

THE SCINDIA SCHOOL, FORT GWALIOR

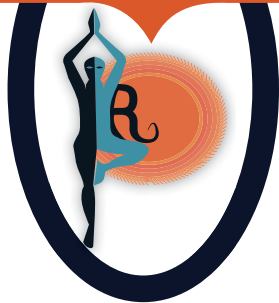
REVIEW-22



TUESDAY, 15 MARCH 2022 | WPP : REGN.NO.GWL.DN.11

EDITORIAL

Aliya Khan | Staff Editor



FORT NEWS

The woods are lovely, dark and deep
But I have promises to keep
And miles to go before I sleep
And miles to go before I sleep. (Robert Frost)

At the threshold of celebrating the 125th Founder's Day this year, it would be felicitous to reflect about the rich legacy, history and the wealth of thought and action which has brought this school to its pinnacle. As the pandemic shook the roots of some of the deeply entrenched conventions of our world, it left one wondering whether it has overpowered the very essence of humanity and turned it into a digitally driven monster chained to its devices. With the war in Ukraine rendering millions of people refugees, one ponders whether the world is moving forward or backwards, though in terms of technology we are advancing in leaps and bounds. In such a scenario, the scratch of pens moving on paper must not lose appeal nor should the sight of students moving about with books in their hands, be lost to us. In this universe full of paradoxes, we look at our boys and find solace in the fact that with a little push in the right direction they would prove to be the precursors of a better tomorrow because we believe that their hearts are still in the right place.

Calidum est, frigidum est, it's warm, but it's also chilly!

The pleasantly moderate weather continues to delight us all at this citadel of learning, with the temperatures fluctuating from 17 to 33 degrees. The green and yellowing leaves on trees heralding the onset of spring, the chirping of varied birds, the shimmering green waters of the Suraj Kund, the warm sun on the glowing faces of students, the clamour of activity, are all factors which are uplifting our hearts after a prolonged lull in the Fort.

Normal as normal can be...

No one can repudiate the relief experienced with the arrival of the students on the campus. As a staggered routine is put into place, the students have been gradually enconced into the daily routine of the school. We are ardently praying for normalcy to continue and for the pandemic to wave a goodbye, once and for all.

The classroom interactions are proving to be a boon for all! The mess is lively again and so are the corridors, classrooms and residential houses, all buzzing with action, thankfully. Several co-curricular and sports activities are scheduled in March, which will keep all at the fort blissfully occupied.

Practical work has begun for all subjects for Classes X and XII and the students are being guided to complete their practical files and project work, creating a lively flurry of activity. Moreover, it lends a semblance of normalcy to the environment as one observes teachers checking answer papers and notebooks in the staff room, handling files and project papers with great care, rushing from one class to another, none of which had seemed so special two years ago! Covid 19 has made us value the small things which we now realize, are great things indeed. All are on tenterhooks to prepare for the board examinations which will be held from April 26, 2022.

Walkathon – Bringing about a revival of fitness and endurance

A walkathon organized from the 3rd of March to the 5th of March for the students of Classes IX, X and XI led to the soaring of spirits and elicited



A World of Paradoxes
(Courtesy : Mr Alok Ghosh (Faculty) and Raghav Mahajan (Art Editor))



A Riveting Walkathon !

Devansh Roy : "The aura of the school makes me feel at home"

exuberant participation. This was much anticipated by the Scindia School fraternity as it was the first event which tested physical endurance after a long spell of online classes. The route started from the Oval field, continued straight to Daulat House, from where a right turn took the students to the road across the Astachal, ending near the Health Centre, thereafter heading back towards the Oval field from where they had begun. The beauty of the rules lay in their simplicity—there was to be no running. Teachers were present at a gap of every 100 meters as observers. The classes had to compete section-wise. The students were seen supporting and encouraging each other, leading to a lively ambience and great fun!

