

the school



NEWSLETTER

July - 2024

From the Editors - The Newsletter this month is a compilation of happenings at school from the beginning of this academic year. We hope you enjoy a slice of the school's life through the writing and pictures.



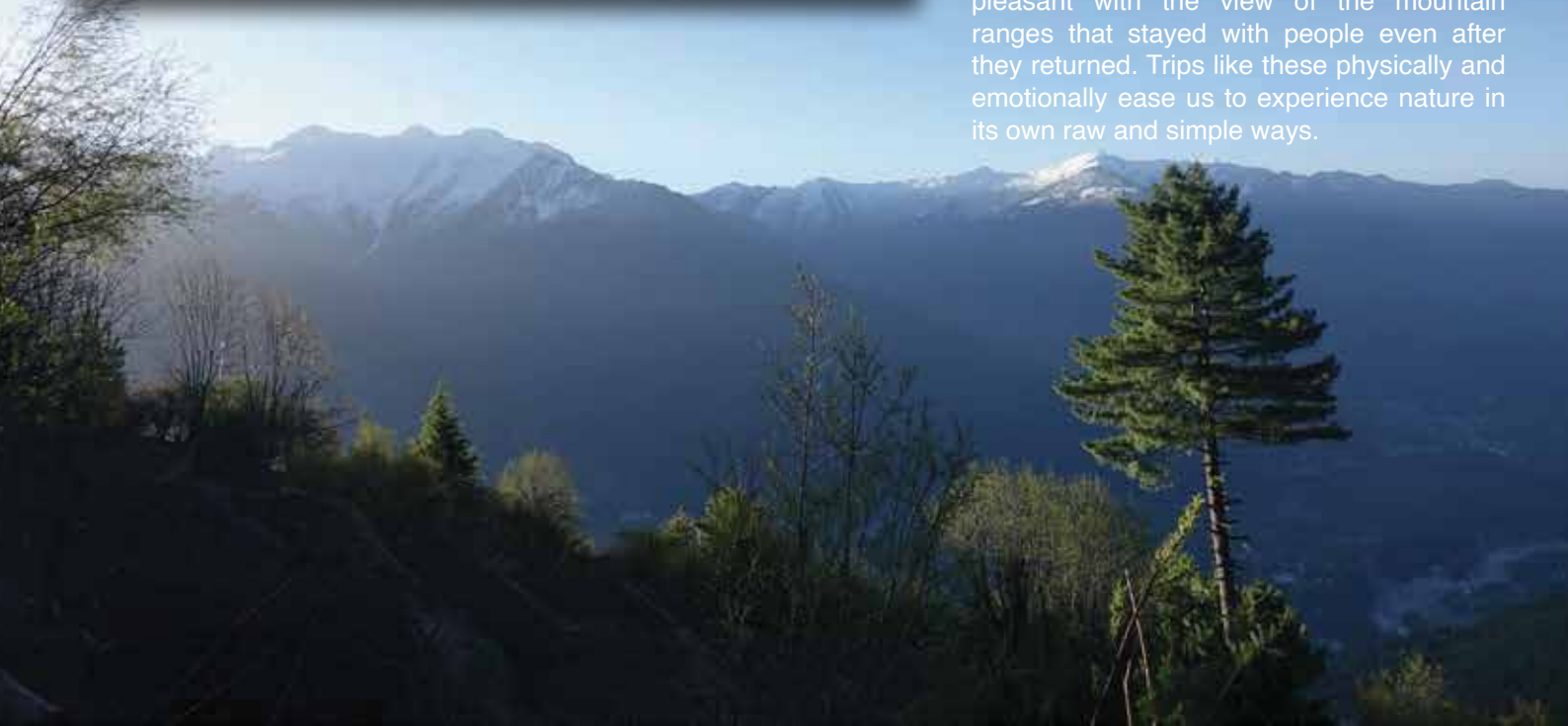
Library Activity

Colourful, hand-made cards strung along the doorway of the library give a sense of what the place means to middle school students. Library in school is a site of buzzing activity and excitement. The middle schoolers have been engaged in making their 'Book Bingos' (a set of reading goals for themselves), making blurbs for their favourite books and discovering new books in the library through recommendations from the senior school students in the form of thoughtful notes. We wish the young readers a meaningful reading journey!

