diagnosis. This in fact does play an important role in the preference of the different fields of medicine, as most individuals may not choose the treatment that takes a longer period to take effect.

The discussion was truly enlightening in every way; not only did the students gain an understanding of the fields of Allopathy, Naturopathy, Ayurveda, Homeopathy, yoga and clinical research, but were also opened to the prospect of the aforementioned fields as a career option; the doctors assured us that if we were passionate, we could transcend the barriers of culture and expose the field to more people in the world.

With the help of the organisers, the keen audience and the zealous panel members who made the talk so interesting, the event was a great success!

Exhibition On Home Remedies

On the 17th of August 2019, the students of 10th grade, AS and A levels successfully completed the fourth activity of their project about integrated medicine- the exhibition. The aim of the exhibition was to educate the Primus community about methods of alternative medicine like home remedies which aid in curing serious diseases.

The students were divided into teams after which they chose a particular ailment to research and do a presentation. The students worked hard and came up with beautiful and colorful charts that displayed productive information related to their ailment. Certain counters also had samples of home remedies for the reference of the visitors. Pamphlets designed by our students containing concise but useful

information were also distributed on the day of the exhibition. The students avidly explained various ailments such as hair fall, diabetes, allergies and cuts and burns to the parents while also educating them about all the natural remedies available to control diseases and cure them. The students were well versed in the ailment they chose and wonderfully demonstrated their knowledge to the visitors. The students of A levels also manned a sales counter at the exhibition. The sales counter consisted of various remedies purchased from a local ayurvedic vendor. Remedies included those for diabetes, hair fall, muscular pain reliever and numerous other remedies. The students also observed the fact that the diabetes cure was sold out first, followed by the face packs. Nevertheless, the sales counter, a non-profitable initiative by the students, was a huge hit as over 130 units were sold.

The students left the exhibition with a bounty of experience. They thoroughly know the causes, effects and cures for the ailments covered and the important role home remedies play in curing these diseases. They also learnt to improvise and answer the parents when slightly complicated questions were thrown at the students. They have also acquired marketing skills by learning to attract parents to their stalls over the next team's counter. Designing pamphlets taught the students how to operate software systems that aided in design. The students at the sales counter learnt skills of inventory holding and marketing too. The overall learning outcome covers the subjects of Chemistry, Biology and Business Studies and ICT (Computers).



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The feedback received from parents was overwhelmingly positive. Parents were surprised that students of this generation are actively taking part and encouraging the movement to spread the use of home remedies. Parents and teachers alike were impressed by the knowledge and persuasive skills possessed by the students, at the sales counter and the ailment stalls. In the feedback form provided to the visitors, numerous parents answered that they learnt a lot from this exhibition. Most parents thought this was a wonderful initiative and thought that the students were confident and gave excellent demonstrations.

Model United Nations

On August 20th and 21st, students of A level, AS level and 10th grade proudly hosted its Model United Nations conference as part of their ISA. The main objective of the MUN is to educate students about public speaking, debate, diplomacy, problem-solving, persuasive writing, and teamwork. Nearly 110 students from Grades 8, 9, 10, As, A levels and PUC attended this conference, participating in committee with topic “United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime” to discuss Animal Trafficking and its effects.

The preparations started two weeks earlier where the delegates were allotted countries and workshops were conducted to train the students on how to research, Parliamentary Procedure, Resolution and Position Paper Writing, and Public Speaking. As delegates began trickling in, they huddled nervously in small groups, unsure of their committees, anxiously twirling their pens, and twiddling their thumbs. The opening ceremony commenced at

1.30 pm on day 1 and was followed by an open house to clarify any questions conducted by the seasoned members of the MUN team.

On day two, there was a noticeable change in the students’ demeanour as they opened the debate. Shedding their inhibitions, they donned a professional outlook and transformed into delegates. Interviews conducted during lunch break revealed the value of information learned from the workshops as well as the benefits of the diplomatic experience gained in delegates first committee sessions. Some of the first timers when interviewed felt it was a whole new experience. They understood what it’s like to enter a crisis being the first one to help in a short amount of time. It also gives you a way to understand and realize how one person in 30 seconds can address an entire country’s needs and take a stand.

The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime addressed the issue of animal trafficking, its causes, effects and impact on wildlife. Delegates of US (Shashank J Rao), Delegate of China (Pranav G Nair) played a significant role in moving the committee and creating resolutions.

At this conference, the students learned about the importance of coming together to achieve a common goal in the true spirit of the United Nations. The Primus MUN team members modelled the importance of diplomacy creating an atmosphere not of individual competition, but of group understanding and overall improvement. The delegates actively made motions, gave eloquent speeches, and exercised impressive diplomacy during caucuses. The awards presented in closing ceremonies were well deserved.



Alumni Meet

The first Primus Alumni meet was held on 13th July 2019. It was a joyous reunion of students from all our previous batches. Preparations for the event started a month in advance. We contacted our students through social media and asked them to register for the meet. Old students helped in creating the invite and posts for social media. Short quizzes were posted on Facebook in order to motivate our ex-students to participate, which they did and with great enthusiasm!

The meeting started with a welcome address from our Principal, Mrs Anuradha Krishnan. Our esteemed trustee, Mr Vasanth also spoke to the children with great cordiality. This was followed by a delicious, lip-smacking lunch where the Alumni mingled and caught up with their teachers and friends.

Thereafter, there was a meet-and-greet session where our ex - Primus cubs introduced (or re-introduced!) themselves and told us a little about the trajectories of their lives since they had left school. The meeting was then swung into high gear with elections, where the Alumni body chose its leaders.

The following students were chosen for the Alumni Committee :

President	- Dhruv Satish Kumar
Vice President	- Nandini Pawan Sharma
General secretary	- Anjali Menon
Cultural Secretary	- Advait Mohan
Treasurer	- Abhishek Unni Krishnan



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The current students of Grade 10, AS and A levels and PUC put up cultural programmes for their seniors. We wound up the meeting with a round of photographs of our students with the staff and the trustees. This was an incredible journey down the memory lane and we hope that this endeavour will be carried forward by the newly formed Alumni committee.

Alumni Talks

Pranav Muralidhar

Pranav, school topper in AS and A level Exam with 4 A* to his credit visited our school on 1st August 2019. He spoke in great length about his study plans, his practice notes and his consistent efforts which has earned him a 100% scholarship for his Undergraduate programme at Erasmus University, Notre Dame. He was able to give students tips on exam preparations, and was generous enough to pass his notes to his juniors.

Sanjivini Singh's Talk

Sanjivini Singh, one of our school pioneers visited us on 18th October 2019. She was very impressive when she spoke to the AS and A levels students of how to overcome failure and move on in life. Her talk instilled confidence in the students.



Commerce Fest

On 6th September 2019, the 1st and 2nd PUC Commerce students organised various fun and lively stalls for the entire school in the multipurpose hall. Though these stalls were part of a competition, there was something exciting in it for everyone involved. These stalls had games, food and gifts for all winners. The stalls weren't just limited to the students, the teachers were entirely welcome as well.

Students had prepared for it with utmost enthusiasm, putting in time and effort so that the students who visited would be fully entertained. The hall was decorated with each team putting up its posters and fairy lights. We were given constant updates about how much time we had left until the crowd poured in and with every minute that passed, we all grew excited.

As the clock ticked 12:00, kids rushed in, and there was music that began to play. We all got busy quickly; while some handled the money, some, the games and some, the food. A lot of teamwork was required to be put into making this a success, along with a ton of coordination and cooperation. Although members within the team disagreed on how to work out the games and such, eventually on the final day, we all had to come together and work in unity.

The students who organised it had varying opinions about how the day worked out for them as some said it was enlightening and practical, while others said that it let them exhibit the entrepreneurial skills hidden within. For some, it was hectic but surely a great learning experience.

It was stressful, but we had the motivation for it from our teachers. When we asked students who visited our stalls about what their view of the entire event was, the response we were provided with was both positive as well as negative which not only helped us understand our mistakes but also provided us with a lesson that we would remember the next time we ever had to set up an event similar to this.

An event like this gave us Commerce students, the chance to experience how businesses work, what errors can occur, and taught us the importance of keeping our customers happy. It was a mix of experiential learning, along with getting the chance to have fun.

All in all, it was a tiring day, but definitely a memorable one at that!

Shambhavi, C2A



Diwali

On 19th October 2019, Diwali was celebrated with much fervour and enthusiasm at Primus Public School. Students along with their family and friends participated in an 'All Day Carnival' that was a fun filled event with exciting games that kept the adrenaline rush, and a delectable array of food stalls that kept the tummy happy. Stalls selling trinkets, gifts, clothes, jewellery and handmade accessories let people go on a shopping spree.

The carnival depicted the vibrancy of this festival. The school wore a festive look with brightly coloured pots, kites, lamps and fairy lights adorning the stage and the walls of the school building.

Adding to the fun and zeal was the social cause. Keeping with the spirit of giving, this year too, the Diwali celebrations at Primus were planned as a fundraiser to help the less fortunate. The proceeds from the carnival collections were donated to various charitable organisations.

An upcoming young, talented rock and metal band called 'Shades of Paranoia' regaled the crowd with their foot tapping music.

The aspiring singers in the singing competition mesmerised the audience with their melodious and mellifluous voices.

The participants in the inter house dance competitions set the stage on fire with their vivacious and energetic dance performances. The judges complimented the efforts put in by the contestants in the closely contested competitions.

The audience bore witness to the enthusiasm and energy of the students as they enthralled one and all.

The school lawns resonated with spirited rhythm and song.



Delhi-Agra-Jaipur

We reached the airport early at 5:30 am on a Thursday morning. It was chilly and dark but the Bangalore airport was buzzing with life. We were divided into two groups and took two different flights to Delhi.

We reached Delhi at 10:30 am in the morning and boarded the tour bus. We comfortably toured Delhi looking at all the famous historic sites on a sunny morning.

We first visited the Rashtrapati Bhavan which was established in 1931 and is the home of our president. Next we visited the Parliament House where the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are held. We drove to the Rajghat, the memorial place of the beloved father of our nation, Gandhi Ji. Last on the morning tour was the India Gate which resembles the Arc de Triomphe in Paris and is the largest war memorial in India. The bus then took us to our hotel for a much awaited meal. We rested for a bit and left for Akshardham Temple in the evening where we witnessed a beautifully lit up sight. We carefully observed and marvelled at the design and handiwork of the temple which had different kinds of patterns. We came back to the hotel exhausted but thoroughly enjoyed the eventful day.

After our early morning breakfast we checked out from our hotel and left for the magnificent Lotus Temple. It is a place that is open to all religions and does not support any kind of discrimination. We moved on our journey to see one of the World Heritage Sights, The Qutub Minar. It is a 73 meter tall tower which consists of 5 stories connected by a spiral staircase.

Our next destination was Agra, which was a 4 hour long journey from Delhi. We reached the hotel, tired, had our dinner and rested for the night and started early the next day to visit the Taj Mahal. The sight was breathtaking. Taj Mahal was built by Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved Mumtaz Mahal. After lunch we visited the Agra fort, a shoe factory and spent the evening on the dance floor, busting out our best moves.

Morning after breakfast we visited Fatehpur Sukri on the way to Jaipur. It is a town built by Akbar which literally means “City of Victory”. Then, we stopped for lunch at a hotel and resumed our journey to Jaipur.

The next morning we headed to see the Hawa Mahal and Jaigarh Fort which holds the largest canon in the world, we also saw how historic rain water harvesting systems worked in the Fort.

We spent our day shopping at Bapu Bazaar which is famous for its textiles and footwear.

On the 6th day we visited Amer Fort and the Famous City Palace, where we saw the artifacts of the kings. We spent our evening at Chowki Dhani which is a replica of a typical Rajasthani village where we had a delicious Rajasthani dinner.

The last day of our trip was here where we took leave from Jaipur and departed to Bangalore with sweet memories on 9th October, 2019.



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Professional Development Training

CORE SKILLS WORKSHOP

Mrs Atherunnisa and Mrs Ashuta Karandikar attended a Core Skills workshop organized by the British Council at Harvest International School Bangalore. The workshop was facilitated by Dr Shyaonti Talwar.

It was a very intense and exciting workshop which covered the following topics:

- critical thinking and problem solving
- creativity and imagination
- digital literacy
- citizenship
- student leadership and personal development
- collaboration and communication.

The participants were sent a few pre-workshop materials from which they had to prepare. The workshop focussed on the importance of enhancing creative thinking abilities of students and prepare them to solve the problems of the fast changing world. The workshop emphasized the pivotal role a teacher plays in a student's life and the responsibilities of a teacher to prepare them for the challenging world. They were a multitude of activities which was presented and encouraged the teachers not only to participate but also to adapt them into their respective discipline. Participants were arranged in heterogeneous groups where they were given different activities like designing a wardrobe, open ended and close ended questions (Jack and Jill activity). A variety of videos were played and those for sure enhanced the spirit of the workshop. Snacks and lunch were served during which the participants could network with the others.

