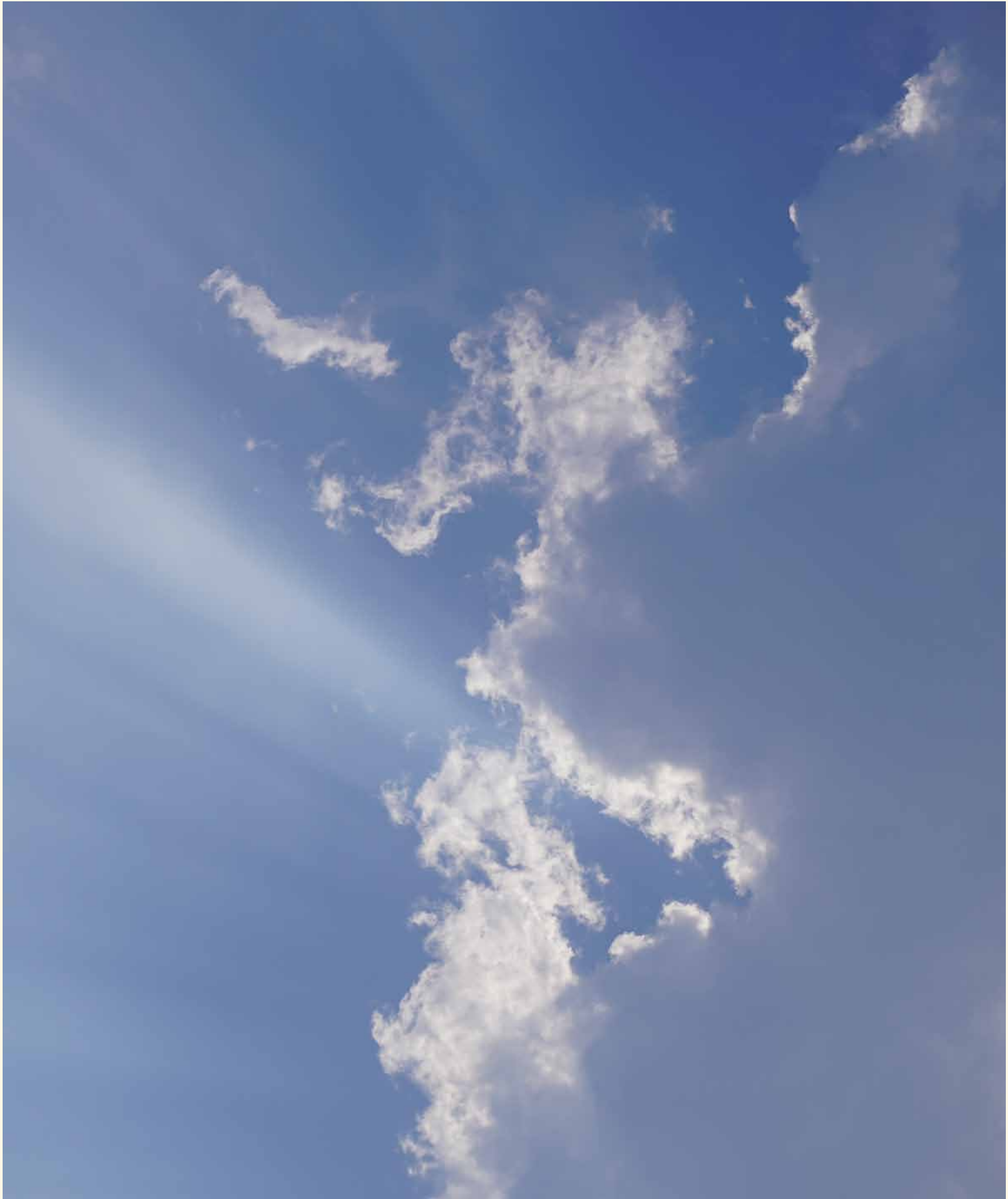


the school



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - 2026

As the new year begins, the school continues to be a vibrant space of many happenings. This month's newsletter brings to you a slice of these different activities that the students, teachers as well as parents of the school experienced.