MAHILEE TREK

The trek in the Himalayan ranges was planned after five years with a voluntary group of students, teachers and parents across school. The students were from Class 8 upwards. Many excited faces boarded the train from Tambaram and travelled for one and a half days towards Delhi. Random conversations, games and laughter filled the train journey. After refreshing, we started our trip from Delhi to Manali. Mr Gurvinder, the AAP trek organiser met us at the base camp-Som Van- and gave a warm welcome to the group. The first sight of the snow capped mountains took our breath away. The day was planned with acclimatisation activities like Flying-fox and free ladder climbing. There was also a short walk along the banks of the River Beas that was next to the base camp.

The night was cold and full of delight for the next day's walk to Camp 1-Mandron. We travelled to the starting point in a jeep and slowly started our walk in four different groups, one after the other. We set the pace for everyone to comfortably do the trek. Students helped each other whenever needed and volunteered to pick up trash as they walked. We reached the camp for lunch and went out to collect firewood in the evening, so that our bodies could adjust to the altitude shift. The bonfire was soothing after the day's walk. The next day, most of the group bravely packed for the walk to Camp 2 -Mahilee-and then all the way to Camp 3-Koot. This was a decision taken as Camp 2 was quite under snow due to the extreme weather the previous day.. It was a beautiful sight to see parents, teachers and students play in snow with a lot of joy. Once we reached Camp 3, it was amazing to see exhausted people resting and enjoying the quiet surroundings. The next day in Camp 3 was relaxing with little showers of rain, long conversations, hot food and everyone got together to play different games. The night surprised us with many stars in the sky. Some of the people in the group also sighted the Starlink Satellites that have been launched by Elon Musk. The next day's walk was pleasant with the view of the mountain ranges that stayed with people even after they returned. Trips like these physically and emotionally ease us to experience nature in its own raw and simple ways.



NEW STRUCTURES ON CAMPUS



The Stairway behind the Staffroom.



The fence on the western boundary



The new Open Space behind the Art Room



The Vegetable garden on the Library Terrace



The Play Structure for Middle and Senior School



A new oven in the school kitchen

LKG comes to school...



The classroom is ready, dusted, and clean.

Materials and toys are stacked neatly on the stand.

Symbols on the shelves and shoe racks mark the places.

Charts on the boards display birthdays.

The Dollhouse has been painted with curtains blue,

Crayons stacked on the trays anew.

A list of names is ready but still faces unfamiliar.

Anticipation fills the air

with older children asking if the classroom is ready yet.

A night of excitement and the day is set.

Tiny feet walk into the school, in between their parents.

Some look happy, some seem sad.

With every child walking in the school feels glad.

Welcome to kindergarten for a year,

that's filled with learning and laughter.



THE WEDNESDAY ASSEMBLY



The Wednesday Assembly / the Long Assembly is a space for listening, questioning, sharing and exploring different areas of life for the students and the teachers. It is a fifty minute long session that happens once a week across Classes 5 -12.

There is an Assembly Committee that plans and prepares for these sessions. The Class 12 students support the teachers in some of these events by helping with the audio-visual requirements, working with students, organizing the spaces and the sequence of the sessions.

The Assemblies that happened since the beginning of this academic year are

Presentation on sailing by an alumnus – Ganapathy K C
Open House – How do we see ourselves participating in various aspects of school?

Presentation of photographs and a compilation of responses, on the experience of the trek to the Himalayas that happened over summer, for students from Class 8 upwards along with the teachers and parents of school.

Introduction assembly of the new students and the Class 5 students.

World of Work Assembly- Parents of school - Mr Krishnamoorthy and Ms Celia Pillai were the first of the speakers for this term. They spoke about the field of advertising and design thinking at this assembly.

