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THE *Link* TEAM



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FROM THE SISTER SUPERIOR'S DESK

SISTER POWLIN



"Be merry and doubt not our Master" Venerable Mary Ward, refers to the idea that God controls or oversees all events and circumstances in the world, and everything that happens is part of a larger plan or purpose.

This belief can be found in many people. It suggests that even though human beings have free will and can make choices that affect their lives, ultimately, everything that happens is part of God's plan and is meant to serve a higher purpose.

We are called to believe in God's providence and unconditional love. We are also called to be kind and to care for each other.

Dear parents, you have admitted your children to Loreto House, trusting our Institution, the teachers, and the values that the school shares.

We believe that each student and teacher is God's precious gift to us and the whole universe. May your journey as parents, teachers, students, and staff be gracious and loving.

—Sister Powlin

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Education is not an act of acquiring knowledge but of learning various skills to lead life and frame one's personality.

We at Loreto House have laid emphasis on discovering and further developing the innate talents and skills of our students. Our teachers strive to continue providing a holistic education through innovative methods of teaching, using smart boards and various co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

'Family Fiesta' - the Junior Section Annual Day, 'Striving together to promote sustainability' - the Middle Section Science Exhibition and 'Octavia', an Inter Loreto Music Fest for the Senior Section, was held during the academic year. Through these, we focused on developing skills and inter personal relationships while honing the students' talents. I am proud that my staff and students have risen to the existing challenges and adapted to each situation differently.

In this ever changing society, we motivate our students to be life-long learners, critical thinkers and self-reliant citizens to enable them to strive for success and happiness in the world of the future. I take this opportunity to thank each member of the Mary Ward family at Loreto House - my staff (teaching and non-teaching), parents, students and most importantly the Lord for an eventful and successful year 2022 - 2023!

Regards,
Mrs. A. Gomes
Principal

FROM THE DESK OF THE **SENIOR SECTION COORDINATOR**

2022-23 has been a very eventful and significant year for all at Loreto House. It has been the year of home coming to our beloved institute after much precious time was lost to the pandemic. It became the year of picking up from where we had left off suddenly, it also proved to be a year of realisation that much had changed forever in the world. We learnt to adapt to the changes still holding on to the best that we had always been familiar with. The school once again reverberated with excited voices, happy footsteps, academic growth, co-curricular activities and several events providing opportunities to all students to discover, showcase and hone their various talents. It is a year for which we need to express our gratitude to God for bringing us together once again as the Loreto House family to make more memories to be cherished forever. I wish all our students the very best for all their chosen endeavours and remind each one of them that if we persevere and work hard everything is possible. With belief in one's abilities each one will find and achieve what was meant to be for her.

May God bless each one of you.

Mrs. Sonia Dhir



FROM THE DESK OF THE **MIDDLE SECTION COORDINATOR**



We, at Loreto House, endeavour to provide each one of our students a holistic education to empower our young learners by providing them with a sound base in academics, a strong value system and a well balanced personality to enable them to encounter all challenges to be faced in life with confidence and poise. The best investment is in knowledge building and learning is a continuous and ongoing process

which is not limited to the classroom. Many students who sometimes struggle with academics in the Middle School show significant improvement in later years as well as when engaged in co-curricular activities. This motivates them to persevere in their studies, influencing positive changes in their character, personality and level of confidence. We like our students to use their imagination and scale new heights yet to be conquered. I would like to end with the words of Albert Einstein "Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand." May God continue to shower His blessings on each one of our students.

Mrs. Ratna Banerjee

FROM THE DESK OF THE **JUNIOR SECTION COORDINATOR**

The academic year 2022-2023 went by in the blink of an eye. We were all grateful to be back at school after the dreadful pandemic and two years of online classes. Our Principal, teachers, office and support staff worked extremely hard and efficiently to ensure a smooth transition for the students. As expected, there were a lot of tears during the first few

months. The children had to make great adjustments. From being constantly surrounded by family and in the comfort of their home, they had to get reacquainted with their teachers, friends and school. The most amazing thing about little children is their fantastic adaptability. True enough, our students bounced back into the rhythm of school life by the end of the first term. Along with getting back to academics, they participated in both intra and inter school activities and events, with full gusto. I am filled with admiration at the way we all have overcome the challenges. I have faith that nothing can stop us from achieving great things together.

Miss Jessica James



STAFF ADVISORY EDITORIAL BOARD'S *Message*

On behalf of our editorial team we would like to thank everyone who contributed to the compilation of the magazine. It gives us immense joy and satisfaction to finally reintroduce our very own magazine -

"The Link" after two years of the pandemic. This journey is an emotional one seeking to chronicle the plethora of activities that are packed into one school year. It links the teachers with the students and most importantly it offers our parent body a glimpse of the activities beyond the classroom, that are an integral part of our Loreto education.

Every edition of The Link encourages and showcases the talent and creativity of the students. It makes them effectively utilize language to convey ideas. It showcases their skill in writing, art, design, photography etc.

We commend the student editorial board who has worked relentlessly to compile the seemingly endless articles, reports and events into a coherent whole. We would also like to thank Mrs. S. Dhir, Mrs. S. Bhattacharjee and Mrs. L. Ward for the proof reading.

On behalf of the Editorial board we would like to sincerely thank our Principal, Mrs A. Gomes, for her constant guidance , support, and encouragement.

- Mrs. A. Lazarus, Mrs. S. Mallick, Mrs. S. Faiyaz and Mrs. D. Ghazal

STUDENT EDITORIAL BOARD'S *Message*



Alessandra Anthony
XI Commerce



Alysia Gomes
XI Science



Pari Gupta
XI Commerce



Simran Bakshi
XI Science



Srijoni Nandi
XI Humanities



Umika Panda
XI Humanities



Gehna Mahtani
XII Commerce



Jahnavi Chakravarti
XII Humanities



Kanza Shamim
XII Humanities



Vidhishree Agarwal
XII Commerce



Xara Menezes
XII Humanities

Once upon a time, a group of excitable young girls eagerly awaited 'The Link' as each received a transparent cover copy along with their new school diaries. They took a few seconds to stare at the cover, subsequently flipping through the pages to look for their submissions and admiring the photographs of the 'Big Didis'. Nine years later as those 'young girls' sat to write this message, they realised that they had become the 'Big Didis'.

The Link '23 began as an idea which translated into this little piece of reality that you are holding in your hands today; it took hours of sifting through submissions, editing spelling and grammar, creating numerous google documents, mastering our amateur photography skills, designing and redesigning each page and deflecting the queries of multiple Junior Section children while they chased after their "Link didis"! Truly, Mrs. Lazarus shared the same amount of panic as us in the entirety of this process.

Amidst this chaos, we realised that this was not just about the shiny, pink, dangling editorial badges. It was a slice of nostalgia and a memento of a lifetime for each Loreto girl.

Sitting in the computer lab (we required WiFi), and occasionally in the senior section library, we looked at the school magazines from 2014-2018, quickly noticing the changes and constants as we drew inspiration from them. Subconsciously, we helped to create a legacy for the years to come.

We would like to thank our principal, Mrs. A. Gomes, the staff advisory editorial board and to everyone who contributed in their own way, from the bottom of our hearts for being a part of this memorable journey. The Link '23 edition would not have been possible without you.

In the words of Anaïs Nin, "We write to taste life twice, in the moment and in retrospect."

Thank you!

HEAD GIRL'S MESSAGE

I've wondered all my life what would be the best beginning if I were the Head Girl of Loreto House. It's been my dream since I was in class 3 to one day stand on this stage and address everyone present and perform the last duty assigned to me as the H.G. I've always had three major dreams I wanted to accomplish and what would give me that feeling of satisfaction. No.1 on that list was pursuing my dream career and no.2 not so far away from that dream was to become the head girl. I still remember how Mrs Samuel back in Class 3 told me never to reach for the minimum or what's being given to me but to strive for things even further high up and go beyond my capabilities



striving till the end. I swear to every God that advice has lived up till this date. It's like an incentive in my life and who I am but I love working hard and I believe that nothing is impossible. Even the word impossible has the letters of possible. Therefore, try till you can, try till you satisfy every last drop of your desires. This would be my last advice to all my juniors.

I know this is the most cliché line but now I understand how every year it is used because to sum up 13 years of my school life in less than 13 mins is really difficult. However, we have to do what we have to do, right? Let me start by describing the day I got elected as the Head Girl. I don't know whether I should say I was happy or not with the way I got to know because the day it was announced, I WAS ABSENT. Yes, I was absent. My health had let me down. Not only me, quite a few of us had been unwell that day. Regardless I think I was blessed to have been considered and appointed as H.G. got to know the news from my friends who sent me an email from school as they had been working on The Telegraph Awards at that time and had their laptops. So with the documents they sent a special subject which exactly said, " HEADGIRL MOMENT " in all caps and had written "KANZA U ARE NOW OFFICIALLY THE HEAD GIRL OF LORETO HOUSE. ANYA , OISHINEE TESSA HERE. CONGRATULATIONS U DESERVED THIS. REPLY ASAP N WAKE UP".

Surprisingly, I was awake and the moment I saw it I jumped off my bed and almost hit my head and the first thing I did was cry. I really cried a lot and while crying video called my mother my father and my very close childhood friend. If you were in that video call that day, you would see how much this meant to me and how long I had waited for this day to come. I still can't believe how I even got the chance to become the Head Girl because how much ever I wished, I was never too confident that I would really come so far. I really don't know how to express my truest feelings.

If I go back in time and remember I was a very weird child because I loved coming to school. Everyone would be like when will school get over? or when will vacations start? or why does our school start so early? But I would always have the brightest smile and be the happiest when I was in school. Loreto house truly is my second home. It's the place I'm going to miss the most. If we go back to the junior school years all I can remember are Maya Didi's red medicine and how she took extra special care of us. We definitely annoyed her a lot but she loved us unconditionally. Then I can think of all the settling of desks and chairs after everyone left, watering the plants, practically taking over the job done by our Bhaiya's with pride. Having a poem written on my name and lastly the anticipation and excitement of being a part of the class 5 minders. We have practically lived through it all.

Going to middle school in a line on the first day we were back to school in the new session and attending senior school assemblies in the hall as class 6 was really intimidating and really new to us but we got through it just fine and that's where I found my inspiration Nikita Mohta. She was mesmerizing and whenever I looked at her , I knew I wanted to become just like her. Her head girls speech set the bar and I don't know if I will ever be able to do justice to that but I'm trying today as I stand in front of you. Moving forward, class 7 to 9 went flying by and some teachers we loved joined and left during these years. Middle

school was all about being naughty and waiting for the coordinator to come and tell us we are the worst class on the floor. Miss Paul can be really intimidating sometimes and we all know that. She was our coordinator and 10-2 was lucky enough to have her as their class teacher as well once the pandemic hit and we went online or should I say...everyone was always on the edge and ready to get scolded. Just one look from her and we would know never to do it again but regardless of all this she has always been very supportive and someone I can always speak my mind with. She has been there during my toughest times and taught me some very important lessons. As she rightly said, "sometimes you can forgive but never forget, or you will be hurt again" this line stayed with me for a lifetime and helped me get through almost everything. Today I want to take this opportunity to thank you especially for being a friend, a mentor and a super support ma'am. Middle school was also about this one girl who's real name was never remembered, it was always her nickname that became her identity. Thank you anu for always letting me call you anu and not Anurima. It would not be the same without you.

When the pandemic hit, I was finally in the senior section and almost coming to the near end of a decade. It was scary just like the previous transition and even more troubling with the pandemic suddenly swallowing the world but I'm so glad we all made it together. We all had to go through a lot but we also helped each other by being there and moving forward. Difficult times guide us to understand not only our drawbacks, but also our true potential and abilities.

Class 11 went by in a flash. I took attendance for as long as I can remember and it was like the world was coming to an end if you got too involved during the class and forgot to finish taking the attendance with the meeting having only a few seconds left to go. I don't know about the others but it felt almost life threatening. Class 11 also introduced us to Mrs. Mogrelia and it was our first time having her as our class teacher. According to the seniors she was really strict and really firm and wanted perfection everywhere. So when we joined her class we really wanted to understand how she was but one incident taught

me that she's the most soft hearted person we can find till date. It was when we were supposed to talk about anyone in class during the value Education period and Oishinee went up on the platform and described how she felt about me and how much we both mean to each other. I always hear that about twice a week from Oishinee personally but it was the first time Mrs. Mogrelia heard the same. Upon hearing her describe me she started tearing up and said, "I have never heard of a more beautiful way to describe your friend." she's always supported me and taught us the most necessary values of life. She can be really fun and really believes we are the most indisciplined and the most unruly bunch of girls. Even after all this, I know ma'am you love us a lot and so do we.

I have to thank two more teachers, Mrs. Dhir and Mrs. R. Banerjee for always running behind you teachers for your signatures, I think you should start charging us for your signatures that's the amount of signatures we have taken from you besides making unreasonable demands and begging for so many other things, for always pestering you even while you get the bare minimum time to just touch your tiffin. We have really troubled you a lot and on behalf of the entire student council and class 12, thank you so much teachers for being the back bone of all our programs. You're no less than superwomen.

Thank you to each and every class teacher I've had, junior school, middle school and senior school. To Mrs. Lazarus for always having that big smile every morning, Mrs. Bhattacharjee for teaching us the importance of "MAY I" and loving the cards I made, Mrs. Rakshit for handling our goofiness, Mrs. Paul for always encouraging me with the best texts after every program, Mrs. Singh for being a good friend, listener and making me pass in maths during middle school, Mrs. D. Dey and Mrs. S. Dey for all their support. I will really miss the school art room and painting Meha's face after every event we prepared together. You all are the reason I get to stand here today and give this speech.

I really need to insert this one line about my sister. Yashfin, thank you for being the best sister I could've never asked for and for being happier than me every time I have achieved something and for always having my back.

I will definitely miss all the band practices that happened with Mr. Britto, Mrs. Das and Mrs. J. Ghosh and how we were NEVER TOO prepared and always ate more than actually practice. How we would just start singing acapella and sir would entertain all our suggestions. All the stay backs and every event I have been a part of, it's been great. Which brings me forth to thank and mention the next most important person who I definitely have annoyed and kept awake till late, Mrs. Gomes. I still remember the first time she called me. It was during the pandemic and I suddenly got a call from an unknown number. So I picked up the call nicely and said hello kaun hain? And she says am I speaking to Kanza and just that line was enough to startle me and make me realize that it was her voice and I had just spoken in Hindi. Well I got so flustered that it took me a few seconds to get back and then ma'am calmly informed me that I would be helping her organise the teachers day program. So thank you ma'am for tolerating all the late deadlines, always being patient with us, always being so understanding and even letting us come during the late end of the pandemic to practice for the farewell, taking time and thinking about all our needs and requirements, always approving our last minute changes and unreasonable demands. We are lucky to have you as our principal ma'am.

Lastly I'd like to thank all the support staff, the Bhaiyas and Didis, Mr. Augustine and his team for always helping us with all requirements and helping us achieve perfection. A special thank you to Akash Bhaiya, he is someone I have troubled a little too much by begging to stay a few extra minutes, always asking for extra mics, all the tech problems and also getting scolded for eating in the hall. Thank you for everything.

To all my juniors, thank you for such an amazing year and for always being scared of me when required. I'm sorry if I made you think I can be scary because you can ask all my friends and teachers sitting here, I am the last person who you should be scared of. Thank you for being supportive and also thank you for loving each one of us so much.

This is me, Kanza Shamim, signing off as the Head Girl of Loreto House 2022-23.

Class XI, it's time for you to take what we leave behind and continue the legacy with utmost sincerity and respect. I believe you can do so.

My "batch of 2023" what do I even tell you all. All I can say at this point is thank you for sharing thirteen years of your life with me. Without you there would be no me. If I've come this far it's because of how supportive my friends are and how blindly they trusted me. Your trust and belief is what made me. Even when I hear you all speak about me, it brings me to tears because to have such high opinions about me by so many can only make me believe that I actually achieved some things at last. I love you all so much and will always do.

Student council, I know we have been through so much together. So many fights, so many misunderstandings, so many clashes of opinions, so many times you got scolded by me. Well I am sorry for everything and I also want to thank the lord for such an amazing set of leaders, to be by my side. A special thank you to all the neutrals: Vidhishree, Simar, Rashi and Spursh.

Last but not the least, THANK YOU Sharmila for being the ketchup to my fries, apple to my pie and the milk to my shake. Without you as the vice HeadGirl, I would never be able to move forward smoothly. Thank you for always listening to my pestering demands and the late night anxiety attack calls about so much calculations being left or so much work not done or how we forgot that we had to inform the next house doing the assembly duty and it's Monday already. It's been a journey and you've been there throughout. Thank you.

On that note, thank you for getting through this speech, I know it's a bit long and may not be as funny as Teesta (oh yeah thank you Teesta for always being the clown we needed in class and on a serious note thank you for being a good friend).

SCHOOL REPORT 2022-2023

SPIRITUAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT

The academic year 2022-23 was a special one as it was the first year of in-person learning at Loreto House after the COVID-19 pandemic. The students were grateful to return to the institution, which reiterated the values of love, justice, freedom, sincerity, compassion, and respect at all levels. Our pupils imbibed a deep sense of commitment towards the underprivileged and weaker sections of society, fostering the spirit of community.

Daily Assemblies

Hymns, Readings, Prayers, News, Story and an inspiring 'Thought for the Day' marked our regular assemblies.

Special Assemblies

1. Earth Day Assembly: On 22nd April, 2022, the members of the Nature club from classes IX-XII conducted an assembly on Earth day. The assembly began with an introduction to highlight the deep-rooted love for nature. The members also spoke about the initiatives taken up by the United Nations to live sustainably, the hazardous impacts of climate change and some of the effective ways to combat it.

2. Labour Day: A special assembly was conducted on Labour Day by class X. The programme started with a short prayer service, comprising a short story and a prayer dance. This was followed by a reading on the significance of Labor Day, and they also sang a medley of songs. At the end of the programme, the students presented members of the support staff with a small token of their gratitude.

3. Mother's Day Assembly: On 13th May, 2022, the members of the CLC club organised a short assembly on Mother's Day. The assembly began with a hymn, followed by an informative video, prayers and a beautiful thought for the day. The assembly concluded with a beautiful music video dedicated to all our hard working mothers.

3. Independence Day Assembly: On 12th August, 2022, the members of the LTS club conducted a special assembly on Independence Day. The assembly began with a prayer dance and was then followed by readings from the holy scriptures. The assembly also included a choreographed dance to the recitation of a beautiful poem, along with readings and dances performed by members of the LTS club.

4. Diwali Assembly: On 21st October, 2022, the students of Class VII conducted an assembly highlighting the importance of Diwali. The students performed a dance and sang songs together. In addition to this, they also presented a short skit to underscore the history and significance of Diwali and the hazards of firecrackers.

5. Farewell for William Dada and Swapan Dada: On 29th November, 2022, the students of class XI organized a farewell assembly for William Dada and Swapan Dada. The assembly started with the lighting of the prayer lamp and a short prayer dance. This was followed by prayers, the readings from the scriptures, hymns and a presentation on the life and work of our beloved dadas. We concluded the assembly by presenting a token of our gratitude to William Dada and Swapan Dada.

6. Christmas Assembly: On 16th December, 2022, the students of class VI presented an assembly highlighting the spirit of Christmas. The assembly began with a prayer and hymn and was followed by dances and a short skit on the true meaning of Christmas. The assembly concluded with the singing of carols while a few students dressed up as Santa Claus, Rudolph, and an elf distributed sweets to the members of audience.



7. **Welcome Assembly for Sr. Powlin:** On 13th January, 2023, a special assembly was organised to welcome Sr. Powlin, our new Superior and Secretary of the school. This solemn prayer service commenced with the lighting of the prayer lamp, followed by a prayer dance, a reading from the Bible, and intercessory prayers. The prayer service ended with a beautiful song welcoming Sister Powlin into our Loreto House family.



8. **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Special Assembly:** On 20th January, the students of class IX paid homage to the great freedom fighter, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose for his outstanding valour, spirit and courage on his 126th birth anniversary. The students of class IX paid tribute to the legend through readings from his early life and dances were performed on the songs 'O amar Desher Mati', 'Sushas Ji' and 'Vande Mataram'. The assembly concluded with the song 'Kadam Kadam Barai Jaye'.

9. **Mary Ward Week Special Assemblies:** From 23rd January, 2023 to 30th January, 2023, Loreto House celebrated the Mary Ward Week in remembrance of our foundress, the venerable Mary Ward. Each class presented a wonderful assembly based on her maxims and teachings. Class XI Science, Commerce and Humanities along with classes IX-i and IX-ii, delivered flawlessly. From the valuable information that was shared through the witty skits that were enacted, to the students getting actively involved themselves in bringing out the essence of Mary Ward's notions. Each class conducted a unique and meaningful class activity to commemorate her life, work and teachings.

CHURCH SERVICES / CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLIES

1. **Retreat for Catholic students:** On 28th and 29th October, 2022, a retreat was organised for the Catholic students of classes X to XII. On the first day, the Resource team answered the queries of the students in addition to conducting sessions with action songs and addressing pressing topics like mental health. On the second day, the Resource team along with the teachers organised confessions as well as Mass which were followed by a few more fun sessions.

2. **Corpus Christi:** A Corpus Christi procession on the Feast of Christ the King was organised by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Kolkata on 20th November, 2022. The procession started from St. Xavier's Collegiate School. The procession, began with a short introductory prayer (in both English and Bengali) and was followed by the singing of hymns. After an extremely memorable and enlightening procession through the streets of Kolkata, the crowd of worshippers returned to the St. Xavier's ground, where the adoration of the holy sacrament took place.