A Time with the School Alumni



The yearly meeting with the alumni of school took place over two days- 19 th and 20 th of December. The first day on Friday was an informal time with the current students of the school while the second day was with the teachers in a more formal setting as part of the Staff Meeting on Saturday.

On Friday, many alumni from across the years came to school to be part of an assembly, to sing and talk together, take sessions for the senior school students on history and physics and to play games. On Saturday again, there were alumni from the different decades of school who joined for breakfast and then a discussion around two questions- decision making in their own spheres of work and the role of AI and how can one work with it as a reality of today's times, in school with students.

On both days, the alumni enjoyed having lunch with their teachers as well as the students of the school who had many questions for them from their time at school. As one current student of school said, "It seems like they also did many of the things we do, but differently!"

An Experience of Abstract Theatre



The students of the school had an enriching experience in the field of theatre along with Gerard Bailey, a friend of school, who visits school every year. Whenever he is in school he spends time with the teachers and students of the school and take them through exercises in theatre.

Born in 1934, Gerard Bayle has been a theatre artiste all his life. He is closely associated with the Krishnamurti Schools and visits Brockwood Park in the UK and the schools in Bangalore and Chennai in India every year.

During the week that he was at the school this year in December, he worked on mime and movement in sessions with the students of junior and senior school as well as with the teachers. This year he could also do two sessions with a group of volunteer parents from the junior school. He has promised to be back in February to see if he can do more such sessions with everyone.