Junior School Birthday Assembly



On 28th of June, mid-morning, our Assembly Hall looked colourful. Oh! It was different than usual. We could see a few people (not the Akkas and Annas from school) dressed up as if there was a fancy-dress event. Visuals of a train, a bus, and kites were displayed on boards which added to the fiesta. A lot of goodies were exhibited, toys and traditional sweets and snacks.

It was the Birthday Assembly in Junior School and a few parents had come together to put up a skit, to celebrate the children who had their birthdays that month.

There was music, song, and dialogues. The skit was based on a girl from the city staying at her grandparents' place for vacation. The skit evolved from how the little girl who seemed to be always with her mobile and how her grandparents diverted her showing her a glimpse of the village with singing, dancing, and toe tapping music. They took her as well on a ride through the village market, the various games played there, the fields, the carnival, the kites, the fun and frolic. It was truly magical! Parents had put in effort to bring alive the scenes of a village and to show us there is a picturesque, vibrant, simple, unpretentious, peaceful world away from the buzzing city life.

As we left the assembly hall the images of village life stayed fresh in our minds!




Orientation Meetings

There were a series of Orientation Meetings in the month of June. They were for the following classes- the parents of new entrants to the school (into different classes) like LKG, UKG, Class I and parents of the children who were going into the Mixed Age Groups Classes. These meetings intend to acquaint the parents to changes and transitions for that section of the school.

At the Orientation Meetings, parents are informed of the details of the structure of the day in school and of the various components of the learning programme. They are given handouts to refer with regard to functional matters. In these meetings, there is also a time set aside for parents to bring in questions and seek clarification. All meetings were well attended by the parents of that section.

Fruiting Trees on campus



As the academic year began in June, children, adults and many other animals alike, looked forward to seeing and eating some of the fruits that had sprung up over the summer. Mangoes, the most anticipated fruit for the summer, had fallen below our levels of expectation in terms of yield.

It has been observed that these trees seem to store nutrients during one year, only to give abundantly the following year. The good news is, there are many other fruits on campus at the moment; pomegranates, lemons, tamarind and jamuns have started to bring much colour and joy into the lives of the various visitors to school. There are more in line to anticipate as the year unfolds, guavas and amla!