3. **Advent Mass:** On 3rd December, 2022, Loreto House celebrated its annual "Advent Day" Mass. The Mass began with the lighting of the second candle in the Advent wreath, the candle that represented "peace." The readings and hymns were read and sung by the students of classes VI to XII. The mass was followed by the Nativity Play, which was conducted by the students of classes KG to V. The play highlighted the history and true meaning of Christmas. It beautifully portrayed the title for the day, "Our Hope in a Manger."

GATECHISM & VALUE EDUCATION CLASSES

These classes, being held thrice a week, have always been an integral part of the school.

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

1. Panighata Social Service Programme: On 8th November, 2022 eleven students accompanied by teachers, Mrs. Rakshit and Mrs. Lazarus visited Loreto School Panighata. On reaching the school, they were warmly welcomed by the Principal, Staff and students with a prayer, song and dance. They also visited the Belgachi tea estate and factory, and the river side. The following day they presented an assembly for Loreto Panighata and during the day they interacted with the children there through teaching English and Mathematics and playing some games. After this they went to see the Jute handicrafts made by the students of the Rainbow home and presented by the Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre.



2. Rainbow Christmas Party: On 9th December, 2022 the students of class IX organised a christmas party for students of the Rainbow Home. The party started with a short prayer service followed by a welcome dance. Then the girls put up a Bengali play called "The Brinjal Thief." The main attraction of the show was Santa Claus who brought a smile on the faces of the children as he distributed sweets and goodies. The day ended on a merry note with the singing of Christmas carols and children of the Rainbow home receiving small tokens of love and appreciation.



3. Mentaids: On 9th December, 2022 the students of class X organised a programme for the children from Mentaids and Manovikas Kendra. The programme started with a prayer service and was followed by an entertainment segment and carol singing. The programme brought smiles on the faces of the children and there was a feeling of joy and happiness in the air.

4. We Care: On 14th and 15th December, 2022, the students of classes XI and XII participated in the "We Care" social service initiative taken by Loreto House for senior citizens. Each day commenced with a prayer service and was followed by the Nativity Play and an entertainment programme comprising retro songs, dances, skits, carol singing and a talent show. On the first day, the students were joined by the senior citizens from St. Joseph's Home, Mary Cooper Home, Lawrence Desouza Home and St. Catherine's Home while on the second day they were joined by senior citizens from Navanir, Chetla and Tollygunge Homes. At the end of the show, the title of "Winter King" and "Winter Queen" was awarded to the winners of the competition. Thereafter, lunch was served by the students. Finally the guests bid adieu with joy in their hearts and tears in their eyes.



ICSE & ISC RESULTS 2022

112 students appeared for the ISC 2022 and 90 students for the ICSE 2022 examinations. We maintained the 100% pass record. In the ISC examination 64 students secured above 90% and 31 students secured between 80%-89% while 38 candidates scored above 90% and 28 students scored between 80%-89% in the ICSE examination.

ACADEMIC, PROFESSIONAL & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. NURSERY ORIENTATION

Orientations were held for the parents of Nursery and Lower Nursery batches of 2022-2023. After a brief opening prayer, the Secretary of the Managing Committee, Sr. Agnes and our Principal, Mrs. A. Gomes addressed the parents and gave them valuable information about the foundress- Venerable Mary Ward, the Vision, Mission and Goals of the school, and the values they try to inculcate in Loreto students. Mrs. E. La Porte and Ms. S. Rai, the respective Class teachers of Nursery 1 and Nursery 2, conducted an activity with the parents to enlighten them about the Play Way method followed in Nursery. They explained the important school rules, too. Similarly, at the Lower Nursery Orientation, the Class Teacher, Mrs. D. Ghazal, introduced the parents to the methods and regulations that would be followed. The parents' queries were answered. Both the orientations ended with a parents' prayer and the Loreto chorus.

INTRA-SCHOOL EVENTS

1. Inter-House Art Competition: On 12th July, 2022, the Spectrum and Klima Club jointly organised an Inter-House Rangoli, Gift Bag Making, and Card-Making competition for classes VI to VIII. The children were given 80 minutes to complete their work, and they were judged by Mrs. R. Banerjee, Mrs. S. Rego, Mrs. S. Faiyaz, Ms. J. James, Mrs. Dhir, and Mrs. K. Bose. Keller House emerged as the winner of the competition.

2. Inter-House Vernacular Elocution: The Inter-House Vernacular Elocution was held on 16th July, 2022 for the students of classes VI-VIII in two segments- Hindi followed by Bengali. The programme started with a prayer service including a prayer dance and a song. There were 12 participants in all with one member each for both categories representing the house. The overall winner was Naidu House.

3. Inter-House Debate Competition: On 19th and 20th July, 2022, the Polemics club hosted the Inter-House Debate Competition. The preliminary round was held in the classic Oxford style format with twelve participants debating the motion, "Traditional classroom teaching no longer addresses the needs of contemporary society."

The final round was a Cambridge style debate, the motion being "Students should be taught to win in life rather than values in a classroom." The preliminary round was judged by Mrs. S. Dhir, Mrs. S. Bhattacharjee and Mrs. S. Faiyaz and the moderator was our ex-student, Rohini Patra. The final round was judged by Mrs. K. Dutt and Ms. S. Pillai and was moderated by our ex-student, Ananya Chatterjee. The overall winner was Tagore House and Umika Panda of Keller House secured the first position in the final round.



4. Inter-House Dance Competition (Nrityanjali): The Inter-House solo and group competition was held on 29th September, 2022. The six houses had received their topic and instruction just a day prior to the event and had to prepare their performance within a matter of hours. The theme of the competition was, "Durga Puja" or "Festivals." The winner of the group competition was Gandhi House and that of the solo competition was Srijoni Nandi of Tagore House.

5. Inter-House Quiz Competition: On 2nd November, 2022 the students of classes X-XII participated in the inter-house quiz competition "Cognito." The competition was supervised by the quiz club animators, Mrs. Dhir and Mrs. Rakshit and it was moderated by Tessa Sharma and Vidhishree Agarwal of class XII. Each house was allowed a team of three participants who were given thirty seconds to answer each question. The questions ranged over multiple topics like current affairs, pop culture, literature, science, etc., and were conducted over six rounds - the Rapid Fire Round, two General Rounds, two Audio-Visual Rounds and the 'Who Am I?' Round. Tagore House placed first in this competition.

6. Middle School Annual Day: On 17th and 18th November, 2022 Loreto House celebrated its Annual Day for which the theme was "Striving Together to Promote Sustainability." It was a two day exhibition put up by the students of classes VI-IX. The opening ceremony commenced with a prayer dance, followed by a prayer and a warm welcome to our honored guests. On the second day we were joined by students and teachers from a number of schools like Loreto Elliot Road, Loreto Dharamtala, St. Xavier's Collegiate School etc.

INTER-SCHOOL EVENTS

1. Concord Fest: Loreto House was invited to participate in the Concord Fest organised by Calcutta Boys School. It was a three day fest which commenced on 29th June, 2022. The students participated in a number of events and our school placed third in the acoustic event and second in the debate, basketball and science project events.

2. Bosco Fest: On 16th July, 2022 Loreto House participated in the Bosco Fest organised by Don Bosco, Park Circus. The theme for this year was web series and TV shows. Each event was designed in a unique way such that it tested our knowledge on web series and TV shows. The fest consisted of twenty events including sports like table tennis and chess, news spoofing, script writing, model making and many more. Our school placed in nine events and also received the prestigious 'Best School' award.



3. Octavia: On 6th August, 2022 Loreto House hosted an inter-Loreto music event, "Octavia". The events included one solo song and one group song performance each, by all six Loretos present. After the wonderful performances by all the schools, the participants came together to sing "Heal the World," aptly termed the 'musical menage.'



4. La Corpora Business Fest - On 2nd October, 2022 the students of Loreto House participated in La Corpora, a business fest organised by La Martiniere for Boys. It was a one day fest and had multiple events, each revolving around different aspects of corporate culture.

5. X-Uberance Fest: From 14th to 16th October, 2022 the students of Loreto House participated in the X-Uberance fest organised by St. Xavier's Collegiate School. Eighty-six students from classes IX and XI participated in multiple events. Loreto House placed first in X-Gaana (Antakshari) and X-Act (Ad-Spoof), second in X-Splash (Sketching and Spray Painting) and X-Code (Hackathon) and third in X-Hunt (Treasure Hunt).



6. Slaters Debate: From 16th to 21st October, 2022, three students namely Teesta Ray and Oishinee Majumdar of XII Humanities and Umika Panda of XI Humanities, accompanied by Mrs. F Mogrelia participated in the 25th edition of the Reverend Dr. Samuel Slater Memorial Invitational English Debates. Organised by Bishop Cotton School, Shimla, a total of thirty-two schools from all over the country participated. The schools were divided into eight pools and each school engaged in a minimum of three debates in the preliminary round.



7. Discreptatio: On 19th October, 2022, two students namely Prapti Banerjee and Advaita Rebecca Sengupta participated in Discreptatio, a parliamentary style debate organised by Loreto Dharamtala. Both students participated in two different rounds for which the motions were "This house believes in using force to make peace" and "This house believes in sacrificing economic growth for the good of the environment." Prapti Banerjee was awarded the Best Speaker award in the first round along with a participant from the host school in a tie and Advaita Rebecca Sengupta was awarded the Second Best Speaker award in the second round.

8. Mitr Fest- On 14th December, 2022, twelve students from classes IV and V participated in the Mitr Fest organised by Modern High School for Girls. The students spent the morning competing in multiple interesting and fun-filled events. The morning ended on a high note as the Mitr Tales team won the first prize for their story, "The Ugly Crow."

AWARDS

At the Telegraph School Awards, Loreto House received the Honour certificate for Excellence in Maintenance and Eco-Friendly Initiatives. Merit Certificate for Excellence in Social Service and the Honour certificate for Excellence in Extracurricular Activities. In the individual category, the merit certificate for outstanding talent was awarded to Teesta Ray, the honour certificate for All-Round Excellence was awarded to Rohini Patra, The Honour Certificate for Academic Excellence was awarded to Rashika Dhir, the Honour certificate for Outstanding Talent in Sports was awarded to Swastika Patra and Tanuhka Ghosh and the Honour Certificate for Outstanding Talent in Music was awarded to Anushka Dutta. In addition to this, in the Special Honour Category, Suhas Mondal received the Shining Star Honour (our support staff for excelling in singing).

PRIZE DAYS

1. Prize Distribution for the meritorious students of the ICSE and ISC Examinations was held on 30th September, 2022. The Alumnae Trophies for Outstanding Achievement in the ICSE and ISC Examination were awarded to Pari Gupta (ICSE- 98.6%) and Rohini Patra (ISC- 98.75%), respectively.
2. The Prize Distribution Ceremony for classes X and XII (outgoing batches) was held on February 1st, 2023
3. Prize Distribution for the meritorious students of the outgoing ICSE and ISC batches for their pre-boards was held on 1st February, 2023.
4. The annual prize distribution ceremony was held on 28th March, 2023.



DAY EXCURSIONS

- 1) The students of the Geography department in Classes XI and XII had an agricultural survey excursion to Gadiara Village on 15th October, 2022. The students had a great experience and learned many values through the surveys and interviews.
- 2) There was a picnic held for the students of the Middle Section on Children's Day. The students had visited Science City, where they watched informative shows about human evolution and much more.
- 3) On Children's Day, students from Classes IX and X also went on a picnic to The Country Club, where they spent the day getting to know each other better and forming new friendships.
- 4) On 27th January, 2023 the History students of class XI Humanities went to Alipore Jail Museum for a History excursion. The tour began by visiting the gallows where the prisoners were tried and hanged. Then students visited the prison wards, watch tower and the exhibition halls along with the cells where Netaji, Dr. B.C Roy, C. Das and J.M Sengupta were imprisoned.

These excursions and trips have provided students with an excellent opportunity to spend quality time together, while creating memories that will last a lifetime.



CLUBS

SERVICE CLUBS

1. JPIC (Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation)

Every student of the Senior Section of Loreto House is a member of the JPIC club.

A. On 28th September, 2022, students from classes IX to XII attended a seminar conducted by the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre. The KMWSC is presently managing various projects in the fields of education, women and child protection, skill development and community building.

B. The JPIC unit organised a "Food ATM" - a food distribution camp for hundred people in association with the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Service Centre. On 13th December 2022, four students of class XII visited the Kolkata Mary Ward Society at Loreto Entally and after the initial greetings, distributed the food boxes to the people waiting in line.

C. Parivartana 2023, held from 1st-3rd February was the 6th JPIC South Asia meet consisting of over forty IBVM and CJ schools from India, Bangladesh and Nepal. Two students namely, Manya Parekh (IX-i) and Tulip Banthia (IX-ii) attended this event as representatives of Loreto House. On the first day, all the schools present submitted their plans of action for the year and the official website was launched, along with a session organised by KMWSC. The next day, students were given time to prepare the street play inspired by the traditional theatre culture of Kolkata. On the last day, the students performed their plays or 'Nukkad Nataks' on the streets and video presentations on specific issues were shown. The AGM concluded with a closing ceremony by Loreto Elliot Road. Water management has been declared as the goal for the next 2 years.

D. Four students from class XI namely Srijoni Nandi (XI Humanities), Melika Agarwal (XI Commerce), Aparajita Banerjee (XI Commerce) and Umika Panda (XI Humanities) were selected as Mary Ward IBVM UN Youth Advocates to participate in a year long training programme. The students have been given multiple online platforms and forums to work in association with the Working Group of Girls under United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSD).

2. LTS (Leadership Training Service)

A. On 12th August, 2022 members of the LTS club presented a special assembly on Independence Day celebrating 75 years of India's Independence. The theme for this year's program was "A Changing India". It consisted of song, dance and recitation and highlighting the recent achievements of our country in various fields.

B. On 27th and 28th December, 2022, members of the LTS club participated in the 12th edition of Ignite - a fun Fiesta organized and managed completely by LTS students from across different schools. Twelve students from class 11 were a part of the organizing committee of Ignite. They gained practical insight into the process of planning and executing an event. Ignite was attended by children from the "Nav Jeevan" orphanage and was a huge success.

3. Guides

A. On 30th July, 2022 a first aid workshop was organised to teach the students first aids for: heart attack, cardiac arrest, hypoglycaemia, hyperglycaemia, nose bleeds, fractures, burns, etc.

B. Guides Overnight Camp: On 7th November, 2022 a guides camp was organised for the students of classes VII-XII. There was an investiture ceremony for the enrollment of all the new guides and in the evening the students were visited by the DC of Bharat Scouts and Guides of the District. At night, a camp fire was lit and the students enjoyed organizing a small performance with a valuable lesson. They started the next day with BP's six exercises and then class VII had a session on Pravesh and Pratham sopan and class VIII-XII learnt how to use alphabets in the form of symbols and how to use a symbol. Finally the flag was brought down and the camp ended officially.

C. On 2nd December, 2022 a guides cook badge ceremony was organised for students from class VIII-XII. All the patrols had submitted their meal plans earlier and were ready with the food and table layout. After school, all the guides were ready for the cook badge ceremony and the students were given an hour for the preparation of food and the table layout.

4. CLC (Christian Life Community):

A. On 15th October, 2022 a small group of students from classes XI and XII accompanied by the club animators, Mrs. Lazarus and Ms. Toppo visited the Mother House. The students recited the rosary in front of Mother Teresa's tomb and even wrote a petition and intentions to be offered. Then they took tours of Mother Teresa's living quarters and the museum.

B. On 28th and 29th October, 2022 the annual retreat was held for the students of classes X, XI and XII.

C. On 20th November, 2022 the catholic students of classes VI to XII gathered on the grounds of St. Xavier's Collegiate school for the Corpus Christi Procession.

D. For the second week of Advent, on 3rd December, 2022 a mass was organised by the catholic students of the senior section. They sang the liturgical hymns in addition to the readings. Following the mass, the junior section put up the nativity play.

ACTIVITY CLUBS

1. Polemics Club (Debate Club)

A. The year started with the 22nd edition of the Jadavpur University MUN which was held online and Loreto House won prizes in several committees. This was followed by another online event, the MUN hosted by La Martiniere Calcutta. The first offline MUN attended by Loreto House this year was the X-Mun held by St. Xavier's Collegiate School which continued for three days.

B. The first debate in which Loreto House participated this year was the Reverend Cashmore hosted by St. James School in which the students secured the first position. This was followed by the renowned LN Birla Debate in which the participants secured the second position. The next important event was the online edition of the Claude Martin Debate hosted by La Martinere, Lucknow. The thirty-three contending schools from all over India were divided into four pools with two teams from each pool qualifying for the quarter finals. Loreto House made it up to the finals where they secured the second position. The year ended with the 25th edition of the Reverend Dr. Samuel Slater Memorial Invitational English Debates held from 16th to 21st October, 2022. This prestigious debate was hosted by the Bishop Cotton School, Shimla and was attended by a total of 32 schools from all over the country.

2. Treblers (Music Club)

On 6th August, 2022, Loreto House organised an inter-loreto music fest named 'Octavia'. The event began with a prayer service and a wonderful rendition of "Welcome to the Family" to invite our guests.

Following this, the Loreto House music team sang some of the classic favourites. The competition was divided into two segments of performances, solo and group. The amazing performances of all the students were excellent leaving everyone in awe.

GAMES

1. In the CISCE regional games, Loreto House participated in multiple sports namely basketball, swimming, throwball, badminton, table tennis, karate and rifle shooting. The under nineteen team secured the first position in basketball and second in throwball. Swastika Patra and Sanusha Gupta secured first and third positions, respectively in swimming. Additionally, Loreto House secured the first position in karate and third position in badminton.

2. Five girls from the under nineteen basketball team, namely Rashi Menon, Cynthia Hou, Naisha Agarwal, Yasna Buchia and Samriddhi Jain were selected to play at the CISCE national basketball championship held in Tuticorin.

3. Four girls from the under nineteen throwball team- Naisha Agarwal, Spursh Sharma, Cynthia Hou and Tisha Dakalia were selected to play at the national throwball championship held in Pune. Cynthia Hou also participated in the world throwball clubs championship held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in which she secured the first position.

4. On 18th November, 2022 four girls from Loreto House participated in the 400 meter baton relay event hosted by Assembly of God Church School as a part of their sports day. Loreto House secured third position.

SCHOOL EVENTS

1. Investiture Ceremony: The investiture ceremony for the academic year 2022-23 was held on 28th July, 2022. Each student council member, taking on the role of leaders, vouched to deliver their duties well, thus upholding the Loreto flag. This occasion was attended by the proud parents of the elected student council members.

2. Student Council Orientation: On 18th August, 2022 an orientation for the members of the student council for the year 2022-2023 was hosted by the animators of the student council. This interactive and engaging session commenced with a prayer service followed by a workshop on leadership and team building.

3. Teachers' Day: Teachers' Day was celebrated through a programme of music and dance. The theme for this year was "Wonderland" and the performances of all the classes revolved around this theme. The celebration included a number of dance and musical performances, a fashion show, interactive games and a hilarious skit.



4. Recollection: On 28th October, 2022, a special recollection session was conducted by the Heartfulness team for students of classes X-XII. The session highlighted the power of thought, meditative yoga and the ways to lead a balanced and peaceful life. It was an extremely interactive and enriching session.

5. Children's Day: On Children's Day the students of middle school visited science city and the students of classes IX and X went on a picnic to Country Club to spend their day outdoors with their friends. In addition to this, the students of classes XI and XII stayed in school where they sang songs, danced, enjoyed a bonfire and played a number of games.



6. Republic Day 2023: On 26th January, 2023, Loreto House celebrated India's 74th Republic Day with the theme "Educate to Empower" as it coincided with the occasion of Saraswati Puja. The programme included the traditional march past, flag hoisting, hymns and a special cultural segment of enactments, dance and recitation. The occasion was graced by the presence of the Chief Guest, Mrs. Kaveri Dutt who advised the students in her address to protect democracy as Mary Ward women.

7. Leavers' Prayer Service: On 1st February, 2023, the leaver's prayer service was held at Loreto House. Prize distribution ceremony of class X and XII was followed by the lighting of the lamp and a short prayer service. Thereafter, the student council returned their badges and flags, symbolic of completion of their duties.

8. Farewell: The farewell of the ISC batch 2022-23 was held on 1st February, 2023. The event began with the 'Miss Loreto' pageant followed by an entertainment segment organised by the students of class XI. At the end of the farewell social, the winners of the pageant were announced and a flash mob by the students of class XI took place.



9. Junior School Annual Day: The Junior Section Annual Day 2022-23, was a two-day fiesta dedicated to the Family. The theme 'You Raise Me Up' was chosen keeping in mind all members of a family who play an active part in the process of raising children. On the first day, the children from lower nursery to class I presented two memorable shows followed by the performances of the students of classes II to V on the second day.





