

VASANT VALLEY

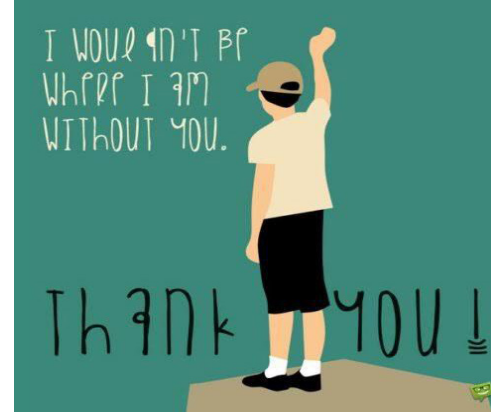
TODAY

कभी अलवदि ना कहना

Dear Mrs. Kumar, Mrs. Sarin, Mrs. Tomar, Mrs. Sayam, Ms Bahri, Mrs. Mohan and Mrs. Surendran,

Saying 'thank you' to anyone has never been easy. Unlimited gratitude cannot be woven into limited words. Through this letter, we will try and give truth to the untold. We will give our best shot to express the inexpressible.

The biggest lessons don't come from books but teachers who set an example for their students to follow and look up to. A teacher isn't just someone who enters classrooms, writes a few equations on the blackboard, and leaves



when the bell rings. A teacher is someone who misses their own lunch to help a student cross a learning obstacle. A teacher is someone who imparts right social values in children, making them the responsible citizens that we need in this world. Mostly, a teacher is someone who empowers students to make the best choices for themselves and have the courage to change the status quo. It is truly with the guidance from teachers like you, that our student journey becomes less strenuous.

"A truly great teacher is difficult to find, difficult to part with and impossible to forget."

Each journey has its own ups and downs and a journey that involves growing children can have many downs but your passion and dedication towards teaching has got you through these many years with flying colours. You all have spent more hours at school than at home and we can't imagine school without you.

As you all, our beloved teachers end your wonderful Vasant Valley journey and prepare to embark on a new chapter of your lives. We are honoured to take this opportunity to reflect on their legacy. Each one of you have touched so many hearts and moulded so many minds. You have given your patience, love and knowledge to this institution and to each and every one of us. You will remain forever a part of the Vasant Valley family.

"The best teachers are those who show you how to look and not where to see."

You dedicated many years of your life to educating students, and now it is time for you to sit back and watch the seeds you've sown grow. Congratulations on your well deserved retirement, we wish you all the best for your future endeavours.

-Advaita Sehgal, Shyla Upadhyay, Daksayani Chandra, Siddhant Nagrath, 10

SCHOOL WATCH

Transcription Activity - Class 4

1st: Tarangini Sethi, Meera Mann, Miraaya Singh, Rudra Saran, Sahaya Kukreja, and Noor Jain

2nd: Tushita Johar, Pooja Das, Natalia Kapoor, Laghima Chopra, Aaditri Trivedi and Arjun Mahajan

3rd: Vardaan Singh, Parthivi Kanoria, Devina Bhartia and Miraya Chhabra

Inter House Science Quiz - Class 10 (Preliminary Round)

Blue: Vivaswat Rastogi and Sumaya Beri

Yellow: Sanya Anand and Khushi Juneja

Red: Kabir Datta and Siddharth Sharma

Green: Shubhkarman Sandhu and Shashvat Rastogi

HIDE AND SEEK, COVID EDITION!



We all enjoy a good game of Luka Chhupi, but when the opponent is a deadly virus spreading across the planet at an alarming rate, it's safe to say it's just not the same. Now that the second wave is official, it's beginning to look like COVID-19's favourite band is Chum-