An enlightening interaction with two prominent educationists

It is always constructive when educationists meet and exchange ideas with each other, adopting the best practices being followed in the field of learning. With this purpose, Ms Devyani Mungali and (Rtd. Col.) Dr Girija Shankar Mungali from the Sanskruti Group of Schools, Pune had an interaction with the faculties on the 4th of March, 2022. The couple has been visiting schools in India and abroad to learn about the academic processes in those institutions. Ms Mungali was full of innovative ideas about curricular and cocurricular activities and endorsed multidisciplinary learning. She apprised all about the routine and practices of her own institution and discussed the various learning techniques



Interaction with Ms Devyani Mungali and Dr G.S. Mungali

adopted while teaching various subjects such as English, Hindi, Humanities, Science and Mathematics. Their institution offers Archery, Robotics, Pottery and Horse-riding, among other things. She believes that educationists cannot completely go back to the chalk and talk methods being followed prior to the onset of the pandemic and it is better to be innovative and to keep reinventing oneself and one's methods. She quipped that Covid 19 had ushered in the age of 'demanding children and obedient parents' rather than the other way around.

Inter House Junior Group Basketball and Football Tournament 2021-22

The school conducted invigorating Inter House Basketball and Football Tournaments for Junior group, from the 1st of December to the 5th of December 2021. The Basketball final was held on the 6th of March 2022 and the Football final on the 7th of March 2022. The competition format was League cum Knockout basis.

The following teams had qualified for Final :

Basketball -

Nimaji and Kanerkhed

Football -

Kanerkhed and Nimaji

Winner of Basketball final is: Nimaji House

Winner of Football final is: Nimaji House

Inspiring Special Assemblies

Reviving the joie de vivre of the school and bringing back the feel-good factor, special assemblies were held on Monday, the 7th of March and Thursday, the 10th of March 2022, addressed by the respected Principal, Dr M.D. Saraswat, during which he narrated an anecdote from his own life, stressing about the importance of wearing masks. He emphasised on the need for better focus on self-discipline, courteous behaviour and enhancement of academics, specially the necessity to raise the class averages as the school stands on the verge of board examinations. Several announcements were made and students were

honoured for their excellence in the Innoventure Challenge and the online Chess competition.

The Scholar's blazers for the session 2020-21 were awarded to Memoy Mishra and Shantanu Yadav.

The following were the prominent awards of the year 2020-21:

Scholar's Scarf:

Name	Class	House
Akshay Suman	IX-A	Jayaji
Keshav Singhania	IX-A	Madhav
Vedansh Balasaria	IX-A	Ranoji
Aaradhy Shiv Shukla	IX-C	Daulat
Ansh Garg	IX-C	Mahadji
Krishna Gupta	IX-C	Jeevaji
Aditya Singh	IX-D	Madhav



Scholar's Scarf Awardees

Scholar's Tie :

Name	Class	House
Memoy Mishra	XI-A	Daulat
Prashant Agrawal	XI-A	Shivaji
Shantanu Yadav	XI-B	Jayaji

The Stream Toppers :

Name	Stream	House	Aggr.(%)
Memoy Mishra	Science	Daulat	95
Shantanu Yadav	Humanities	Jayaji	94
Atherva Karwa	Commerce	Daulat	90
Ujjwal Mehrotra	Commerce	Madhav	90

Innoventure Challenge 2021-22

Our students performed marvellously at the Innoventure Finale Round which is one of India's largest National Level Ideation and Entrepreneurship Challenge brought to our school by Intelligence Plus since 2017 in which our students have been consistently participating and bringing great laurels to the school. The key outcome of this challenge is to prepare students for solving real-life challenges by equipping them with 21st century skills. It strives to nurture creativity and innovation among the young ones.



Arnav Joshi acquired 7th National Rank in Innoventure Challenge

Ms Sangeeta Jain (faculty): "Happy to see life on Fort!"

The Intelligence Plus applauded our school for being able to place students among the Top 10 across their respective grades throughout the country in the Innoventure challenge 2021-22!

Three students from our school have reached the final round and Arnav Joshi (Class VIII) has been awarded as "Top Performer in School" at the National Finale of Innoventure 2021 held on the 1st of February 2022.

National rank of the students:

Name	Rank
Arnav Joshi	7th
Aarni Sharma	15th
Yugank Sulania	21st

Proving one's mettle at the Online Chess Tournament!

Guided, inspired, and motivated by the school faculty, the chess team, which is immensely dedicated towards the game, has achieved outstanding results in a completely new virtual platform (chess.com) at a short notice, at what was likely to be a very difficult task. This tournament had been organized with the help of 'Chess Mate Chess Academy' on the 5th and 6th of March, 2022. Altogether, 113 students from 15 schools of the country registered themselves for it and ultimately 91 of them were able to participate in it.



