



the newsletter

The School KFI, Chennai

Issue #6

January, 2016

From the Editor

This newsletter brings to you the stories from the academic year **2014-15** that we are yet to share with you. We invite you to reminisce with us.

SLICE OF LIFE

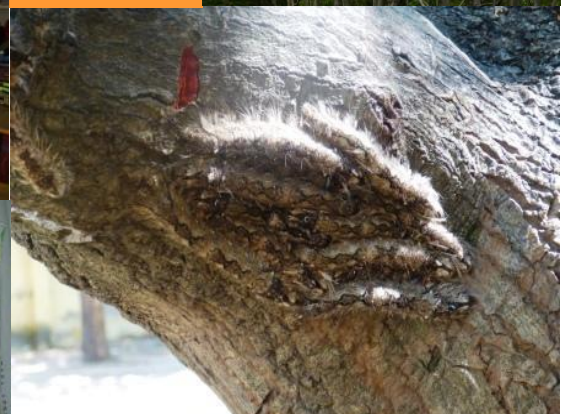
The school is indeed a fragile but rich ecosystem - of flora and children



Work is leisure when children are allowed their space and time on their own!



At school, we know the value of a tree just as the birds do

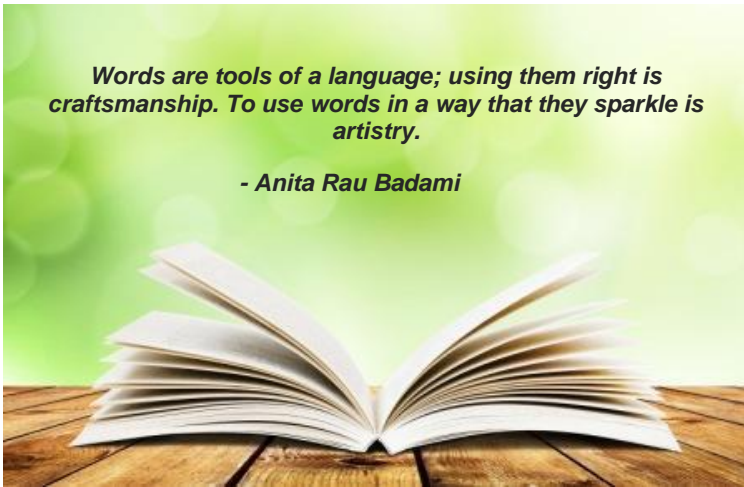


"I was once a newspaper with a life span of a day – now I am an eternal piece of art!"



A bit of The School in everything the children do – art from waste

Look who's hiding here! But nothing at school misses the children's eyes.



Interview

The World Wide Web will tell you a lot about celebrated Indian-Canadian author Anita Rau Badami; her books even more. However, when I met her in November 2014 after what I thought was adequate research about her, I was humbled by a lady in love with words and art. I quickly forgot all about my research and carefully prepared questions as we sat together on the Madras Terrace of the school's office building, watching the trees and birds and chatting as comfortably as only old friends or complete strangers do.

Four successful books and many writing sojourns later, Anita was on a new mission – to get back in touch with today's India, India's young and along the way with a part of herself. She said that she fed off the energy of people she is surrounded by. No wonder then that she chose The School and the school welcomed her.

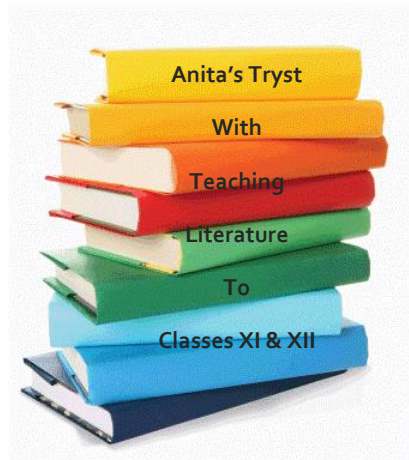
In the two months that she spent at the school, she had regular sessions with the senior school students on literature and art. For someone who had never taught literature before, the experience of sharing what she otherwise took for granted and developing methods of effectively doing so were a revelation to her. She hopes that the time the children spent with her would give those who may aspire, the courage to become writers.

Objective Analysis

- Composing essays on a piece of literature
- How to construct an essay
- How a reader responds to a story
- The stand one takes in analyzing a piece of literature
- Connect various elements in the story to the answer

Dissecting two stories from their syllabus – the art and craft of writing a story

- How a writer constructs a story
- How everything in a story is connected
- What is the mood which is a deliberate choice that a writer makes
- Sense of place, sense of time
- Characterizations linked to the plot
- The writer thinks of everything and does
- not leave anything to chance



Anita went back to art school after she turned 50 to pursue her life-long dream of making a paint brush work like a magician's wand. She considers herself an artist and an author and in all fairness to that she also conducted some sessions on art for the students of classes XI and XII

Indian and Western Art

- Films on Art Appreciation
- Drawing from traditional and folk arts
- Conversations on art
- Playing with oil colors
- Exploring color consciousness
- Creating illusions with colors
- Respect for the tools of an artist

We ended our chat with me promising to send her the first copy of this interview and a suggestion that she write on her experiences at The School. "Maybe I will. Or maybe I will just write my next book", was her response as she saw me off. I couldn't help but think of what Norman Mailer once said about writers; **'The writer can grow as a person or he can shrink... His curiosity, his reaction to life must not diminish.'**

Time never stands still . . . Class XII cooks the customary farewell lunch for the school



A Preview to the World of Work

As a part of the weekly Wednesday assembly, the students of the middle and senior school participate in discussions with guests involved in various fields of work. Starting from the academic year 2014-15, one Wednesday assembly of every month has been titled "the World of Work", where two guest speakers are invited. The intention of this assembly is to create a space where students from classes 9 to 12 get to interact with the guests with a specific aim to get realistic understanding of the world of work, of how wide and full of options "work" can be and that it need not be understood as the choice of a narrow field, and most importantly how work evolves from what one would like to do to how one would like to do it as an individual evolves.

- Guests from the fields of:
- Medicine
 - Theatre
 - Performing arts
 - Visual arts
 - Publishing
 - Literature
 - Engineering
 - Science
 - Advertising
 - Business
 - Management

- Content of the presentations:
- Description of their work
 - How they entered their field of work
 - Their beginning years at work
 - What they enjoy the most about their work
 - A typical day at work
 - The contemporary developments in the field
 - The qualifications required for the field of work

- A pick of questions from the students to the guests:
- What are the challenges you face at work?
 - What is the future of the field given the current technological and socio-political developments
 - What attitude, strengths and skills does one need for the field of work
 - How do you make it commercially viable/is it possible to make a living out of it?

Middle School Project 2014-15

What I see in nature is a magnificent structure that we can comprehend only very imperfectly and that must fill a thinking person with a feeling of humility.

-Albert Einstein