bawamba. It gets knocked down, but it gets up again. Are we never going to keep it down? Now that reports are coming out that antibodies are as short-lived as our memory in exams, this is not the time to become complacent. The new vaccines are an important step towards overcoming this pandemic, but at this point, with articles and reports about side effects and anaphylaxis, fear of the vaccine is beginning to outweigh fear of the disease itself. Now that vaccination has transformed into a trend on social media, with countless selfies and #GotMyShot flooding multiple media, perhaps FOMO will save us all. The virus does not seem too intimidated by the vaccine yet, though. It seems that the "corona" or crown is getting to COVID-19's head. It's beginning to believe that it can poke its nose wherever it's not welcome, like that one annoying relative you spot at every party. I am starting to notice a pattern here though. When the cases are less, the world is panicked. It's only when they ramp back up to at least 5000 cases per day that we all can breathe a sigh of relief and get back to our celebrations. For all of its strengths, COVID does seem to be very subtle with its entrances, slowly and gradually increasing every few weeks. Maybe a Jack Torrance-esque re-entry would be more impactful... "HEEEEEEEERE'S COVY!" I'd even settle for the tried and true "Theeey're baaaaack!" Meanwhile, here's hoping that our Goa trips and political rallies can prove to be insurmountable, even against the coronavirus. Introverts rejoice!

-Sumaya Beri, 10 (illustration by Sara Jayakumar, 10)

Leaving

The airport is approaching.



When they would be driven to the airport as a child, the trees would bend forward, as if to hug the gale. Far, far away, the airplanes, emerging from one fluffy cloud only to be hidden within another, would brighten the vast, sunless sky with their dazzling red lights. One by one, the raindrops would unite with the puddles on the road.

But today, on this raging monsoon evening, they see none of this. Instead, they glance at their watch – a parting gift – as their fingers tightly clasp their passport. They rummage through their carry-bag again. They are leaving this world for another world today.

This wonder of a world – where the unforgiving heat of a scorching afternoon could be remedied by the cold drip of chocolate ice cream. Where 'freedom' could only realistically be equated to the periodic clang of the school bell. Where a carefully tied friendship-band was the crest of eternal loyalty. Where one's entire universe was visible during the springs and dips of the oscillating neighbourhood see-saw.

A tear rolls down their cheek as they breathe their surroundings in for one last time. Yes, this would be it.

But even in that world, everything came to an end, they think. Cola ice pops break apart and melt into two distinct puddles of Coca-Cola during the Indian summer. Barbie dolls lose the pinkness of their dresses and the sheen of their tresses in a year or two. Cotton flesh bleeds out of the gashes in an old teddy bear's fur.

Childhood would certainly end. College would certainly begin.

They step out of the car. They engage in warm, tight embraces. They hear all the gentle, stifled sobs.

This world might not be charitable to them.

But they will brave through it.

-Shiveka Bakshi, 12

An Online Session At Vasant Valley – Get Again!

The past few weeks have been an especially turbulent time for our country. With the devastating coronavirus back in action, we have witnessed several restrictions and containment measures return to our city and were treated with the most dismal news of all: our schools had been shut again.

We seemed to be stuck in a nightmare, reminding us of the previous year again, and no one was happy about it. However, there was a sense of jubility and excitement as we all gathered around our screens, to begin another session, online.

There is a sense of purpose and determination in everyone, to ensure that we will avoid the pitfalls of the previous years and emerge victorious out of this second advent of the virus. We are all wiser and stronger, better prepared to face online education than we were back in the spring of 2020.

As a student in class 12, I share in the dismay and disappointment of being stuck in our homes in what are the most important years of our school lives, as well as the final one. None of us had imagined that we would be subjected to the fate of our predecessors, who also spent

their ultimate year in school at home. Saying this, we must appreciate all the efforts made by the school to ensure we are not left behind in the real school experience.

However, we have faith that eventually the number of COVID-19 cases will fall, and soon, we will be back to school in full glory to thoroughly enjoy our time in the beautiful campus, amongst the amazing members of the Vasant Valley Fraternity. So, though we may not have wanted it, let us make the best of this virtual venture and wait it out, like we have done last year.

-Manan Abuja, 12

Burma Burning



On the 1st of February 2021, a fledgling democracy seemingly collapsed once again into Military Dictatorship as a result of a coup d'état that took place in Myanmar. Following the November elections in which the ruling party, the National League for Democracy (NLD) won a sweeping victory, Myanmar's military - the Tatmadaw - arrested the elected officials and declared Martial Law for a year. Ruling power was transferred to Commander-in-Chief of Defence Service Min Aung Hlaing and has prompted widespread protests.