PRIZE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY FOR ISC 2022

1.The Alumnae Trophy and Medal for Outstanding Performance

ROHINI PATRA
(XII Hum)

2.Trophy for Outstanding Effort

MARGARET TERESA DASGUPTA (XII Hum)
AISHWARYA ROY (XII Science)
AVNI BAID (XII Com)

3.The KB. Mukherjee Memorial Trophy for Highest Aggregate in the Humanities Stream

ROHINI PATRA (XII Hum)

4.Trophy for Highest Aggregate in the Commerce Stream

RASHIKA DHIR (XII Com)

5.Trophy for Bela Talukdar Memorial Highest Aggregate in the Science Stream

SUMEDHA BANERJEE (XII Science)
RITIKA VITHANI (XII Science)

6.The Pratima Mukherjee Memorial Trophy for Highest Achievement in English

SUMAIYA ZAINAB (XII Science)
SUMEDHA BANERJEE (XII Science)
RITIKA VITHANI (XII Science)
RASHIKA DHIR (XII Com)
ADITI BAID (XII Science)
ARUSHI SHARMA (XII Com)
MEGHNA MENEZES (XII Hum)
ANOUSHKA ALICIA THAKUR (XII Hum)

7.The Mrs. Pratiba Bajpai Memorial Trophy for Highest Aggregate in Hindi

POOJA JAIN (XII Com)
SOMAIYA KHAN (XII Com)
YUMNA KAMAL (XII Hum)

8. The Biplab Chakraborty Memorial Trophy for Highest Achievement in Bengali

RITTIKA BIDYANTA (XII Hum)

9.The M.M. Bhattacharjee Memorial Trophy for Highest Achievement in Mathematics

POOJA JAIN (XII Com)
RIYA JAIN (XII Com)
SIMRAN JAIN (XII Science)
RASHIKA DHIR (XII Com)
ROHINI PATRA (XII Hum)

10. Trophy for Highest Achievement in Chemistry

SUMEDHA BANERJEE (XII Science)

11. Trophy for Highest Achievement in Physics RITIKA VITHANI (XII Science)	12. Trophy for Highest Achievement in Biology SUMAIYA ZAINAB (XII Science)
13. Trophy for Highest Achievement in Business Studies SANJANA LAKKAR (XII Commerce) SOMAIYA KHAN (XII Commerce)	14. Trophy for Highest Achievement in Economics SNEHAL BHIMSARIA (XII Commerce)
15. Trophy for Highest Achievement in Accounts RIYA A. JAIN (XII Com)	16. Trophy for Highest Achievement in Commerce POOJA JAIN (XII Com)
17. Trophy for Highest Achievement in Political Science ANOLUSHKA ALICIA THAKUR (XII Hum) RITTIKA BIDYANTA (XII Hum) ANUSHKA SAHA (XII Hum) ROHINI PATRA (XII Hum)	18. Trophy for Highest Achievement in Sociology YUMNA KAMAL (XII Hum)
19. Trophy for Highest Achievement in Geography ANUSHKA SAHA (XII Hum) ROHINI PATRA (XII Hum)	20. Trophy for Highest Achievement in for Home Science NISREEN RANGWALA (XII Hum)
21. Trophy for Highest Achievement in History TAMANNA BAHETY (XII Hum)	22. Trophy for Highest Achievement in Psychology LUBNA SHIREEN (XII Hum)
24. Trophy for Highest Achievement in Computer Science RITIKA VITHANI (XII Science)	25. Trophy for Highest Achievement in Art LEEZER LEPCHA (XII Com) LEEANNA ANGELA HART (XII Hum)



PRIZE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY FOR ICSE 2022

1.The Alumnae Trophy and Medal for Outstanding Performance PARI GUPTA (X-II)	2.Trophy for Outstanding Effort MARIAN GOMES (X-II)
3. The Mrs. Anima Mukherjee Memorial Trophy for Highest Achievement in English AKANKSHA SAHA (X-I)	4. The Mrs. Pratibha Bajpai Memorial Trophy for Highest Achievement in Hindi JESLYN BABU (X-I) BHUMIKA PANDEY (X-I)
5. The Radha Binode Paul Memorial Trophy for Highest Achievement in History, Civics and Geography SWASTIKA KAR (X-II) UMIKA PANDA (X-II)	6. Trophy for Highest Achievement In Computer Applications JESLYN BABU (X-I)
7. The Binay Ranjan Paul Memorial Trophy for Highest Achievement in Bengali ARTHITA SAMANTA (X-II)	8. Trophy for the Highest Achievement In Economic Applications SHREYA BANKA (X-I)
9.Trophy for Highest Achievement in Science ALYSIA BINDYA GOMES (X-I) SHREYA BANKA (X-II)	10. Trophy for Highest Achievement in Mathematics MAHI VASA (X-I) PARI GUPTA (X-II)
11. Trophy for Highest Achievement in Home Science SWASTIKA KAR (X-II)	12. Trophy for Highest Achievement in Art AYUSHI HAZRA (X-II) PARI GUPTA (X-II)

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION (2022-23)



The Alumni Trophy and Medal
for Outstanding Performance (ICSE)



Trophy for Outstanding Effort



The Mrs. Anima Mukherjee Memorial Trophy for
Highest Achievement in English



The Mrs. Pratibha Bajpai Memorial Trophy for
Highest Achievement in Hindi



The Radha Binode Paul Memorial Trophy for Highest
Achievement in History, Civics and Geography



The Binay Ranjan Paul Memorial Trophy for
Highest Achievement in Bengali



Trophy for the Highest Achievement
in Economic Applications



Trophy for Highest Achievement in Mathematics



Trophy for Highest Achievement in Art



Trophy for Outstanding Effort (ISC)



The Pratima Mukherjee Memorial Trophy for Highest Achievement in English



The Biplob Chakraborty Memorial Trophy for Highest Achievement in Bengali



Trophy for Highest Achievement in Economics



Trophy for Highest Achievement in Accounts



Trophy for Highest Achievement in Commerce



Trophy for Highest Achievement in Political Science

THE STUDENT COUNCIL 2022-23



Head Girl: Kanza Shamim
Social Service Captain: Vidhishree Agarwal
Games Captain: Rashi Menon

Vice Head Girl: Sharmila Bhattacharjee
Social Service Vice Captain: Simar Kaur
Games Vice Captain: Spursh Sharma



GANDHI HOUSE
 Captain: Aishani Basu
 Vice Captain: Triya Ghosh
 Prefect: Anya Ghosh



KELLER HOUSE
 Captain: Simran Bhowmick
 Vice Captain: Azra Sethi
 Prefect: Anya Doshi



KENNEDY HOUSE
 Captain: Oishinee Majumdar
 Vice Captain: Akshita Mundra
 Prefect: Tessa Sharma



MARY WARD HOUSE
 Captain: Ramsha Naureen
 Vice Captain: Esther Pang
 Prefect: Naomi Pinto



NAIDU HOUSE
 Captain: Medha Veronica Thakur
 Vice Captain: Shristi Thapa
 Prefect: Pratiti Mukherjee



TAGORE HOUSE
 Captain: Teesta Ray
 Vice Captain: Namrata Ekka
 Prefect: Pahal Gambhir



Floor Prefects:
 Xara Menezes, Niharika Shandilya, Ayushi Mitra, Rishika Choudhury, Hazel Osta and
 Shrutika Tiwari

CLUB REPORTS 2022-2023

SERVICE CLUBS

GUIDES



On 30th July, 2022 there was a first aid workshop organised for the Guides students. They were taught about first aid for- Heart Attacks, Cardiac Arrests, Hypoglycaemia, Hyperglycaemia, Nose bleeding, Fractures, Burns. The most important thing they learnt was to do no harm knowing that wrong first aid can lead to damage which is why it is important for all to know the basic things they can do, in case of adverse situations.

On 7th November, a Guides camp was organized for students from classes VII-XII. It started with a flag-hoisting ceremony where all new Guides were enrolled. In the evening, the DC of Bharat Scouts and Guides of the District visited and did a class estimation. At night, a campfire was lit and the Guides organized a little performance with a valuable lesson. The next day, they started off with Baden Powell's six exercises after which class VII had a session on Parvesh and Pratham Sopan and classes VIII-XII learnt how to

use alphabets in the form of symbols as well as how to use a compass. Then the flag was brought down, and the camp ended officially. On 2nd December, a Guides Cook Badge ceremony was organised for students from classes VIII-XII. Two girls from each patrol were allowed to prepare an appetizer and a drink. After school, all guides were ready for the Cook Badge ceremony and an hour was given for the preparation of the food and for laying out the table.

- Dyuti Gupta, XII Commerce

KLIMA

"We are the first generation to feel the effect of climate change and the last generation who can do something about it."
- Barack Obama.

Klima, The Nature Club at Loreto House is a community of like minded souls who understand the importance and need for conservation and protection of nature. Every year the club is proud to receive an influx of members. It aims to sensitise, motivate and educate these young students about the environment.

In the academic year 2022-2023, Nature Club has undertaken many activities. Its very first initiative was 'The Sapling Plantation Project'. Members were given the opportunity to visit the 'Eden Garden Park' where they received the saplings of various small plants and trees. They planted these saplings and regularly looked after them. The club had also placed an E-Waste Box of the school, encouraging the proper disposal of E- waste such as old phones, batteries and calculators. General Club meetings comprise of

educational discussions and activities. They strive to work for Mother Nature collectively as well as individually. Their mission and ultimate goal is to leave this world in a better state for the future generations. Plans to protect the air, water, wilderness and wildlife are in fact plans to protect humankind. Klima is not just a Club but also a youth initiative that hopes and aspires to never fail Mother Earth.

- Simar Kaur Jagpal, XII Commerce (Director).



CLC - Christian Life Community

The members of the Christian Life Community of classes XI and XII, come together to strengthen their faith. They also do their best to make their sessions engaging and interactive, encouraging each member to imbibe the values in their religion and faith. Despite the fact that the post-pandemic situation has prevented them from having many activities, yet they have tried to do the best they could with what they had.



Visit to Mother House - As part of a community service project, the animators, Mrs. Lazarus and Ms. Topo, accompanied a small group of class XII students and a few girls from class XI on 15th October, 2022, to Mother House. In front of Mother Teresa's tomb, they started by reciting the rosary. Then, they wrote a petition and intentions to be offered. They took a tour of Mother's living quarters and the museum where her belongings were on display. The experience was profoundly spiritual.

Annual Retreat - On 28th and 29th October, 2022, a two day retreat lasting two days had been planned for the catholic students of grades X, XI, and XII. The retreat was organised by Mr. and Mrs. Fernandes, Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey and Ms. Fernandez.

On the first day of the retreat, the programme began at 10:30 a.m. with students singing songs before a session on mental health. The day ended with an activity after which lunch was provided. The retreat's resource team responded to some questions about religion on the second day. For each student, the two days were incredibly fruitful and beneficial.

Corpus Christi Procession - "Life, Through Jesus" served as the theme of the procession. On 20th November, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., Catholic students from classes VI to XII gathered on the grounds of St. Xavier' Collegiate School. They recited the rosary, sang a few hymns during the procession and then they returned to the ground. It was a solemn procession.

Advent Mass - On 3rd December, 2022, a mass was organised by the Senior Section's Catholic students. They sang the liturgical hymns in addition to the readings. This was followed by the Nativity play presented by the Junior section.

- Sasha Rae, XII Humanities

YCS - Young Christian Society

YCS allows catholic students to be connected with their religion. Through Bible quizzes, making bookmarks and Gospel sharing sessions, they learn more about the Lord. Each meeting begins and ends with a prayer where God blesses all the members throughout the year. Students have finally managed to conduct meetings after two long years of the pandemic, welcoming new members of the YCS. By interacting with fellow students of faith in school, girls are encouraged to do so in church as well, which leads them to be more confident in what they do. This year, retreats were held for the Christian students to allow them to understand their religion better.

- Advaita Sengupta, X-I



LTS - Leadership Training Skills

Any mature and progressive society would provide its youth with a vision that would steer their search for meaning and purpose in life. LTS with its commitment to the cause of youth provides them these ideals and functions as a pole



star in their search. LTS both challenges and motivates the youth to rise above all odds and to become "Great Leaders". It ignites their generosity that sets them on the path of selfless service. Every LTS meeting focuses on having activities that help students in personality development, building leadership skills and social development. This year, the LTS'ers organised the Independence Day Assembly. Through this assembly they showcased how far India has come since its Independence and demonstrated the different changes that have taken place in the country. At the end of the assembly, all teachers were given an Indian flag.

- Prachi Chandak, XII Commerce

JPIC *"Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation" is a movement of the Loreto Education Society throughout the world to reach out to the underprivileged section of the society.*

JPIC enjoys a position in the Eco-Soc Council at the UN where one of the Loreto Sisters represent the Loreto Schools all over the world. It is a universal club at Loreto House which takes every student and faculty member under its umbrella.

The future plans include a stationery distribution camp, food ATM and One Billion Rising. The food ATM will be carried out in association with the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre (KMWSC). Students of Classes VII and VIII will be involved in this project. They will be asked to get various food items which will be packed in boxes and given to the KMWSC who will distribute it among underprivileged children. The stationery distribution camp will involve the students of Class VI.

Several stationery items like pencils, books and pens will be collected and distributed to the children who cannot afford to buy these items. They also plan to participate in One Billion Rising which is a global campaign to end all forms of violence against women. The JPIC unit of Loreto House has been actively taking part in this movement for several years. Four students of class XI have also been selected as Mary Ward UN Youth Advocates under the Working Group of Girls' advocacy programme. - Dia Metharamani, XII Humanities



ACTIVITY CLUBS

BUSINESS CLUB

The Loreto House Business Club was formed to give a platform to students to pursue their interests in entrepreneurship and business. Membership is extended to



all students from classes IX to XII. The Club animators are Mrs. V. Joshi and Mrs. B. Mullick. The main objective is to orient students to the practical aspects of business management. It aims to enhance students' understanding of the topics of business management introduced in a classroom setting. The club was created in 2019 under the leadership and initiative of Sana Ganguly, with the responsibilities having been passed onto Soumita Banerjee (President); Vaibhavi Parekh (Vice-President); Aliza Israel (Treasurer) and Simran Nundy (Assistant Treasurer).

During the first meeting, the students were given an introduction to the objectives and agenda of the club for the year. In the next few meetings, practical activities were conducted which sparked a flow of creativity among the members. An industrial visit was planned which could not be conducted due to a few technical problems in the factory. Students who are involved in extracurricular activities in the Business Club demonstrate sound problem solving and conflict resolution skills. They learn time management techniques, work well in a team and develop organisational skills. They hope to see new faces next year in the business club.

- Soumita Banerjee, XII Commerce

POLEMICS CLUB

After a painful two years hiatus of all physical debates and MUNs due to the pandemic, the members felt blessed to have the opportunity to return to the offline mode and cherish the unforgettable and countless memories that they had made. Students from classes IX to XII represented the school and won various accolades as they held up the Loreto tradition and banner in the most graceful way. The year kicked start with the 22nd edition of the Jadavpur University MUN which witnessed the participation of many newcomers. The participants worked very hard for two days and put in commendable effort to bag prizes in their various committees.

This event was followed by yet another online event, the MUN hosted by La Martiniere, Kolkata. The committees were extremely challenging with exciting agendas. With XMUN (St. Xavier's MUN), they did their first offline MUN of the year. The committees were steered in such a way that it tested their diplomacy like never before. From Gandhi being ousted from the Indian National Congress to the Democrats and Republicans working together, they were indeed treading on highly uncertain grounds. The three days, however nerve wracking, were an opportunity to interact and work with the finest from the MUNing circuit. As they commenced the debate season, their first debate was the Reverend Cashmore Debate hosted by St. James School. They went up against a few of the most competitive schools with excellent debating teams. All the debates were held in the Cambridge format and after winning three rounds, they made it to the finals. They clinched the first position after defeating St. James School. After this successful debate, they performed fantastically at the highly renowned LN Birla Debate too. The preliminary round saw schools competing in the Oxford format. The motions were argued in unique ways with each school exploring various nuances and making it more meaningful. After immense screening and unbound effort by the participants, they were awarded the second place.

The next important event was the online edition of the Claude Martin Debates hosted by La Martinere Lucknow. The thirty-three contending schools from all over India were divided into four pools with two teams from each pool qualifying for the quarter final rounds. Loreto House made it to the finals where they went up against La Martiniere, Lucknow and settled for the second spot. This event helped them understand the diverse debating cultures of different states and pushed them to perform to the best of their abilities. The perfect way to end the eventful academic year was an invitation to the prestigious 25th edition of the Reverend Dr. Samuel Slater Memorial Invitational English Debates held from 16th to 21st October, 2022. Teesta Ray and Oishinee Majumdar of XII Humanities and Umika Panda of XI Humanities participated in the event.



The event was organised by the Bishop Cotton School, Shimla and a total of thirty-two schools from all over the country participated. The schools were divided into eight pools. Their pool comprised Auckland Girls' School, Shimla, La Martiniere College, Lucknow and La Martiniere for Girls', Calcutta. Each school engaged in a minimum of three debates in the preliminary round. The refined and sophisticated arguments and structuring put forth by other renowned schools helped them hone their skills and compelled them to give their best. They learnt from some of the best debaters all over the country. The participants shared a dormitory with sixteen other girls with their neighbours being members of a school in Kashmir. They learnt so much about their life, experiences and perspectives. They returned with memories that would remain with them throughout their lives.

- Akshita Mundra, XII Commerce

TREBLERS' *"A happy heart is one that sings".*

The Music Club of Loreto House has about two hundred and fifty members and four animators who, with their combined efforts and talents left the audience mesmerised whenever they perform. This academic year, the Music Club was very active. They organised the first ever Inter-Loreto Music Fest-"Octavia". Members of the Music Club also participated in "Crescendo", a competition organised by the Calcutta School of Music, Bosco Fest, Xuberance and many others. During meetings they work on improving the instrumentalists and vocalists. Every year the club tries to do its best by encouraging more people to showcase their musical talents. - Xara Menezes, XII Humanities



PICTURA The Pictura Club stands to enhance the creativity and artistic ability of the members of the club. Photography is a way for people to talk about their experiences and to explain a lot of



things without using words. A single picture can capture a thousand memories. Hence, in the Pictura Club, students learn the art of capturing memories. During the academic year, the club hosted a range of activities to inculcate and further nourish the art of photography. A few ex-members of the Pictura Club were invited to conduct a workshop to build the basics skills to delve into the intricacies of capturing a moment. A photo walk was also organised by the club animators to appreciate the ethnic and religious diversity of Kolkata. It was truly mesmerising and inspiring to watch the artisans work hard, giving rise to beautiful sculptures. The members hope that the rich legacy of the Pictura Club never diminishes and continues to flourish over the years to come. - Trisha Agarwal, XII Commerce

SPECTRUM Art and Craft Club artists are alchemists. They transform base material into objects of beauty, utility and delight. At Loreto House, the Art & Craft Club is a platform to

develop aesthetic values and enhance the creative skills and artistic talents of students. It allows for free expression from students who feel open to experimenting and creating from their imagination. They leave no stone unturned to maximise and bring out the dormant talents among the them. Students have unique ideas and powerful visions and need the space to work through their artistic expression on their own terms, without any objectives and boundaries. The animators help the students use their imaginations and build their confidence. They guide the students in making a variety of artwork using a wide range of things like paper, CDs, glass bottles and other recycled materials. They encourage members to showcase their knowledge and skill by letting them share

with the others a particular kind of artwork which a member might know. The practice of arts and crafts is a spiritual practice through which they honour the material world, and while they do that they develop a sense of beauty and generosity in their lives. - Hazel Osta, XII Humanities



GAMES CLUB *"Only losers are making excuses, winners are making history".*



The Games Club was created to help students hone their skills or develop new ones with sports. It encourages the students to indulge in sports to help them maintain their physical and mental health while inculcating the spirit of teamwork and sportsmanship.

The animators of the Games Club for the year 2022-2023 were Mrs. R Ghosh and Miss T. Chatterjee. The board comprises of Cynthia Xiao Ling Hou (President), Jennifer Rao (Vice President), and Navya Beria (Treasurer).

During Club meetings various games are played such as Basketball, Football, Cricket, Badminton, Throwball, Baseball, etc. - Cynthia Xiao Ling Hou, XII Commerce

NRITYAM

Nrityam boosts up the morale of students and highlights the talents of the dancers. The Dance Club provides opportunities to dance lovers to prove their talents and it is the best

platform for them to explore their creativity. Dance club has two sections- Eastern and Western. During the club meetings members portray their talents through different dance forms. Dance Club members organised and participated in the Inter-House Eastern Dance Competition and many of the members placed. Students who participated in other school events and competitions also brought laurels and prizes for the school.

- Aratrika Ghosh, XII Humanities(President); Syeda Aalima, XII Humanities (Vice President)



EUREKA

"Science is to see what everyone else has seen but think what no one else has thought"- Albert Szent-Gyorgyi



The academic year 2022-23 has been very productive for 'Eureka', the Science Club of Loreto House. On 16th July, four members of the club participated in the Model Making Competition 'Doofenshmirtz' organized by Don Bosco, Park Circus. Their topic was 'Conservation of Energy' and they made a model with three parts which focused on the conservation of energy in villages. It comprised an earthquake alarm detector system, a floating house to provide protection in times of natural disasters and a turbine. This model was based on the conversion of one form of energy to another, using easily accessible

items, making it cost effective. They placed third in the competition. On 17th and 18th November, the Middle Section of Loreto House along with Class IX participated in their Annual Day. The theme was 'Striving to Promote Sustainability' for which they constructed several functional and non-functional models. Every member of Eureka Club from classes VI-IX was a part of this exhibition. Some notable models were 'Rainbow in a Glass', 'Elephant Toothpaste', 'Solar Cooker', 'Drone Prototype' and 'Biogas Plant'. This enabled them to gain scientific knowledge by conducting experiments to enhance their practical experience. Overall, the Annual Day was a great learning experience for the members of 'Eureka'. - Asmita Mondal, XII Science

QUIZ CLUB

The Quiz Club offers a unique way to motivate, encourage and inspire students in their quest for knowledge and provides an opportunity to grow. The Club aims to instill in their

members the values of knowledge and wisdom. They hope for their members to learn about diverse subjects such as current affairs, science, history, literature, film, popular culture etc.

At their first Club meeting, the members were divided into four groups and these groups were responsible for coming up with questions and conducting quizzes in subsequent meetings. Over the academic year, Quiz Club members also participated in several Inter-School Fests and they placed third in the esteemed Bosco Quiz, 'Bamboozled'. The Club also organised the Inter-House Quiz Competition, 'Cognitio', this year, through which they aimed at providing a stimulating quizzing experience with several unique rules and rounds for the participants as well as the audience. It was fascinating to watch the participants figure out answers and the audience engagement was also extremely encouraging. They hope that students

continue on this quest for knowledge, both within and outside of academics, and that the Quiz Club continues to flourish and grow in the future. - Tessa Sharma, XII-Humanities



JPIC THROUGH THE YEAR...