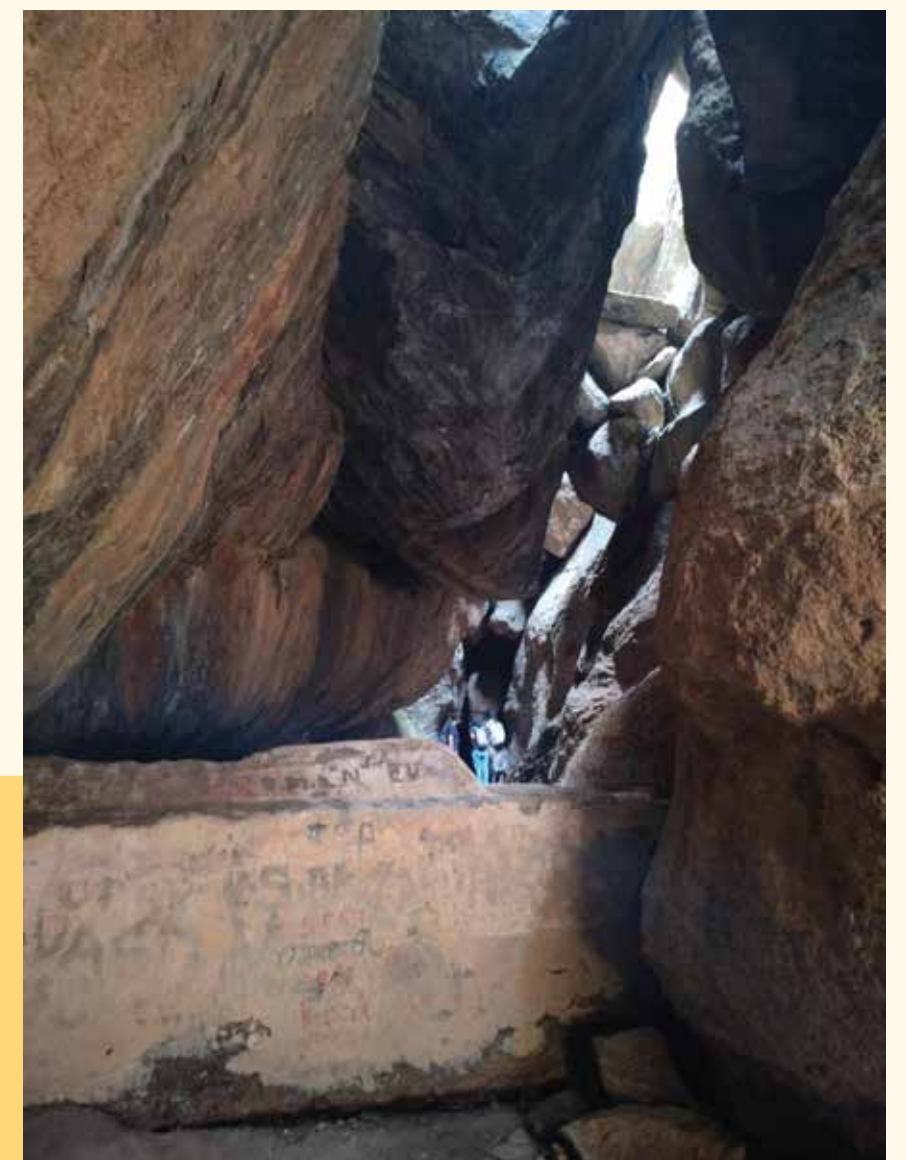
The Class 9 trip to Tiruvannamalai



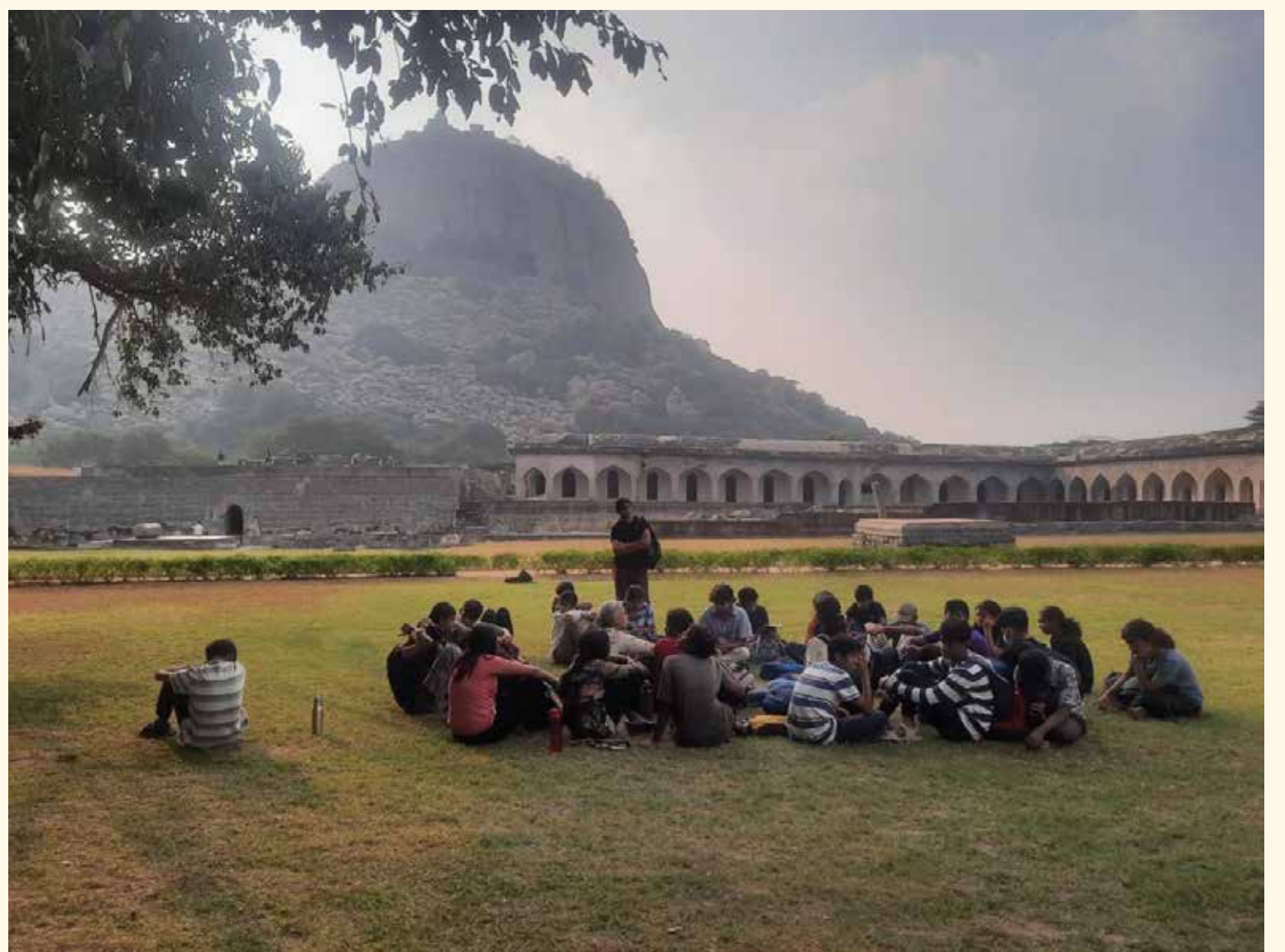
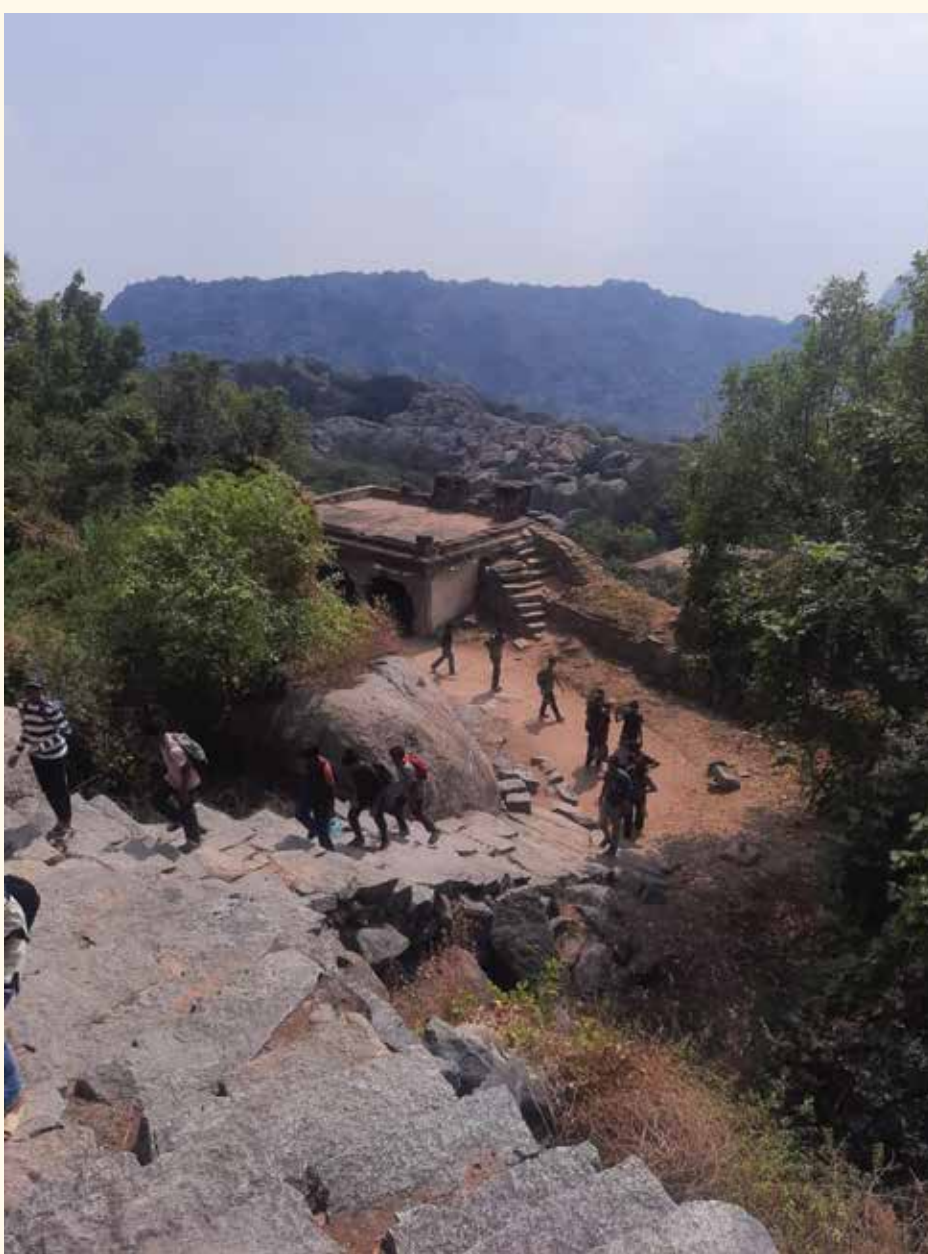
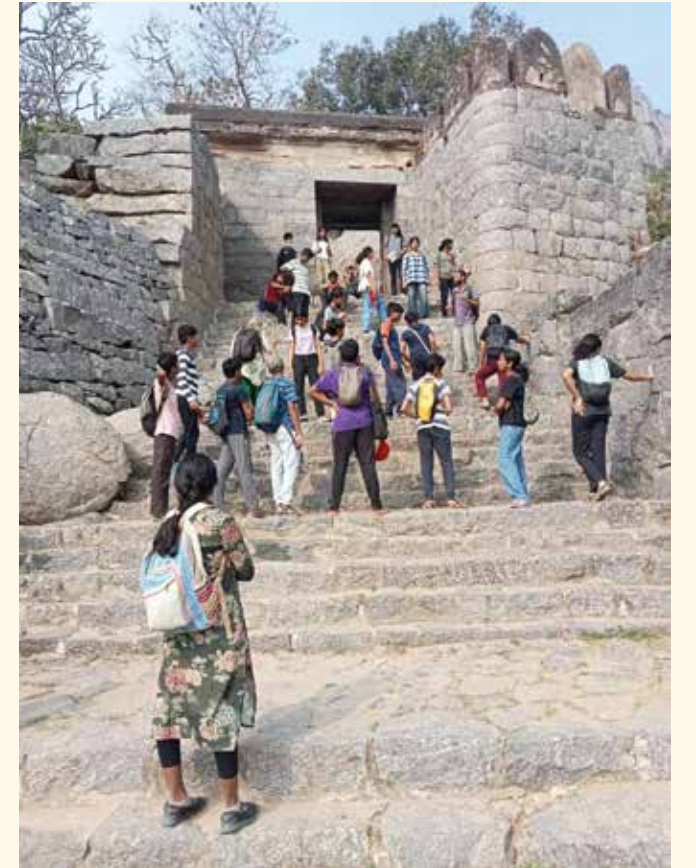
The students of Class 9 went on their overnight trip to Tiruvannamalai to do an area study around that place. The trip was for four days, and the students were accompanied by four teachers from school. They stayed at Tiruvannamalai during the trip and went to different places from there to study forest conservation, water storage and dams, the Gingee Fort to understand the history of the nearby areas and finally to study the development of the area around Tiruvannamalai.