SCIENCE IS FUN- WORKSHOP

Mrs Divya Anish and Mrs Joyti Gupta attended a two-day workshop conducted by Mr Christopher Thompson, Associate Professor, Monash University, Australia, at Chancory Pavilion, Residency Road.

The workshop started with an overview about the changes in the technological world. The main focus was on Project-based learning (PBL) and Inquiry-based learning (IBL) and how it can be used in the teaching of science subjects. The participants were grouped based on the subject taught and had to discuss more about PBL and IBL. The difference between Project and Project-based learning and its limitations of PBL & IBL were covered.

Various types of learning which can make learning more effective such as Active learning, Flipped learning, Blended learning, PBL & IBL and Online learning were introduced. The scope of Data Science for students in the present scenario and emphasis on the career building in this field was discussed. Role of coding and programming in Chemistry, Physics and Biology was analysed. The workshop ended with an exploration of the various subject options and the pattern of admission in Monash University.



Serious Play for School (with Lego)

Mrs Rajitha Manoj attended a workshop on Serious Play with Lego. The Pedagogy of Play project aspires to change the way educators and policy makers think about play and playful learning at school. The Pedagogy of Play research initiative is centered around four core research questions:

1. What is the relationship between play, playfulness and learning through play?
2. How can a pedagogy of play be adapted to address different disciplines, age levels and cultural contexts?

3. What are the aspects of school culture that promote learning through play and experiences, rituals, tools and spaces that support a culture of learning through play?
4. How can school leaders empower teachers to increase playfulness and learning through play?

The benefits of learning through play are Intellectual, Social, Emotional and Physical development.

“CreatiWITTY” Workshop

Mrs Rajitha Manoj, Mrs Kavya Venugopal, Mrs Mary Jommy and Mrs Rama Sudha attended CreatiWITTY, an idea triggering workshop for Kindergarten educators and teacher trainees at PSTTI (Preschool teacher training institute) on October 20th, 2019 by Mr. Satish Chathanath, founder of Ellowhale Education and Pollen cubes with 22+years of experience in creative industry.

The program organized for preschool teachers created a unique experience that combined learning and association with peer teachers from various other schools. This workshop helped the participants to take a deep dive into multiple unknown areas of teachers’ mind and cleared the path to creative teaching using research based strategies and hands on tactics. It was held in two sessions. In the first half various techniques and ideas about how to

understand and handle different types of children (like a bully child or a hyperactive child in class) and also how to use nonlinear thinking to teach slow learners were brought forward. These techniques definitely encouraged teachers to be divergent in their thinking and generate many possible solutions that are unique and unusual, yet practical and useful for developing teaching aids and help to manage children.

The second half of the session dealt with overcoming various creative barriers like FUDS (Fear, Uncertainty, Doubts, Shortcuts), assumptions and how to objectify various things that one sees. The partakers also got a chance to work on projects, creating teaching aids with the minimum material given in a short time span and also engage in various exciting fun activities.

Chrysalis workshop

The Kindergarten and Grade 1 teachers had the opportunity to attend the chrysalis workshop. The workshops helped them understand the way to use the think room concept in the best possible way. Through an array of story readers and workbooks, children were exposed to a wide range of vocabulary words. The learning experiences concentrated

on developing reading, listening, writing, visual representation and speaking skills. Their hands-on activity-based learning help children to learn concepts better.



Social Sciences Conference at Mallya Aditi

The teachers from Humanities Department Ms Anna, Ms Bhadra and Ms Anamika attended a two-day workshop at Mallya Aditi International School learning much about the shifting sociological landscape of our country. It was really well organised and the speakers were of a very high calibre. The participants had professors with Phds speak to them on such topics as 'Ethics in the study of Humanities'. Some of the sessions were taken by the teachers themselves. These sessions were particularly helpful as they received a lot of

practical classroom tips on the teaching of Social Sciences. The drumjam was really enjoyable. It really invigorated them after lunch. The panel discussion at the end of the conference helped put things in perspective. The panel had a genomics professor, a geographer, a politician, a social scientist and a grade 12 student from Aditi. They spoke on reimagining the future of Humanities. It was really interesting to hear their widely differing point of views. The audience contributed such ideas as making the study of humanities a lot 'cooler' for students.

Google India's Computing Educator's Workshop

On 20th December Mrs Minni Adhikari, Mr Shaik, Mrs Latha Devi and Mrs Roseline Kennedy attended Google India's Computing Educators workshop. It was an exciting and informative evening that started off with why Google introduced Scratch Programming sessions in schools. Introduction of Scratch programming at a young age enables the children to understand the programming logic and design. This was followed by a session on creating

a form that collects the details from the end-users. Later an enlightening talk by the educators on how useful it is in schools, the design of the internals for the children was held. The next Session was on the Google Chrome pad and its uses for educational purposes. The workshop ended with the awards and certification for the teachers.



Children's Day

The grand celebration of Children's Day was successfully done on 14th November. With fun-filled activities and gift-giving, it turned out great. The grade teachers gave out personalized mementoes and chocolates to each of her grade students along with heartfelt wishes. They had also planned activities for them. The day got even better with performances by the teachers. The students had a jam-packed day full of fun and frolic. The children had a fun-filled day with lots of engaging and exciting activities which kept them busy all day through. The teachers' enthralled the audience with their dance performance and acting skills.

Children made beautiful masquerade masks, hand puppets, flower vases, corner bookmarks, book

covers and pop-up cards. They watched movies too. Teachers were also delighted to see their children happy and content. Our students played some fun games like 'face the cookie', which is eating a cookie kept on the forehead without using hands. 'Tied lace running' where one child's shoelace was tied to their partners and while racing. 'Traverse a part cup obstacle course - blindfolded'- this activity had an obstacle course made of paper cups and the students were divided as groups of two. One walks through the course blindfolded while the partner guides him/ her through it. The students enjoyed the whole time and were eager to win the smiley badges. The one who got the most number of smiles was given a special appreciation.



The “AD MAD SHOW” was a hit. The students were divided into groups and each group had to present an advertisement for a product/service. The groups were judged on criteria like teamwork, creativity originality, presentation, humour etc and the best 2 teams won prizes.

“Cartoon/comic dress-up day” event was a huge success. The students were divided into groups and each group had to dress up one of its members as their favourite cartoon/comic character. The groups were judged on criteria like teamwork, creativity

originality, presentation etc and the best 2 teams won prizes.

Football and cricket matches were scheduled for all of our sports enthusiasts. Rest of them made an encouraging audience, cheering up their friends. Later the students headed to their classrooms for a class party. The corridor was decorated with balloons. Inside their classrooms they had fun, dancing and sharing stories together, making some memories for their lifetime.





Graduation Day 2020

14th December was a landmark day in the lives of our Grade 12 scholars. Dressed in their finest, they were an inspiring sight to behold as they assembled on the grounds. This was after all, their moment to shine - they were the dignitaries on the occasion of their Graduation from Primus Public School.

The well - lit stage, the airy clouds and the sprinkle of rain only added to the charm and poise of the young men dressed in black suits and the lovely young ladies in blue sarees. The event commenced with a procession of graduating students and their teachers, led by the Principal, Mrs. Anuradha Krishnan and the Vice Principal, Mrs. Minni Adhikari.

Ms Rekha Philip welcomed the gathering as symbolic lamp was lit by the Principal, accompanied by the pioneer students Megha Manoj and Sai Ganesh

Natarajan. The students rose on the dais with candles symbolising the light of knowledge. Led by Aparajitha Singh, the class pledged to follow the right path, uphold good moral values and live by the motto of the school.

In her address, Mrs. Anuradha Krishnan wished the young graduates good luck and stressed on how graduation is the beginning of a new life, to dream and discover and contribute to the world to make it a better place; of freedom and independence. She also reminded them about self-worth and how imperative it is to remember one's roots, to learn from and listen to people, be diligent, determined, perseverant and continue to strive. The Principal also lauded the range of achievements of our graduating students and wished them the very best in their life's journey.



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Adithya Aravind and Head Girl Likitha Koppuru shared their wonderful experiences at Primus. They spoke about the relationships they had nurtured in their years at school, not just with their peers but also their teachers. Their words carried not only the pleasure of being successful but also the pain of having to leave the alma mater.

The graduating students received their scroll certificate from the Principal and Vice-Principal,

along with the good wishes and prayers of their teachers and parents. The graduates then flipped their tassels to the left, proud at having reached this important milestone of their young lives. The school choir rendered Katy Perry's 'Firework' beautifully.

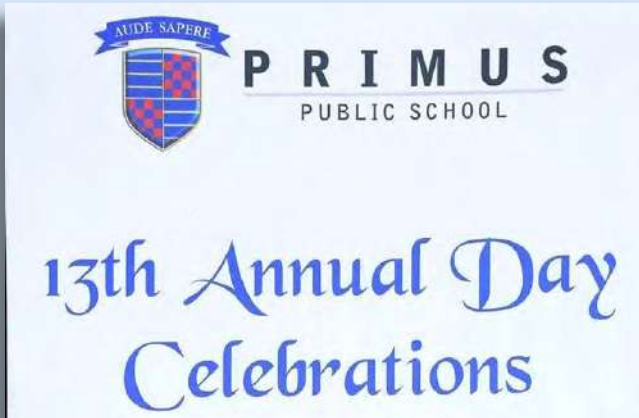
The event concluded with the much awaited 'Caps in the Air' ceremony, where the students flung their graduation caps sky-high, capturing the exhilaration and joie de vivre of this defining moment.



13th Annual Day

The 13th Annual Day Celebrations at Primus Public School held on December 7th, 2019 proved to be an amalgamation of the finest display of cultural extravaganza as well as academic prowess. It was yet another occasion to witness the school's commitment to a holistic and inclusive approach to education. Beginning with a video that showcased our students sharing their first hand experiences of having studied in Primus, the audience became

well aware of what made it possible to groom world toppers in Math and Biology like Sidharth Sudhir and Kushal Mohta, IIT -ready aspirants and alumni who have furthered their education in universities and colleges in Budapest, Rotterdam, Illinois and London in just the one year that passed. The Principal's address that followed, reinforced the Primus commitment to provide a happy, balanced and conducive environment for every child to rise



to his/her full potential. Our Principal, Anuradha Krishnan shared how the school boasts of faculty who clearly distinguish themselves with their ability to inspire learning and foster relationships by creating an atmosphere of empathy and good will amidst students. By balancing the need to hone emotional quotient along with IQ, Primus sets the stage for citizens ready to embrace the technologically savvy and yet socially aware world of the 21st century. True to its commitment to provide every child a place in its annals, it was declared that the annual

celebration of the day would be dedicated to the memory of Shamanth JK who had so tragically passed away recently.

What followed was a spectacular evening of breathtaking performances by close to 600 students ranging from kindergarten all the way through to the seventh grade. 'Namaste India' as the show was called, lead the audience through the length and breadth of India, showcasing India's rich cultural heritage with Alladin and his genie as guides. Students decked in



traditional attire of each state replicated the dances of respective regions while backed by an informative series of slides and descriptions. Beginning with a folk dance from the beautiful valleys of Kashmir represented with complete ethnic attire, the scene next moved to the foot tapping beats of the bhangra from the land where the five rivers meet. Next came the rhythmic Cheraw bamboo dance of the Mizos – a perfect picture of the beautiful North

East. Hot on the heels of this performance came the Ghoomar dance featured by the resplendently clad Rajasthani troupe. The stage then made way for the elegant Kathak dancers representing Uttar Pradesh bearing lotuses crafted in- house by our very talented art teacher. Next on stage in hues of red and white were the vibrant little devotees of Durga representing West Bengal. A compelling picture of the West of India was then to follow by way of the



Gujarati Dandiya dance. Next came a peppy number inspired by Portuguese music from the shores of Goa. Laavani dancers of Maharashtra took centre stage after this followed by Dhimsa dancers of Vizag and Coorgi dancers of our very own beloved Karnataka. Dancers decked in mohiniattam attire representing Kerala were next to come. A traditional folk dance

to the rain god in Tamil Nadu also known as the kazhakum dance would finally give way to the grand finale. The programme ended with all participants gathered on stage sharing with the audience the need to leave behind differences and instead share in the experience of being one nation and one entity. A fitting message to a wonderful evening indeed!



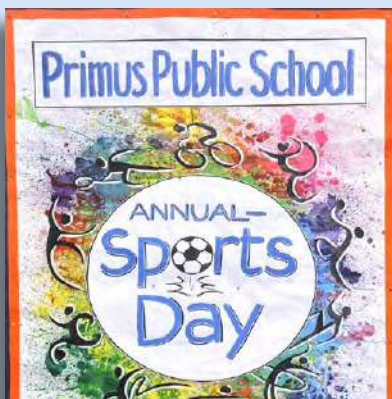
Sports Day

Primus held its Annual Sports Meet on December 20, a day filled with much excitement. The games field had been colourfully decorated with flags, streamers and posters the previous day. The Sports captain took the oath, following which our Vice Principal, Ms. Minni Adhikari, declared the Sports Meet open.