MARY WARD IBVM UN YOUTH ADVOCACY PROGRAMME

This year, four students namely Srijoni Nandi (XI Humanities), Melika Agarwal (XI Commerce), Aparajita Banerjee (XI Commerce) and Umika Panda (XI Humanities) were selected as Mary Ward IBVM UN Youth Advocates in a year long training programme. The students have been given multiple online platforms and forums to work in association with the Working Group of Girls under United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW). Some of the events were as follows:

Girls Statement Writing: Melika Agarwal was part of the core committee of the Girls' Statement Writing group. She represented Asia and had to put forward the problems faced by girls in Asia faced with regard to gender inequality, inadequate education facilities and relative unaffordability of technology. The group put together a Girls Oral Statement that will be delivered by one of the core committee members during the Commission on the Status of Women in March.

Girls Caucus: Srijoni, Aparajita and Umika were part of the Girls Caucus events inclusive of the public caucus and the Advocacy Forum. The public caucus is responsible for reviewing the 'Zero draft' of the UNCSD prior to its release to ensure the perspective of Girls is adequately represented.

The Advocacy Forum interacts with the UNCSD member states regarding the provisions of the zero draft and the proposed edits. This has been a wonderful opportunity for the students to interact and collaborate with people from across the globe as they are exposed to different cultures, thought processes and ideas. The students have been under the guidance of Sister Janet Palafox, IBVM, representative of the United Nations as well as Mrs. S. Dey, JPIC national coordinator of India.

PARIVARTANA 2023 – Annual General Meet

Parivartana 2023, held on 1st, 2nd and 3rd of February was the 6th JPIC South Asia meet consisting of over 40 IBVM and CJ schools from India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Two students namely Manya Parekh (IX-i) and Tulip Banthia (IX-ii) attended this event, representing Loreto House.

On the first day, all schools presented their plan of action for the year and the official website was launched. The speeches given by the sisters were truly inspirational and the session conducted by KMWSC (Kolkata Mary Ward Social Service Centre) made them aware of the problems of society. On the second day, they were given time to prepare their street play inspired by the traditional theatre culture of Calcutta. Additionally, the photography workshop consisted of a guided tour in the neighbourhood.

On the last day they performed their plays or 'Nukkad Nataks' on the streets and the video presentations on the topics gender equality, water conservation and green campus were shown. The AGM ended with a closing ceremony by Loreto Elliot Road, leaving all of them grateful for the past three days. Water management has been declared as the goal for the next two years.

A part of the meet also featured in The Telegraph Kolkata published on 5th February, 2023 with the headline 'Students against child labour.' - Tulip Banthia, IX-ii



TELEGRAPH AWARDS

At the Telegraph School Awards, Loreto House received the Honour certificate for Excellence in Maintenance and Eco-Friendly Initiatives. Merit Certificate for Excellence in Social Service and the Honour certificate for Excellence in Extracurricular Activities.



INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Merit Certificate for Outstanding Talent	Teesta Ray
Honour Certificate for All-Round Excellence	Rohini Patra
Honour Certificate for Academic Excellence	Rashika Dhir
Honour certificate for Outstanding Talent in Sports	Swastika Patra and Tanuhka Ghosh
Honour Certificate for Outstanding Talent in Music	Anushka Dutta

SPECIAL HONOUR CATEGORY

Shining Star Honour (our support staff for excelling in singing).	Suhas Mondal
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A SPECIAL VISIT...

Ms. Rachel Morris is an alumna of Loreto House who graduated in the year 1953. On 23rd February, she paid a special visit to our school with her family and was warmly greeted by our principal, Mrs. Gomes. It was a moment of nostalgia and pride for Ms. Morris as she explored her beloved school all over again.





ACTIVITIES

NURSERY ORIENTATION & LOWER NURSERY ORIENTATION



Orientations were held for the parents of Nursery and Lower Nursery batches of 2022-2023. After a brief opening prayer, the Secretary of the Managing Committee, Sr. Agnes and our Principal, Mrs. A. Gomes addressed the parents and gave them valuable information about the foundress- Venerable Mary Ward, the Vision, Mission and Goals of the school, and the values they try to inculcate in Loreto students.

Mrs. E. La Porte and Ms. S. Rai, the respective Class teachers of Nursery 1 and Nursery II, conducted an activity with the parents to enlighten them about the Play Way method followed in Nursery. They explained the important school rules, too. Similarly, at the Lower Nursery Orientation, the Class Teacher, Mrs. D. Chazal, introduced the parents to the methods and regulations that would be followed. The parents' queries were answered. Both the orientations ended with a parents' prayer and the Loreto chorus.

EARTH DAY ASSEMBLY- Class V

Each year Earth Day is celebrated on April 22nd to protect the planet from pollution and deforestation. The children of Class V had organized a special assembly on Friday, 22nd April 2022 to celebrate the day. The assembly included a short introduction

followed by a skit named, "The Giving Tree." The moral of the story was, "The Earth still loves us even when we kill it with our greed." Environmental issues such as pollution, global warming, climate change, acid rain are posing serious threats to our mother earth.

The students were requested to act, on saving and conserving the natural resources in whichever way possible. Prayers were offered with a display of posters on saving Mother Earth. All the children proudly wore a white mask with a logo on saving Earth and requested all to sing along to the song "The Earth is my home.....". Ms. James concluded the assembly by giving the vote of thanks to all, including Sir Britto, Mrs. Faiyaz and Ms. D'Costa. Our Principal, Mrs. Gomes had requested the school to turn off the electricity for ten minutes, as a humble gesture of conserving power.





Crowning of Our Lady

The Crowning of Our Lady was held on 2nd May, 2022.



The Crowning of Our Lady was held on 2nd May, 2022. Our dear Mother was crowned and garlanded by the little children of our Rainbow Home. The Principal, Staff and Support Staff too offered floral tributes to honour our Mother and dedicate the month of May to her. The video of the Crowning was shared on 4th May, 2022 during the Assembly.

LOWER NURSERY INAUGURATION CEREMONY

The academic year 2022-2023 marks the introduction of Lower Nursery in Loreto House. The new Lower Nursery classroom was inaugurated on Saturday, 11th June, 2022 by Sr. Geraldine, the Secretary of the Managing Committee of



Loreto House. A prayer service was held and Fr. Michael, blessed the classroom. The space for this new extension of Loreto House was generously gifted by the Loreto House Community. Many of the Sisters were present to bless the little ones who will now enjoy the room which once held happy memories for the nuns. The Lower Nursery classroom which is situated beside the Concert Hall, is beautiful and spacious. It has been thoughtfully arranged with all the amenities that the tiny tots will require. Sr. Agnes, the former Secretary of the Managing Committee and Mrs. Gomes, the Principal, initiated, directed and accomplished this mammoth task. They prayed that their tiny three year olds enjoy their first year at school and have a fifteen-year-long, happy school life at Loreto House. May it be a place of joy, love, laughter and learning for the newest members of the Loreto Family.



Welcome Assembly for Sr. Geraldine

The new Secretary of the Managing Committee and Superior of Loreto House, Sr. Geraldine, was welcomed to the Loreto House family with a lovely prayer service presented by the students of Class V. The guest of honour, Sr. Geraldine and our Principal, Mrs. Gomes addressed the teachers and students as well.



Van Mahotsav – Special Assembly by Class IV



Van Mahotsav is celebrated from 1st to 7th July every year. It is a 'Forest Festival' held annually and is a one-week tree-planting festival. The students of Class IV presented an assembly for the students of the Junior Section, spreading awareness about the conservation of forests through enactments, song and prayer. The children prepared banners with meaningful slogans emphasizing the importance of conservation of forests.

Make your school a Happy Place – Special Assembly by Class III (ii)

A special assembly was presented by the children of Class III Section II for the Junior Section. The children thanked the Almighty for being 'Back To School' and asked for his blessings to keep the environment clean. They tried to remind their friends how they should behave and keep things in order at school through enactments, poems, banners and songs. They vowed to always keep the environment clean.



Van Mahotsav Events display

A few students from Classes II to V participated in St. Xavier's Collegiate School fest- VanMahotsav, on 22nd and 25th July. On 27th July, 2022 the participants performed for their school teachers and friends, in the big hall. They were thrilled with the opportunity to display their talents and all the members of the audience were left mesmerised with the performances.



Grandparents' Day Assembly. Class II. sec ii

A delightful blend of laughter, caring deeds, wonderful stories and boundless love - Our Beloved Grandparents. To commemorate the occasion of Grandparents' Day, the students of class II sec (II) presented a special assembly on 1st August, 2022. The special assembly commenced with a prayer service, wherein the students spoke about the most phenomenal qualities of their grandparents and their positive influence in their lives. Thereafter, they presented a short skit on the most loved attribute of their grandparents i. e. being the most astounding story tellers. To depict this attribute, the students presented a spectacular act on one of the most popular tales i. e Beauty and The Beast. Our grandparents are individuals with silver in the hair and gold in the heart, therefore they should always be considered the 'HEART OF THE FAMILY' and not just a part of the family.



Independence Day Special Assembly

The students and teachers of the Hindi department celebrated the 75th Independence Day of our country through Prayer and song. Our Principal gave a message to all the students of the Junior Section on this special occasion.

Teachers' Day Celebration 01.09.2022 and 02.09.2022

The Junior Section celebrated Teachers' Day over a span of two days. On 1st September, Lower Nursery 1, Nursery 1, KG and Class I displayed their love for their teachers through short but adorable performances. On 2nd September, Lower Nursery II, Nursery 2 and Classes II to V made all their teachers smile with their various events. The students' admiration for their teachers was very much evident in their performances. The children's enthusiasm and excitement knew no bounds since they were celebrating Teachers' Day offline, after two years of online programmes.



Show and Tell Activity

Show and Tell Activity was conducted by all the students of the Junior Section. Each carried a favourite item to school and spoke about it in front of her friends. It helped them to build their confidence and social skills.

Special Assembly-Gandhi Jayanti (30.09.2022)

The students of Class III Section I and Class V Section I (Hindi Department) presented an assembly dedicated to the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. The children prayed, enacted, recited, sang and beautifully brought out the life and teachings of Gandhiji through their assembly.



Diwali Special Assembly-Class III

Class III presented a special assembly on Diwali. The assembly started with a beautiful prayer dance and melodious singing. The story of Diwali celebration was beautifully told through a poem recitation. The children then had messages written on lovely cut-outs of Diyas to remind us of the importance of caring and sharing during Diwali. The assembly concluded with the singing of the hymn, "This Little Guiding Light of Mine".

Special Assembly- Nature is Our Greatest Teacher

On 3rd November the Bengali students of Class V prepared a special assembly on the topic "Nature is our Greatest Teacher". Every element of nature guides us and teaches us various qualities, making our life beautiful. There was an introduction followed by the recitation of a poem. The assembly concluded with a prayer and a beautiful hymn "Tumi Nirmolo Koro". All the Bengali girls of Class V participated in the assembly under the guidance of Mrs. Dass.



Special Assembly by Junior Section Teachers – An Act of Kindness

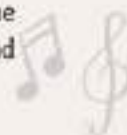


World Kindness Day was celebrated through a special assembly presented by the teachers of the Junior Section, on 15th November, 2022. The message of the importance of being kind to one another was conveyed to the children through a skit based on the poem, "Kindness is my Superpower" by Alicia Ortego.

Sing Along and English Elocution



Lower Nursery to Class V enjoyed two days of song and poetry, performed by the students of Section I on the first day and the students of Section II on the second day. Lower Nursery and Nursery began the event with their delightful rhymes. The rest of the audience reminisced about their days in pre-primary and cheerfully sang along. Next, the students of KG to Class V recited light-hearted poems. Each child expressing and enunciating with great sincerity and to the best of her ability.



Children's Day Celebrations – 11th and 14th November, 2022

The students of Lower Nursery to Class II celebrated Children's Day in school with special fun activities. They were dressed in their colourful best. A special surprise in the form of a Magic Show was organised for the little ones of KG to Class II which was enjoyed thoroughly by them. Once they returned to their classrooms, fun activities were conducted by their teachers for the children. Refreshments and balloons had been organised for the all the students. They left for home with happy faces.



Classes III to V celebrated Children's Day with a picnic. While Classes III and IV were taken to Fort William, Class V visited a play area called the Backyard. Fun and frolic, laughter and enjoyment were the highlights of the picnics. Buses were arranged to escort the children to and from the picnic spots. It was indeed a memorable day for the children!

Pet Show



The squawks and woofs of the pets and squeals of delight from the students filled the school from 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Participants from Classes III to 5 brought their 'fur-ever' friends for the Pet Show. Each introduced, spoke about her pet's unique characteristics and even displayed their pets' talents, with joy. A turtle, some kittens and cats, a few birds, many fish, a couple of rabbits and a variety of dogs made the morning most enjoyable and memorable.



Republic Day

On the 25th of January, 2023, the students of the Junior section along with their teachers celebrated the 74th year of Republic day. The programme began with a spectacular display of marching performed by the children of class V. Then the Bengali students of class V performed a dance to pay respect to our nation. The Bengali students spoke, enacted, recited prayers as well as sang beautiful patriotic songs which sounded very melodious. The Yoga display of the children of classes I to V was an added attraction. Special mention needs to be made of the little babies of Nursery and KG, who dressed as freedom fighters and made a formation of a lotus- the national flower of India. Children were guided by their teachers, Mrs. S. Mukherjee, Mrs. S. Dass, Mrs. S. Bagchi Ghosh and Mrs. R. Ghosh who took care in preparing the children to do their best. Our Coordinator, Ms. James constantly supported and guided the children during the practice sessions. The programme ended with singing The National Anthem. In the end, Mrs. A. Gomes, Our Principal, spoke encouraging words to the children appreciating them for their wonderful talents.



Junior Section Annual Day

Family Fiesta- 'You Raise Me Up'
(02.02.2023 and 03.02.2023)

The Junior Section Annual Day 2022-2023; was a two day fiesta dedicated to the Family. The theme - ' You Raise Me Up ' was chosen keeping in mind all the members of a family, each of whom in their own way, are part of the process of bringing up children.

Our little ones from Lower Nursery to Class I, put up two adorable and memorable shows on the first day. They stole the hearts of the audience with their sweet songs and poems. Their cute actions and enactments were a delight to watch and their peppy dance was full of life and joy.

On the second day classes II to V put up excellent shows with spectacular performances. A self composed poem in Hindi about families was recited with wonderful expressions. The Bengali, Hindi and English songs and medleys were sung with great emotion and sounded melodious and beautiful. The dances were packed with energy and had everyone swaying along in their seats. The senior most class of the Junior Section concluded the show on a perfect 'high' note, with a mixture of songs, dances and narration, beautifully bringing out the importance of each family member (including pets).



The teachers of the Junior Section did commendable work. They practised with the children regularly, in the midst of all other school activities. They were also responsible for the planning and organisation of the stunning decorations. Technical areas like background music, video and slide presentations were also handled by the teachers.

The audience cheered and applauded the children with great enthusiasm. Many family members were brought to tears by the various, heartwarming performances.



DOODLES



Vasudha Agarwal V-i



Udichi Mukherjee IV-i



Debdutta Paul KG-ii



Aarshia Dasgupta II-ii



Shanaya Samtani II-ii



Tanvi Chatterjee II-ii



Miraya Das II-ii



Inaaya Parveen II-ii



Subhangi Mondal II-i



Mysha II-ii



Kiara Shahid III-i



Namra Khan I-i



Myra Mulan Hsiao V-i



Adrija Singha Roy II-i



Anaya Dey I-ii



Snehangana Tasa KG-i



Aadhya LN-ii



Sharanya Dhar KG-i



Srinija Shah I-i



Mysha Saraf IV-i



Snigdha Dutta KG-ii



Audiya Chatterjee II-ii



Aaradhya Sarkar KG-ii



SCRIBBLES



Saanvi Shaw IV-i



Rebecca Payal Gomes IV-ii

My Beautiful City of Joy At Night

I open up my window during the wonderful night
To see my city of joy and light
At first nothing can be seen but darkness all around
It is so dark that only black and grey can be found.
Slowly all the lights come out one by one
And seeing them turn on is lots of fun
Up and down the street, the cars come to and fro
Watching them is so fascinating that they never let me
be bored.

At night people go for dinner with family and friends
For me it seems like the most common trend. During the
festivals with music and lights, the land seems a lot like
fairyland

And seeing people have fun together looks like they are
fairies dancing hand in hand

At that time nothing is called sorrow and darkness
It is so bright that there is only joy and happiness
It is so vibrant that instead of the night it looks like a day
And it's amazing that we are in dreamland with mind-
blowing music that is gay!

-Aarohi Bera Bhattacharjee, III-II

Katie the Brave

Katie The Brave Once upon a time lived a brave princess named Katie, she was 14 years old. Her father King Jack always use to find his daughter Katie but he always finds Katie in the woods training with her sword. One day her mother Queen Aerial made a dress for her but after Katie wore the dress a bear attacked the Kingdom Katie fought the bear the battle lasted for long and finally Katie won. The whole kingdom cheered for her and the next day they had a grand celebration and they all lived happily ever after. The end.

The moral of the story is - No opponent is greater than you if you have the courage to fight back.

- Grace Onyebi Nandos, II-I



Shreajita Naskar V-i

At Night

When I sat beside the window in the afternoon,
I could nearly see the bright moon.
In the evening when it is six o'clock,
All the lights are switched on, off, on, off.
The city becomes calm and dark,
And then the sky starts filling up with thousands
of stars.
Then the moon arrives, And I wonder how the
moon can show up on its light.
When it is 7:30,
Elders wear their best clothes and go to parties.
8 to 9 p.m. I watch television or play,
And when I have my dinner, I think about all the
things
Which I will do the next day.
When it is night, I go to bed, And then I quickly
wear my pajamas which are blue and red.
Then I switch off the lights,
And I say, "Goodbye bright night, see you
tomorrow night!"
- Rhyme Pradhan, III-ii

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve is the best,
I like it more than the rest.
I like Christmas Eve because,
That night comes the legendary Santa Claus.
We give him cookies to eat,
And milk to drink,
He wraps my brothers' gifts
In blue and mine in pink.
Sometimes we give him a carrot or two,
He likes to eat, just like me or you!
We decorate our Christmas tree,
With baubles and lights,
Sometimes, we stay awake
Throughout the night!
We celebrate Christmas with
A lot of joy and love,
On Christmas, I always see a dove!
-Samya Javeri, Class III-ii



Kavya Srivastava V-i

Deer

I am spotty, I am a deer,
I remove all my fears,
Those naughty, greedy tigers always eat
you, And make you into deer stew.
Giving your life to tigers,
Is very hard to take in the hearts of your
family members.
You have two horns,
And you look like a new born.
You are so fast,
That you disappear from view with one
flush, You are a herbivorous animal,
And a very good one in the animal kingdom
- Rhyme Pradhan, III-ii



Anushka Saha IV-i



Anvi Layek KG-ii

Winter Season

The winter came
 All the season went
 Leaves falling from the tree
 As cool as breeze
 Now the trees
 Lose their beauty
 Now it's time for their duty
 Now that cupboard has my warm clothes Now
 winter is close
 Now less house chores
 Water is cold, as cold as ice
 Now let me see the winter is on the way!
 - Soumosree Kundu, III-II



The New Beginnings

I love my school It makes me feel very happy
 and cool
 Whenever I enter, "Middleton Row" I feel like
 a 'kid in a candy store'
 First I went to nursery,
 And from Nisha Ma'am I learned to do no
 trickery
 Miss Samuel taught me in KG
 Helping me not to go crazy
 On a horrible day "Corona Virus" came
 We found lockdown, a new terrible name
 From then on started online classes
 And I thought I would have to need glasses
 I started to think that I would get very bored
 And my eyes would become very sore
 But then came Miss Devraj who taught me in
 class-1,
 And along with the things I had learned from
 her
 I had great fun Bagchi ma'am teaches me
 how to dance
 Like a flower nodding with lots of fragrances
 Sir Britto teaches how to sing
 And now I can spread my musical wings
 Mukherjee ma'am and Ghosh ma'am are
 adorable
 The things they teach me are as good as
 fables
 In online class-2 I got amazing Miss Haque,
 The Mommy Part-2 and Ma'am I love you!
 Finally, another new beginning came in 2022
 March 9
 I went to school which seemed like the best
 day of my life
 Now I have an extremely wonderful class
 teacher
 Miss Kohli I am enjoying my offline school
 cheerfully
 I am having lots of fun on joyous days
 Lord please don't take it away This is only
 what I pray.
 - Aarohi Bera Bhattacharjee, III-II



Samaira Vijay V-i

Welcome Night

I wait for the night since afternoon, Until I see
the beautiful moon.

Out of the window I see the streetlights,
Shining away in the dark and mysterious night.

Seeing the stars twinkling bright,

My mother comes to my room and switches
off the lights.

She hugs me and says "good night", And I say
bye-bye night.

- Dakshayani Jaiswal, III-ii



Toishce Putatunda V-ii

Books

When I open a book, you know I see? Million of
stories staring at me,

I flip through the pages, and to my surprise,
A fantasy unfolds in front of my eyes, Thousands of
creatures, both big and small. Bridges and houses,
short and tall,

Flowers and garden, dishes to cook.

Kings and Queens, a Duchess and Duke

Murder and crime, story and rhyme,

Thrillers and novel, epics sublime.

Fiction, fantasy, horror, adventure

Mystery, romance, myths and memoirs

Some are engrossing, others a bore

Some are exciting, and they make me want more

Heroes and villains, damsels in distress

Some are relaxing, others cause stress

Each a gateway to a different sphere

Wonderful, wonderlands from far and near,

These stories teach us so many things

Hope, love, peace and Good Cheer they bring.