Arush Atul Prubhu, stood 2nd in the Online Chess Tournament

A Total of 10 students from our school, namely- Aarush Atul Prabhu (Class X, Shivaji House), Rudransh Agarwal (Class VIII, Madhav House), Vedansh Balasaria (Class X, Ranoji House), Memoy Mishra (Class XII, Daulat House), Bharat Jain (Class XI, Daulat House), Prashant Agarwal (Class XII, Shivaji House), Shantanu Yadav (Class XII, Jayaji House), Arihant Jain (Class XII, Madhav House), Nimit Agarwal (Class VIII, Mahadji House) and Harsh Bansal (Class XII, Jyappa House) participated in the tournament.

Our school clinched the 2nd position in the tournament. Aarush Atul Prabhu (Class X, Shivaji House) was in the top 5 players in the age group (15 to 18) as well as in the whole tournament rank. Altogether 4 players were in the top 20 in the complete tournament. Two of our junior boys, namely, Nimit Agarwal (Class VIII, Mahadji House) and Rudransh Agarwal (Class VIII, Madhav House) attained the 4th and 6th positions in their age-category.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Alumnus,

You are kindly reminded to nominate Old Boys of The Scindia School who have distinguished themselves in their professional fields and send your nominations to me by 31st March 2022. The proposer needs to submit:

1. Brief particulars of the nominee mentioning his / her achievements and contribution on the basis of which the nomination is being made.
2. Nominee's correct contact information.
3. Names and contact information of two referees who have no link with the school in any manner.

I shall appreciate your kind cooperation in this important endeavour to honour our distinguished alumni.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,
M D Saraswat

मैं पिंटू कबूतर ...

ऋषभ सिंघानिया | कक्षा 8 ए

भगवान ने उड़ने के लिए चिड़ियों को पंख दिए हैं इसलिए ये कभी भी एक जगह पर नहीं रहते, ये जगह-जगह उड़ कर जाते रहते हैं जहाँ उनके हिसाब का अनुकूल वातावरण होता है। लेकिन कभी-कभी कुछ जगहें ऐसी भी होती हैं जहाँ पर उन्हें रहने का मन करता है, जहाँ पर उन्हें अधिक सुरक्षित महसूस होता है। मैं पिंटू कबूतर अभी किले के जूनियर हाउस की तरफ रहता हूँ। मुझे रहते हुए दो महीने से अधिक बीत गए हैं। वैसे तो मैं यहाँ सुरक्षित हूँ परंतु कोई भी जगह हमेशा सुरक्षित नहीं होती। यहाँ जूनियर कैम्पस में हमारे लिए एक ही खतरा है और वह है स्पाकी कुत्ता। वह हमें भगाता है और हमें खाने की कोशिश करता है परंतु हम उससे भागने और बचने में माहिर हैं। कभी-कभी हमारे कुछ साथी उसके चपेट में पड़ कर अपनी जान गँवा देते हैं। यहाँ पर मेरे और भी कई साथी पक्षी मिलकर साथ रहते हैं मेरे साथ यहाँ पर तोता काका, हॉर्नबिल काका जैसे अनेक पक्षी रहते हैं। यहाँ का वातावरण बहुत अच्छा है। यहाँ खाना खाने के लिए दूर नहीं जाना पड़ता है क्योंकि सुबह जो लोग किले पर घूमने आते हैं उनमें से बहुत सारे लोग चिड़ियों के लिए खाना डाल कर जाते हैं यानी कि हर थोड़ी-थोड़ी दूर पर पानी की कटोरी और दाना मिल जाता है। इतना ही नहीं यहाँ पर पानी के कई ताल हैं जहाँ से आप पानी पी सकते हैं। यहाँ सूरजकुंड में दूर देश से पक्षी भी आते हैं। कई महीनों तक यहाँ रह कर वे अपने

घर वापस लौट जाते हैं। लेकिन इस किले पर सबसे बड़ा समूह हमारा ही है। यहाँ तेली मंदिर पर हमारा एक बड़ा समूह बैठकर चारों ओर के नजारे देखता रहता है और शाम होते ही वहाँ से उड़कर अपने अपने घोंसले में चला जाता है।