The four-day trip had the students begin with a trip to Marudam Farm School where they interacted with Arun Anna who is one of the founders of the school. They interacted with him to understand the philosophy of the school and the work of forest conservation. After that they visited Thamarai Kulam where they spent some time there. They did some parkouring there guided by the experts there.



The following day they went up the Arunachala Hill and then spent time with Govinda Anna who spoke to the students about the work of Forest Way among other aspects of forest conservation. After that they visited the Ramana Ashram and spent some quiet time there. Following this they went around Tiruvannamalai to understand the nature of livelihoods and the people who have moved from different parts of the country to settle here.



The third day they visited the Gingee Fort after which they went to Veedur Dam to study the idea of dams in holding water as reservoirs. On the final day of the trip the students visited the Sathanur Dam and spent the day there, observing, taking notes and sketching. They had a final stopover for lunch before heading back to Chennai.

The students had a hectic four-day trip but came back with many learnings and questions on the work that is being done in the area of conservation.



Calendar Making - Thread Art



The calendar making activity in the new year is a much awaited activity at school. All the students as well as teachers of Middle and Senior School come together to create a calendar. These calendars are made out of simple material and at the end of it each student gets one to take home, a calendar that has been designed by someone else! There is much excitement in knowing the calendar one would get for oneself! The Junior school also separately engages in this activity.

This year the students explored thread art on paper. Students and teachers used their imagination to stick thread on paper to make creative designs. These art pieces form the creative part of the calendar and the date sheet is later added to these to complete the calendar for the year.



Celebrating Pongal

– An Assembly for Junior School Students

The junior school students were in for a treat when their teachers along with some of the non-teaching staff members put up an interesting assembly for them on the occasion of Pongal.

The corridor outside the junior school was decked up with festoons and sugarcane that had been grown in the school kitchen garden. There were colourful pots that had cotton simulating the overflowing Pongal placed alongside. The Class 1 students also worked on creating some small colourful mud pots to celebrate the spirit of Pongal. The students also worked happily on some chalk kolams that they created on the steps of the corridor.

The assembly began with a story around Pongal and a description of what happens during this festival. It was an interactive session with students responding to the questions raised by the teacher. The students of Amaravati also presented a song that was written and set to tune just for this assembly by Girija Akka who taught the students to sing it for the junior school. Finally, there was a folk dance by the teachers and non-teaching staff of the school to celebrate the joyous feeling of this day. The students were left asking for more as they applauded the efforts of their teachers and other Akkas at school.



Class 4 Trip to Mahabalipuram

For the past few years, the students of Class 4 have been going to Mahabalipuram to observe the monuments and sculptures there as part of experiencing the study of history. The students of junior school do not have history as a formal subject in their curriculum and therefore it is interesting to see how they approach the study of this subject through this day trip.

The students have worksheets that they take along with them on the trip and try to record their observations by way of written responses as well as drawings they do while on the trip. They try to be serious historians on the trip who engage with the idea of history through observation and conversation.