Ever since it earned independence from the British in 1948, Myanmar (Formerly Burma) has teetered on the precipice of absolute military control. Their most notable pro-democratic figure, Aung San Suu Kyi, winner of a Nobel Peace Prize 1991, remained under house arrest for much of twenty years due to her political stance and was one of the first officials arrested in the coup. The country, though officially a democracy, has been under military control until the referendum vote of 2008 approved a constitution that still granted the military considerable influence in the democratic institutions subsequently founded.

Myanmar also has a rocky history of human right violations. They have come under fire for the genocide of the Rohingya Muslim population in the country. The military's alleged anti-Rohingya stance and the democratic government's lack of response have diminished Ms. Suu Kyi's support base and cause the world to speculate that the Rohingya situation in the country would only worsen post take-over. Over 550 civilians, including children, have now been killed in the course of protesting the coup already by the Tatmadaw, raising worldwide concern.

The aggressive seizure of power by the military thus is not only a threat to democracy but a humanitarian concern that requires immediate action.

-Kavyini Garodia, 12

A Huff and a Puff and he Blew the House Down

On 24th March 2021 the controversial bill, which seeks to make the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi equivalent to the Delhi government, was passed in Parliament with the nod of the Rajya Sabha. While several opposition leaders condemned the action as "a dark day for democracy" and "an assault on the fundamentals of federalism", strangely enough, it reminded me of my favourite childhood story - 'The Three Little Pigs'.

The story revolves around a wolf who succeeds in blowing away the houses made by the pigs out of straw and sticks. However, when it came to blowing the house made of bricks, he failed to do so and met with his doom when he tried to enter the house through the chimney but fell into a pot of scalding water. I was fascinated by the uncanny similarity of the story with the contemporary events of Indian politics — of how every month we hear news about yet another attempt being made to overthrow a different state government, the most recent example being the Bengal elections. The pertinent question which arises from these events is what all this means for the future of democracy and federalism.

While India exists as a quasi-federal country, in reality, the lines between the jurisdiction and powers of the centre and state often get blurred to give more authority to one side — the centre. Such situations make the centre seem like the spoil-sport who always wrecks the board game whenever someone else wins and then tries his best to manipulate the rules of the game to be able to declare himself the victor each time. By that logic, making the Delhi Government subordinate to the lieutenant governor was another rule that was altered so that the centre could assert its primacy. Not only is this unfair to the other parties who have a right to govern their states in the way they deem fit, but it is a disservice to the integrity of the rules of the ultimate game.

While the fear of other states, too, becoming victims of such injustice is enduring, equally concerning is fathoming whether Indian federalism and democracy meet the end of the wolf, or survive like the pigs. Only time will tell what lies in its fate.

-Arshya Gaur, 12



GOODBYE....

Dear Mrs. Surendran,

It took a special person
To teach me in class four
To just keep my attention
In my world that moved so fast
To show me that I was unique
With talents deep inside
To help me with my confidence
So I could beam with pride
Some Lessons were a challenge
And you taught me how to cope
Each day, I grew in confidence
Ability and hope
Yet determinedly you taught me
Putting me to the test
Encouraging my efforts
As you made me do my best.
I really-really appreciate
You made me learn through fun.
Thank you Mrs. Surendran



Dear Mrs. Sarin,

I still remember my first day in Vasant Valley School, when my parents dropped me in Foundation-C. I was in all tears and didn't want them to leave. Just then you came around and gave me the most powerful hug. I formed an instant bond with you there and then. You taught me so much and helped me grow. You truly are one of the best teachers I know. You have been my source of inspiration and motivation from day one. You've made learning so much fun. You have always been so supportive. Your patience and love always encouraged me and helped me set the foundation for my student life. Thank you so much for making my life brighter. You may be away, but your teachings will never be. I promise you that I will continue to follow your shown path to greatness. Wish you all the best for future. Where ever you go, whatever you do, I wish you happiness, success and a good future. Good bye to my greatest mentor ever! I will miss you a lot.



- Ameir Sandhu, 5-A



You are really special and have given in your best

And for every child who has been in your class, Their life is truly blessed.