वैसे मैंने आपको यह तो बताया ही नहीं कि मैं जूनियर कैम्पस में कहाँ रहता हूँ, तो आइए मैं आपको अपना घोंसला दिखाता हूँ जो दत्ताजी छात्रावास की 'प्रेपरूम' के पीछे है और यहाँ मेरा दोस्त दामोदर कबूतर और अन्य दूसरे कबूतर भी रहते हैं। हमने यहाँ अपना घोंसला काफी ऊपर बनाया है ताकि स्पाकी हमें परेशान न कर सके। यहीं कुछ दिनों पहले मेरा एक अंडा गिर गया था इससे मैं बहुत उदास हो गया था लेकिन फिर भी मैंने अपना घोंसला नहीं छोड़ा। साथियों ने मुझे बहुत ढाँढस दिलाया और अब मैं खुश हूँ। अब जब ठंड शुरू हो गई है तो मुझे सर्दी के लिए गर्म चीज़ें ढूँढनी पड़ती हैं। मैंने अपने घोंसले में और भी तिनके जमा कर लिए हैं।

अब मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि मेरा समय यहाँ कैसे व्यतीत होता है। मेरा समय यहाँ छात्रों को टेबल-टेनिस खेलते देखकर व्यतीत होता है। इसके साथ ही बच्चे बाहर मैदान में खेलते रहते हैं, मैं उड़-उड़कर उनको देखता रहता हूँ। बच्चों से मुझे बिल्कुल भी डर नहीं लगता क्योंकि कई बार वे कबूतरों को दाना देते हैं और उन्हें स्पाकी कुत्ते से बचाते भी हैं। एक बार एक कबूतर का बच्चा जब घोंसले से गिर गया था तो इन बच्चों ने उसकी जान बचाई थी। सभी को चाहिए कि वे भी इन बच्चों की तरह दूसरी चिड़ियों को भी बचाएँ, उन्हें पिंजड़े में बंद न करें। उन्हें आजाद होकर आसमान में उड़ने दें। ये पक्षी पर्यावरण को भी बचाने में बहुत मददगार साबित होते हैं इसलिए सभी को इन बच्चों से सीख लेनी चाहिए।

Aditya Agrawal (XI-C / JE): "It is just an absolute bliss to be back!"



Memories Are Not Shackles

Shirish Mehra | Senior Editor, XI C

Alan Bennet rightfully said, and I quote "memories are not shackles, they are garlands". Referring to memories as baggage that we carry from the past is something that would go against laws of nature, for memories make us who we are. They control us, and regulate our emotions and if it weren't for memories, we won't be who we are. If our psyche is a burden, a binding on us then no force can ever help us to excel.

Now moving forward, I would like to draw light upon a very common misconception that sometimes memories are a source of the trauma that keeps pulling us back, restricting and restraining our psychological betterment but to everyone's surprise, it is our perception that restricts us. Few memories indeed leave behind scars and wounds which also make us susceptible to vulnerability and accepting that you are vulnerable is scary and might even send chills down the spine of a few but when we accept that we are vulnerable, we learn how to wear our scars with pride. Vulnerability is a common and most misunderstood human emotion, accepting it is not a sign of weakness but rather an act of courage. Our scars are something unique to us, each one of them tells a unique story, they make us who we are, and accepting them is not a weakness but rather a brave act which leads to a change in perception as something that was once restraining us now defines us and helps us to excel on both social and intellectual levels. Our memories are subjected to our perception and if we don't acknowledge them, they can act as shackles and may slowly drown us but if we perceive them to be our pride and wear them like a garland, they will always help us grow to stronger and better.

Now, I would like to emphasize on the fact that grief and happiness are two emotions without which one cannot exist and sometimes memories stir up grief in us but grief is the price one pays for love. On the other hand, in the moment of grief, memories also stir up the love that we have received, for what is grief if not love perseverant. In that single moment of grief, we are also surrounded with love and warmth that a person has given us and this love and warmth shall always help us in furthering ourselves.

To conclude, I would like to draw everyone's attention towards the fact that memories are not just an embodiment of the love and warmth that has been shown to us in our lifetime but also the wounds and scars that we have endured in this life which help in making us who we are, and that is the reason why memories don't bind us or act like shackles but rather they are our ornaments which should be worn with pride.

Lost In My Thoughts

Paawan Agarwal | IX A

I was lost in my thoughts,
Slowly untying the knots
Uncovering the truth...
I was connecting all the dots
Staying up all night
Wasn't able to kindle the light
So close, but so far
Would I resolve it? I might...
Though, can't find what I desire
Who was the liar?