—Rebecca Andrews, V-ii

My Grandma's Poem

Today is my granny's birthday!

Today we will sing, eat and play.

My darling granny is now 74,

I will buy candies for her from the candy store.

She will eat a mango cake

Which my mother will bake,

In the evening I will give her a music set,

I wished her in the morning without being late.

I will give her two separate cards,

I love her voice, she sings like a bird

She will enjoy her birthday with me

I will give her her favourite drink, which is tea.

-Mohul Choudhary III-ii

SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES

EARTH DAY ASSEMBLY

The members of Nature Club from Classes IX-XII organised a special assembly on the occasion of Earth Day on 22nd April. The assembly began with an introduction highlighting the love for nature that is deep-rooted and inherent. The members discussed the programmes adopted by the United Nations to live sustainably. It also focused on the hazardous impacts of climate change and some of the effective ways to combat it. The assembly was an informative and interesting one.

- Sharmila Bhattacharjee, XII Science

MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL ASSEMBLY

The members of CLC Club of Class XII organised a special assembly on the occasion of Mother's Day on 13th May, 2022. The assembly began with the hymn "You Raise Me Up". After quoting Abraham Lincoln's words "All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother", the students shared few beautiful facts about Mother's Day. After an informative video presentation, the students paid them a tribute through a song. A video was also presented by the Junior Section, where the students sang and wished their mothers to have a happy day.

- Cinderella Das, XII Commerce

LABOUR DAY

The students of class X organised the Labour Day special assembly which commenced with a short prayer service in keeping with the Loreto tradition. It included an enacted story and a beautiful prayer dance followed by an explanation on the significance of Labour Day. The students took this opportunity to extend their gratitude to all the members of the support staff for their dedicated service. This was displayed via a short entertainment programme for them which was the last act of the assembly.

- Prapti Banerjee X-ii



INDEPENDENCE DAY ASSEMBLY

On 12th August, 2022, the members of the Leadership Training Service club (LTS) organised the annual Independence Day special assembly entitled "A Changing India". It began with a prayer dance, and was followed by readings from the holy scriptures. The assembly also included a dance by Sriyani Nandi of XI Humanities to a beautiful poem recited by Arundhati Dasgupta of class 10-ii, along with readings and dances performed by the club members to honour the 76th Independence Day of India.

- Alesandra Anthony, XI Commerce



FAREWELL FOR WILLIAM DADA AND SWAPAN DADA

On 29th November, 2022 the students of class XI organised a special assembly for Swapan Dada and William Dada on their retirement. The assembly began with the lighting of the lamp and was followed by a short prayer dance. This was succeeded by the prayer service, readings from the holy scriptures and a hymn. The students then shared a presentation on the life and work of William Dada and Swapan Dada and presented them with a token of their appreciation.

Thereafter, Suhas Dada and Mrs. S. Dasgupta were invited to say a few words about Swapan Dada and William Dada, respectively.

- Pari Gupta, XI Commerce



Retirement of William Dada and Swapan Dada



DIWALI ASSEMBLY- class VII

A special assembly on Diwali was organised by the students of class VII on 21st October, 2022. The assembly consisted narration and prayers followed by song, dance and enactment to usher in the 'Festival of lights'. Diyas as symbols of light were given to the teachers as a token of appreciation. - Asmita Chatterjee, VII-I

CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY

Class VI presented an assembly based on the true meaning of Christmas. The assembly began with prayers and hymns followed by a skit and a dance. The assembly ended with a medley of traditional carols during which the surprise attraction was the entry of Santa Claus along with the reindeer and the elf. The assembly helped to usher in hope and positivity during the festive season. - Mrs. C Bralia



WELCOME ASSEMBLY FOR SR. POWLIN



A special assembly was organized on 13th January, 2023 to welcome Sr Powlin, our new Superior and Secretary of the school. The solemn prayer service commenced with the lighting of the prayer lamp invoking God's presence. Thereafter, there was a prayer dance followed by a reading from the Bible and intercessory prayers. The prayer service ended with a beautiful song to welcome Sister Powlin into our Loreto House family.





MARY WARD WEEK

From 23rd January to 30th January, 2023, Loreto House celebrated Mary Ward Week in remembrance of our foundress, the venerable Mary Ward. Each class presented a wonderful assembly based on her maxims and teachings. Class XI Science, Commerce and Humanities along with classes IX-i and IX-ii, delivered flawlessly. From the valuable information that was shared to the witty skits that were enacted, the students actively involved themselves in

propagating Mary Ward's teachings among their peers and teachers. Each class conducted one class activity to commemorate her life as everyone learnt a lot about Mary Ward.

- Srijoni Nandi, XI Humanities



NETAJI JAYANTI

"Give me blood and I will give you freedom." On 20th January, the students of class IX paid homage to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose for his outstanding valour, spirit and courage on his 126th birth anniversary. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was an Indian nationalist whose love for our motherland has left a mark in the hearts of many Indians. The students of class IX paid a tribute to the legend through readings from his early life and dances were performed on the songs- 'O amar Desher Mati', 'Subhas Ji' and 'Vande Mataram'. The assembly concluded with the song 'Kadam Kadam Barai Jaye'. The students pledged to fulfill Netaji's ideas, creating a strong India as committed individuals. - Debangana Mukherjee, IX-ii



EVENTS

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

The Investiture Ceremony for the academic year 2022-23, was held with great solemnity on 28th July, 2022. Each member of the student council, taking on the role of a leader, promised to fulfill their duties well and to uphold the Loreto flag. The occasion was attended by the proud parents of the elected Student Council members, where they were bestowed with responsibilities as they received their prestigious badges.



STUDENT COUNCIL ORIENTATION

On 18th August, 2022 an orientation for the members of Student Council for the academic year 2022-2023 was hosted by the animators of the student council. The session commenced with a prayer service which was followed by a workshop on leadership and team building. The interactive session thoroughly engaged. The workshop was incredibly insightful and enriching and all the students learnt a lot from it.

GEOGRAPHY EXCURSION TO GADIARA

On 15th October, 2022 the students of class 11 and 12 of the Geography department went on an agricultural survey trip to the Gadiara village - the meeting place of three rivers Damodar, Hoogly and Rupnarayana, and also known for its scenic beauty. All twenty-four students accompanied by Mrs. Dey and Mrs. Paul were received warmly on arrival by the WBTDC Roopmanjari staff, after which they were served delicious lunch. The students then proceeded with the survey and interviewed the locals, gathering information about their lifestyle and the problems faced by them. - Soumili Biswas, XI Humanities



RETREAT FOR CATHOLIC STUDENTS



On 28th and 29th October, 2022, Loreto House organised a retreat for all the Catholic students of Classes X-XII. This was an enriching experience and was quite different from the retreats the students had attended earlier. On the first day, the commendable Resource Team not only answered the questions that the students asked anonymously but also conducted sessions with action songs. They also addressed important topics like mental health and how it is "completely okay to not be okay."

Various topics on faith were also addressed and the belief of ASK- "Ask and you shall receive, Seek and you shall find, and knock and the door shall open" was also explained. On the second day, the resource team along with the teachers organised Confessions as well as Mass for the students, after which a few fun sessions were conducted. This Annual Retreat was truly a learning experience and the energy, positivity, incredible knowledge and fun-loving attitude of the Resource Team left the students wanting to learn more about their religion. - Xara Menezes, XII Humanities



RECOLLECTION

On 28th October 2022, a special recollection session was conducted by the Heartfulness team for students of Classes X to XII. The session lay emphasis on the power of thought, meditative yoga and ways to lead a balanced life. This was displayed through a series of live exercises and activities involving the students.

- Umika Panda, XI Humanities



CORPUS CHRISTI

A Solemn Corpus Christi procession on the Feast of Christ The King was organised by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Kolkata on 20th November, 2022. All catholic students from classes VI to XII along with the Catholic teachers reported at the St. Xavier's Collegiate School grounds by 2:30 pm. The procession began with a short introductory prayer in both English and Bengali followed by beautiful hymns. During the procession the rosary was recited several times along with hymns being sung at intervals. After an extremely memorable and enlightening procession through the streets of Kolkata, the crowd of worshippers returned to the St. Xaviers grounds where adoration of the holy sacrament took place.



This joyous occasion ended with the priest thanking all the participants of the procession for their presence. This procession truly benefited all those present to advance in their religious journey towards peace and hope through thanksgiving to Christ the King.

— Alysia Bindya Gomes, XI Science

ADVENT MASS 2022

On 3rd December, 2022, Loreto House celebrated their annual "Advent Day" mass for the commencement of the Advent season to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Saviour into this world. As it was close to the second Sunday of the Advent calendar, the mass had begun with the lighting of the second candle in the Advent wreath, the candle that represented peace. The mass was celebrated by Fr. Michael Biswas, the parish priest of St. Thomas' Church who touched everyone's hearts with his beautiful homily. The readings and the hymns were presented by the Catholic students from Classes VI to XII. The mass was then followed by the Nativity Play which was performed by the students of the Junior Section. The play beautifully portrayed the significance of the title "Our Hope in a Manger." - Alesandra Anthony, XI Commerce



HISTORY EXCURSION TO THE ALIPORE JAIL MUSEUM

On 27th January, 2023 the History Students of Class XI Humanities went to the Alipore Jail Museum for an excursion. The Museum was once a jail used by the British to imprison our Indian freedom fighters. The students began their trip by going to the Gallows where the prisoners were tried and hanged. Next they visited the cells of Netaji, Dr B. C. Roy, C. Das and J.M. Sengupta, and then of Jawaharlal Nehru. Each cell had exhibits with corresponding information on its history. Next the students looked at prison wards, other jails, the Watch Tower and then to the Exhibition hall where they watched a projection on the 1908 Maniktala Conspiracy.

Additionally, original prison records of the freedom fighters had been preserved and the students also admired the Art Gallery on 'Freedom and Awakening'. We would like to thank our Principal Mrs A. Gomes for this wonderful opportunity. We would also like to thank our History teacher Ms. M. Mushtaq for organising this excursion and Ms. Toppo for accompanying us on this trip. - Maria Gomes, XI Humanities



Republic Day Programme

On 26 January 2023, Loreto House celebrated India's 74th Republic Day with the theme of the programme being 'Educate to Empower'.

It commenced with the marching of the Neutrals, the Guides and the respective houses led by their captains. This was followed by the unfurling of the flag by the Head Girl as the school sang the national anthem and took the students pledge. Our Chief Guest for the day was Mrs. Kaveri Dutt who has been a part of the Loreto family since time immemorial.

The cultural programme included a short prayer dance by the students of the Literacy Centre which was followed by a recitation by three of their students. It also included enactments, poem recitations along with choreographed movements, dance performances and a song medley by the Music Club.

The programme was concluded by the Chief Guest's inspiring address. We would like to thank our Principal, Mrs. A. Gomes for giving us the opportunity to celebrate the day and pay our respect and homage to our nation. We would also like to thank our coordinators Mrs. Dhir and Mrs. Banerjee and our teachers Mrs. Mogrelia, Ms. T. Chatterjee, Ms. M. Chatterjee, Mrs. Singh and Mrs. Kaur for their guidance and support.

- Samaira Jain, IX-II



Leavers' Prayer Service

On 1st February, 2023, the Leavers' Prayer Service was held at Loreto House for the ISC batch of 2023. The prayer service was attended by all students of the Senior Section. After the prize distribution ceremony for classes X and XII, this solemn occasion began with the lighting of the prayer lamp followed by a short prayer service. Thereafter, the Student Council returned their badges and were honoured for their commendable service as office bearers. The event was marked with sadness as well as gratitude for the values learned and memories made. - Alysia Bindya Gomes, XI Science



Farewell Social

Dil Chahta Hai



The farewell for the ISC batch of 2022-23 was held on 1st February, 2023. It began with the preliminary round for the 'Miss Loreto' pageant.

The students were given an hour to prepare themselves for the farewell after which they were welcomed into the Big Hall, where a surprise cake cutting ceremony took place. This was followed by the announcement of the twelve finalists for 'Miss Loreto' who were then questioned by the judges, the Principal, Mrs A. Comes, the Senior Section Co-ordinator, Mrs Dhir and Ms. S. Paul. This was followed by an entertainment segment which included enactments, dances, medley and a band performance organized by the students of class XI.

Following this, the results of the pageant - Miss Loreto, First Runners' Up and Second Runners' Up were announced.

The programme was concluded by a surprise flash mob dance performance by the students of class 11 as the food boxes were distributed.

This was a wonderful opportunity for the students of class XI to bid farewell to their seniors!

— Alysia Bindia Comes, XI Science



TEACHERS' DAY PERFORMANCES



"Cinderella's Mice & Snow White's Dwarves" by the Class 6s



"The Math Musical" by the Class 7s



"Be Our Guest" by the Class 8s



"Good To Be Bad" by the Class 9s



"Fashion Fumble" by the Class 10s



"Retro Rewind" by the Class 11s

"The Skit" by the Class 11s & 12s

"Tales of Wonderland" by the Class 12s

11s & 12s CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS



INTER SCHOOL EVENTS

CONCORD FEST

Loreto House participated in the Concord Fest which was a three day event that commenced on 29th June, hosted by The Calcutta Boys School. It was the first offline fest after two years of the pandemic for the students of classes IX-XII. It consisted of twenty-five events in total. Loreto House secured the third position in the acoustic event and second in debate, basketball and model making. The students thoroughly enjoyed this experience. - Naomi Alice Pinto, XII Science



SLATERS

Teesta Ray and Olshinee Majumdar of XII Humanities and Umika Panda of XI Humanities participated in the 25th edition of the Reverend Dr. Samuel Slater Memorial Invitational English Debates held from 16th to 21st October, 2022. Organised by the Bishop Cotton School, Shimla, a total of thirty-two schools from all over the country participated. The schools were divided into eight pools. Loreto House's pool comprised Auckland Girls' School, Shimla, La Martiniere College, Lucknow and La Martiniere for Girls' Calcutta. Each school engaged in a minimum of three debates at the preliminary round. The team was accompanied by Mrs. F. Mogrelia whose mentorship and encouragement enabled the students to participate to the best of their abilities.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Gomes for allowing us to avail this opportunity. We cannot thank our Polimics Club animators, Mrs. Mogrelia and Mrs. L. Ward enough for always encouraging us in our endeavours. It was a wonderful learning experience and one the team will cherish forever. - Umika Panda, XI Humanities



DISCREPTATIO



Discreptatio was a **parliamentary style debate** held on 19th October at Loreto Dharamtala. Loreto House was represented by participants, **Prapti Banerjee** and **Advaita Rebecca Sengupta**, taking part in two separate rounds as Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Government Whip respectively. The motions for the two rounds were of **critical significance in the context of world affairs** and they were debated at length by the participants.

The motions were as follows:

- 1) This house believes in using force to make peace.
- 2) This house believes in sacrificing economic growth for the good of the environment.

The event was a **great learning experience** where the participants explored the Asian Parliamentary form of debating. Everyone **left with a glimpse of the vast and diverse viewpoints**. The awards were distributed at the end where Prapti Banerjee won the award for **Best Speaker** in the first round, along with a participant from the host school and Advaita Rebecca Sengupta was awarded the **Second Best Speaker** for the second round. Overall, the entire debate was wonderfully organised and was enjoyed by all. - Prapti Banerjee, X-I





INTER LORETO RELAY

The Inter Loreto Relay was held on 26th November, 2022 at Loreto Convent Entally. Four students namely, Naisha Agarwal (XI Science), Yasna Buchia (XI Humanities), Hazel Chen (IX-I) and Euiven Chen (VII) participated in the relay and secured the third position. - Naisha Agarwal, XI-Science

BOSCO FEST



The Bosco Fest 2022, held on 16th July comprised twenty different events. The theme for this year was web series and TV shows. Each event was designed in a unique way such that it explored our knowledge of web series and television shows as well as utilised our creative side. Not only were there sports events like table tennis and chess but also events like news spoofing, script writing and model making.

Students from Classes IX to XII participated in various events. The teachers-in-charge for this fest were Mrs. J. Ghosh and Ms. M. Mushtaq. Two students of Class XII, Pahal Gambhir and Sharmila Bhattacharjee were appointed as the representatives of Loreto House. It was wonderful to see that although the participants belonged to different classes, they worked together to ensure that everyone put their best foot forward. It was an honour to be a part of this offline inter school fest after a hiatus of two years. Our school placed in nine events and was extremely glad to be the recipient of the prestigious 'Best School' award.

- Sharmila Bhattacharjee, XII Science



LA CORPORA BUSINESS FEST



On 2nd October, the students attended La Corpora – a business fest organised by La Martiniere for Boys. It was held over a day consisting of six events, each revolving around different aspects of corporate culture. It started with an opening ceremony with the felicitation of the Chief Guest who with his wise words gave the students a new perspective on today's business world. A few events like La Negotia, La Corpa Boot and La Auctum lasted the entire day. La Negotia, a management event, enabled the participants to test their administration and cooperation skills as future managers and La Corpa Boot, a stock event, gave all the budding traders a first hand experience of how the stock markets work. We secured second position in La Justicia (Moot Court), a corporate law event, where the participants got a peek into real world cases and financial frauds. The fest was very insightful and enriching and the various events exposed the students to the "outside the textbook" commercial world. - Mahi Vasa, XI Commerce



This year, Loreto House had the opportunity and honour to host its very first Inter-Loreto Music fest. Students from all Loreto schools across Calcutta, arrived at the school premises on the morning of 6th August, 2022. The music club had been preparing for this event for months and the air was filled with excitement. The day began with a prayer service and a wonderful rendition of "Welcome To The Family" to make our guests feel at home. The Loreto House musical team sang a beautiful medley of some classic songs such as 'Top of The World', 'Jailhouse Rock', 'I Saw Her Standing There', and 'Crazy Little Thing Called Love' which received a lot of applause.

Mr. Greig Francis, Ms. Vanessa Pereira, and Ms. Tittli Chatterjee were gracious enough to judge the competition. The music club animators, Mrs. S. Dass and Mr. Britto delivered a short speech and declared Octavia 2022 open. The competition emceed by Xara Menezes and Emun Aman from XII Humanities, was divided into solo and group performances and the students excelled in both categories leaving everyone in awe.

After the performances, a short break was given in which food packets were distributed to everyone. Once all gathered in the hall the Loreto schools along with their teachers came together to sing 'Heal The World', appropriately termed the "musical ménage". The judges and the music teachers performed together on stage and it felt more like a Beatles concert than school! A beautiful morning was spent at Loreto House as the air was abuzz with music, harmony and splendor. The event was truly a wondrous display of talent, bound together by true Loreto spirit.

- Simar Kaur, XII Commerce & Jahnvi Chakravarti, XII Humanities



X-UBERANCE FEST

One of the most awaited fests of the year, X-Uberance was held from the 14th to 16th October, 2022. Eighty six students from classes IX and XI participated. They were faced with the daunting challenge of preparing themselves in just two days. Yet Loreto House secured the first position in X-Gaana (Antakshari) and X-Act (Ad-Spoof); second in X-Splash (sketching and spray painting) and X-Code (Hackathon) and third in X-Hunt (Treasure Hunt). These events helped the participants gain knowledge and experience as well as explore beyond their comfort zones. Above all it taught them how to learn, work and win as a team. - Alysia Bindya Gomes, XI-Science



MITR FEST

Twelve students from Classes IV and V formed the teams which participated in Mitr, the Inter-school fest organised by Modern High School for Girls on 14th December, 2022. It was a day of fun, frolick, friendship and learning as the girls spent the morning competing in various interesting and fun-filled events which focused on specific skills and required no prior preparation. The children were quick to complete their given tasks and spent the rest of the morning making new friends and enjoying the winter morning sun on the immense MHS playground. The beautiful morning ended on a note of celebration as the 'Mitr Tales' team won the first prize for their story 'The Ugly Crow'. All the girls participated in the true spirit of competition and created beautiful memories.



AGGS RELAY

On 18th November, 2022 four girls from Loreto House, namely, Tisha Dakalia (X-II), Tanushka Ghosh (X-I), Rashi Menon (XII Commerce) and Xara Menezes (XII Humanities) participated in the 4x100 metre Baton Relay Event, hosted by Assembly of God Church School during the course of their sports day. The day began with the March Past and a display of their school band. After this, the relay event was conducted where the students competed against five schools and secured the third position. This was the first relay race event since the pandemic and the students thoroughly enjoyed the practices and the event itself. - Xara Menezes, XII Humanities



IGNITE

Ignite is a fun fiesta completely organised by students of the Leadership Training Service (LTS) club. Seven girls of Loreto house were a part of the organising committee of the 12th edition of Ignite. Each had a specific role in the organisation. They were as follows:

Dhriti Manek (XI Humanities), Rishika Choudhury (XII Science), Nina Xie (XII Science), Mantasha Subhani (XI Humanities), Gayatri Arora (XI Humanities), Nehal Agarwal (XI Commerce) and Baraka Firdausi (XI Commerce).

The event was conducted over a span of 2 days on 27th and 28th December 2022 from 8 am to 8 pm. The students were introduced to the scientific methods of organising an event including brainstorming, shortlisting, and finalising as well as the three stages of planning - pre-event, event and post event.

Children from the 'Nav Jeevan' home attended the event filled with food stalls, games and entertainment. Overall, it was a very enriching experience where the students learnt the skill of teamwork and time management. - Dhriti Manek, XI Humanities



GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Kritika Tantia (IX-i) and Ananya Parakkal (VIII-ii) participated in the 18th Inter School Golf Championship which was held from 25th to 27th October, 2022 at Tollygunge Club and secured 6th position in the above 13 girls category representing Loreto House. - Kritika Tantia, IX-i



INTER SCHOOL SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP

Serene Lydia S. of class IX-ii participated in the National Shooting Championship held in Trivandrum in November, 2022. She subsequently qualified for the Indian Team selection trials in the Sub-Youth, Youth and Junior Categories.