FESTIVAL OF DRAMA & DIALOGUE

Yours, Dramatically

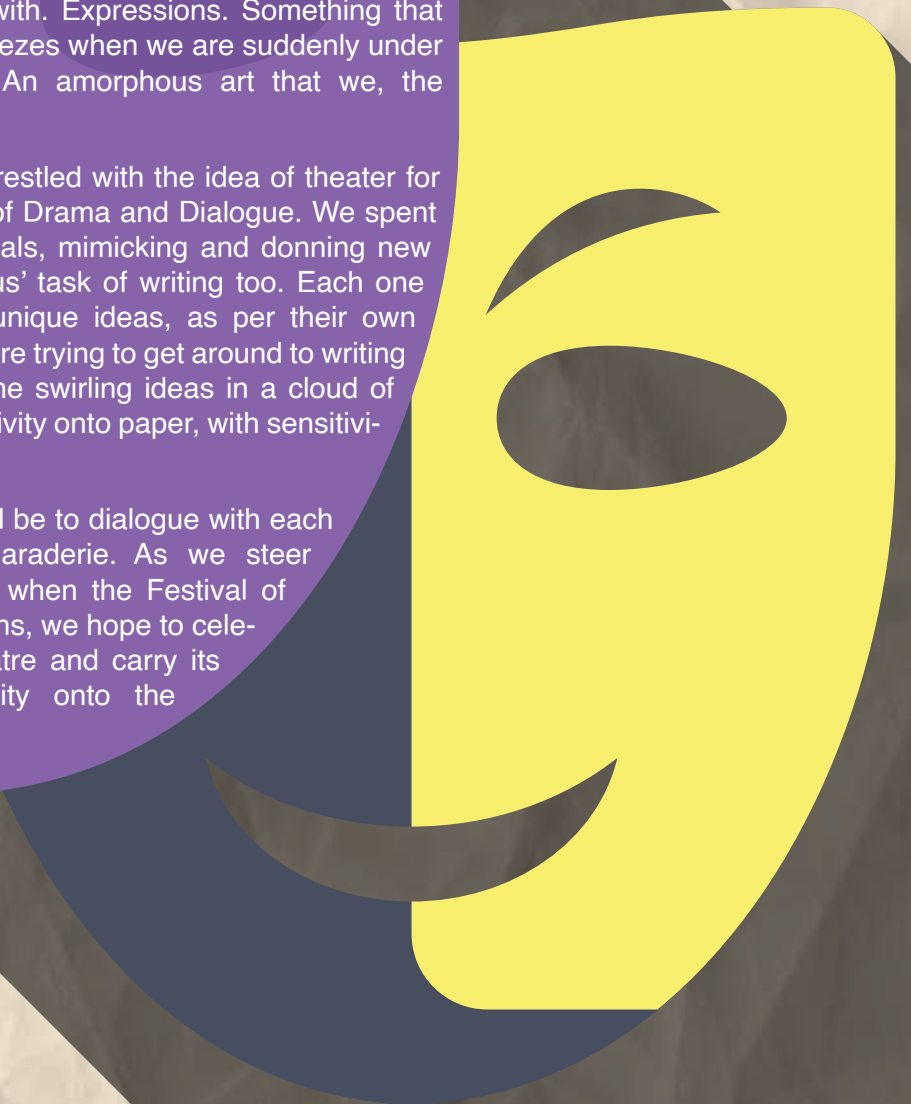
“Here... I found this near the mango tree. This poor bird seems to have fallen and broken its wing. How would you take care of it?”

“But Akka! It's just a random piece of paper Akka!” said one, bemused. After the ‘bird’ was gently held by one after another, it was promptly crushed, without a second thought. “Akka! You killed the bird!”, an aghast class echoed.

Drama. Something we are all familiar with. Expressions. Something that beautifully animates our features, but freezes when we are suddenly under the ‘spotlight’. Eloquent, yet concise. An amorphous art that we, the students of Class 11, are exploring.

It has been two weeks, and we have wrestled with the idea of theater for our long - awaited event - the Festival of Drama and Dialogue. We spent classes transforming into various animals, mimicking and donning new persons; interspersed with the ‘arduous’ task of writing too. Each one wrote and reflected, brimming with unique ideas, as per their own convictions and imaginations. As we are trying to get around to writing the script - it is challenging to ink the swirling ideas in a cloud of thoughts and trap the wisps of creativity onto paper, with sensitivity and clarity.

Sure, we can act. But 'Act 0' will be to dialogue with each other with candor and camaraderie. As we steer towards 30th July, the day when the Festival of Drama and Dialogue begins, we hope to celebrate the spirit of theatre and carry its essence and vitality onto the stage of life.