I needed to know
What I wanted to acquire
In search of truth,
I went in a state of rath
Feeling low as nothing sorts
I was lost in my thoughts

Obituary

We are saddened to know about the passing away of Scn. Sanjeev Bhalla (1981 Ranoji) on the 16th of February 2022. He was the



school's Athletics Captain. We offer our commiserations to his grieving family. May his kind soul rest in everlasting peace in the Kingdom of Heaven.

OLD BOYS' NEWS

'Listen to Heart: Frnz Forever'

A book written by Scn. Anuragam Vatsa (1988 Ranoji) was featured by India Today: 'Listen to Heart: Frnz Forever'. Its enriching content got it a place in an article ' Good reads for the slowed-down days and weeks ahead in 2022...!' published by India Today magazine. Its available on Amazon, Kindle and Goodreads.

For links do visit www.anuragamvatsa.in

<https://www.indiatoday.in/impact-feature/story/great-reads-for-the-slowed-down-days-and-weeks-ahead-in-2022-1904255-2022-01-25>

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10159987954224962&id=612119961

'Lockdown Breakdown'

The school congratulates Scn. Himanshu Goenka (2000 Kanerkhed/ Mahadji) who has recently published his first fiction novella titled 'Lockdown Breakdown'. While at School, he took a keen interest in drama, elocution, debating and swimming. He thereafter proceeded to do BA (Journalism) from D.U., following it up with a four-year stint with NDTV in their Mumbai and Delhi offices. Branching out slightly, he did a Master's course in Anthropology from the University of London, and continued to work in London for a year with the BBC Group. Originally from a business family from Kolkata/ Patna, he has now shifted to Bengaluru and has ventured into full-time writing. His book is available on Amazon/ Flipkart, which can be ordered by clicking on the links given below:

Amazon: [tinyurl.com/485pev3y](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0985PEV3Y);

Flipkart: [tinyurl.com/3239ar99](https://www.flipkart.com/p/B0985PEV3Y)



We wish him all the best for his literary journey.

Email: hgoenka@gmail.com

Gratitude to the outgoing staff editor

Adieu and gratitude to the outgoing Staff Editor for English, Dr Smita Trivedi, HOD, English, who has been investing her precious time, energy and creativity in editing the Review over the past years, burning midnight oil, chasing deadlines and producing engrossing publications for each successive fortnight. Gifted with a firm but loving demeanour, she has made the school proud by her erudition and mastery at writing skills. She would henceforth handle the school's prestigious publication, Qila Quotes.

Welcoming the new staff editor

Introeo the new Staff Editor, Ms Aliya Khan, a voracious reader and aspiring author, who has recently joined the school as a part of the English Department, donning the editor's cap, with a rich experience of teaching English and editing several school publications, she has embarked onto the momentous journey, acquainting herself with the talented editorial team of students who are all set to create something beautiful, matching up to the precedents set in the past.

The Reserved Berth

Mr Sandeep Agrawal | Ex-Sh, 1980

As I step onto the Railway Station today, the shrill horn of the incoming train startles me. A strange feeling of déjà vu grips me simultaneously, as these very trains have been my second home for many years. Entering the Station after about twenty months, I look around to see scenes which appear quite familiar. Vendors moving around peddling their wares, children scampering on the stairs, porters carrying their loads and haggling with an old couple for that something extra, are things that will perhaps never change on the platform.

It has always been a busy time at the Station. Everyone is in a hurry. The incoming TTE is in a hurry to reach the coach, while the outgoing one is eager to reach home fast. The same is the case with passengers who are getting on and off the train. No one wants to wait even those few seconds, and empathise with the other. The train still has many minutes before its departure, and the seats are allotted. But there is still this strange urge to be the first to get on, and occupy the berth. As if the authorities are handing out early bird prizes !

I reach my designated berth, and find someone sleeping on it. I call out softly, and not eliciting any response, proceed to tap his shoulder. He wakes up groggily, gives me a stern look, turns over, and continues his slumber. I glance at my ticket, re-confirm that it is surely my berth that is being so trespassed upon, and persist with my efforts, this time with a little more determination. But the intruder is in no mood to budge.

"This is my berth."

"But, it is mine from Delhi itself", says he.

"It is now allotted to me, till Chennai", I affirm.

The argument continues till the man in black arrives and saves the situation. The match is decided predictably in my favour, and the intruder is asked to vacate the seat.