Serene Lydia S. also participated in the All India Kumar Surendra Singh (AIKSS) National Interschool Shooting Championship as a part of the West Bengal team and secured the first position.



INTER SCHOOL RELAY COMPETITION

The Inter School Relay Competition, organised by the Indus Valley World School, was held on 11th December, 2022 at the Gitanjali Stadium. The Senior Relay team comprising Rashi Menon (XII Commerce), Xara Menezes (XII Humanities), Naisha Agarwal (XI Science) and Hazel Chen (IX-i) secured the third position in the relay.



INTRA SCHOOL EVENTS



INTER-HOUSE ART COMPETITION

On 12th July, 2022, the Spectrum and KLIMA Club hosted an Inter-House Art Competition. The competition was held from 8:05 a.m to 9:25 a.m for Classes VI to VIII. It was an enriching experience for all the students from the different houses who participated in events like Card Making, Gift-Bag Making and Rangoli Making. The themes for card making and rangoli were Teachers' Day and Festivals. The competition went on for eighty minutes as each participant brought their creative ideas to life. The judges for the respective competitions were Mrs. R. Banerjee and Ms. S. Rego, Mrs. S. Faiyaz and Ms. J. James, Mrs. Dhir and Mrs. Bose. Under the guidance of Ms. S. Paul, Mrs. S. Bhattacharjee and Mrs. S. Mallick as well as the able leadership of Hazel Osta, Dyuti Gupta and Meha Gupta, the event was a success.

- Hazel Osta, XII Humanities

POSITION	HOUSE
First	KELLER
Second	KENNEDY
Third	NAIDU

Inter-house ART

POSITION	HOUSE
First	TAGORE
Second	KELLER
Third	KENNEDY

Inter-house DEBATE

INTER-HOUSE DEBATE

After two years of conducting this event online, the Polemics club was proud to host the offline edition of the Inter-house Debate on 19th and 20th July. The preliminary round was held in the classic Oxford style format with twelve participants debating the motion, "Traditional classroom teaching no longer addresses the needs of contemporary society", in which Teesta Ray (XII Humanities) and Umika Panda (XI Humanities) tied for first position and Melika Agarwal (XI Commerce) placed second. The final round was a Cambridge style debate on the motion "Students should be taught how to win at life rather than values in a classroom", in which Umika Panda and Teesta Ray placed first and second respectively. The preliminary round was judged by Mrs. Dhir, Mrs. S. Bhattacharjee and Mrs. Faiyaz, the moderator was our ex-student Rohini Patra. The final round was judged by Mrs. K. Dutt and Ms. S. Pillai, and was moderated by our ex-student, Ananya Chatterjee. The entire debate was wonderfully organised and enjoyed by all. -



INTER-HOUSE VERNACULAR ELOCUTION

The Inter-House Vernacular Elocution took place on 16th July, 2022. Participants from classes 6-8 represented their respective houses and recited poems in Bengali and Hindi. The programme started with a prayer service in the morning consisting of a prayer song and dance. Consequently, the Hindi elocution began with 6 participants representing each



POSITION	HOUSE
First	NAIDU
Second	KELLER
Third	TAGORE

Inter-House Vernacular (HINDI)

POSITION	HOUSE
First	MARY WARD
Second	KELLER
Third	TAGORE

Inter-House Vernacular (BENGALI)



house. This was followed by the Bengali elocution which proceeded similarly. It was a day filled with culture and learning and is one that will be treasured in our hearts and minds. - Kritika Mukherjee, VII-ii

KOLKATA MARY WARD SOCIAL CENTRE SEMINAR

On 28th September, 2022, the students from Classes IX to XII attended a seminar conducted by the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Service Centre. The KMWSC is presently running several projects in

various thematic areas of education, women and child protection, community development, skill development, and capacity building. The session was conducted by Nabanita Shome who led the program- "Protection and prevention", along with Sanjay Bhaxa, who enlightened the students on the issue of protection of child rights. The seminar was extremely informative as it elaborated on the different operations and workshops executed by the KMWSC. The students were also informed about the different rights that they have as children and about the dangers of different platforms like social media. The KMWSC has done an excellent job in helping those in need and their seminar inspired the students to initiate change. - Alesandra Anthony, XI Commerce

NRITYANJALI

Nrityanjali, the Inter-House Solo and Group Eastern Dance Competition was held on 29th September. The six houses had received the topic and instructions just a day prior and prepared themselves within a matter of hours. Each house had a team as well as a solo dancer representing them. The theme of the competition was "Durga Puja" or "Festivals". Even with the immense pressure that the participants felt while creating their dances, they did justice to their pieces and won the hearts of everyone who watched them.



POSITION	HOUSE
First	GANDHI
Second	KELLER
Third	MARY WARD

Inter House Dance (group)





The solo competition saw Srijoni Nandi of Tagore House, Sumbhawi Karji of Mary Ward House and Baidurja Chatterjee of Gandhi House placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd respectively. In the group dance event, Mary Ward house placed third, Keller House placed second and Gandhi House placed first. The entire competition was a huge success and all the participants enjoyed thoroughly. Overall, it was an absolute delight and everyone is only too eager to participate again next year. - Srijoni Nandi, XI Humanities

POSITION	HOUSE	PARTICIPANTS
First	TAGORE	Srijoni Nandi
Second	MARY WARD	Sumbhawi Karji
Third	GANDHI	Baidurja Chatterjee

Inter House Dance (solo)



INTER-HOUSE QUIZ COMPETITION

On 2nd November 2022, students of classes X-XII participated in the Inter House Quiz Competition "Cognitio". The competition was supervised by the Quiz Club animators, Mrs. Dhir and Mrs. Rakshit. Two students of Class XII, Tessa Sharma and Vidhishree Agarwal, constructed the questions and moderated the event. Each house was allowed a team of three participants who were given thirty seconds to answer each question. The questions, ranging from several topics such as current affairs, pop culture, literature and science were conducted over a span of six rounds — the Rapid Fire Round, two General Rounds, two Audio-Visual Rounds and the "Who Am I?" Round.

The participants had to think on their feet to answer the questions and they put forth their best efforts to do so. The audience remained interactive throughout the event and even answered a few questions which left the participants stumped. Mrs. J Ghosh, along with two students tabulated the scores and the event ended as the final results were declared. Naidu House stood third, Kennedy House came second and Tagore House bagged the first position. Finally, Mrs. Dhir addressed the audience, congratulating the winners. - Tessa Sharma, XII Humanities



POSITION	HOUSE
First	TAGORE
Second	KENNEDY
Third	NAIDU

Inter House Quiz



GUIDES OVERNIGHT CAMP

On 7th November, a guides camp was organized for students from classes VII to XII. There was an investiture ceremony where all the new guides were enrolled. In the evening, the DC of Bharat Scouts and Guides of the District visited Loreto House and taught a class on estimation. At night, a campfire was lit and the students enjoyed organizing a small performance with a valuable lesson. Next day they started with BP's six exercises and then the students of class VII attended a session on Pravesh and Pratham Sopan. Classes VIII-XII learnt how to use alphabets in the form of symbols and how to use a compass. After a short session of games and entertainment, the flag was brought down and the camp officially ended. Overall, it was a great learning experience and it taught the students many valuable lessons which will help them become better people.

- Tithi Mukherjee, XI Humanities



MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNUAL DAY 2022

On 17th and 18th November 2022, Loreto House celebrated its "Annual Day" for the year 2022. This year's theme was "Striving Together to promote Sustainability." The event was a two day exhibition held by the students of Classes VI, VII, VIII, and IX who designed their own creative models from recycled items, complying with the theme of sustainability. The students were assigned to work on sustainable models for different subjects. The opening ceremony began with a special prayer dance followed by a prayer and a warm welcome to the honoured chief guests. Shortly after the inauguration, the guests were taken to all the display venues. On the second day, parents and students from different schools visited the exhibition. In conclusion, the Annual Day was a huge success and helped Loreto House take little steps towards protecting the earth and environment.

- Alesandra Anthony, XI Commerce



CISCE REGIONALS

Every year the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) hosts their regional sports and games competitions. Loreto House participated in several events this year including Basketball, Swimming, Badminton, Table-Tennis, Karate, Rifle-Shooting and Throwball.

In **Basketball**, organised by Loreto Convent Entally, the students participated in all three age categories (under 14, under 17 and under 19). Our school secured the **first position** in the under 19 category against the Heritage School in the finals. The team consisted of Rashi Menon (Captain), Spursh Sharma, Cynthia Hou, Naisha Agarwal, Yasna Buchia, Surveen Kaur Kohli, Pari Gupta, Samridhi Jain, Kritika Tania, Vanshika Modi, Adwita Bubna and Dhvani Chandak. The team could not have achieved this feat without their coach, Mr. Suhas Bhattacharjee's constant guidance.

In **swimming**, organised by Douglas Memorial School Barrackpore, four students, namely, Jennifer Rao, Swastika Patra, Akshita Maitra and Sanasha Gupta participated where Swastika secured the **first place** in her category and Sanasha secured the **third place** in hers.

In **Badminton**, (organised by the South City International School), Loreto House took part in the under 17 and under 19 category. Naisha Agarwal and Yasna Buchia, representing Loreto House in the under 19 category, placed **third overall**.



In **Table-Tennis**, (organised by Sri Sri Academy Chetla), Tithi Mukherjee, Sohini Mitra, Kritika Tania, Yashvi Manek, Prishita Mukhia and Aishwarya Bhowmick participated in their respective age categories.

In **Karate**, (organised by P.B. Academic School Tollygunge), our student, Tanushka Ghosh of class X secured the **first place** in her category giving an extraordinary performance.

In **Rifle-Shooting**, (organised by the Heritage School), Syrene Lydia S. of class IX secured the **second position**.



In **Throwball**, (organised by Julien Day Howrah), the students took part in the under 19 category securing the **second position**. They lost in the finals by a very close margin. The team comprised Medha Veronica Thakur, Cynthia Hou, Esther Pang, Spursh Sharma, Naisha Agarwal, Yasna Buchia, Samar Fatima, Tanushka Ghosh, Tisha Dakalia and Aayushi.

Each girl that participated in the events gave their best and made the school extremely proud. It was a wonderful experience for all participants. - Naisha Agarwal, XI Science



CISCE NATIONALS

From 2nd to 5th November, a few students namely, Rashi Menon, Cynthia Hou, Naisha Agarwal, Yasna Buchia and Samriddhi Jain in the under 19 category, Adhya Agrawal, and Versha Singh in the under 17 category and Dhruvika Das in the under 14 category were selected to represent West Bengal and North East region in the CISCE National Basketball Tournament. The tournament was held in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu. It was a highly competitive tournament with teams from different states. The under 19 West Bengal team qualified till the quarter finals but lost against Tamil Nadu. The under 14 team lost in the league matches although they performed really well. However, the under 17 team impressed everyone with their spectacular performance. They qualified to the finals against Maharashtra. Although, it was an extremely close match with both teams giving it their best, West Bengal secured the Runners Up position and Maharashtra emerged as the champions. The Under 17 team excelled during the course of their matches and deserve a special commendation. The lessons learnt, memories created and friendships developed in this four day trip is something all the students will treasure and cherish for the rest of their lives.

- Rashi Menon, XII Commerce



Tuticorin



Pune

Four students from Loreto House namely Spursh Sharma, Cynthia Hou, Naisha Agarwal and Tisha Dakalia were selected for the Under-17 Throwball Nationals. The tournament took place in Pune from 8th to 10th November.

The students had the golden opportunity to represent West Bengal and the North-East. The team reached the semi-finals and it was the first time our state had reached the semis. The three day event was a high voltage experience as the teams presented a spirited performance with mighty throws, intelligent drops and match turning serves.

Cynthia Hou from our school was selected for the Indian Throwball team which was a very proud moment for Loreto House.

- Spursh Sharma, XII Science



SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS



Cynthia Xiao Ling Hou of class XII Commerce participated in "WORLD THROWBALL CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP 2022" from 15th to 17th December 2022 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and had secured 1st position.

SENIOR BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP (EAST ZONAL AND NATIONAL)

From 14th to 17th October, 2022 Miss T. Chatterjee participated in the Senior East Zonal Basketball Championship and her team secured the third position. This time the aim was to win. However, when Ma'am's team reached Patna they discovered that their first match was against the team from Uttar Pradesh who were the champions of the previous year. They took that as a positive challenge.

It was a nail biting match and both the teams were focused on a single goal, playing their best possible game. Miss Chatterjee's team won that match by just two points. This match gave them the confidence which Ma'am believes later helped her team become the new Champions.

This led to the team qualifying for the Senior National Basketball Championship 2022 which is always a surreal feeling, as they now got to play against the players who represented India. Therefore, qualifying for Nationals was a great moment for the entire team. Out of sixteen teams present, Miss Chattejee's team was selected as one of the top eight teams in the Nationals. Thus, they also qualified for the National Games and the Federation Cup which is scheduled to be held in 2023. Overall, it was all an amazing experience where most importantly Ma'am and her team got to learn a lot and improve their game.



I am extremely grateful to our Principal, Mrs. A. Gomes, who supported me and gave me the permission to take leave during those days, to all my colleagues who were my backbone and my students who were as excited as me. It was a moment of great pride and gratitude to be part of Loreto House and be recognised as family. When I write this it comes from the deepest space of my heart that along with Basketball being a part of the Loreto Family is a dream come true. - Ms. T. Chatterjee



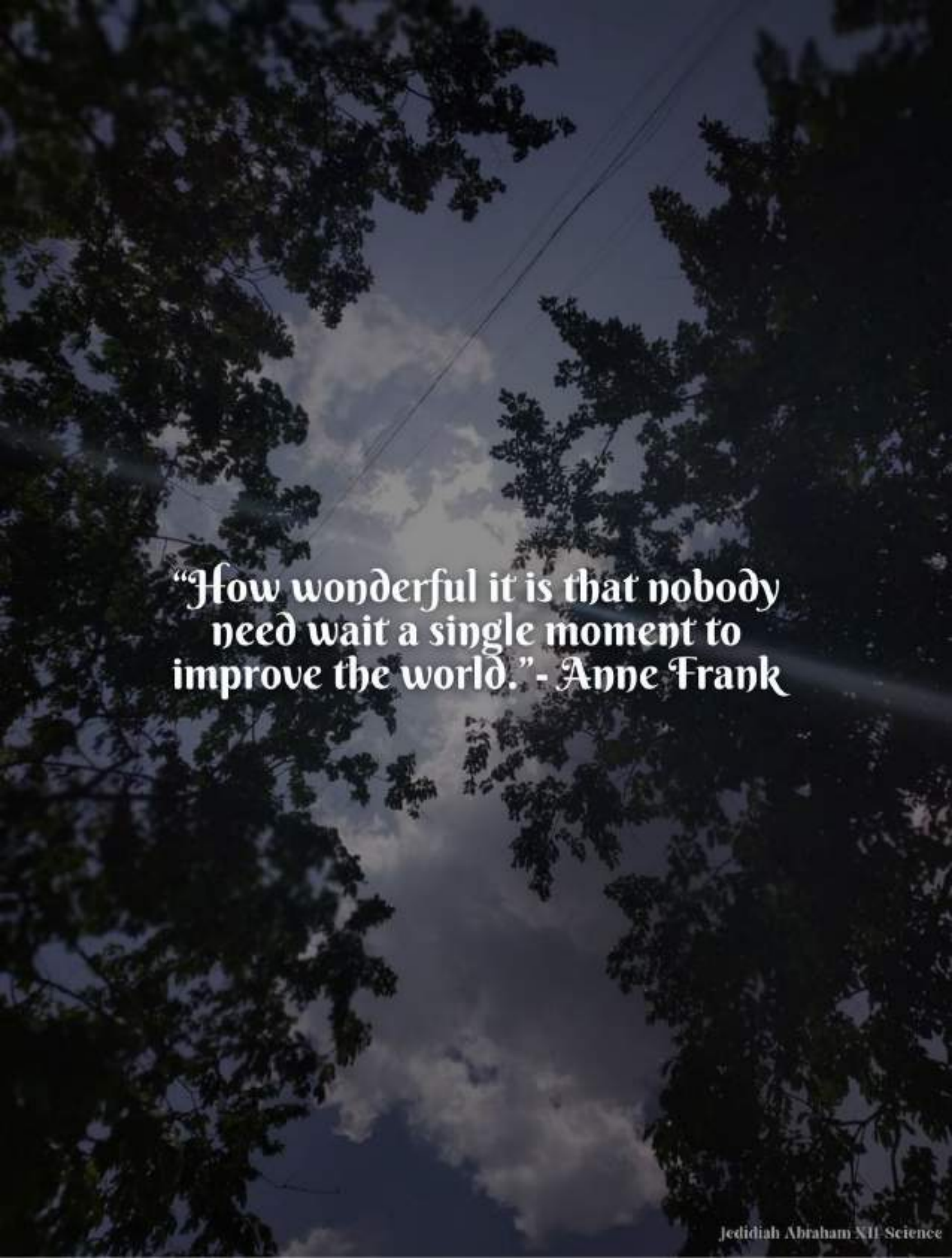
PLAYGROUND MURAL



During the summer holidays in 2022, seven students from class XII namely, Meha Gupta, Spursh Sharma, Drishti Gupta, Kanza Shamim, Tiyaasha Das, Hazel Osta and Simran Bhowmick and one student from class X, Shania Alexander painted the wall of the Nursery playground along with the art teacher, Mrs. D. Dey. All the materials were provided by the school and the students used acrylic paints as the medium. They took about a month to complete the painting. It was a wonderful experience as the students walk past the final creation each day in the playground.

— Mrs. D. Dey and Pari Gupta, XI Commerce





**“How wonderful it is that nobody
need wait a single moment to
improve the world.” - Anne Frank**

SOCIAL SERVICE



PANIGHATA SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMME

On 8th November, eleven students accompanied by teachers, Mrs. Rakshit and Mrs. Lazarus, were given the opportunity to visit Loreto School Panighatta for a social service project. The students reached Loreto School Panighatta on the morning of 9th November and were warmly welcomed by the Principal, staff and students with prayer, song and dance. The arrangements made by them were most comfortable and much more than what they had expected and made the students feel like they were at home. The students had the opportunity to interact with and teach the children during the day. They also visited the Belgachi Tea Estate, factory and the river site. They were mesmerised by the beauty of the foothills and impressed as they witnessed the hard work that goes into making even one bag of tea. The following day our students conducted morning assembly for Loreto Panighatta. During the day, they taught the children English, Mathematics and a few rhymes. They also played some games with them. The children were enthusiastic and eager to learn and interact with our students. It was heartwarming to see the smiles on their faces and to hear their laughter in the corridors. After the classes ended, the students were delighted to see the jute handicrafts made by the rainbow children and presented by the Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Center. The next day our girls bid farewell to Loreto Panighatta. They were now so attached to the children there that they were reluctant to leave. Although the trip was short, the students were able to make memories that will last them a lifetime.



The children at Panighata, their lifestyles and struggles have taught our students to acknowledge all that they already have in their lives. That is the foundation for all abundance. Money and wealth do not speak of your worth and state in life. It is our perspective towards life that determines our worth and happiness.

- Vidhishree Agarwal, XII Commerce

RAINBOW CHRISTMAS PARTY

On 9th December, 2022, the Big Hall of Loreto House School resounded with peals of laughter, peppy songs and Christmas carols. The clock struck quarter to one and all the children of class IX waited with bated breath to welcome their friends from the Rainbow home. The Rainbow party started with a short prayer service followed by a welcome dance to the Bollywood song, "Taare Zameen Par". The girls then embezzled the stage with their acting in a Bengali play called "The Brinjal Thief." Though the students did very well on their own, the show was stolen by our dear old Santa Claus as he appeared as if conjured out of thin air and brought a smile on the faces of the children through his magical bag filled with goodies. The children were also handed over little tokens of love and appreciation by the girls and the day ended on a merry note with everyone joining in on the song and wishing each other "Merry Christmas". The students ended the day with sweet goodbyes and promises to meet again next year.



MENTAID

"Mentaid" is a social service program organized for students to interact with specially abled children. It was one of the most wholesome experiences for the students of class X. The programme was held on 9th December for forty-four children from Mentaid and Manovikas Kendra. After much practice, the students prepared a special programme for these children which began with a prayer service followed by an entertainment segment and Carol singing. The children were extremely warm, sweet and eager to interact.



During the programme, there was a feeling of joy and happiness in the air. With teary eyes and huge smiles, the students learned the message of gratitude. We are extremely grateful to Mrs. Comes for letting us have this experience that will stay with us forever. We would also like to thank Mrs. Dhir, our class teachers, Mrs. S. Dey and Ms. Mushtaq, assistant class teachers and Mr. Britto for their constant guidance and support.

- Bani Kaur Mokha, X-ii

WE CARE



On 14th and 15th December, the students of classes XI and XII participated in the "We Care" social service initiative for senior citizens at Loreto House. On the first day, the students were joined by inmates from St. Joseph's Home, Mary Cooper Home, Lawrence Desouza Home, and St. Catherine's Home. As our guests took their seats in the big hall, the programme began with a short prayer service, followed by the Nativity Play by the Junior section and last but not the least, the entertainment segment. This was continued on the second day as well for inmates of Navanir, Chetla and Tollygunge branches and the Tollygunge homes.

