



the newsletter

The School KFI, Chennai

Issue #5

September, 2015

From the Editor

Almost a term of the academic year 2015-16 has gone by. However we still have a lot to share and reminisce about from the previous academic year. So we bring you the last few issues of the newsletter for the academic year 2014-15 – some events, some snippets of campus happenings, some snapshots of moments from school and some news. No news is old news till it is shared. So here goes . . .

“All the world’s a stage” - The Junior School jungle gym is where the Class J staged their ‘Community Helpers Parade’



In our school kitchen more hands make the food tastier



Conversations – the soul of The School

A Slice of Life at School

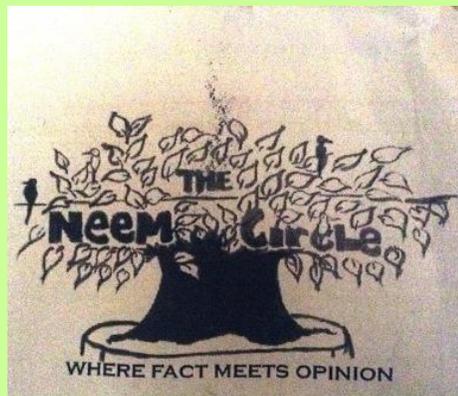


Flowers collected from the campus grounds greet teachers at the weekend staff meetings



Jewels of nature!

The Annual Newspaper by Class 8 - Extracts



After nearly a month of classroom exercises, home assignments, guest lectures and educational visits, "The Neem Circle – where fact meets opinion", the class 8 newspaper is finally out on the stands. We decided on the newspaper name and masthead through a collective design and voting process. The Neem Circle is an actual space in school where stories are traded, happenings are reported and hidden talents are displayed. Our newspaper hopes to recreate a similar such space.

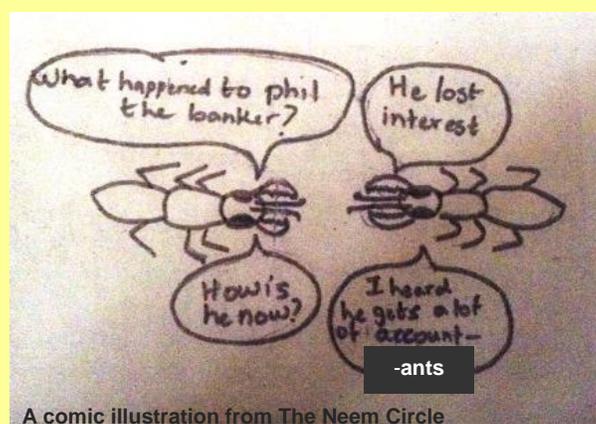
As part of the study process to bring out this newspaper, we went through many new experiences. RK Radhakrishnan Anna, an editor from The Hindu visited our school to talk to us about the role of a reporter, how to write a good news story and also very interestingly, 'the many versions of truth'. We also had the opportunity to visit The Hindu's office to get a closer look at all the people and processes that make a newspaper. At the office, we watched a documentary on '125 years of The Hindu' and also visited the workstations of the 'young World' and the school edition teams. Finally, the actual day of reporting rolled in and we turned up all bright and eager to report with our badges, notepads and pens. 'The Neem Circle' is filled with news stories, opinion pieces, cartoons, polls, reviews and photos, something for everyone. We hope you all enjoy reading the newspaper.

- The Neem Circle Editorial, Wednesday 5th November 2014

Kunti in the Kitchen

How many of you know who fries the mor molaga (fried chillies) which you enjoy with your curd rice? Meet Madurai Anna who has been a part of our school's kitchen since 2004. Quite contrary to his name, he was born in Adyar, Chennai and not in Madurai! He was named Madurai Veeran after his family deity. He started acting at the age of 13 as part of Koothu-P-Pattarai, a Tamil theatre group. He has acted in over 20 plays, all of them Tamil classics. His favorite role is that of Karna's mother, Kunti in the Mahabharata. That's right – men played the role of women back then! He acted till the age of 50. He stopped after that because his children wanted him to get a 'real' job. He then worked at the Devaki Hospital kitchen before joining The School KFI. He cooks rice, makes the sambar, washes the fruits and prepares the tea. He says that he likes it a lot here, and plans on staying here for the rest of his working life.

- An extract from The Neem Circle



A comic illustration from The Neem Circle

Class Thirteen

I remember, I remember,
Where I was used to swing,
And thought the air must rush as fresh
To swallows on the wing;
My spirit flew in feathers then . . .

- from 'I Remember, I Remember'
by Thomas Hood

My mind fled back to this poem and my school days as I stood near the football ground talking to eight of the class 13 students. As we discussed their new life beyond the school I could understand why the school and these students who had passed out of school recently liked being called students of class 13.

Back in their school for their first term break as college students, each of them started the day with what they missed about their school the most – singing in the assembly, playing basket ball and football, walking around the campus, painting in the art room and ofcourse sharing a meal with the kitchen staff, teachers and other students.

An excerpt from our tete-a-tete:

- ▶ What were they pursuing after school?

Class 13 : Biotechnology, arts, literature, engineering . . .

- ▶ Where were they all now?

Class 13 : Mumbai, Manipal, Boston, Chennai . . .

- ▶ What do they miss the most?

Class 13 : Home and school!!

- ▶ What is college life like?

Class 13: An extension of school/ We are discovering what school was preparing us for/ Very unlike school/ Too regimented and formal/ Feeling lost

- ▶ Do they see changes in their friends and in themselves?

Class 13: Yes and No. We have all had new and different experiences but we still feel we know each other as we used to. Some of us like the changes and some of us don't. Some of us seem to have changed more than the others.

- ▶ Has a school like theirs helped them adapt to their new environment or do they find it difficult?

Class 13: Some of us have adapted easily and some with difficulty while still others have not yet. However we feel that is bound to be, given the different kinds of people we all are. However we do feel we stand apart from students of most other schools in our attitude and we are happy about that. But everyone from every school misses their school as much.

Project Season – Junior School MAC



Landscapes
Coast, Hills and Deserts

Exploration of the links between landscapes and vegetation, lives and lifestyles



Exploring the 'Handiworks' of Landscapes



Experiencing the Joy of Group Work



Recreating Nature's Magic with Little Hands



Learnings

• Learnt about the different plant and animal life.
• Learnt about the new kinds of musical instruments.
• Learnt how difficult peoples lives are.

Learnt about dances.
• Learnt the names of plants and animals.

Learnt about the way people dress.
Learnt about people and their activities.

Campus Tree Log from the Art Room

In the 4th issue of The Newsletter we introduced a new column called the 'Campus Tree Log', which discusses the trees on campus. In this issue we have an art inspired tree log. Early in 2015 parents, alumni, students and teachers were invited to capture the trees on the school campus as works of art. There was an exhibition of these paintings and sketches in the assembly hall at school for a few days. We bring you some pieces of the visual treat!