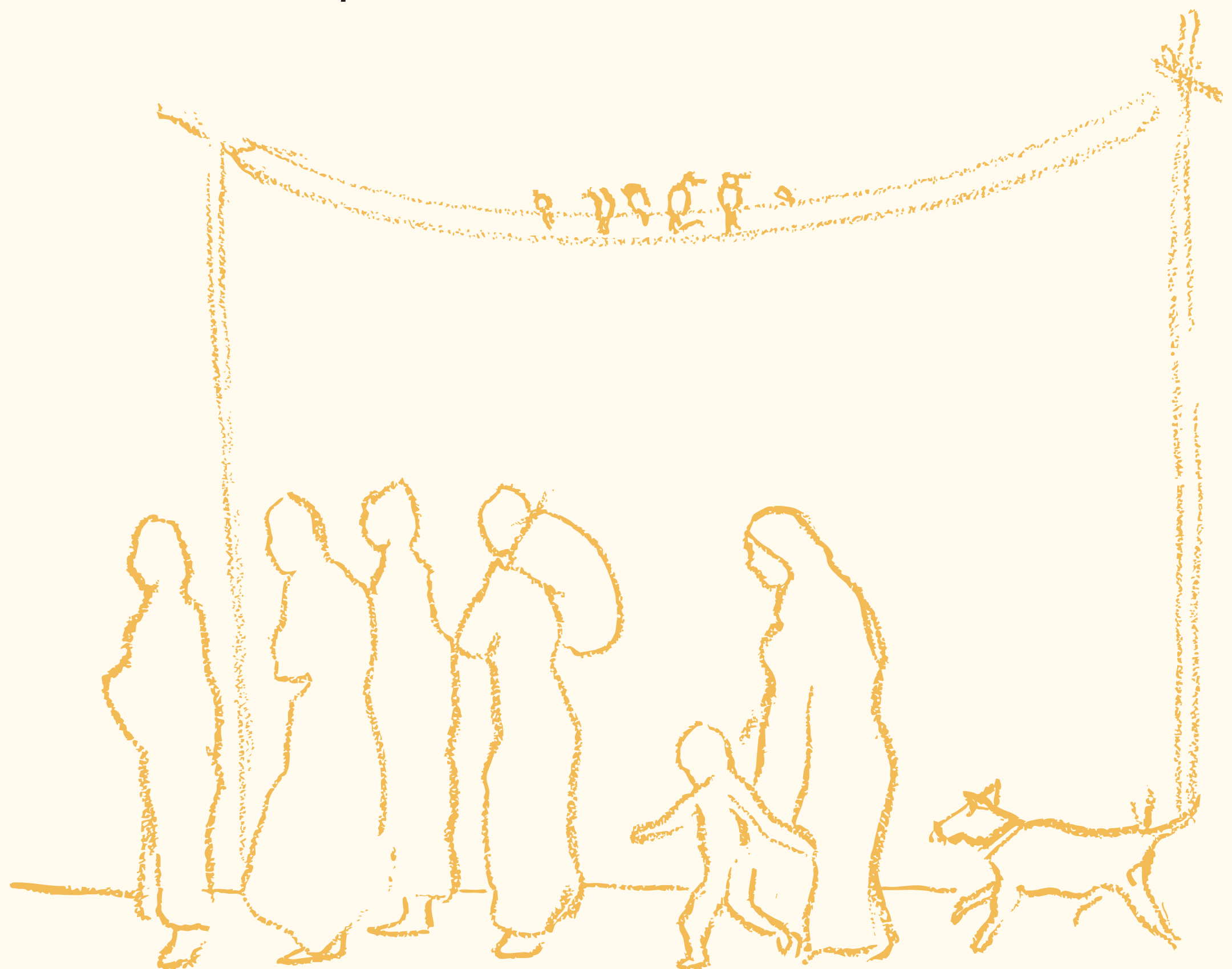
On the day of the trip, the students along with their teachers, left in the morning from school after an early breakfast. They carried lunch with them and were back at the end of the school day. Upon being asked how the trip had gone for them, one of them remarked, "I am tired, but I had a lot of fun and learnt a lot." There was a concluding session with the whole class the following day to bring together their learnings from the trip.

The Teacher Trainee Programme

The three-month Teacher Training Programme of the school began on January 6th with seven teacher trainees joining this programme this year to understand the educational work of the school against the background of Krishnamurti's teachings.

The programme is anchored by two teachers of the school who assign mentors for the trainees to help them understand the nuances of the school's work. The programme is largely self-driven by the trainees who raise questions to understand the role of a teacher and the different aspects of the school's functioning.

The programme has sessions for pedagogical inputs by teachers of the school, reading of Krishnamurti, structured time doing games, activity, ROTA and being part of assemblies for the trainees to get a glimpse of what a school day is like. At the end of this programme, the trainees create a portfolio as their contribution to the learning environment of the school and receive a certificate of completion of the course from school.



Class 11 Trip to Rajasthan



The Class 11 trip is a significant aspect of the Class 11 programme and has been designed to create a context for a young adult to engage with and understand the world around them. The students travel to Rajasthan to spend time at the Barefoot College and then at the School for Democracy where they interact with inspiring individuals like Bunker Roy and Aruna Roy who have worked closely with the Right To Information Act with special emphasis on the MNREGA. They also engage with other people who are closely connected with the work of the MKSS (Mazdoor Kisan Sangarsh Sangathan) and participate in discussions to learn about their work.

The students went on this ten day trip in December accompanied by four teachers. The preparation for the trip began for the students with an in-person session with T. M Krishna who raised questions around why one must be interested in the world around them. The students also had an online session with Arun of Marudam Farm School raising questions along a similar vein. All through the train journey to Rajasthan, the students read articles and discussed amongst themselves by raising questions around equity, equality and accessibility to basic rights of an individual. Through their time in Rajasthan, the students learnt about the importance of understanding one's role as a citizen of the country and had many opportunities to deepen their understanding of this vital question. The students came back to school with kindled minds and many questions that they continue to pursue with their teachers in their class discussions.