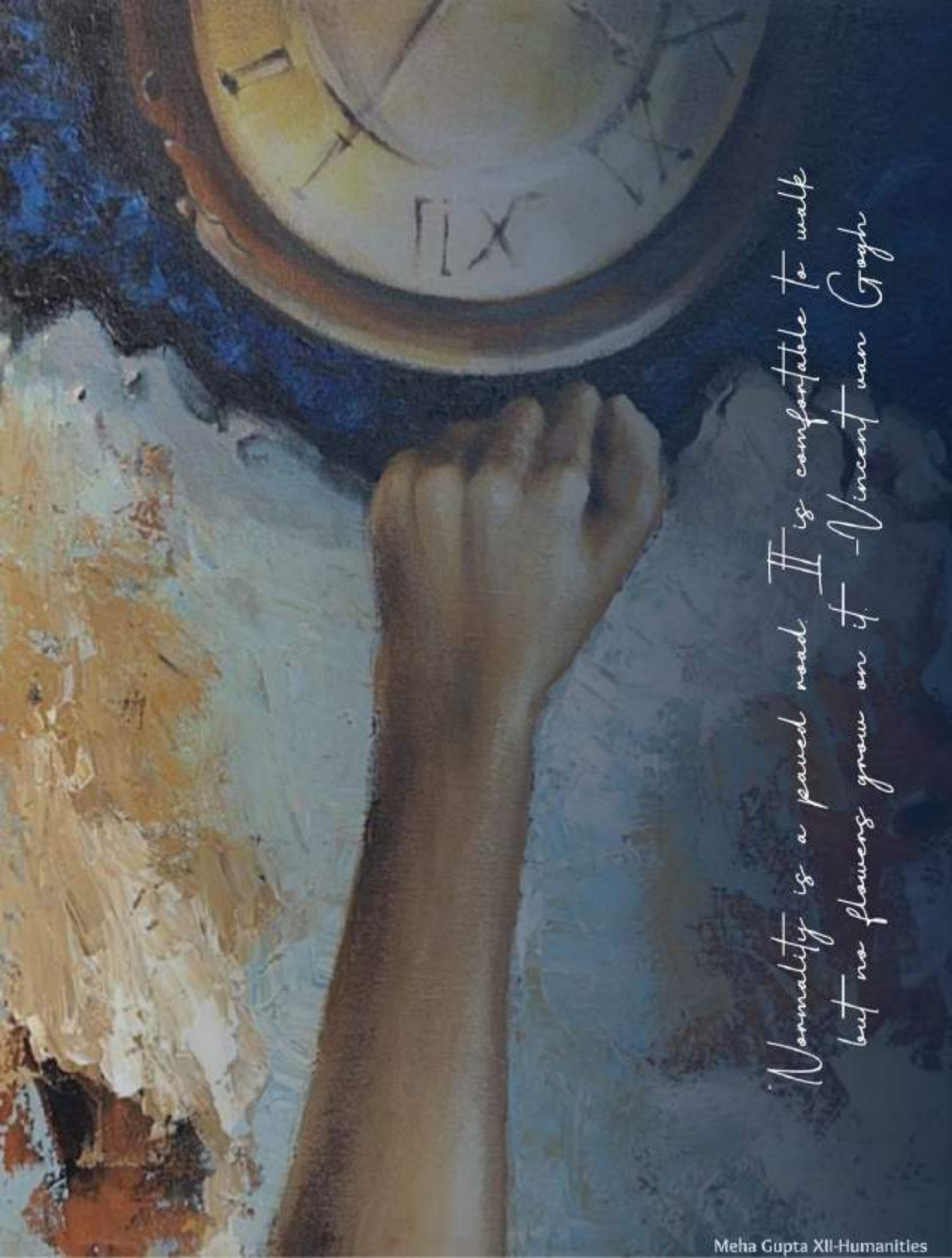
After singing and dancing to retro favourites, the students organised a special talent show for our guests to perform on both days. The energy, enthusiasm and love with which each of them performed was truly unanticipated. At the end of the talent show, the title of "Winter King" and "Winter Queen" was awarded preceding the lunch served by the students.

In the midst of jive, poetry and laughter, one learnt to acknowledge the hardships and isolation in their lives. We are extremely grateful to Mrs. Comes for giving us the opportunity to experience this; our coordinators Mrs. Dhir and Mrs. Banerjee and all our teachers for their guidance and unconditional support.

- Umika Panda, XI Humanities



"We Care" Talent Show

The background of the image is a reproduction of a painting by Vincent van Gogh. It depicts a hand holding a clock face, with a bandaged ear visible in the upper left corner. The painting is characterized by its thick, textured brushstrokes and a somber, dark color palette. The hand is positioned in the center, holding the clock face which is tilted slightly. The clock face itself is a pale, yellowish-white, contrasting with the dark background. The bandaged ear is a small, detailed element in the upper left, showing a wound and a bandage. The overall mood is one of introspection and suffering.

*Normality is a paved road. It is comfortable to walk
but no flowers grow on it. - Vincent van Gogh*



SCRIBBLES



Wandering

There is this little urge inside
Stupid, yet relentless.
Calling me to leave the roads behind.
And even though I clearly know
That this is kind of insane
Every part of me just can't bring myself to mind.
Oh, have you ever wondered sometimes
How would it feel to sleep beneath the stars?
Would you ever have thought that
The sky could be just a touch apart?
And you'd feel the wind on your face
Like a veil lifted high,
And you'd see that the mountains
We're just stairs to the sky!
The rivers would whisper in their ever-babbling
tongues
And for once, you'll see that you can understand
all their words.
And the seas would rage, their waves dashing to
and fro
But even this brings a joy yet so unknown!
Oh, how I wish, I could make the world my
home,
See all there is to see, roam all there is to roam!
And I can change like the changing tide,
Leave all my fears aside!
And finally, take the leap of faith I've dreamt
about. I'll finally leave all the complications
Find new roads to new destinations
Start a new beginning free of all my little doubts.
Pave a path of my own, leave the past all alone
And find a new beginning starting from now.
- Kritika Mukherjee VII-II

The Fallen Crown

I drowned in my sea of tears,
I was wrecked by my fears;
But since I was in a sea,
I willed myself to rise up and master the seas.
They say I let their words in,
I let it reach my heart and pierce my skin;
You know, I derived power from pain,
Trust me, their words did not go in vain.
I let a few tears from my eyes,
But they rose up to be the shiniest stars in the
skies.
Yes, I let myself fall down,
Only to retrieve my fallen crown.
- Aalia Hussain IX-II



Pari Gupta XI-Commerce

Pursuit

My human nature begs me to question,
As many before me have done.
What is my one true purpose?
I asked both the moon and the sun.

They said nothing but only smiled,
My oath to the gods was faltering.
But I wait with small and lonely sighs,
Was this a blessing or a reckoning?

Like timid and fragile buds that long,
For the very first glittering gleam of light.
Only will the rhythmic and polite song,
Of truth bring me the purest delight.

Many have lost their soul and minds,
In search of this wondrous fruit.
Will the truth drive us mad or divine,
Should we give up on our pursuit?
- Simar Kaur, XII Commerce



Aishani Basu, XII-Humanities

Nope(Less)

Autumn leaves fall and touch the lonely ground
All withered, gone
Just like hope in heart
- Carmel Siby, XI Humanities

People Like Us

People like us,
are those who;
feel less, think more,
and write even more.

Our dictionary is devoid of the concepts of;
living and being happy.

We tend to write about something that could've
happened and
something that didn't happen instead of
something that -
actually happened.

We always reserve the role of the protagonist for
our tears and flaws,
while our smiles and laughter remain unsung
heroes.

When our hearts break,
Poetry steals the show and we,
think of how beautifully we can write about the
moment in which,
our spirits fell down like crumpled paper.

Simran Bhowmick, XII Humanities



Adrija Manna, VII-i



Hazel Osta, XII-Humanities

The Hell Is Empty And All The Devils Are Here

Look around
You'll see a smirk, and two horns
Not just one of these creatures, you'll see
hundreds
But what if?
I engrave a few beautiful words in their broken
hearts?
Pluck a few flowers from my veins and clip
them on their hair?
Gift them a few poems, that I never knew
existed And slowly you'll see
The horns will go, and the smirk will curve into
a beautiful smile
Their hearts will not have a tiny scratch
Instead with your broken pieces, make them
wings
So that they can soar high, and do the same
Heaven will be empty and all the angels will be
here.

- Carmel Siby, XI Humanities

A Million Faced Person

I have lived a million lives,
Walked through the barred stone paths
Rode through frost-filled roads
I have faced demons' and kings' wraths.
I have fought with monsters from
Tartarus,
Sheathed my sword on just, and unjust,
Time and again, I rose and fell
But I never let them turn my legacy into
dust.

Sometimes, a knight saved me from a
tower perched high,
At times I fled on my own, I've lived as
both a peasant and
A princess, beautiful but alone.
Assassins have been after me forever
Sometimes I have been one myself,
I have loved a million men,
Be it a human, wizard, or elf.
I have been a survivor of many
catastrophes,
I have witnessed deaths like the fall
I have been bejewelled by grief
Weeping to my heart's content in a dark
hall.

I was at times, a protagonist of my
county's tale Mostly, I have been in one
of my own
History I've made, assumptions I've
crushed
As gruesome killers, and vigilantes I've
known

Misery and ecstasy alike I've felt
Been a blind servant and a sadistic leader
Endings are happy and sad
Welcome to the life of a reader.

- Shinjini Bandhopadhyay, VII-ii

Expiry Date

Next time you're munching on that packet of
Doritos,
Look under it.
Written in tiny digits, you'll find a date.
Expiry date. That's what it's called.
Surprisingly enough,
Everything has an expiry date.
Nothing lasts forever.
Nor will I.
Nor will you.
Everything perishes after its fair share of time.
Nothing promises us a tomorrow.
So, treasure all of it while it's still there.
Look at it.
Smile at it, and make sure to secure and
protect what's yours.
The path you're taking might be swept away
by a storm.
The only thing you're holding on to might be
taken away from you in the blink of an eye.
You're sad today.
Your pain might end tomorrow.
You're happy today.
But, you might run out of time tomorrow.
You don't know what you have,
Until it's gone.
You won't realise the value of a moment until,
it becomes a memory.
Don't live like you have seven lives.
Because
you don't.
That kid that smiled at you.
The cat that curled up at your feet.
The last bar of your favourite chocolate or the
letter you found on your desk,
Be grateful for everything.
But, everything lasts longer if taken care of.
So if you've got it, cherish it.
Because, what you take for granted is
probably something,
someone is dying without.
Not everyone and everything in life will wait
patiently for your great epiphany.

Be quick.
Clocks tick faster than you can imagine.
So please,
Tell her you love her.
Blast music and dance your heart out.
Visit every place you want to.
Eat all of that white sauce pasta.
Inhale. Exhale. Breathe.
Just live your life meaningfully without
regrets. Alright?
- Simran Bhowmick, XII Humanities



Prapti Banerjee X-ii

Fear

Fear has the power to make you cower.
Fear has the ability,
to hold you back like a disability.
Fear grips you in confusion, like an
unwanted intrusion.
Fear is a weakness,
which eventually leads to bleakness.
Don't let this hold you back, it is just
confidence you lack.
Fight it back with all the energy you
possess,
so that you can rule the kingdom of your
mind, like an empress!
-Reet Tiwary, VII-I

That Rainy Night

Her parents felt she was a burden
Only because she was born a girl
They feared the shame and mockery
Of people passing by
So they left her alone To starve and die
Sad and weary she walked alone
Down the dark and narrow alleyway
It was raining hard when
she felt her dreams wash away
She wondered with teary eyes
Was it such a big mistake?
That she had to be shunned and hated
She survived on dirty rotten bread
The stone cold road had been her bed
She wailed and cried for a happy life
But fate seemed to have other plans,
She drifted off into sleep, so calm and so deep
Her pains and worries seemed to vaporise
She forgot the thoughts of a happy life
As she left the world that rainy night
- Maria Aind, XII Humanities



Drishti Gupta XII-Commerce

When Eternity Ends

Waiting for me on the other side.
There's this golden paradise
Waiting for me on the other side.
A land of dreams, a land of hope
A rainbow through a kaleidoscope
All my wishes dancing on a tightrope.
If given the chance, I'd miss not a beat
I'd leave it all behind and plant my feet
In this mystical land before me.
But at the end of the day
I know I'm not there to stay
Because it's a land I think of but never
see.
All I have is this tumbling world
Where things just go from bad to worse.
All I have is a world that questions when
The people will build it back again.
And waits for eternity in silence.
Don't you think it's time that it gets a
reply?
Or will it question till time forgets to fly?
Sure, the land of my dreams won't die
But I can and I will if I don't even try.
Yeah, I can and I will bid goodbye
sometime.
Heaps of ruin don't get swept up in a
day
But that doesn't mean that they are here
to stay.
It's we who did this, it's we who will pay.
But it doesn't cost much to say
"Hey, we are trying.
Oh, we are trying."
All I have is a world on its last legs
Desperately trying to fix itself
The least that we can do is help.
All I have is a world asking when
We'll finish building it back again
And all I can say in answer is
When eternity ends, when eternity ends.
- Kritika Mukherjee, VII-ii

Misplaced Scales and Unequal Rights

I am bound and I cannot see;
My sword is blunt -
Yet it makes me bleed.

My scales are misplaced,
The factors are intricate;
The wisdom of Athena - Is hollow
indeed.

The gods that created me,
Are enjoying their spree;
There are no chains -
And yet I am not free.

I cannot take cognizance,
I cannot play by rules;
I am a mere marionette,
Dancing like a fool.

I cannot change the scales,
I cannot standardise them.

I have heard mellifluous lies,
I am screaming silent cries.

I cannot find a panacea,
This misery is ceaseless;
But you can be my fetching
harbinger,
You can bring me back my
treasure.

I need you to do me justice,
I need you to imbue honour;
I need you to cure this orb,
I need you to heal my mourners.
- Sadia Hussain, XII Humanities

Scarred

She was beautiful, tall and slender
Black fringes hung gently on her temples
A beautiful smile lit up her dimpled face
There was a spark in her eyes
She was not the one to surrender.

She might have seemed gentle, timid, or shy
You might have thought her weak or scared
Or imagined her lips quiver in fright
But she is different, she is strong
Challenge her again and you'll cry.

But you pushed her down- into the dungeon of
darkness

She was the one you wronged
She is scarred, she is bruised
Her body worn out but her spirit unnerved
But she stands tall with a determined face.

Her heart burns with an indomitable fire
Love...no place... only anger and hate
No shackles will keep her restrained
She is the phoenix who rises from the ashes
Admit it, she's the one you're beginning to admire.

A scar runs down the side of her dimpled face
Crimson-red blood stains your unclean hands You are
the guilty one- you restricted her The one you're
slowly beginning to fear She is a woman- imperfectly
perfect She has and will always rise above this.
- Sharmila Bhattacharjee, XII Science



Kavya Agarwal XI-Commerce

Nature

Everyone is spreading awareness to save the
earth,
To preserve nature and human birth.
People are reading and forgetting because "how
does it matter?
My contribution is not going to save the latter.

Nature cannot be saved by only me,
The earth can't be saved by one single tree"
If this continues, Earth is going to die,
Due to our deeds animals have suffered and
cried.

This is our earth and we have to take
responsibility for it,
This is no time to give up or quit.
If we take action, we can inspire others to,
Save the earth and fight for what is right and
true.

There is still time it's not too late,
To spread love and stop the hate.
One step can save us all,
Just don't use a car for distances that are small.

Let's raise our voices against global warming and
pollution,
This is the only solution.
- Nandika Agarwal, VIII-i



Spursh Sharma XII-Science

The Generational Curse

In the beginning there was only Chaos,
Who fathered the Earth, Sky and Sea.
Together they built the cosmos,
Birthed children, twelve and mighty.

Instigated Gaea vengeful and enraged,
"You must rebel against father Uranus.."
But the twelve and their treason failed,
They were exiled to burning Tartarus

But rulers and their kingdoms,
Are overthrown and changed.
These children, the elder gods,
Were Titans to a golden age.

The heir to the heavens, Kronos,
And his heir to take his throne.
The Titan inherited his father's fears,
His fate etched on stone and bone.

The Olympians, the true Gods,
Their reign was inevitable, nearing,
Their seat was Mount Olympus,
And their brother Zeus was King.

The greek bygones and olden days,
Are witnesses to these tales of yore
Generations fought, in a bloody haze,
And overthrew what was before.

The mighty ones who then prevailed,
Hold dominion over the universe.
A temporary power, never retained,
A blessing of ages, a generational curse.
- Simar Kaur, XII Commerce

Harry Potter

There once was a boy, with a scar on his head,
Unlike your average kid,
For he had a secret that could not be told,
As it would be bad if he did.

This boy was called Harry, and he owned an owl,
Along with his ward and his cloak.
For he was a wizard, one of the best
Not just a normal young bloke.

His school was a magical castle,
With turrets and towers so high.
And in the Great Hall,
When you look at the ceiling,
All you can see is the sky.

Which house will you be in, Hufflepuff or
Ravenclaw?
Will it be evil Slytherin
Or trustworthy Gryffindor?
I wonder!

His best friends were Ron & Hermione,
Wonderful mates, I must say.
Hermione was smarter than everyone,
And with Ron, it's laughing all the way.

But Harry also had enemies, Malfoy being the
worst
That slick little Slytherin, with blond hair and
cold eyes,
In Voldemort's house,
Oh, what a surprise?

And then there's the professor. S. Snape,
Evil as sin, you must know.
A follower of the Dark Lord,
One of Harry's worst foes.

His lessons were not all that usual,
Potions and Charms all day long.
A bubbling cauldron, a hissing wand
And an explosion or two in the throng.

Quidditch matches are always exciting.
The crowd cheers up their team.
When the Seeker gets hold of the Snitch,
you can guarantee that the house will
beam.

The Halloween feast is delicious,
With platters and flatters gear galore.
Roast pork, jam tarts and mint humblings
And always a lot, lot more.

The ghouls and ghosts of the castle,
Pop up everywhere.
Be careful where you're walking;
You never know when one's there

There is a huge lake outside,
Full of mystical things.
A merperson village, a giant black squid,
And Grindylows, creatures with wings.

Harry's school really is the greatest.
The best home he ever had.
Because he lived with a cruel aunt and
uncle who killed his mum & dad...
- Dakshita Saffar VII-i



Jedidiah Abraham XII-Science

Dear You

It's been a few months now.

You never failed to reiterate our age gap and perpetually, acted like my elder sister. You almost always forgot which school I was in and would make me eat all your experimental dishes.

I saw your bob cut grow into waist-long hair. I crushed your toes every time you enthusiastically tried to teach me how to ball dance. I saw you navigate high school friendships, dynamics and early life choices. The terrace became your favourite spot and little potted plants your loyal companions. You grew into a bohemian beauty who lived, loved, laughed and cried, just like us.

Kabira is now my favourite song but only when I can hear you sing it in my head. Mrs. Magpie's is still my comfort space but only when I sit at our table. I've grown to love cacti but only the ones that sit on your window sill. I still glance at your paintings, the ukulele and Barfi, your dog.

But I'm on my own now. Rest in peace, wherever you are.

-Umika Panda, XI Humanities



Kritika Tandia IX-I

If Tomorrow Comes

Dear Aaron,

The days that I spend without you pass by in bleak solitude. The uncertainty of 'if' you would come home and not 'when' blots into every word of mine. I wait and wait for the flowers to bloom and for the squirrels to jump out and play in our little backyard for the only highlight of my day seems to be this. At night when I close my eyes after another day spent alone in this house for two, I dream of you. When the radio announces that the war has officially been declared and that all American soldiers are to enter German soil immediately, I think of you.

I distinctly hear the bombings through the radio and shiver in fear, for every death means one more tear stricken widow. I go to their homes to comfort them yet secretly all I feel is relief. After all, her husband's death is just one more that is not yours.

They announce the names of the fallen soldiers everyday at 10 at night. I listen with bated breath and shaking knees hoping desperately that your name manages to escape the list for yet another day. Remember how you would gently chide me when my worries would cause me to bite my nails? Where are you now that I have bitten them raw?

You had promised me that I could have my white-picket fence dream when we get married. You had held me in your arms and laughed in amusement on hearing all the demands that I had for our marriage. I remember how your blonde hair would flop on to your forehead and those little crow's feet would form at the corner of your eyes everytime you would smile, but I'm afraid that I won't for any longer. Six months without you has changed me, Aaron. No longer will you see the gay little seventeen year old newlywed, I have matured as I turn a year older.

You would laugh loudly when I would run to the telephone every time it rang only because I was eager to say, "This is Mrs. Smith speaking." instead of the former Miss Hall. Alas, now every time the telephone rings, I beg to God to let it not be a call of consolation from the government.

I may be terrified of losing you but I hope you know that I don't regret marrying you. I know it worries you to leave me all alone in this big house but don't worry about me. I bide my time by dreaming of you and imagining the look of joy that will be sure to sketch itself on your beautiful face. As I sit here on the wooden desk in our bedroom, I sincerely hope that the question that remains is 'when' tomorrow comes and not 'if'. I love you.

Your darling wife,

Ava.

- Srijoni Nandi, XI Humanities

The Days That Are No More

If I received a box filled with all the things I've ever lost, I wouldn't have to rummage through the lot to search for a piece of you. There it would be, lying neatly at the top, an album overflowing with little snippets of our memories. The pages, although a little crinkled and yellow with a hint of smoky smell, would not fail to bring a smile onto my face. I would laugh while flipping through our hand-drawn stick figures which never seemed to have aged, And squint my eyes at our annual day function pictures and us fumbling in the baton relay race.

I know the world goes on and the seasons change, but for a moment I would sit down to reminisce about those days that are no more. Do you remember when we ran rampant on the streets, as the rains washed away the gloom of a weary school day? You would make paper boats out of our unit test papers and watch them gently float away. A few more pages I would skim through and a carnival ticket would land on my lap, And I'd recall how the air was filled with our high-pitched screams as the big wheel sped up its pace. And oh, for those few moments, when the world had seemed to melt into a myriad of bright colours and blurring noises, we were too young to realise that our innocence and untamed joy of childhood would forever be our saving grace. I wonder if you have a bold pixie cut now, remember the one that you always dreamed to have, Or does your mother still forcefully oil and braid your long locks just like she used to?