The much-awaited athletic events began and there was loud cheering as the four houses Aristotle, Newton, Einstein and Socrates competed against each other. The non-athletic events such as Bent Arm Throw and Shot Put had been held on the days

leading up to the Sports day. The competitiveness between the students was wonderful to watch and kept the audience enthralled. The games organised for the parents saw an impressive participation.

Socrates emerged the House Champions, and after receiving their trophy, the athletes of the winning house did a victory lap around the field. It was a day filled with sportsmanship, enthusiasm and memories to cherish. At the end of the day, students left with happy smiles on their faces, looking forward to their Christmas vacation.





Christmas at Primus

Christmas is the festival which inspires the spirit of love, giving, sharing and caring. Keeping with the true spirit of the season, Primus celebrated Christmas with enthusiasm on 18th of December 2019. Everyone imbued the pneumas in the message on Christmas, by the Academic Coordinator Ashuta Karandikar. The crib and crèche, in the manger were presented as a tableau vivant, by the students of the primary classes.

A Christmas carol, is a song on the theme of Christmas. Its origins can be traced to the 4th century Rome. As part of the Christmas celebrations

in Primus, there was an Inter House carol singing competition. The 'prologue' to the competition, came with the euphonic rendition of carols by the tiny tots from kindergarten. The competition was high spirited and effervescent, since each house wanted to outperform the other. They were cheered by members of the respective houses. The air was resonating with ebullience of the carols. The 'epilogue' to the competition came from the teachers, who pitched in with their mellifluous Christmas canticle, and the dancing Santa appearing suddenly with gifts marked the end of the celebrations.



Kindergarten Christmas Celebration Report

Christmas brings cheer and love. Our Kindergarten celebrated the day spreading the message of love and joy among the children. The significance of the festival was explained to the children through a Christmas story. Our little ones, dressed in red were very happy and excited to decorate the Christmas tree. Children enjoyed doing art activities creating Santa

Claus. They made greeting cards with thumbprint elves and Santa Claus ice-cream models using chart paper and cotton. Christmas spirit spread all around as the tiny tots sang carols. Their joy and excitement knew no bounds when Santa Claus visited and gave them candies. The boundless joy of celebrating was visible on the faces of all our children.



Kindergarten Pongal Celebration Report

Pongal was celebrated splendidly by engaging Kindergarten children in various colourful activities throughout the week. Teachers explained about the festival, how and when it is celebrated through videos related to the festival. They took part in several traditional activities as a part of celebration. The teachers cooked sweet Pongal in mud pot using

twigs and fire and brought the true festivity into the campus. The chanting of Pongalo Pongal! by our children while cooking Pongal was really exciting and they were also extremely delighted to taste the Pongal. It was insightful to see our little ones making colourful Rangoli in the school



The Night Zoo Keeper – Mr. Joshua Davidson

Mr. Joshua Davidson, the author of *The Night Zoo Keeper* had visited Primus campus to deliver a presentation based on his book and television series. He also introduced his website which is a language tool to develop one's skill in English. Students of grade 4 and 5 attended the interactive session. He engaged them with interesting discussions and activities.

Mr. Joshua spoke about his book 'The night zoo keeper' and the series that is being telecasted in UK. He spoke about the imaginary creatures in the

series, how he created them and their characteristics. The events in the zoo and how the zookeeper uses his magical powers and goes to the imaginary zoo to solve the problem in the zoo. This encouraged the children to create more imaginary creatures. It kindled their creativity and encouraged them to share their ideas through pictures and discussion. Children were excited to attend the session and were imbibed to upload their thoughts and ideas into the given website.



Republic Day

Republic 2020 celebration at our school was short and crisp. The weather was bright and beautiful quite fitting to the short event we had planned for the day. The day started off with a message stating the importance of empathy in our country followed by the march past. Students of primary grades

displayed well co-ordinated mass drill exercises and a calming yoga display. The spirit of patriotism and belonging rose as we heard our young students sing “Sare Jahan Se Achaa “as a tribute to Hindusthan. The day ended with the distribution of sweets to all our students and faculty.





Times Of India Teachers' Meet

This year Times Of India conducted annual teachers' meet in two sessions. The first one was held at The Indian Music Experience, India's only interactive music museum, Brigade Avenue, Bangalore, on 4th of December 2019. They help in understanding and appreciating the diversity of Indian music with the help of exhibits, performances and various learning activities.

It was an enriching experience with a guided tour of the entire museum. It also included a workshop conducted by prominent musician Mr. Vasu Dixit on songwriting. It gave the attendees a closer glimpse of the creative process and left them inspired to create their own masterpiece.

The second session was held at Chancery Pavilion, Residency Road, Bangalore on 31st January 2020. Times NIE has been bringing many interesting faculty programs on a range of subjects over the years. Some of them especially curated for teachers are delivered with the objective of keeping the teachers updated on the latest trends in education, be it technology

based learning or skill and value based programs like leadership for teachers, innovative teaching.

The session commenced with a quiz by Mr. Aditya Mubayi, Quizcraft. Later the Times family had framed a lively, interesting and engaging session on "Advancing Child Safety in India" in association with Underwriters Laboratories. Underwriters laboratory is a nonprofit organisation dedicated to advancing the UL public safety mission through the discovery and application of scientific knowledge. They conduct rigorous independent research and analyse safety data, convene experts worldwide to address risks, share knowledge through safety education and public outreach initiatives and develop standards to guide safe commercialisation of evolving technologies. This year they have initiated National Safety Science Campaign (NSSC) to sensitise and inform young students about safety as a science and inculcate the culture of safety in their minds- thereby creating India's next generation of safety ambassadors.



Training for Rangdum (Ladakh) Teachers

Education is a system; Teaching is an action; Learning is a process.

Education requires self-awareness and self-correcting set of processes that need training that facilitate teaching skills, master new knowledge, develop new proficiency which in turn, help improve students learning.

Rangdum (Kargil District) Winter School is held in Leh (usually starts during mid-November). The school lacks basic communication facilities and the teachers travel along with the kids all the way from Rangdum to Leh for conducting classes.

Ms. Sudha is a social worker from Bengaluru who visited this school and realized that some skill training is required for the teachers for better productivity. So, Ms. Sudha contacted Primus Public School to offer help to up skill the teachers from Rangdum. On 27th January 2020

two teachers, Ms Stanzin Choskit and Ms Sonam Yangdol, from Rangdum visited Primus. Ms. Bharti Gupta took initiative to lead the whole-day-training program for them. They were guided and trained in planning curriculum, lessons and scheme of work by different subject teachers according to their requirement. They were told about the various teaching techniques like video sessions, audio, listening sessions and hands on activities to involve children during class. They were made to observe the sessions at Primus so that they can incorporate the same teaching techniques in their classes.

The trainees were thrilled and overwhelmed with the training process as it was a very fruitful learning experience for them.



Quiztopia 2019 - 2020. *A gripping Inter-House School Quiz Contest*

'A champion is defined not by their wins but by how they can recover when they fall.'

- Serena Williams

Primary School

The Primary Quiz Topia 2019- 20 was held on 30th January in the Multi-Purpose hall. There were four participants from each of the four houses. The participants were from Grades 3 to 5. The five rounds that were conducted were Science and Technology, Logical Reasoning, Eminent Personalities, Old Trophies, Audio, Video and a rapid-fire round. The children participated with a lot of enthusiasm. The

participants came well prepared for the competition. The audience were amazed at the participant's wide range of knowledge and encouraged and cheered for their team. It was a tough fight between the Einstein and Socrates teams. The winner was Socrates house and the runner-up of the quiz was Einstein house. The quiz ended with a silhouette round for the audience based on cartoon characters.



Middle School

The middle school quiz 2020 was an exciting one. The participants were well prepared and the audience eager. The quiz had two parts. The first part covered topics like current affairs, mythology, places, history and personalities, while the second part contained entertainment, math and logic and GK.

The Quiz started off on the dot at 1:25 pm on Friday 31st Jan. The audience were well behaved and the teams nervous. The first part interesting rounds like guess the connection between the pictures shown, guess the city by its aerial view and a literature decoding round were the teams had to solve emoji puzzles to find names of books. During the initial bit of part one of the quiz all the teams were able to score points and it seemed like they were at power with each other, but is soon become very clear that Socrates was beginning to hold a wide lead. The teams were further encouraged by the visit from our veteran quiz mistress Minni ma'am and also by Anu ma'am, our Principal.

The second part of the quiz had an audio visual round where the participants were asked questions based on a video clip from a popular movie, aptitude

check and finally the rapid fire round. All the teams fought valiantly for their place on the score board throughout the quiz, but by the end of rapid fire there was only one clear winner –Scorates! A nail biting tie breaker was introduced between Newton and Aristotle at end. Finally, Einstein took the silver, followed by Newton with Bronze.

The event ended well before time giving the quiz team lots of time to shoot out questions to the audience, bringing all “Quiztopia 2019-20” events to a close.

It is safe to say that all the teams represented their houses well and they should all be proud of themselves. For the quiz mistresses the making of the quiz itself was a wonderful experience which took months of research. It was also an opportunity to refine their presentation and IT skills. It was surprising and humbling experience to learn that even the quiz which is one of the smaller affairs in our school required timely and dedicated help from all our quiz team members, multiple teachers, the school IT team and the housekeeping staff.



High School

“Learning gives Creativity, Creativity leads to thinking, Thinking provides knowledge, Knowledge makes us Great.... Quiz competitions are always interesting and informative, which provide excitement among the students and also make them aware of current affairs. Primus Public School successfully conducted an Inter House Quiz competition in the MPH on January 27th, Monday, 2020. Mrs. Atherunnisa S and Mrs. Anjali Joshi were the quiz mistresses. This was the last stage of the Quiztopia inter house quiz, which was initially conducted for all students of grade 3-9 as a Prelim round. For the first time in the current year, the students of grade 9 had an online prelim round which was very convenient as it give out the results immediately.

The quiz began with a draw of lots to decide the sequence of participation and introduction of the participants. The rules of the competition were explained to the participants much before the quiz competition. The first round was

Math-A-Thon round, where participants had to work simultaneously on a 4 different puzzles. The second round was Q&A express; all the participants had to answer a set of 12 questions simultaneously as the questions were displayed on the screen which had questions from all fields. The third round was Hawk's Eye/Connections; in this round the students had to bet for the strategy of ± 6 marks which was a buzzer round where the team pressing the buzzer first will be given the chance to answer. It was a pass round in which the team could bet for a strategy of ± 4 marks. The fourth, round was the Incredible India round where the students were posed with history questions. The team answering the questions would score 10 points. The fifth round was the Mera Bharat Mahan which was the cascading round where student were presented a set of 4 clues all leading to an answer. The teams were awarded 20/15/10/5 points based on which clue they would answer.



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The next two rounds were the Audio and Visual round. Audio round had voice clips which the contestants had to recognize the speakers. The video round consisted of movie clips which the students had to identify.

The last round is the rapid fire round, One participant from each team is selected for the hot seat and can answer as many questions as possible in one minute. Correct answers carry 5 marks and there is no more than 3 passes.

We had Ms. Maria and Ms. Priya as time keepers and Ms. Tara and Ms. Satyaveni as score keepers whose contribution is really appreciated. Einstein house emerged as the winners in the quiz, followed by Aristotle, Socrates and Newton house.

The Quiz was an exciting one. A Quiz encourages such positive competitions and hopes to bring out the best in all its students through such competitive events, while ensuring that the children learn through all possible ways- not just through books and classroom teaching.



Debate - Middle School

The middle school debate was conducted on 7th Feb 2020. The students debated on the topic 'Governments are taking effective measures to control global warming'.

The participants had researched their topics and were up to date with the current developments on the subject. They were competitive and proactive in presenting their points and counterpoints. Most of the debaters were first time participants and were confident in their tone and delivery.

The team that spoke FOR the motion won the debate. The best speaker award was bagged by Jai Karthik Varma, and was closely followed by Aneesha S Pochiraju, and Bhaskar Gildiyal. The coveted debating title was won by Socrates, with Einstein in second position, Newton in third and Aristotle in fourth position.



Debate - High School

The senior school Annual Inter house Debate was an invigorating affair this year.

The motion before the House was 'Museums must return their artefacts to the country of origin.'

The For side cited the ethical and moral reasons for returning the artefacts. They also expounded on the economic benefits that would accrue to the country of origin.

On the other hand, the Against side vocally defended their position by saying that one cannot compromise

on the safety of these historical objects as they are integral parts of human history. Returning them would surely undermine their security as well as their quality.

At the conclusion of this charged debate, the Against side won the day. Einstein House emerged victorious with Yashvardhan Singh being adjudged the Best Speaker and Shashank J Rao following as a close runner up.



Kindergarten Fun League

The Kindergarten Fun League (KFL) was held on 15th February 2020. It was a fun day focusing on promoting physical activity and healthy bonding between kids and their parents. Our Kindergarteners were grouped into six different teams. Each team was represented with a cartoon character and a colour code to make the event more colourful and excited.