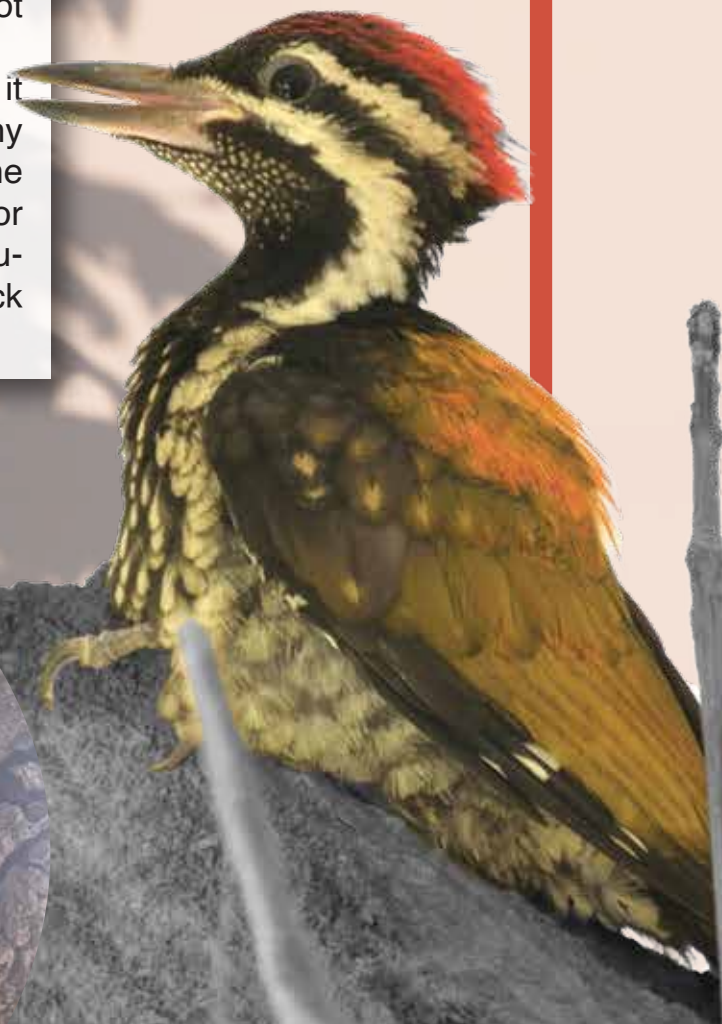


A woodpecker chose to make the mango tree just outside the dining hall, its home. It bore a hole into the trunk of the tree, and we realized all this when we saw a baby woodpecker poking its head out of the hole one fine day when everyone, students, and teachers, was coming in for lunch!

From then on, it became a routine affair as all would stop to see the baby woodpecker peeking out or just calling out to its mother who would always be around. Everyone took care to not disturb the little bird and soon enough, it was time for it to fly away. As it came out of the hole, gingerly making its way to the top of the mango tree trunk, it sat there calling out to its mother for more than half of that day! Everyone kept waiting for it to take off, but our winged friend was not sure about this, at least not yet!

Finally, just before the school day ended, it soared off, first landing on the balcony opposite the dining hall and then to the teak tree outside the office. It was time for it to bid adieu and as one junior school student remarked, "I hope it comes back again to make its home here."

A Woodpecker's Home



Preparations for July 06

A significant preparation that made the school ready for the event of July 6 was the decoration of the entire school. The school by itself is a beautiful place filled with nature. The creative artwork that was added to it embellished the lively space of the school.

The Annas at school, brought to life all the woodwork, stands, stage backdrop, the podium amongst many other things.

“The preparation towards the event began from the month of June and the decorations were set up two days before the event. The initial plan seemed simple and minimalistic, but it took all the time and effort”, said Ganesan Anna, who takes care of the carpentry work in school.



The art teachers in school sketched the design plan for the decoration of the entire school for the event.

“Whatever they can, they did”, said the art teacher, in the context of everyone’s contribution for the preparation, “Whether or not they were skilled, they participated in the process from ordering to designing, decorating, painting, sticking, tying, cutting and various other activities. It would have been impossible without the help of these people. Students of Classes 10, 11 and 12, many teachers and the non-teaching staff stayed back after school hours to help set up various things for the event. “

The stage, the tent for seating the audience, the audio and video were all arranged by various teachers in school. Some Class 12 climbed up really tall ladders to tie the oil paint cans to the trees. The visitors seemed to have liked the decorations, especially the lit up lamp stand.

“The teachers and students panicked when it drizzled as their work might get destroyed. But the stress was worth it and was all for the satisfaction that comes along with the final result”, said a Class 12 student.





The School KFI

Invites you to a special event
marking the completion of the 50th year of the school
Saturday 6th July 2024 3:00pm to 6:15pm
at
The School KFI, Thazhambur



**A FEW GLIMPSES FROM
THE 50TH YEAR
CLOSING EVENT**