Over the years I stopped questioning myself about your whereabouts, Bonds fade, promises break and sacred friendships slowly fade into a fog of strange loneliness. If I had the power to stop time, I would sit still and cherish every little memory of the days that are no more. But alas! I have grown up and my wild colourful hopes, desires, wants and dreams have given way to hard and harsh reality. — Rachel Zora Gomes XII Humanities



Aishani Basu XII-Humanities



Xara Menezes, XII-Humanities

The Children of the Streets

When I was a little girl of not more than five, I was told to strictly avoid making eye contact with the children of the streets. If they knocked on the car window, I'd instinctively look down at my hands. Apparently, it was dangerous to lower the glass divider and give them something to fill their stomachs with. Soon instinct took the form of habit. Anybody on the other side of the glass divider was to be ignored; people selling balloons, strawberry boxes and the occasional Christmas party hats. Standing on Middleton Row on the 14th of November, my friends and I were headed towards school to celebrate Children's Day. As we strolled past the cars and concrete, a girl in her 20s, possibly younger started walking with us. She asked us for food. Money to buy food. She noticed the swift exchange of the packet with pizzas from the nearer pair of hands to the further one. She immediately reassured us that she wasn't interested in stealing the packet. The children on the streets are not thieves. They aren't born with criminal minds. They're unfortunate victims of poverty. A poverty that leaves them so hungry, so deprived and so idle that they learn to stick like a band together for survival. Then they spread out into the streets in groups of two, sometimes three, to knock on the other side of the glass divider of children like you and me. - Umika Panda, XI Humanities



The Hallway on the 15th Floor

The Penguin Plaza was a shabby two-star rated hotel in the back-alleys of the busy and bustling city of Mumbai. Obscure and unknown, it came as no surprise that the condition of the building wasn't too well. Cheap, loud wallpapers peeling off at the corners, flimsy furniture that looked like it could break any minute and suspicious stains on the bed sheets that he was only too glad to ignore, accurately summed up the state of the hotel. The lift would stop working randomly and the only staircase in the hotel was at one far end hallway. In all likelihood, it seemed more like a cheap motel. Yet he planned to stay here for a while and the cheap rent was the only factor that favored him to choose this place.

It was one 'o' clock at night. He had been out about in the city since nine in the morning and was only too relieved to finally be able to return to the hotel to retire for the night. Humming a soft tune to himself, he walked past the reception and into the elevator. His cheap polyester suit felt like an unbearable layer piled on top of his skin and the hot, humid city life made it worse. He could feel the sweat rolling down from the back of his hair, forming sticky puddles at the nape of his neck as he waited for the seventeenth floor to arrive. All of a sudden, the elevator creaked to a stop on the fifteenth floor and he knew that it would take a while for it to come back to life. Getting out at that floor and taking the staircase on the other side of the hallway to reach his floor seemed like the best decision.

The first hint of trouble arose when he realized that the fifteenth floor was suspiciously filled with smoke. Amidst the choking fumes, he noticed the raging red on the other end of the hallway. It was moving forward, annihilating the leagues of space between him and the rough blazes in split seconds.

The Penguin Plaza was on fire.

Sweating profusely at the intense heat along with the sheer terror of this unforeseen situation, his eyes swung wildly from one place to another, desperately trying to find a solution. The fire safety staircase had already been engulfed in flames and the windows were locked shut due to the central air conditioning systems of the hotel. He knew that the fire would reach and swallow him whole in about 2 minutes.

When a man is faced with death, his brain sends him on a memory trip of his entire life- moments of joy, love, anger, fear and grief. Pictures of his family, his love, his pet(s), and seemingly insignificant people who somehow imprint themselves into your mind, all become a part of a mind montage...

The first memory hit him like a freight train. He had just turned four and his mother, father and two elder brothers were standing around him as he blew the candle on his birthday cake. At that time he had been a little upset that he couldn't have a birthday party the way some of his friends in class did. And yet, when his elder brothers woke him up on his birthday by lifting him into their arms and flying him throughout the house, screaming "helicopter incoming" or when his parents got him a yellow birthday cake with candles much more than four since that was what he liked, he promptly forgot all about the birthday parties and three tiered cakes. All that mattered was that his family loved him and that the cake was in his favorite colour.

A single teardrop fell from his eyes.

The fire was getting closer.

The second memory was when he had been in middle school. Every day when he would leave the house to go to school, a frail, mangy stray dog would rest across the road, quietly licking its paws. Until one fine day, he'd been exceptionally late for school and had decided to run all the way in hopes of reaching on time. For all you know, the dog must have been having an off day for it decided to chase him and bite him squarely on his ankle. Over months of mistrust and wariness, an inexplicable bond started to form between the two. And when the dog, whom he named Bite, birthed litters of pups, it came as no surprise that he adopted one of the pups as his own. Bit was its name and he loved the little fur ball to death.

The fire was getting closer.

He was in his freshman year when he first noticed her. She used to work at the convenience store near his college. The first time that he stood at the billing counter holding packets of instant noodles and every unhealthy food item imaginable, he could feel his face and neck turning red with this show of childish liberty once he noticed the pretty girl billing his items. She must have been a few years older than him and yet, he couldn't remove her face from his mind even if he tried to.

He would ask the universe questions, "Why is her hair so impossibly straight?" and "Why do I like those nimble fingers with nails painted blue so much?"

Those might have been his favorite hands in the whole world. The owner of the store couldn't fathom how he would run out of supplies so quickly that he would have to visit almost every other day, on some days to buy things as irrelevant as a single piece of chewing gum. He would find himself picking up things that he had absolutely no use for, just so that he could stand at the counter for a longer time and quietly exist in her presence.

It was his second year in college when he finally gathered the courage to ask her out. An entire year since he had first come to know of her existence. When she said yes with a little smile playing at the corner of her lips, he felt like she was so beautiful that he couldn't breathe. From shy, quiet encounters where each would try to learn as much as possible about the other to hours and hours of sitting together in the campus grounds and listening to the chatter of life around them. First love was bliss until both of them got busier; she was trying to study while working part time in the hopes of getting the scholarship to go abroad while he wasn't as ambitious and only wanted to graduate, get a desk job and settle in his hometown around his loved ones. Differences and shortcomings started plaguing their minds until their love just wasn't strong enough to hold its own anymore. They parted ways, but each snatched a little piece of the others' heart to keep as a talisman for the rest of their lives. Standing in the face of death, he regrets letting her go with his whole being. He protests silently against this unfortunate death. He deserves a second chance at love, to bring her back and never let go, to love her for the rest of eternity. He does not deserve to die. It's too soon. He has a world of things left to accomplish.

He's crying now, the tears don't seem to stop.

The fire is now almost in front of him, he has mere seconds left to live.

His friends, the ones who stayed up all night studying with him, the ones who picked him up when he fell from the swing in kindergarten and the ones who will console and hold his beloved parents up when they will have to mourn their littlest son's death. He wishes that he could have had one chance to tell them how much he loves them.

A life with so many people, so much love and so much to live for. He loved it all. At times, life gives everyone equal chances and then cruelly snatches it away from some. A mere hour ago, he was blissfully unaware of what life had in store for him. Standing here in front of the fire, all he could do was not let death steal his last semblance of dignity- The dignity to close his eyes by his own choice and allow death to run its course.

The fire was now here.



Arundhati Dasgupta X-II

रोजकार सकाल

देওয়ালের घड़ियाय छं छं बाजालो,
मायेर ओई डाकटा कानेते आसलो
"बाबुरे उठे पर, छटा ये बाजलो"
सेई सुने आमार ओई स्वप्नटा ये भांगलो
छटा-पनेरो बाजलो भांगलो ना घुम
मा एसे रेगे बले "झुले कि याबि ना?"
सेई सुने ताड़ाताड़ि त्यागे करि बिछाला
अटपट रेडि ह्ये करि आनि बायना,
रोजदिन करनफलकेस, आर घेते चाई ना।
मा बले "ना खेले झुले निये याबो ना
आर বেশि मेरि हले मेट्टो टा पाबो ना।"
खाबार टा खेये ताई बेरियेई परलाम।
मने डये कि ह्य, मेट्टो कि पाबो ना?
मेट्टो टा ना पेले समये पौछानो याय ना
तारपर मेट्टो पल मन लग छनद
एर पर सकल गय पर स आननम।।

- Aaendri Ghosh VII-i

रूह की अंसुनि सरगोशी

जब लहरें आसमान से मुलाकात करेगी
समझो तभी मेरी घड़ी समाप्त होगी
चिड़ीयाँ उनके मधुर स्वर से मुझे यादों में बसा देंगे
हाथ मे मशाल लेकर माता-पिता मेरे तन को जला देंगे।

दो-दिन बाद मेरी तस्वीर रजनीगंधा से सजी होंगी
नयन से आंसू बहेंगे जैसे वे कयामत को बाहों में ले रही होंगी
परंतु समय के साथ मेरा नक्ष मिट जायेगा
मंताज़ तथा तृष्णा का अंत हो जायेगा।

साँसे जिनके लिए मैंने ली, जिनके लिए जिया,
क्या वे इतनी जल्दी मेरा स्थान किसी परदेसी को दे डाले?
कहते थे जो मेरे बिना जीवन मुकम्मल न था
वे इतनी बेखुदी कब बन गए?

जाने लोग बन गए अंजने,
मेरे दोस्त बन गए निर्मोही
ये कौनसी दीवांगी की दुनिया है
जाहा जिस्म के अंत में, रूह का अंत भी हो जाए?

कभी तो पूछो मेरी खैरियत,
तुम्हे क्या राबता महसूस नहीं हो रही?
सरगोशी सुनो मेरी दिल की
जो चीख रहा है तुम्हारा नाम।

-Shinjini Bandhopadhyay, VII-ii

दोस्ती

दोस्तों की दोस्ती भी क्या चीज़ है,
खट्टी-मीठी ये यारी बड़ी लज़ीज़ चीज़ है।
दोस्तों बिन दुनिया सूनी है यारों,
हर दोस्त को ये दोस्ती बड़ी अज़ीज़ है।

वो बारिश की मस्ती में बरसता जो शोर,
वो कागज़ की नावें बहाने की होड़।
तो हाथ बदलती पसंगों की डोर,
वो बिजली के जाने पर हो-हो का शोर।

वो कलॉसेस की बंकिंग कर कैटीन में जाना,
वो चाय की चुस्की और गप्पे लड़ान।
वो असाइनमेंट की याद लास्ट डेट को आना,
और जैसे-तैसे भी जुगाड़ बैठाना।
कुछ पाने और खोने को ये रीत है,
दोस्तों की दोस्ती भी क्या चीज़ ह।

हँसाती-रुलाती है दोस्ती,
सताती-मनाती है दोस्ती।
मुस्कराती-खिलखिलाती है दोस्ती,
गुदगुदाती - गुनगुनाती है दोस्ती।
हर दिल में समाया बस यही गीत है,
दोस्तों की दोस्ती भी क्या चीज़ है।

-Kritika Tantia IX-i



Kritika Tantia IX-i

সাবেকিপ্রেমি

‘হাও পাখি বল হাওয়া ছলছল; আবছায়া জানালার কাঁচ.....’
‘আজ্ঞা বাপু নে নে, অনেক হয়েছে, এবার একটু স্নান
দে তো। উফ! মেয়েটা সকাল থেকে রেডিওটায় গান চালিয়েই
যাচ্ছে।
এবার একটু নিচে এসে খেয়ে যা। তোর পছন্দের লুচি,
গোবিন্দভোগ
চাল আর খেজুরের গুড় দিয়ে পায়ের আঁচলুর দম
করেছি।’

– ঠাণ্ডি এই নিয়ে চার বার ডাকতে এল। ‘আসছি, আসছি’
বলে এক ছুটে
তিনতলার বারান্দা থেকে দোতলার খাবার টেবিলে উপস্থিত
আমি,
সুস্মিতা চট্টোপাধ্যায় ওরফে ‘সাবেকিপ্রেমি’। নামের পিছনের
ইতিহাসটা একটু পরেই জানতে পারবে।

গোধূলী লগ্ন, ঠিক সন্ধ্যা হয়নি তখনো। ঠাণ্ডির বাড়ির
সবচেয়ে প্রিয় জায়গাটায় আমি উপস্থিত, তিনতলার বড়
বারান্দা –
হ্যাঁ, যেখানে বসে আমি ঠাণ্ডির পুরোনো রেডিওতে গান
শুনছিলাম।
‘পুরোনো রেডিও কেন?’ এটা অনেকরই প্রশ্ন হতে পারে। এই
প্রশ্নের উত্তরটা আসলে আমার অতি অভিনব ডাক নামটির
সঙ্গে
জড়িত।
আমি সুস্মিতা চট্টোপাধ্যায় ওরফে ‘সাবেকিপ্রেমি’, বয়স ২৯,
রসায়ন তথা কেমিস্ট্রিতে মাস্টার্স শেষ করে বর্তমানে একটি
বেসরকারি স্কুলে কর্মরত। অনেকই ভাবতে পারো, যে যার
জগত
হাইড্রোক্সেরিক আর সালফিউরিক অ্যাসিডের চারপাশে
আবর্তিত
হয়, সে এত সাবেকি প্রেমি হয় কি করে? জানি না, কিন্তু
আমার
ভালো লাগে। বর্তমানে আমার সমবয়সি বেশিরভাগ
ছেলেমেয়েরাই
পুরোনোকে খুব একটা গুরুত্ব দেয়না, কারণ তারা নতুনত্বকে
আপন
করে নিয়েছে। The quote ‘OLD IS GOLD’ is now an old
one, no doubt, isn’t it? আমি তাহলে ব্যতিক্রম হলাম কি
করে? কে জানে.....কিন্তু পুরনো সকল কিছুই আমায় বিশেষ
ভাবে আকর্ষিত করে।

ঠাণ্ডির বাড়ি আমার সবচেয়ে প্রিয়। কেন? কারণ এই গোটা
বাড়িটায় এক অবর্ণনীয় সৌন্দর্য ও শান্তি আছে, মানবিকতার
টান
আছে। বাড়িটায় বড় একটা চওড়া বারান্দা আছে, একটি
দোলনা

আছে, লাল মেঝে, সবুজ রেলিং এবং সামনে দাদুর নিজের
হাতে তৈরি
গোলাপ আর চন্দ্রমল্লিকার বাগান।
কিন্তু স্নান পর আকাশ পানে চেয়ে দেখি – একি! মেঘ ঘনিয়ে
বৃষ্টি নামল যে। হঠাৎ এক গানের কলি –

‘মেঘের পালক চাঁদের নোলক,
কাগজের কেয়া ভাসছে.....’

পাশের বাড়ির ফুল দিদিমা রেডিওতে গান চালিয়েছে। তারও
আমার
মতো গানের বাতিক আছে কি না তাইতো আনুমানিক ৭০
বছরের
দিদিমা লতা থেকে শ্রোয়া, সবার গান শোনে। ফুল দিদিমার ১২
বছরের
নাতনি তিতির বাড়ির সামনের ছোট্ট ডোবাটায় হাতে গড়া
কাগজের
কেয়া ভাসিয়ে দিয়ে চলে যায়। তখনই আকাশ কাঁপিয়ে বাজ
পড়ল, ঝড়
উঠেছে। ঘরের থেকে মায়ের আওয়াজ, ‘সুন্নি, তাড়াতাড়ি ঘরে
আয়,
বৃষ্টি কিন্তু বাড়ছে।’
উই, আমি কি এত বোকা যে এই মলোরম দৃশ্য ছেলে চলে যাব।
নির্মল এই প্রকৃতি, বৃষ্টির এই কল্লোল, শীতল হাওয়া, বৃষ্টি ভেজা

মাটির গন্ধ আর থেকে থেকে ‘এসো শ্যামল সুন্দর’, ‘মোর
ভাবনায়ে
কি হাওয়ায় মাতালো; বেজে যায়।
কতক্ষণ পরে মনে নেই, বৃষ্টি থেমে যায়। সন্ধ্যার আকাশে
লাল, হলুদ, কমলা রঙের ছটা। সূর্য তার টকটকে লাল রঙ
নিয়ে
আমাদের আম পাছের অন্তরালে ডুবে যায়। সন্ধ্যা হয়ে আসে,
মেঘ মিলিয়ে যায়।
সঙ্গে মিলিয়ে যায় –

‘আমিকি কি আমাকে হারিয়েছি বাঁকে
রূপকথা আনাচেকানাচ.....’

অবলে ওঠে সন্ধ্যাপ্রদীপ ও সন্ধ্যাতারা। এটা কলকাতা নয়।
রাতের
অন্ধকারের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে হ্যালোজেন লাইট আর গাড়ির বিকট
আওয়াজ নয়, সন্ধ্যাতারা আর শঙ্খধ্বনি দেখা এবং শোনা
হয়।
রেডিওর পুরনো সুর মিলিয়ে আসে কিন্তু সমাপ্ত হয় না –
কোনদিন
হবে না।

-Nilima Sarkar class IX+

কলকাতার শীতকাল

এই যে দেখি লোকদের গায়ে দিয়ে শাল,
মনটা আমার লাফিয়ে ওঠে আর বলে 'এসেছে শীতকাল!'

হনুমান টুপি, সোয়াটের, রাজাই,
শীতকালে থামে না কাঁপুনি,
যতই না গায়ে জোড়াই।

কুয়াশায় আকাশ থাকে ঢেকে যখন ভোর,
কম্বল মুড়িয়ে মনে হয় ঘুম দিই ঘোর।
সকালে চা না পেলে আমার দিনটা হয়না পূরণ,
তাই আমি ভাবি বসে চা - টাই জীবন।
দোপাটি, পাদা, ডালিয়া - এ চারদিক কিবাহায়,
প্রকৃতির কি মায়া, কি সৌন্দর্য তাহার।
বাঙালির গর্ব পিঠে পুলি, পাটিসাপটা,
আর আছে বন্ধুদের সাথে জমিয়ে আঙা।
বড় দিনের উদযাপন মানে, এলো পৌষ মাস,
নানান রকমের সব খাবারের পদ খাস।
সময়ের সাথে শেষ হয় কলকাতার শীত
তারপর শুরু হয় বসন্তের গীত।

- Prerana Mandal VII-i



Mritsa Sengupta VII-i

সমাপ্তি

কি ভয়ানক এই একাকিত্ব
খাওয়া, পরা - নিজেকে মনে হয় একটা রোবট
সেই ঘণ্টার পর জানালার ধারে বসে থাকা
চেয়ে থাকা সেই সুদূর পানে
ভাবতাম এর শেষ কোথায়
ভাবতে ভাবতে চলে গেল এক প্রহর
সামনে চলে এল সেই সাজ্য ভোজন আর পঠন- পাঠন

আবার সেই যন্ত্র - রূপী আমি
ভীতু হয়ে কাগজ উল্টে যেতাম

চলে আসতো নৈশ ভোজন আর শাসন
শীঘ্র শয়নের তবে এবার চোখ বোজানোর পালা
নিজের ইচ্ছার বিরুদ্ধে শোয়ার তাড়া
কিন্তু কেউ জানে না
এই শয়ন, আমার একাকিত্ব কে,
ধুয়ে মুছে একাকার করে
নিয়ে এল এক বন্ধু কে
আর শুরু হল আমার নতুন পথযাত্রা।

-Shinjini Bandhyopadhyay, VII-ii

हर एक

हर एक मुख तेरा लगने लगा है
हर एक शब्द तेरे लिए होने लगा है
हर एक सोच अब तू ही लगा है
जेन कैसे
तू मेरे ही अंदर दिखने लगा है

तुझे मैं किन नजरों से देखूँ
तू हर पल आँखों के सामने ही तो है
तुझे मैं गले लगाऊँ कैसे
तू हर पल मेरे इस दिल के अंदर ही तो है

इस संसार में क्या ही बोले
बोली तो सिर्फ़ बहार से बोलते हम
तेरे बारे में तो अब
अंदर की हमें शांति से बोलते हम

तुझे शब्दों में सीमित कैसे करूँ
तू तो इन अक्षरों के भी पार है
तुझे सिर्फ़ एक चित्रा मैं किसे देखो
जब तेरी असली धृष्ट भी तो निराकार है

तेरी ममताकी भगवान मैं खेलने लगी हूँ
तेरे प्रेम के बरसात में झुमने लगी हूँ
दूर थी जहाँ तुझसे
वही मैं तुझसे मिलने लगी हूँ

प्रेम की क्या बातें करें
प्रेम तो जब दिखने को तैयार नहीं
मिलन की क्या बातें करें
जब वो दूर मुझसे.. कभी था ही नहीं

तू ही तो है राधा का कृष्ण था
तू ही तो वो अंदर वाला हीरा है
तू ही तो इस दिल की धड़कन मैं था
तू ही वो ये प्रेम की मीरा था
इस्लीये कहती हूँ ना
तुझे पाने की जरूरत कहा
जब तू तो हमेशा से ही मेरा था।

-Kavya Agarwal, XI-Commerce



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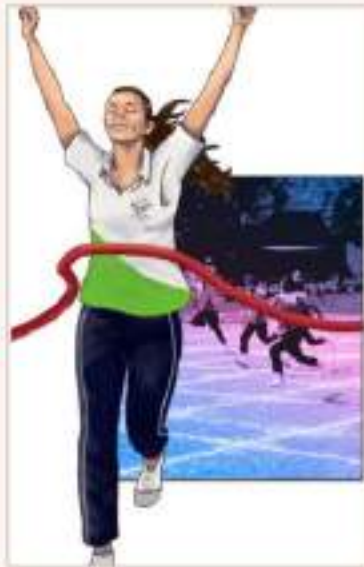
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