The event commenced with a warm welcome speech by our beloved Principal Mrs. Anuradha Krishnan, who then handed over the cartoon character placards to one of the parents from each team. The complete event was planned with various fun games like hurdle race, making glass pyramids, catching the ball with the net, taking baby steps with their

little ones, sticking petals and water transfer. All the games were organized in 6 different stations. Both the children and parents enthusiastically took part in all the games and had immense fun coordinating so well in all the activities. After enjoying all the games, everyone in the field was guided to the last station where a Zumba session was held. The entire crowd was asked to dance for the music following our dance instructor. It was a lovely sight of the parents and children mingling and dancing in the field. The day was concluded felicitating all the little ones with medals and certificates as a token of participation. Our Kindergarteners and parents thrilled everyone with their energetic and spirited show. It was a day well spent with happy and vibrant smiles all around.



FLE Workshop

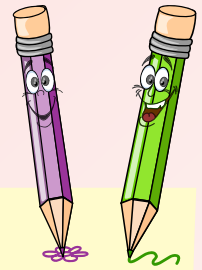
The French department of Primus Public School attended the “FLE (Français comme Langue étrangère - Teaching of French as a foreign language) Workshop” for French teachers. This was organised by “The French Association – Le Cercle Français” of Mount Carmel College as part of their French Fest, Franco-Feel 2020 on 17th January 2020.

This year’s celebrations were in honour of Edith Piaf, France’s own nightingale, and her indomitable spirit. The workshop was conducted by Mrs. Geetanjali Shrivastava, a Bangalore based FLE expert. The workshop theme was “Exploitation d’un document authentique en classe de FLE”. It dealt with the usage of authentic documents (Magazine articles, reviews, passport, audio visual pieces, internet clips, etc.) in class to explain concepts from a real life perspective.

This would help break the monotony of textbook teaching and make the students independent learners. Each of the documents presented was analysed in detail. There was also a hands-on team-wise session where each group had to present a concept that was made interesting with the help of authentic documents.

The workshop was enriching as it brought to the fore, innovative methods of teaching French that had not yet been completely explored. It also gave us an insight on how to effectively apply concepts learned in the classroom in real-life situations. A definite take away from the workshop was the identification of various resources that can act as authentic documents. In all, it left us French teachers with a sense of fulfilment and renewed motivation !





All that glitters is not gold

I'm out of place in this world, out of place and out of soul
It seems like such a big deal, when I didn't fit into your mold
Slipped out of your grasp and into a hole
The more you called for me, the deeper I crawled
Now deep inside, we can't blame each other for your fall
Because all that glitters is not gold

How long can I wait for my seat at the table
Where you feast with the power-hungry, and those who are able
To distance themselves from the morals we learned as children
And manipulate feelings so that the heroes like me become the villains

I never showed it to you, but I fume at our failures
To even acknowledge their existence, and counter with hatred
It too is misplaced, when we choose those who'll be disgraced,
We don't look past their face
We only need an excuse to attack without restraint

Expressions of disdain masking the jealousy and the pain
Who would think you're insecure when all you do is bring others shame?
Everyone can easily point their fingers, but no one wants to take the blame
These horrible feelings always linger, and goad you to take your place

In the soil a little too early
We notice those who bring chaos, and deify them because they're bold
But when the story unfolds, you'll realise
All that glitters is not gold

I urge you to break out of this morbid graveyard
Time is short, we cannot allow this situation to escalate
Open the roads in your mind, stretch them as far as you can,
If we learned to love instead of learning to denounce,
we'd see that the clouds covering our blue sky
would quickly dissipate.

Adithya Arvind, S2B



Radiance Reborn

The stars watch a seeming endless night
Gleaming eyes, so far away
The world lay in the grasp of sleep,
Waiting for forthcoming day.
One by one, the stars fade away
Clearing away from sight
As the moon pulls down its canvas of dark
And the sun puts forth one of light
Slowly, but surely, the colors emerge
Splashes of red here and there,
As the earth wakes to see the sun at work
On a masterpiece beyond compare.
All of a sudden, the sky lights up
Into a painting vivid and bold.
Full of warmth and brightened life,
A view worth its weight in gold.
And so, the day begins anew
Colors the skies adorn.
With the sun's magic at hand once more,
Truly, it is radiance reborn.

Chinmay Deshpande, S2C

Journey to Redemption

A man walks through torrential rain
Scars adorn his feet
Every step is received with pain,
Yet he doesn't admit defeat.
He knows this is the final journey,
The last leg towards home.
Though hard as hell the road may be,
He knows he must atone.
Here he walks through frigid frost
His limbs grow numb and frail
Yet, he must go on at any cost
Bearing on through snow and hail.
He knows this is his final journey
The last leg towards home.
Though hard as hell the road may be,
He knows he must atone.
Now goes the man, through swirling sand
In the blistering, blustery heat
He trudges on, through hostile land
His courage has not been beat.
He knows this is the final journey
The last leg towards home.
Though hard as hell the road may be,
He knows he must atone.

Now he climbs the jagged cliffs
His eyes as hard as stone
His body bleeds, his bones are stiff,
Yet he moves on without a moan.
He knows this is his final journey
The last leg towards home.
Though hard as hell the road may be,
He knows he must atone.
Through the mist and over the fence,
He sees a land beautiful and fair.
His hands go up in reverence,
Filled with joy beyond compare
He knew this was his final journey
The last leg towards home
Though hard as hell the road had been,
At last, he has atoned.

Chinmay Deshpande, S2C



The Mandela Effect

The Mandela effect is what happens when someone has a clear memory of something that never happened in reality. Many people remember the exact same events with near identical details. However, our memories are different from what is in the history books, articles, newspapers etc. Some try to explain these memories away by saying it is simply false memories. Others question then why do complete strangers share false memories while others don't. We may never know. Some speculate that parallel realities exist and that we have been sliding between them without realizing it. Others theorize other alternatives. Nonetheless the Mandela effect is fascinating.

Here is a quiz to find out what you remember about some common examples of the Mandela effect.

1. Do you remember the Monopoly man?

- a) With a monocle or
- b) Without a monocle

This is one of the classic examples of the Mandela effect where almost everyone remembers the monopoly man with a monocle but apparently it was never like that.

2. Do you remember the Kit-Kat logo?

- a) With a hyphen '-'
- b) Without a hyphen '-'

Well the Kit Kat logo does not have a hyphen '-' or to be more accurate, it was never like that. But some people have pictures and many other evidences to prove that the Kit-Kat logo did have a hyphen '-' but unfortunately the company still rejects the fact.

3. Do you remember the story book about bears that you used to read as a kid? What was it called?

- a) The Barenstein bears or
- b) The Berenstain bears.

This is one of the most popular examples of the Mandela effect as this was most widely accepted that it was definitely 'The Barenstein bears' and not 'The Berenstain bears'.

If you also remembered all of these examples the wrong way, don't worry you are not alone.

There are hundreds of other examples like these which no one can clearly explain. Are there multiple universes? Are we all in a simulation? Or are these just false memories? No one will ever know...

Ankith S R, S1A



My Moment

When I first saw you;
That was the moment
Next, I feared.

If I had the words to describe
My feelings for you
I would be the happiest ever
But how could I, for each
Time I fumble

My world that's you
That is the moment
When all else becomes meaningless
When your smile makes my day
When your words make me fly
Like a bird and fall
Like an angel

That is a moment
Every morning, I see you
You are the last thought
Before I slip deep into sleep
And see you again in my dreams
You never seem to get off of my
Mind; you are my everything
My moment; now and the next.

Ankith S R, S1A

Her Mortal Terror

She had waited a long time, very patiently; stealthily
Until a single dim ray, opened wide
With perfect distinctness
And she could see nothing else
But there came to her ears
A quick sound
As the beating of a drum
It grew louder and louder every instant
She refrained and stood still
Like stone dead.

His eyes resembled that of a vulture,
A pale blue eye with a film over it
Every night, about midnight
Light shone out, so cautiously
Every night, just at midnight...
There she was.

His black shadow approaching her
His secret deeds, all in vain
Deepening, little by little.
He enveloped her, the victim,
And from the bottom of her soul
A dreadful echo growing
She kept quiet, night after night
With the mortal terror, pushing on.
He chuckled at heart, she knew the sound well
Just at midnight, when all the world slept
With the room as black as the thick darkness
She sprang up in bed, crying out; "Who's there?"

Through the open window, she could feel
The breath of rain that was in the air
A distant song reached her,
She saw the color that filled the air
The blue eye shook her.

Nishitha Noushad, Shriya, C2



Pallas Athena

Obelisks of moonlight percolated through the canopy of barren branches above my head. The frigid New England air remained motionless. I had only the crunch of snow beneath my leaden feet to accompany me. All was still. Branches protruded from their sturdy trunks like witches' fingers, portending omens on those who continued undeterred. An eerie quiet enveloped the winter woodland around me.

The sullen trees were not swaying,

The still wind was not singing,

For in their midst,

An intruder was walking.

I saw movement in my periphery; I spotted a barrel-shaped shadow tracking me from atop a slender branch. Its eyes were like an eclipsed star, with its corona peering out from the fringes of the moon that obscured it. They seemed to be scanning me thoroughly. It was an owl. Letting out a sharp, high-pitched hoot, it released its vice-like grip of the branch. As it glided down gracefully, it seemed to be beckoning me to follow it. I did as I was commanded.

"Lady Athena! A trespasser. "

"I am aware of his presence,"

"The wanderer is unwitting, isn't he?" Hermes inquired

"Of the fate that his path portends."

"Yes, he knows not. For his infraction, atonement is required"

"Through punishment befitting, he shall make amends."

I jogged behind the owl as it traced oscilloscope lines through the twilit sky. As it weaved in and out of the shafts of moonlight, its frost white down feathers were visible in all their splendour. We soon approached a clearing. There was a knee-height stump at the very centre of it. Noiselessly, it glided down and rested on one edge of the stump. I approached it. It was carved into an ornate concave bowl; clear water as still as the forest nested within it. The owl gently hooted, stretching out one of its wings as though instructing me to drink from this mysterious source. Once again, I was powerless to refuse its beckoning. With cupped hands, I took a sip. I felt a rumble within me; an inhuman force, overpowering every fibre of my being. I let out a shriek but no sound was heard.

Wings burst forth, rushing like a river,

White feathers, like frost, enveloped pale skin,

A glossy black beak that shone like silver,

From nails protruded talons long and thin,

Now reborn as the eyes of those that resided within.

I awoke to the sound of eerie silence, clinging onto a bony branch. I found myself peering down at an unwitting wanderer- lost, yet undaunted. It seems he has not heeded our warnings.

Bhargavan Ananthakrishnan, AS Level



Stained Memories

Lightning danced across the billowing clouds lighting up the features of the man in front of me. His black hair adorned with grey highlights stuck to his forehead and his hazel eyes seemed to constantly shift to stare at something behind me but what truly caught my attention was a cut that ran down the side of his face cracking it in two. Blood escaped from the wound and crawled down the side as if desperate to stain whatever it could, leaving a memory of this night. It did not look like the man felt any pain. His mind was on one thing alone, the accident.

I flinched as each icy drop kissed my face. I swatted my wet blond hair off my forehead as the unforgiving wind rushed past. Rain pelted down, embracing both me and the man as he urged me toward the car, his blood crusted nails digging into my arms as he gripped on tenaciously.

This man had stumbled across me while I was on my way home and had pleaded for my help. He had refused to bring this to the attention of the police and had insisted that a trained doctor such as I would be enough. However, now staring at the wreckage in front of me, I was close to certain that I would be of no help whatsoever. The woman inside is sure to have greeted death. In fact, I was astonished the man survived at all.

I crept towards the automobile, hesitant, I pried open the damaged door, wincing as it slipped through my fingers and landed on the ground with a soft thud. My numb fingers searched around for the body but were met with cold air. I peered inside to find the body but my eyes saw only the damaged car. There was no body. I whirled around, water droplets escaping from my hair as annoyance gripped my senses but what I saw nailed me to the spot.

The man stood there pointing and shrieking for me to help his wife, shaking. As I stood there stunned, a shard of memory poked my mind. I desperately tried to cling on and fix the pieces of the puzzle but my mind refused to remember. I took a tentative step forward in hopes of telling the man what I had discovered but he grabbed onto me and flung me towards the broken car all the while yelling at me to aid the woman that apparently he alone could see. My back screamed in protest as I hoisted myself up. I stared as his tear stained face tinted red with anger and he scrambled towards the car, kicking the door away, his hands searching for God knows what.

I took the chance to call the police, my fingers shaking. Before I could tell the police my location, the phone was snatched away and thrown onto the ground. I looked up and into the eyes of the man. There was madness in those murky depths. A shiver scurried up my spine as my mind fit in the last piece of the puzzle and I remembered. I was glad that my mind did not betray me but that was short-lived as terror soon gripped my insides. He was the patient who broke out of the mental asylum a couple weeks back.

His mental issues ranged from schizophrenia to bipolar disorder to PTSD. He was diagnosed after experiencing a car accident 10 years ago wherein his wife lost her life. I was yanked out of my reverie when I felt a sharp pain at the base of my throat. A blade. "You are the pretty little one who hit our car right?" His body shook with maniacal laughter as he pierced the blade deeper. I felt blood trickle down the base of my neck, dripping onto my shirt.