As I settle down, I start thinking about what has happened, and whether not so many of us follow this same diktat in our everyday lives, assuming each of our possessions, posts, privileges, to be permanently ours, while they may have only been lent out to us for that defined period of time. The point being that, are we not actually tenants on this Earth ? We keep changing jobs, houses, cars, cities; even our faces and bodies. So, what is permanent ? None of the above, surely ! And the grief that follows each supposed loss is so monumental, that we drown ourselves in misery, and brood upon the unfortunate situation we find ourselves in. We are just the same persona, distinct from our possessions, or the lack of them. It is we who give these variables the power to control our happiness, which too then becomes transitory.

I sometimes wonder that how can we lose something that was never ours in the first place? Were you always the owner of the glittering diamond that adorns the ring on your finger today ? Did you not buy it some time back, even if that was many years ago ? Is there not a possibility that you would sell it during your lifetime, whether at a profit or loss, whether by choice, or in distress ? Can we not actually believe that it is ours only to enjoy for a specified period, and we are never its owner ? Like the crown that adorns the head of the beauty queen for a year, and gets passed on to the new winner, or the river which flows alongside us, and we take a glass of water from it to quench our thirst. It flows on, and dispenses another jugful to the person downstream. Neither of us own its waters; we just draw what we need for the time being, and carry on with our lives.

Our loss could be an outcome of a wrong decision or an accident of the day. It could be of a dispensable object, or something very valuable or priceless. "Why me", is a question asked nevertheless on each such occasion, when we lose something. I am reminded of Arthur Ashe's oft repeated story in this regard, and I quote :

The legendary Wimbledon player was dying of AIDS, which he got due to infected blood he received during a Heart Surgery in 1983. During his illness, he received letters from his fans, one of which conveyed:

" Why did God have to select you for such a bad disease?"

To this Arthur Ashe replied :

- 50 Million children started playing Tennis,
- 5 Million learnt to play Tennis,
- 500000 learnt Professional Tennis,
- 50 Thousand came to Circuit,
- 5 Thousand reached Grand Slam,
- 50 reached Wimbledon,
- 4 reached the Semifinals,
- 2 reached the Finals and

When I was holding the cup in my hand, I never asked God:
 "Why Me?"

So now that I'm in pain how can I ask God:
 "Why Me?"

"Ring out the old, ring in the new", said Alfred Tennyson, while also adding that, "Ring out the false, ring in the true". What exists now is the truth, as opposed to what it was some time back. For, change is the only constant. What we can control is our response and acceptance of this change, irrespective of how it affects us in the immediate present. We shall receive what we deserve, and not always what we desire. And, in accepting the change with folded hands, we open the gates of our hearts to receive something different that fate has destined for us, which could possibly be much in excess to what we had wanted to hold upon all this time.

We are now upon the new year, and a lot is going to change. For example, the calendar on our walls, alongwith our habit of writing the dates on various documents. We have seen the dates slip by, day after day, bringing in the good and the bad, as they shall in future too. A lot of us would be making resolutions, some to be kept, but mostly to be forgotten shortly. A wise man has said that 'Today is the first day of the rest of my life'. So shall the first day of the first month give us a fresh start. To take stock of all that we have achieved, or what we could have, as also to tread harder on our chosen path, and achieve that much more.

Many of us, other than the nocturnals, would have slept soundly on the 31st, and as with each night, would have handed over all our anxieties, thoughts, fears, and virtually our entire existence to a greater power. With the supreme confidence that the morrow shall surely come, and bring with it fresh tidings of joy. This is called absolute submission, or the path of Bhakti, in which we have total faith on whomsoever we pray upon, and accept gracefully what He has to offer to us. What if we refused to accept sleep, thinking it to be a loss of our waking and thinking capabilities? Could we ever experience the freshness of the morning dew or the glow of the rising sun ?

The learned Nobel laureate, Sri Rabindranath Tagore has so rightly said, "Where the mind is without fear and the head held high..... Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake." So, let us wake up today, my friends. With emptied palms, which can then receive all that destiny has in store for you. Vacate that berth or piece of land that had been yours till now. The one that you enjoyed as a trustee for the ordained period. Hand it over graciously. To someone who now deserves it, perhaps more than you, in the larger frame of things.

For, in giving with grace, you shall surely receive much more.
 Que Sera, Sera.

Happy New Year 2022 !!

Amen !