Cont...



"I remember you, your curly brown hair, green eyes, who would've guessed you were capable of murder?" He cocked his head, his mystified eyes staring at me, but not really, he seemed to be imagining another person. He smiled then, a cunning and terrifying smile. I staggered back, a jagged piece of the car piercing my ribs. His hands curled around my throat squeezing. I gasped for air my hands fighting to pry his hands off.

His ears perked then, his fingers loosening their hold, I scurried away from him as my ears picked up the sound of sirens. Relief flooded through me as I tried to trudge towards the noise. However the man was faster, he gripped a fistful of my hair and dragged me towards a building. Tears pricked my eyes as we clambered up flights of stairs. My last shred of hope was the assurance that the police were nearby.

We jostled through the terrace door; a cold hand clenched my heart. The rain fell even harder now making the floor slippery. He

strode forward but soon pushed me to the ground when footsteps could be heard. I closed my eyes, the pain unbearable. When I finally opened them, police officers surrounded me and the man stood at the edge of the terrace, his feet inches away from falling 15 floors down.

An officer was trying desperately to bring the man to our side but I knew the man was past the point of sanity. His head whipped from side to side as he took us all in. He finally looked down at a picture of a girl he was holding in one hand. His fingers loosened on the railing that was keeping him in place and he took a tiny step back.

The officer screamed but the man looked at me, a smile formed on his lips, unlike the sadistic one before but one that promised peace and tranquility. He said "not all angels need wings to fly and I can now be with her, my angel" and he let go.

Katelyn Thomas, 10A

Peculiar

It's peculiar how people miss
The cities they've never been to
The tears they've never shed
The people that never left

It's peculiar how they crave
For friends they never met
The smiles they never showed
The people they never knew
The person they never were
It's peculiar.

By Tanisha Iyer, 10A



Anxiety

The sun was sinking at a sluggish pace. It cast a rosy glow over the park, making the damp grass scintillate. People jogged past me, the feet drumming rhythmically against the ground. It was an idyllic picture, save for my leg bouncing incessantly. I chewed on the inside of my lip, hoping he hadn't changed his mind about meeting me here.

I sat with one leg over the other in the shade of a towering tree. Occasionally, I tugged at my clothes, at a loss for anything else to do to pass the time. I suddenly wished I had brought something that could distract me from my anxious state. I looked behind to the warmly-lit ice-cream parlour. I desperately wanted something chilly after sitting in the humid air for so long.

Sighing, I turned back around. Unnecessary and concerned thoughts flew around my head, causing a dull throb. Closing my eyes, I tied my hair for the umpteenth time. I massaged my temples to alleviate the discomfort.

Every time I heard someone walking towards me, my stomach twisted and my head snapped around to look at them. I felt a gradually escalating pressure behind my ribs. Although I wasn't moving, my breaths grew short and hurried. I tried convincing myself that he was probably just stuck in traffic. I made a futile attempt to steady my ragged breathing.

In the twenty years that I'd lived, not once had I seen my father. Up until a few weeks ago, he hadn't even known that I existed. All my life, I'd dreamt of this moment. I had never expected it to be perfect, for nothing ever was, but it had not once occurred to me that he wouldn't want to see me. I had never let myself entertain such a possibility. But now, as I waited on a park bench in the setting sun, it seemed to be the only explanation that made sense.

I only had a grainy picture to identify him but even then, nobody in the park was even close to looking like my father. He was a strong-jawed man with an angular face. I heard someone panting behind me and dismissed it as another jogger. A man emerged in my peripheral vision and slumped onto the bench beside me.

I looked away, not wanting to make eye contact since I was usually quite uncomfortable around strangers. Still, out of curiosity, I snuck a glance at the man and my breath caught in my throat. I turned my head and took in his side-profile. Noticing me blatantly staring, he looked at me. Before he had a chance to speak, I breathed, "Dad?"

Neha Poolu, 10B



Odyssey

The stygian night,
encumbered by the soldiers
of primordial fear which they
embedded into all full hearts

I was left thinking,
of a sonder realization

My words are not heard by all,
for I bit back the tongue that
spoke

My eyes, are a reflection,
of my purest soul
but those who needed to gaze,
were blindfolded

My dreams that stretch
far beyond the azure seas
and the sombre night skies
may be left caged in the metal
walls of my mind

The crumpled paper,
the bucket list which I aimed
to fulfill didn't matter to anyone
but me.

Until dawn descended and
the sea glittered.

My reflection, my words
my fruition only impacted me
for I had to carve my own
path into stone and follow it

No tar roads or my head in the clouds
For the desert had storms and
the water was frozen.
I trudged, my feet bare and my
head sweaty for the path I had carved,
was for my odyssey and only mine

Yyajushi Hulgundi, 10B

Fireworks

The fireworks made their way into the
pitch-black night, their blazing trails
following right behind them. The smell of
burning gunpowder made its way to my
nose, and I cringed at the smell.

The Fourth of July event in the community
was huge. Even people from outside the
community came to celebrate. But this
only made it worse for the residents who
had to deal with noise pollution until 4am.
I came to my senses as another rocket
burst in the sky, sending a flurry of sparks
into the night. The audience stared intently
at the sky and "Ooh-ed" and "Ah-ed" as
the fireworks burst.

Toddlers squealed with joy as the
"rainbows danced" in the sky. They
jumped with delight and danced hand in
hand, enjoying the festivities. Music blared
out of two huge speakers in the middle
of the crowd. The crowd jumped up and
down in sync with the beat, unaffected by
the heavy bass.

Some residents sat out on their roofs,
watching the fireworks from a safe
distance. Others curled up on their
balconies with a huge fluffy blanket
wrapping them. Most of the residents were
in their houses, covering their ears with
two or three pillows.

I, on the other hand, stood near the railing
of my balcony, with earphones in my ears,
playing my favorite playlist. I stared at the
night sky, as it lit up with fireworks, a sign
of hope in my life.

Shalin Palil, 10A



As the World Fell Asleep

The metallic screech of the cable car as it came to a halt startled me. The compartment swayed, hanging high above the ground. I clutched the edge of my seat, my hand nearly slipping off the silky cushion. A smile tugged at the corner of my lips as I gazed out the window. The car had stopped nearly halfway across the length of the cable.

The sky had a muted blush, clouds hovering over the mountain peaks. The verdant land sloped and curved, finally sweeping down into a deep valley, lush with vegetation. I spotted a scattering of vibrant wild-flowers in distinct colours, each equally eye-catching. A meandering river cut through a knot of trees that littered the valley.

I fumbled for my camera, wanting to capture the scene. The click of the button was the only sound in the hushed atmosphere. I slid the window open and a cold gust of wind blew into my compartment. I gathered the thick material of my coat tightly around me. As I surveyed the landscape, a sense of tranquillity fell over me. I felt at peace floating in the middle of nature.

The flapping of wings filled the air a flock of birds flew overhead, heading back to their nests. The vermillion skies faded to warm hues. The horizon darkened and clouds clustered together. An icy droplet of rain splattered onto my cheek, making me flinch. I tugged the window closed and watched as the winds outside picked up speed.

Suddenly, dread settled in my stomach at the thought of being stranded here for the night. At the edge of my vision, I glimpsed a flash of colours. Abandoning my thoughts, I turned to see what it was and a gasp escaped lips. A peacock stood by the edge of the azure water of the river. It unravelled its feathers, dancing in the rain.

I felt calm, like I was a bystander watching as the world went to sleep. In the distance, a lone building stood tall, its lights glimmering in the night. The sun, an orb of crimson flame, glowed as it sank. It dipped behind the mountains, disappearing from view.

Neha Poolu, 10B



The Stranger

The glass shattered as it was flung across the room, shards raining down around the girl as she cowered in the corner, afraid to look up at the man yelling merely a few feet away. Her mother stood defiantly in front of her, a shield against the man's fury. She could see her mother's fists quivering and tried to drown out the harsh words exchanged between the two adults. She shook, tears sliding down her face, her hand covering her mouth to silence the sobs fighting to break through.

She listened as unsteady footsteps thudded against the wooden floor, coming closer and closer until they stopped but was followed by a shriek of agonizing pain. She grabbed at a sliver of courage and forced herself to look up at the scene before her. He was clutching at her mother's hair, growling words that were accompanied by the sharp stench of alcohol. She let out a whimper as he flung her mother down right onto where two pieces of glass jutted out.

This man was a stranger to her, someone who her mother clearly did not want her to meet. The glimpse of fear that would reveal itself whenever the doorbell rang and the visitor on the threshold would be a man with stark green eyes, did not go unnoticed by her. Her mother would urge her out the back door and send her to her neighbour's house, making her promise to not return until her mother called.

This night, the curiosity that crept inside of her rebellious spirit was harder to stifle than the usual days. Now, as she peered at the man prowling towards her mother she regretted every moment she spent planning on entering the house unnoticed. Her mother lay, grimacing as the shards dug deeper into her arm, blood oozing out of the open wound. The strength she had seemed to dissipate but her eyes searched the room, probably for an object that could defend them against this man who seemed on the verge of lunacy.

He staggered backwards, his gaze shifting to the girl crouched in the corner, his head tilted to the side a look of curiosity enveloping his features.

His delineated emerald eyes took her in and he inched closer, she scurried back, desperate to get away but her back met the hard wall behind her. He edged closer, his unfocused gaze jumping from object to object but his incentive was making his way to the hunched, trembling figure in the corner. He reached out, his hand grazing the nape of her neck as he gripped her arm and yanked her to her feet, shoving her against the wall. Pain rattled her skull, her vision blurred as she struggled to get out of the tenacious grip he had on her.

He looked at the shaking girl attempting to free herself from his grasp, like a little bird trying to escape the cage. He wrapped his fingers around her throat but a severe shot of pain ran through his body. He looked down, to the glistening tip of the knife peeking out of his stomach, a pained moan escaping his lips. He slumped to the ground, dark spots clouding his vision. He shifted his gaze to the woman standing above him with the knife clutched in her palm, a scarlet sheet wrapped around the blade, melting as drops fall.

Her mother loomed over the body of the man, tears glistening her cheeks. The knife clattered to the ground as she fell to her knees beside her daughter. A locket fell out from under the shirt of the man and broke open. Inside it held a picture of a young girl, aged two at least, hoisted upon the shoulders of what seemed to be a younger version of this man. "I tried to stay calm," whispered her mother. "I thought he'll leave after he saw you, but the sight of his hands around your neck... Oh, what have I done?!" Her mother's face revealed the amount of pain she was in as she wailed, sobs racking through her body.

As the girl watched her mother cry, a faint memory made its way through the crevices of her mind and realization hit her. She sat, numb, not a single tear escaping her eye as she looked at the man in a different light. Her father, a man she was not allowed to know, dead by the hands of her mother.

Katelyn Thomas, 10A



Smile

Rumours of paranormal activity have always haunted Triste High School. Classroom lights switching on in the middle of the night, the sounds of a piano playing from the music room when no one's using it, sightings of pale white figures roaming the hallways – this is what you would normally expect from an allegedly haunted site.

But what the residents of this high school experienced was far more terrifying than this.

It all began seventeen years ago, when a fire started in the school building during an unforeseen riot, and, due to its remote location, the firefighters never reached in time - the building burnt to the ground, and so did the three hundred people inside.

The school was rebuilt and since then, the inhabitants have heard screams that seem to originate inside the walls, detected the stench of burning for no discernible reason, seen splatters of blood appearing on windows out of the blue, and sensed the presence of other beings in seemingly empty rooms.

Today was one of the uneventful days. Nothing paranormal happened, just boring high school stuff. By the time classes were over and the students had to return to their dorms, they were exhausted to the bone and some were even planning to skip dinner to finish their assignments then sleep till morning.

"I almost wish something would happen. Anything. Isn't this school supposed to be haunted?" groaned a voice down the hall. Little did they know, they would be getting their wish by the next morning.

Indigo was beginning to seep into the orange skies when the two students finally wrapped

up their project. The lab was empty save for them as everyone else had completed this assignment a long time ago.

"If you'd listened to me, we wouldn't be doing this the evening before the due date," Aeron huffed at his lab partner.

"We're done, so stop complaining," Dabria retorted as she returned their apparatus to their respective positions on the shelves. She grabbed her bag and nudged the door. It didn't budge. Dabria tried again, harder this time, but the door seemed to be locked.

"Maybe someone's playing a practical joke on us," Aeron said over her shoulder, their finished report in his hands.

Dabria stood on her toes and peered down at the lock through the window. She gasped, "...It isn't locked..."

"What?!" Aeron pushed her out of the way and looked for himself. He looked at Dabria. "Then why isn't it opening?" He pushed the door.

Dabria rubbed her arm ruefully, where Aeron had elbowed her. "I don't know. It could just be stuck. This school's ancient."

"It's also haunted," Aeron added.

"We could try opening it together," Dabria suggested, ignoring Aeron's comment. She had never believed in the supernatural and an old, jammed door wasn't going to convince her. They tried pushing it open together. Then, they tried to force it open in short bursts of strength. The door didn't even squeak.

Dabria's brows furrowed in confusion. That wasn't normal. The doors in the school creaked if you so much as touched them.

Cont...



Dabria could see the growing panic in Aeron's eyes. He had to stay calm or neither of them would be able to get out.

She tried banging her fists against the door in an attempt to grab someone's attention. The hallway outside was deserted. It was almost night, so at least that was understandable.

Screech.

Aeron whirled around to face the windows on the opposite wall. "What was that?"

"Probably just a bird," Dabria said, waving a hand dismissively. There were plenty of creepy nocturnal birds out here.

Screech.

"That's not a bird..." Dabria heard herself whisper in a hoarse voice. It reminded her of the piercing sound nails made against glass, but how was that possible? They were on the fourth floor.

Dabria turned away from the door, fear gripping her insides as she stared at the window. Soon, they wouldn't be able to see a thing out there. The sun had set quickly today. It felt like life was leaving the world as the light slowly disappeared over the horizon.

Screech.

Aeron turned to face her. He was pale, his fingers trembling. "Dabria... I don't think that sound's coming from outside." His voice was soft, tremulous.

Screech.

The shrill sound was getting more frequent, like whoever was making it was getting impatient.

Screech.

Dabria turned and her fists hit the door harder as panic began to set in. Her voice was high-pitched as she screamed, "Somebody! Anyone! Can you please help us?!" The only response was silence.

Screech.

She fearfully looked over her shoulder at Aeron and her breath hitched in her throat. A boy of around their age was standing right next to Aeron, a wide, sinister smile on his face.

Maybe the supernatural did exist.

He raised a clawed hand, and his nails raked the glass.

Screech.

"The lab is currently being investigated, so please refrain from going anywhere near it." With that, the principal concluded her speech concerning the events of the previous night.

The auditorium burst into whispers as students and staff alike discussed what could have caused the mysterious disappearances of Dabria Leonhart and Aeron Watson. There was no sign that either of them were even in the lab except for a lab report written by them that was found on the floor next to the windows.

"It was a ghost. I'm sure of it."

"Maybe the spirits of those poor kids are haunting us because of the riot. It was started because of lack of facilities in the area, so people burnt the school to show how that could affect them. Heartless thing to do, if you ask me. No wonder the school's haunted."

"Did you know that they finally have a theory on why no one escaped the fire seventeen years ago? There are reports of paranormal activity in the school even before the fire. They all mention a normal kid with a creepy, inhuman smile. Some think that he might have been the reason no one could escape. He killed three hundred innocent people."

"What if he's still around?"

Suniti Dubey, 9A



Escape

At the end of the corridor the closed door was waiting. Muffled voices and scurried footsteps could be heard coming from behind the notorious, teak door. Suspicion lurked in every corridor and danger in one mysterious corridor of the Royal Albert Hall. The clock had just struck eleven and the gregarious guests had retired to their respective rooms after an extravagant soirée; everyone had relished the lavish food and wine, danced to the most mellifluous waltz music and enjoyed fraternising with one another. With everyone now resting, the edifice had fallen asleep.

Unexpectedly, a figure emerged out of nowhere. Her jet-black curls cascaded on her peach-coloured gown. Her outfit was embellished with an abundance of pearls and luxurious lace to complete the charming look. She accessorised the attire with several sparkling diamond rings and crystal bracelets. Her mesmerising eyes resembled pools of honey and her lips red roses.

“Miss Daphne Martin!” exclaimed an approaching waiter,

“Your suite is in the opposite direction, What brings you here?”.

Unimpressed, Daphne snapped “I believe that you, being a butler have no right to question my authority...”.

The servant with a perplexed look on his face wondered how Miss Daphne, the sweetest creature, had such an abrasive reply. Without thinking twice he apologised and disappeared into the darkness of the corridor.

The woman paced through the empty passageways and entered the remotest corridor. Her every step echoed around the isolated fifth and final floor. She glanced around to ensure no one was watching her. The glaring door awaited her arrival. Daphne inched closer and forced the creaky doors open. Instantly, she scanned the scene and smirked with grim satisfaction.

“Good job, boys!” she remarked joyously.

Three men dressed entirely in black nodded. Their faces were concealed by masks and fingers hidden by gloves. In the corner of the chamber a sack filled with ornaments shone. Various types of artefacts were visible; gems, ancient scrolls, renowned paintings and all kinds of

valuable jewellery. Within moments the quartet restored the now-empty room to its original state and departed the scene.

Swiftly, they made their way through the sleeping monumental building. Daphne had the evilest grin on her heavily made-up face and her tell-tale eyes sparkled with menace.

“I’m not going to let you all get away that easily!” called a voice.

They all froze in their tracks. A chilling shiver ran down their spine. Their hearts thumped louder than the clocks striking twelve. Out of the darkness appeared the same waiter.

“Agent 006 on your tail.” he declared with one cheeky wink.

In a flash the four vanished without trace. Seconds later Daphne caught up with the trio in a similar black bodysuit. The agent frantically inspected the scene in search of the four robbers. In the corner of his eye he caught them slipping through the emergency exit. He chased after them holding a loaded pistol. The burglars managed to leave the Royal Albert Hall and now faced the slumbering streets of London. The city was motionless in shrouded silence. The precious stones shimmered in the moonlight as they dashed towards the River Thames with the detective on their tail. This time he fired a shot but realised his aim missed the target. The gunshot disrupted the peaceful locality of London.

Footsteps and stertorous breaths could be heard through the streets. The distance between the detective and burglars gradually increased. The group were highly skilled at their profession. River Thames was now in view and so was a hovering yacht. They took a quick glimpse of the cobbled alley behind them. He was not to be seen. There was a brief sigh of relief. With all their might they scrambled onto the waiting boat. Shortly, the man arrived at the river bank gasping for breath. He took up his pistol and fired again and again. He couldn’t shoot them as they were now moving at a steady speed and safe distance from him. Soon enough they were in international waters never to be seen again...

Riddhi Mundada, 9A



A Cup of Tea

The moon is beginning to return home to the horizon; the sky in the east lightening to a faint pink. Xayla knows this would be the last time she sees the sky today as she trudges towards the end of the clearing. The clearing is smaller than the one where she spent the night two days ago, a sign that she is close. Xayla pauses and studies the sky that seems so close yet so far, far away. She feels as though she could reach up and touch the slowly-fading darkness, but knows that it would be out of her grasp for ever. And ever.

She tears her gaze away and looks over her shoulder. That's where she came from. That's where her home used to be. Now, there's nothing but ruins. Dilapidated, crumbling buildings filled the town. There isn't a single thing that remains that shows that people lived there just a week ago. She can't see any of this through the dense foliage blocking her view, but in her mind's eye, she can see it as clear as day. The sight has been burned into her memory, never to be forgotten.

That is why she needs to go. To it.

Xayla turns back towards her destination. There isn't any time to waste. She walks on, letting the shadows of the canopy above soothe her mind.

The forest is not a place anyone in their right mind ever dared to enter. At first sight, it's understandable – the trees seem to leer down at you, their branches clawing out at you, the little light filtering through the canopy murky. Despite the situation at the time, it still took all of Xayla's courage to step into their midst and keep going further into their grasp. But now, having spent a whole week here, the misty gloom is comforting. It's silent, but reassuringly so. In the distance, at the edge of her hearing, there is always a steady, almost rhythmic chittering, faint howls breaking through every now and then. It's

easy to just slip into the rhythm of the forest and let your fears and doubts and worries simply melt away.

Through a narrow gap in the leafy ceiling above revealed that the sun was already high in the sky, glaring down at Xayla. The sudden brightness made her wince, as she is reminded that time seems to move at an unrealistic speed. Despite being afternoon, the temperature is still low. It always is low in here – not biting cold, just cool. And the forest remains as dark as ever. Xayla is nearly convinced that the forest existed in a completely different dimension.

She walks on.

And just like that, she reaches her destination.

Her path is blocked by the branches of two trees on either side of the thin, barely visible trail that she followed till here. The branches merge into a low arch. Owls perch on the other branches behind this, only their silhouettes visible, eyes glowing an ominous yellow in the dim light. Behind them, triangular paper streamers are draped across the path, everything behind it obscured by a pale mist. One of the owls hold one end of a streamer in its beak. On the arch, more owls alight. One of them peers at Xayla with its head at an unnatural angle, staring deep into her with gleaming, soulless eyes. There's a tea kettle among them on the branch. And sitting right in the centre of the branch, is it.

Its face is hidden under a hood, and two ear-like extensions project from the top of its head, making it look like the top of an owl's head. The hood is a part of a dark cloak that covers its whole upper body, its pale legs close together and dangling down from the branch, ankles almost crossed. It has dark brown owl wings that protrude from under the cloak and are draped over the arch on either side of it. In its hands is a tea cup and saucer.

Cont...



A part of Xayla's brain is aware that there isn't any real change in the surroundings, but the temperature drops and the shadows creep in closer and the trees lean down and the owls' hauntingly soft hooting ceases as it opens its mouth and speaks:

"Will you join me for a cup of tea?"

Its voice is as soft as the mist surrounding her, yet it is loud enough to never ignore. It speaks gently, yet Xayla finds that she can't utter a word. Why does it look so human?

Its hooded head tilts, and Xayla works some moisture in her too dry mouth and rasps out, "I want to stop the massacre."

"How? How will you stop it? It has already happened," it responds in a voice that conveys no emotion. It doesn't even sound surprised.

As if it already knew she was coming.

Xayla spent most of her time in the forest, either traipsing towards this place or the restless nights in the clearings, considering this. "I want to go back in time. And I'll change this."

"Change what?" It asks, even though Xayla is now certain it knew the answer to every question it asked. Still, she obliges:

"Everyone's gone. There's nothing left. No bodies. No personal belongings. Like they never existed. Like their dream and hopes didn't matter and everything just disappeared. I woke up one morning and everything was in ruins. I want to change that."

And it smiles. She still can't see its face, but she knows. And her surroundings – the trees, the owls, the tea cup, it – everything starts to dissolve into mist. And through that mist she hears, its voice ringing in her head as clear and loud as a bell:

"Time is a fickle thing. You shouldn't mess with it, not unless you are ready to pay the price."

And Xayla is at the edge of the forest, the buildings of her hometown as decrepit as ever, the streets empty. She feels odd. There is a puddle of water near her, and she goes towards it. She peers into it, and sees the sky gazing back at her. Xayla blinks in surprise and swivels around to look at the town. The streets are filled with people going back and forth, the buildings are intact. Voices and laughter fill the air. And Xayla realises what price she paid to see her mother stroll down the street, shopping in the marketplace, smiling.

The town is alive, but she is not.

Suniti Dubey, 9A



Horror

It all began with a shriek. I lurched up and darted across the never-ending corridor. The cardinal walls lured me in and I could feel the blood pumping through my veins and the incessant pounding in my head. “Left, right, left”, I chanted in my head as I attempted to locate the source of the nerve-wracking shrieks.

After running for what seemed like decades, I reached the screams. Enormous burgundy doors barricaded my way, I shoved them open and I was greeted with a gust of blistering wind. I was entranced by the room that I had found myself in. Massive ebony walls surrounded me. Huge chandeliers adorned the crimson ceiling of the hall, the light was almost blinding to look at.

Towering gold columns were lined up next to the walls and between every pair of pillars, there a large window that overlooked the peaceful snow-covered kingdom below. As I stared at the hall in awe, my eyes met with the gaze of a gigantic throng of sumptuously dressed people.

Heat flooded my face with embarrassment, but when I saw the young girl in the crowd, my face paled. Her short jet black hair was

slightly disheveled and it stood out from the blonde mob surrounding her. She was

dressed to perfection. A gorgeous opal hugged her figure and diamonds dotted the top of the dress, reflecting the light emanating from the chandelier. She looked like a beautiful apparition. Her face was a void of emotion and her impassive expression was almost intimidating but her bloodshot eyes gave away her distress.

Upon closer inspection, I found that there was something off about her. Tiny red dots littered her face and there was a small rip in her dress. She seemed to be limping and at first, I felt obligated to help her. She had a black eye and there was a small bruise on her cheek which marred her beauty.

The amazement soon morphed into horror when I saw the grisly and blood-soaked dagger in her hand. It seemed as if the dagger had been dipped in a cauldron filled with blood to the brim. Drops of the red liquid fell to the floor and dotted the area around the entrancing girl. When my eyes set upon the corpse below her, I let out a piercing scream.

Divyanshi Kumar, 9A



A Whole New World

So... what are books? Some might say that books are a bunch of papers glued together. Some might say that books are boring counterparts to movies. Some might say that books are stories which you read when you've got nothing better to do.

Oh, no. Books are so much more than just words on a page.