Orientation Program of Ecology Park and Vegetative Propagation Process

Anubhav Sarkar | Faculty

Sunday, the 6th of March 2022 was an exciting and eventful day for the students of Classes VI to IX as they got to experience a closer interaction with the members of the ecology park school team and the team working tirelessly on the ground. It was the first time that students of the junior section (Classes VI-VIII) were introduced to understanding the landscape where the rewilding project is going on. In the morning, a nature walk was organized for the students, housemasters and resident tutors. The walk began from the entrance of the circular gate, opposite to the Suraj Kund and ended just behind the SMOAT. During the walk, the students were given an overview of the different learnings and outcomes of the project.

Mr Gopal Chaturvedi shared a bit of the history and development of the project while Mr Anubhav Sarkar focused on the importance of plant monitoring and keeping a track of the field data to collate into strategic conservation models. Ms Sangeeta Jain and Mr Jitendra Jawale talked about the different plants that have been imbedded around our landscape and focused on clearing certain weeds that otherwise would overpower and dominate the landscape, leading to poor growth and development of the plants that have already been planted. Mr Jawale particularly discussed about Parthenium and Lantana, as two examples of weeds that the ground team are assigned to get rid of from the Fort.



Being instructed about the Ecology Project

There were many interesting questions that students asked and showed great enthusiasm during the duration of the nature walk.

Along with the importance of this project, the students were also informed about the ongoing water conservation and preservation project that is being undertaken in our school. A short impromptu quiz was also conducted in the field to test the students' understanding of everything that was shared with them during our walk and talk activity and they were very accurate with their responses. A group photograph was taken at the Khambaa Taal before the students continued with their walk.

In the afternoon on the same day, the students of Class IX assembled at our school nursery and performed the vegetative propagation (reproduction) activity. Its

Ms Kirti Srivastava (faculty): "The warmth is back on the Fort!"

main objective was to get the students familiarized with the practical skills needed to demonstrate vegetative stem cutting as this topic is a part of their biology curriculum. Ms Sangeeta Jain debriefed the students about vegetative propagation. The students were divided into 4 sections and each section was provided with a different ratio of the various individual components (red soil, coarse sand, cow dung manure and leaf compost) to make the soil mixes. The students enthusiastically divided themselves into groups of 7-8 and began getting their hands dirty for a greater cause.

The ground team led by Mr Vinod was present at the nursery to help the students with the soil mixes. Mr Jitendra Jawale, Mr Gopal Chaturvedi and Mr Anubhav Sarkar were also monitoring the progress of each section and ensuring that the students were being careful throughout the entire activity.

Hees and *Pisangan* were the two varieties of plants that were used for this activity. At the end of the session all the staff members of the ecology park team pitched in important points to make the students understand about the dynamics of conservation, how protecting the environment is a top priority globally and how being engaged in such a big project from a young age will help them to develop strong comprehensive and scientific skills that will play a vital role in decision making for the future.



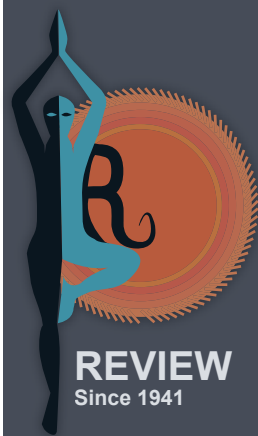
Vegetative Propagation Activity

A Step Towards Preserving Our Environment

Prataksh Sharma | IX A

"In this fast moving, advancing world, we have destroyed our environment which has led to a global crisis. On Sunday, the 6th of March, we were lucky enough to witness something which would be better for our future. The school organized an ecology activity wherein we had to plant trees and to learn about their growth. This was an activity which caught our attention. We were all amazed to see how a single plant could grow in the mixture of different soils. We also saw how a plant called 'Heis' could reproduce from its stem. This was understood by cutting the stem of the 'Heis' plant and putting it in the mixture of soils that we had made earlier. We were also instructed about the various ways to grow a plant. It was such a fun activity which also opened our eyes to the ramifications of ignoring our environment. We felt that we had contributed towards our society and would like to do it again in the future."

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Printed by : Galaxy Printers, Gwalior
URL : www.scindia.edu
OLD BOYS' SITE : www.scindia.edu/alumni
MARCH 15, 2022 | WPP : Regn.No.Gwl.Dn.11
Feedback : aliyak@scindia.edu
Price : Re. 1

If undelivered, please return to : The Scindia School, Fort, Gwalior - 474 008 (M.P.)