Books are portals to new dimensions. Dimensions that people didn't even know existed. Each time someone picks up a book, a whole new realm opens up before them... a realm with no limits. Books can take you to a different era with the flip of a page. Landscapes that cannot quite be captured on camera can be eloquently described in words. All you need is a perfect place to sit back, relax, and enjoy the show! Books let your wildest imaginations run rampant, and there is no limit to how vividly you can visualise things. Books are truly fantastic.

There are countless genres in which books are written. There's Detective, a suspenseful journey to catch the culprit after the wake of a crime; Adventure, a series of thrilling incidents involving bravery and daring;

Autobiography, an enlightening insight into the minds of great personalities; Sci-Fi, an ingenious blend of fiction and fact, of myth and modern, to create a fascinating story; and my personal favourite, Fantasy, where you discover a fictional universe, where the sky's the limit, and where all things heavenly give rise to brilliant tales.

So all you need to do is pick up a book - any genre you like - and delve into the pages of the book, and read to your heart's content. Because for every story you read, you are imagining new possibilities for yourself and your world. You are cutting yourself free, allowing yourself a chance to live a million lives, and exposing yourself to the wonderful world of books. And that is exactly what every single person on this planet would want - to realise that they had the potential to change the world.

As Alan Rickman rightly said, "Actors are agents of change. A film, a piece of theatre, a piece of music or a book can make a difference. It can change the world."

Amodi Kulkarni, 8A

The Unexpected Guest

I had gone on a vacation to Venice, Italy. It was a form of escapism from my mundane and stressful life. I checked into a small motel room for a week near the beach, hoping to be able to enjoy the views of the blue sea and the coastal climate.

When I reached my motel, I felt a pang of disappointment. It had a rather dingy atmosphere and reeked of mold. A musty smell pervaded the air in my room and constant electrical fluctuations kept occurring. I felt extremely lethargic and postponed a visit to the beach that day, choosing instead to watch television and rest in my room.

I eventually dozed off, while watching TV. Suddenly, I heard some thudding and scratching outside my window.

The noises grew louder, not allowing me to sleep. When I looked out the window, the noises stopped almost immediately. There was nothing. I bolted the window but the noises continued after a while. I felt terrified of these sounds and I crouched behind the bed and eventually fell asleep.

It must have been midnight, when I woke up to drink a glass of water. The room was stuffy. At least the noises had stopped. As I poured myself a glass of water, I happened to look into the mirror. What I saw made me weak with fear. The window was wide open and the silhouette of a person in the corner of the room was reflected in it!

Trisha Iyer, 8B



The Terror of the Door

It was a mundane morning. I headed down into the basement to do the laundry when I felt an icy, chilling breeze tickle my neck. I glanced around, all the windows were closed, yet I still felt the breeze.

It was coming from a corner of the basement. I put down the laundry basket and trudged over to where I thought the breeze was coming from. I pushed through some old junk and found myself staring at a rotten and dilapidated wooden door.

Strange and unintelligible whispers were emanating from the other side of the door. As I inspected the door closely, I saw inscriptions on the frame. They were written in a script that I had never seen before and I figured they must be from some ancient language. My curiosity piqued, I tried to push open the door, but as soon as I touched the rusty doorknob, my vision turned black and white and I was transported... somewhere.

It was a graveyard, with grey and drab tombstones arranged in neat lines. At the end of the graveyard, there were steps leading up to an elevated platform. On this platform, there was a large grave. This tombstone seemed more elaborately decorated and felt more important.

I could still feel the handle of the door and so I knew that this was probably some sort of a vision. Then, the grave suddenly burst open and out sprang a horrific being. Its body was a shadow and it had glowing red eyes and large hands with long bony fingers. It had no legs and floated a foot above the ground.

I tried to pull my hand off the handle, but I couldn't move. I attempted to scream, but my throat constricted. Meanwhile, that inhuman creature slowly drifted towards me, its blood-red

mouth curved in a malicious and sadistic smile. As it drew closer, it reached out towards me with its knobbly hand. "Finally, the Necromancer will be whole again!" It said in a raspy voice. The black shadow obscured my vision and I saw no more.

I woke up on my bed and saw the concerned faces of my doctor and my neighbour, Mr. Caleb. I sat up and asked, "How long have I been out?" "At least twelve hours." Mr. Caleb said. "Twelve hours!" I exclaimed incredulously. "Yes. Mr. Caleb got worried that you hadn't gone out on your routine jog. He tried calling you, no answer. He came here and rang the doorbell but no response. He let himself in and found you lying there. He called me soon after." "What about the door?" I asked. "What door?" The doctor asked, looking quizzical. "Nothing." I said, dropping the subject.

It was possible that I had hit my head on something and passed out and the incident in the graveyard had just been a dream... But it had felt so real! I headed down to the basement to check if the door was still there, but it had disappeared.

They soon left once they saw I was fine. The rest of the day passed without incident. As the night approached, I felt a strange sense of anticipation building up inside of me. Before I went to bed, I tucked a kitchen knife under my pillow. Having something to defend myself made me feel safer. I soon fell asleep, but not before muttering a quick prayer to ward off evil...

I was jerked awake by a feeling of intense cold. I felt that same breeze again, and it sent chills up my spine, quite literally. The whispers were there too. I glanced at my clock- it was 3:00 A.M, also known as the Devil's hour.

Cont...



I clutched the knife with trembling fingers and walked towards the door, fully aware that those could have been my last steps. To my horror, I found that the door had transformed into the same rotting door. Even the bathroom door had changed. The door to a connecting room had transformed too.

I crept back to my bed and hid under my sheets, feeling like a frightened toddler again. Then I heard the creaking noise of a door opening. I couldn't breathe and I felt warm tears running down my cheeks. I saw the bony fingers curl around the sheet and slowly pull it back. As soon as I saw its face, I threw the knife at it, but it went straight through. It hit the ceiling and clattered to the floor. Meanwhile I made a beeline for the door. I reached it and opened it, but saw it was

a passage to the graveyard. I backpedalled, till I felt the transformed bathroom door behind me.

The Necromancer knelt and picked up the knife. With a sneer, it threw the knife at me. I ducked and the knife pierced the door. I noticed a hole appeared in his shadowy form. That was it! That was its weakness! I took any heavy object available and started smashing the doors. They broke easily as they were old and rotten.

Its body soon degenerated completely once all the doors were destroyed. I had done it; I had won! I walked over to my and collapsed on it. I slept more soundly than I ever had before that night. The terror of the door was over.

Suhail Kyle Karandikar, 8A

Harry Potter

I packed my books and all my dress,
Ready to board the Hogwarts Express,
On platform number nine-and-three-quarters,
I think that platform really matters.

I entered the world of Harry Potter,
With all the magical things to see,
Hermione Granger - the cleverest daughter,
And arachnophobic Ronald Weasley.

I saw Albus Dumbledore there,
The headmaster of school Hogwarts,
In the school of witchcraft and wizardry,
Which allowed no magic-less Muggles

I was chosen into Gryffindor's bravery,
Some were in Hufflepuff's friendship,
All the nerds went to house Ravenclaw,
And the rest were all in the cunning Slytherin.

"Alohamora" to the door,
"Lumos" to the light,
"Wingardium Leviosa",
And now the feather has started its flight.

Voldemort was finally defeated,
By Harry's remembered spells,
Thanks to J. K. Rowling, the author,
To have written "Harry Potter"!

Samiksha Panda, 8B



From a Strange Noise To a Different Dimension

The faded curtains let the rays of sunlight come into the dark room. I opened my eyes slowly and parted my eyelids, surprised at the bright light in my room. My ears strained to hear a strange clicking noise and the whirring of a machine. I assumed that it was the constructors repairing the road outside our neighbourhood. I pushed aside the curtains but to my astonishment there was no truck or any pitching machine.

I ignored the mysterious sound and carried on with my usual morning routine. After getting dressed I picked up my coffee and headed for work when that same peculiar noise occurred again. I opened the front door and then, as quick as lightning, the sky turned a dull grey and a howling wind almost swept me off my feet. I hurried back inside and took out an umbrella.

The horrid weather had put me in a bad mood at the start of the day. I was expecting children playing in the rain or jumping in puddles but not a soul was outside even though it was a Wednesday. Maybe it was a holiday. I jumped over the puddle, crossed the lawn and opened the wooden front gate. I turned to my right and was expecting my small Toyota to be standing there but to my greatest shock a small robot was standing in its place.

I stared in disbelief. I asked the robot aggressively, "Where is my car?". What a daft question to ask a robot I thought immediately after I asked it. And to my surprise it

answered, "What is a car?".

I thought it was a case of theft so without wasting anymore time I ran to my neighbour's house but almost as soon as I stepped onto the front doorstep the house vanished before my eyes! I had no choice but to go to the police myself and as I was sprinting down the road everything within five metres vanished. Now there would be no point going to the police station, I thought, because it would vanish as soon as I approach it.

With no choice left I wearily returned to the robot which was still standing there. "If you are going to ask me where you are and what is happening, here is the answer: last night as soon as you closed your eyes a shooting star flew across your neighbourhood," the robot said. "So?" I asked. It replied, "So I am afraid that you have been taken to your dream environment, a different dimension,". I stood rooted to the spot, the words "different dimension" echoing in my head.

Adrika Saha, 7a

The Lonely House

Scary figures ruled the night
Only a deserted house in sight
With open windows side-by-side
Standing along the street wide
Within was something unchecked
Mysterious shadows of artifacts wrecked
Blowing through were windows cold as ice
Across the streets ran wild mice
Scary nights
Full of frights

Kushagra Gupta, 7C

My Dreams

My dreams are so sweet
Like a bird's tweet
My dreams tell me stories

My dreams can be a nightmare
Like the movie Cheese mare
My dreams are adventurous
Sometimes with treasures

My dreams are so sweet
Like a bird's tweet.

Luckshne Muthu Murugan, 6B



Reading Books

Reading a book is so much fun
The world goes upside down and downside up!
In fairy tales the fairies are flying,
And in ghost stories the humans are dying.

1 2 3 and 4

In jungle stories the lion goes 'ROAR !!!'

In Roald Dahl books ,
The world has strange looks
but it makes the story very good.

Not reading books
Is not at all my mood.

In criminal stories,
they use many guns.

Reading a book is so much fun!

Diva Mandal, 6B

Practice Makes Perfect

The beautiful cuckoo sat on the tree,
She sang as beautiful as ever.
"How do you sing so sweetly?"
She smiled, and replied back to me,
"With practice you see!"
I walked past a beaver cutting a log of wood,
I thought I'll ask him and I really should.
"How do you do this?"
"Practice!" he replied, and gave me a flying kiss.
I went past a kangaroo jumping high.
I had a chance to ask him when he was nigh,
"How do you do this?"
"With practice I jump so high, a rock I will
always miss!"
The tailors who stitch a gown;
The singers of the town,
The scientists who study space,
The detectives who solve a case,
Whoever I ask, how they do this,
All of them say, "Practice, miss!"

Arpita Mony, 6B

Life

What is it?
Is it for the rich?
Is it not for the unfit?
Or is it just a deep ditch

Is it a mistake?
Or is it a blessing?
Do you give and take
Or do you keep suspecting?

Okay, it's a lot,
Most of the time it's enjoyable
Sometimes it's not
And a few times it's horrible

But if you want to have a good one
You need to keep going at it
Or you'll be stuck there, and you'll be done
So do you want another chance at it?

What is it?
Is it for the rich?
Is it not for the unfit?
I think I'll take a shot at it.

Siddharth Athalye, 6B



The Murder

It was a cold, rainy night. I was heading home from my summer job. That was when I heard a gunshot, someone scream, a baby crying and things being thrown onto the floor and breaking. It was utter chaos! Suddenly there was a long silence in the street, a long, long silence. Then I heard another gunshot, suddenly the baby's crying stopped. I saw the door open and I heard murmuring. I saw two people instead of one. I thought that they would see me, so I went and hid. They had removed their masks as they thought no one was around. I couldn't believe my eyes, the two people I saw were my parents!

I was shocked to see my parents. I felt so broken, sad, disappointed, shocked, angry and most of all, let down by the people I trusted the most. I didn't see my parents a lot but I understood because they had a business to run. They still went out for dinner with me, put aside one hour to spend quality time with me, but I never expected my parents to be this heartless. They were literally murdering people. I couldn't believe they even killed the baby. Even though they were my parents, what they did was a crime. So holding back my tears I called the police. As soon as I cut the call I started weeping with my head in my knees. I think they heard me because I could hear their footsteps getting louder and louder; I closed my eyes and hoped for the best.

When I opened my eyes my parents were in front of me, looking shocked. After that, they went expressionless. They pulled out their gun and held it to my head. I was so scared my heart was beating out of my chest. I was angry because my own parents

without thinking twice, held a gun to my head. My own parents! I was so sad that I just wanted to die or maybe wake up and think this was all a dream. Too bad it wasn't. They pulled the trigger and said, 'Goodbye Poppy. Goodbye forever'.

Just then, I heard police sirens and my parents panicked. They started packing everything they took out and just before they left, my father took out a blade and cut my hand. He said, 'Well if anyone finds out at least I'll have the pleasure of knowing that, that person suffered too.' I couldn't believe this was what my parents were thinking. They didn't want anyone to find out that they were murdering people so they didn't even think twice about murdering their own daughter and when the police came, my dad didn't leave me alone, he cut my hand so that he knows I would go through pain.

I was so angry I could have screamed at them and I did. This scream saved my life because the police heard my scream and came towards the house. My parents glared at me and started to run, but the police got in just in time and very soon my parents were in hand-cuffs. After that day, my life changed forever, I was frequently questioned and I lived with a different family. That day I decided I didn't want anyone to go through what I went through, and so I decided to join the police. Today I am the chief police of my town and I am still traumatized by what happened that day. But I look forward to better things in the future.

Ameliya Benny, 6A



The Wishing Well

I'm on my own,
For the journey ahead
To the mystical wishing well
Under my bed.

You can tell your wishes and throw in a coin,
Then it grants your wishes one at a time.
You can wish for toys, dresses, and books,
Then it will process and give you these boons.

But if you use it every day
Wishing for so many things,
The magic will fade
The water will turn old
Causing it to become an ordinary well
With its secret, all told.

Inika K, 5B

The Best World

When you are bored
Feeling alone, inside you
Do something bright;
Like saving the world from destruction
Clean the water,
Clear the air to make it fresh,
Clean the land,
Make a nice greenery throughout the world;
Make it a better world, you may want it to be,
Make it a better world you know.
The greenery will grow more
And we will have a beautiful world you know.
The best thing is to try
Stop cutting down trees and stop wasting paper
The nature in you will grow more and more
It is the best thing to save the world
When you wake up in the morning
When you see the world in front of you
You will feel like this is the best world you want to be.

Stuti, 4C

The Unicorn Joins My Family

One day I was watching TV and the power went off. I was so bored, and I missed my favourite TV show. I went to my room and I saw something which had a colourful horn. I went closer and it just popped out. I screamed so loud. It asked me 'why did you scream?'. I was stunned, it was a unicorn. I asked 'if it had magical powers'. It replied 'yes'. I became so happy. I asked how and why did she come here. She replied that she had no one to be with, so she chanted a mantra "Illy Willy Woo" take me to the place where somebody will let me join their family.

I went running down and told my mother, father and sister about the unicorn. Later, I also called my grandparents, cousins, aunts, uncles and all relatives and told them that we have unicorn in our family. I told them that its name is "Briana". This the best pet in the whole world. I love Briana.

Samiksha Guttapally, 4B



Nature Life

Flowers in the garden,
Trees in the park,
Makes nature look gorgeous.
Birds and porcupine on the tree,
Flowers containing beautiful bees.
Water in the ocean,
Sand in the land,
Makes the mighty ocean,
And the pleasant land.
Life in nature containing all these things,
Beautiful ever than anything.

Anushka Singh, 4C

Let's Spread The Smile

Smiling is infectious,
You catch it like a flu,
When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too.

I walked around the corner,
And someone saw me grin,
When he smiled I realised
I had passed it on to him.

I thought about the smile,
And then realised it's worth,
A single smile like mine
Could travel around the earth.

So if you feel a smile begin,
Don't leave it undetected,
Start an epidemic
And get the world infected.

Naavya Tomar, 4A

Fantasy World

There was a wizard named Henry Lee, whose arch enemy was very strong named, Islac Watermouth. One day, Islac Watermouth invaded Iceland in one go. The next day he invaded the whole of Europe. Now he has entered the great world of FANTASY where Henry Lee was sitting on a tree, drinking coffee, enjoying the pleasant weather. Watermouth cast a spell on Henry, who went flying and landed on a Burgleprop shop. (Burgleprop is a type of food in the Fantasy world.)

"Hey what are you doing young man?", asked the shopkeeper. Without answering, Henry went forward casting a spell on Watermouth, who was destroying the 'Lost World' of the marketplace. Watermouth defended the spell Henry had cast and said "Reflectit". The spell went on Henry, who got hypnotised.

"Haha!" laughed Watermouth as he said another strong spell which destroyed half of the marketplace. "Help, help!" shouted many people. Henry was angry, very angry. "Dare you kill any more people, you murderer and invader!" Henry shouted. Watermouth glared and looked at Henry. Henry muttered the spell of "Extinct!" which hit Islac on the chest. "Aaah!" Islac groaned and moaned. "How dare you! I will take revenge. I will not let you live." After saying this Watermouth disappeared. Many people were sick. Many fell into a coma. But nobody will die when there is Henry who is the guardian of the world of Fantasy. But there is one question hovering above the people's heads. Will Islac Watermouth return for revenge or is he gone FOREVER?

Nikhil Nerurkar, 4A



My Vacation

After my graduation
I had a celebration
then got tickets for a vacation
and went to a hill station.

As I went up the hill
I fell very ill
and took many a pill.

We reached at night
went out of sight
and jumped upright.

I went to Rome
and took home
a fancy gnome.

I put the gnome in my garde
and let it grow and harden.

Sruthi Kunapalli, 3A

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Art @ Work



Aarushi Gandhe, 8B



Aarushi Gandhe, 8B



Samrat Rao, 1C

















Grade - 3C

2019 - 20



Grade - 4A

2019 - 20





Grade - 4B

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Grade - 4C

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Grade - 5A

2019 - 20



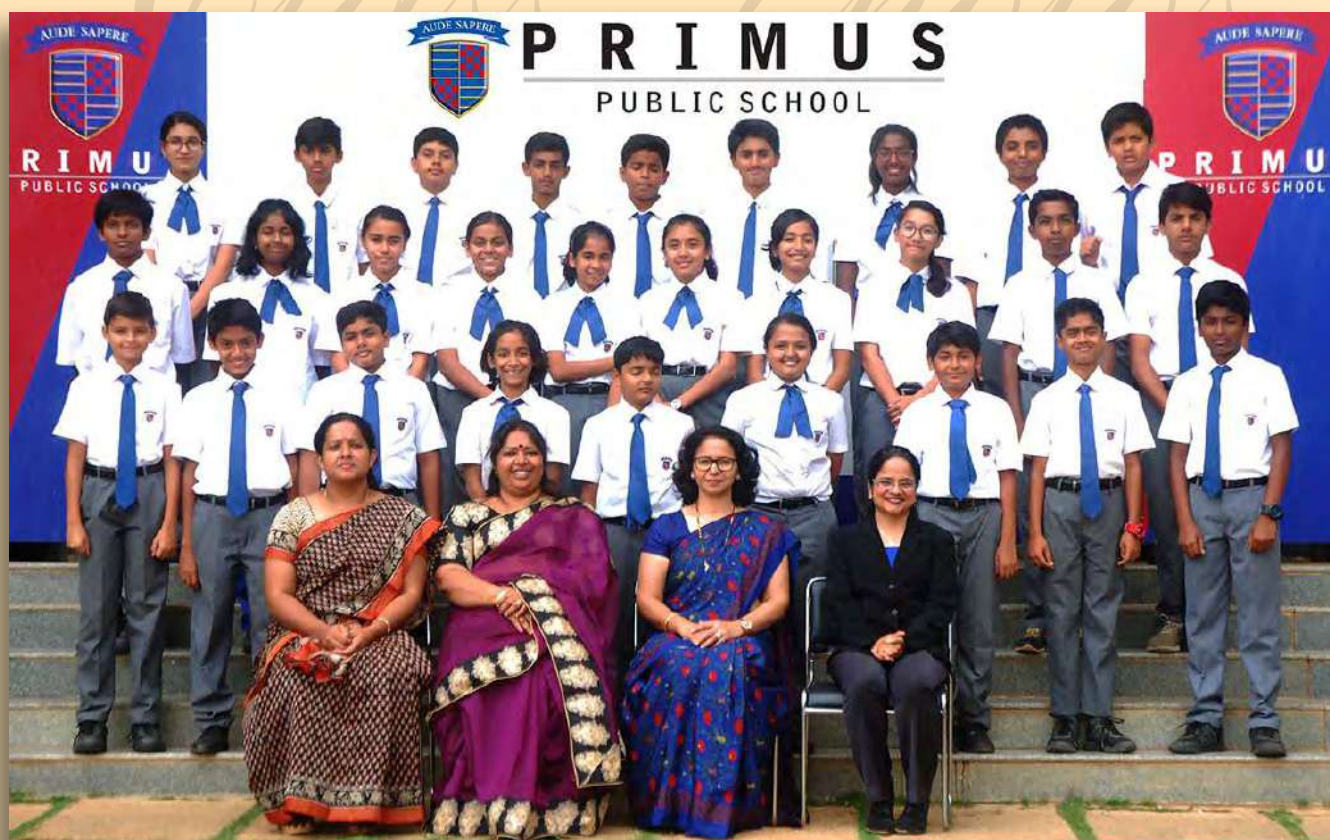
Grade - 5B

2019 - 20









Grade - 7A

2019 - 20



Grade - 7B

2019 - 20







Grade - 8B

2019 - 20



Grade - 8C

2019 - 20





Grade - 9A

2019 - 20



Grade - 9B

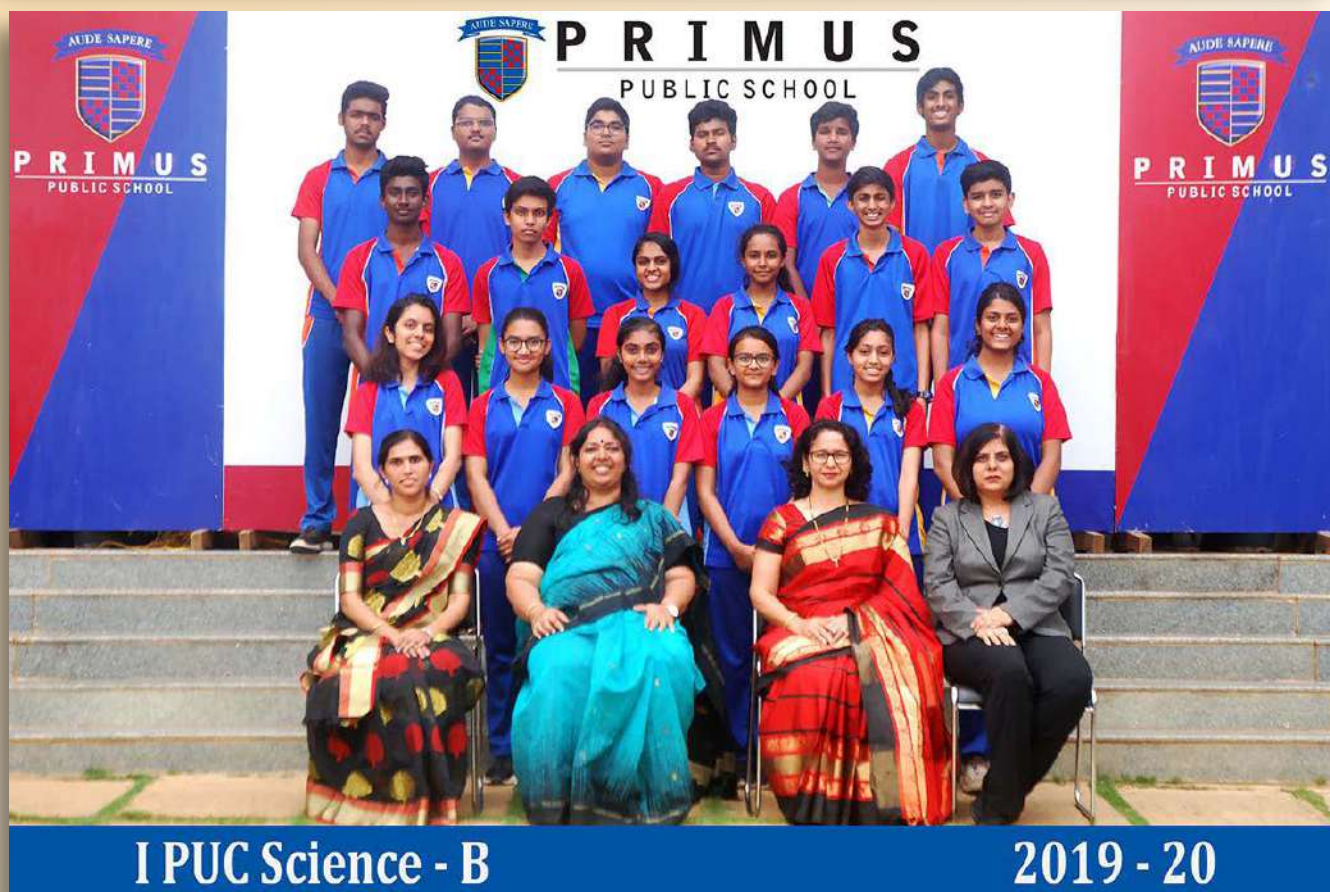
2019 - 20















II PUC Science - A

2019 - 20



II PUC Science - B

2019 - 20





II PUC Science - C

2019 - 20



ADMIN STAFF

2019 - 20





ANCILLARY STAFF

2019 - 20



ANCILLARY STAFF

2019 - 20





TEACHING STAFF - 2019-20