Donna Chhatwal 5-C



मेरी प्यारी श्रीमती तोमर

जा नहीं हैं आप श्रीमती तोमर
हमसे विदा लेकर,
मुट्टी दुआओं की

चुपके से हमारे सिर पर छोड़कर।
आभारी हैं हम
साल मुश्किल था,
पर आपने धैर्य और विश्वास से हमें आगे
बढ़ाया, ऊँचा उड़ाया।
हर वर्ष बना रहा हमारा साथ
आपका आभार।
आप वह दीपक बनीं
जिससे हमें ज्ञान का प्रकाश मिला।

पर एक दुःख रहा,
शाबाश नोरा! का स्वर तो मुझ तक कई
बार आया,
लेकिन आपका स्पर्श मैंने इस वर्ष न पाया।
अब यही है ईश्वर से दुआ,
आप सदैव हमारे मन के आईने में
चूँ ही मुस्कुराते रहें।
और हम आपसे पहले की ही भांति
चूँ ही प्रेरणा पाते रहें।
चूँ ही प्रेरणा पाते रहें।

नोरा छतवाल 5-सी

Dear Mrs. Mohan,

Three years you have taught me
No matter where you go, no matter
where you will be,
I will still miss you thoroughly.
The Western Music class will never be
the same,
With you telling us how, to challenge our brains
To make new songs, each time we met,
To add so much meaning, to all the new concepts!
It has been an honor and I will always cherish
The moments spent with you,
Will always be remembered.



I wish that we could meet before you went away
If we were offline this bye would be in a different way
To make use of now,
All I have to say
Wherever you go, May the spark of learning stay
Hope we meet again
and till we can't,
I want to thank you
from the bottom of
my heart.

Reanna Malik, 5-B



पॉडकास्ट बनाम पुस्तक

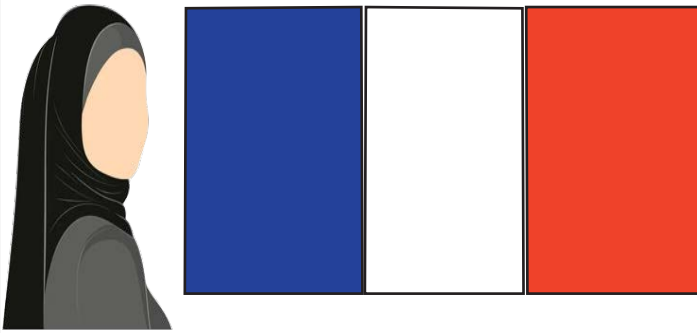
विज्ञान और तकनीकी से मानव जीवन में निरंतर विकासशील परिवर्तन संभव हो रहा है। प्रत्येक व्यक्ति इस परिवर्तन से प्रभावित भी है। तकनीकी के प्रभाव ने आधुनिक संसार को आकर्षक बनाने में बहुत बड़ा योगदान करा है मगर इस सब के बीच एक अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण यह सवाल उठता है कि क्या सदियों से चली आ रही परम्पराएँ भी अपना रूप बदल रही हैं? पुराने समय से चली आ रही प्रथाओं को कहीं न कहीं क्षति भी पहुँच रही है तथा हमारे पूर्वजों द्वारा स्थापित लिए गए मूल्य अप्रचलित भी हो रहे हैं जिसके कारण संबंधों की घनिष्टता को भूलते जा रहे हैं।

एक समय था जब लोग फुरसत के समय पुस्तकें, पत्रिकाएँ और समाचार पत्र पढ़ना पसंद करते थे। बच्चे नाना-नानी और दादा-दादी से कहानियाँ सुनाना पसंद करते थे। इंटरनेट और टेलिविज़न के प्रसारण ने लोगों को जैसे अपने माया जाल में कस लिया है। तकनीकी की एक और देन है – 'पॉडकास्ट' जो आज के समय में अनेक क्षेत्र में अपना पैर जमा रहा है। समाचार से लेकर चर्चित विषयों पर बात-चीत तक, फ़िल्म या नाटक की पटकथा हो या नानी की कहानियाँ सब पर पॉडकास्ट की निर्भरता किताबों से ज़्यादा होती जा रही। अब हम यह देख रहे हैं कि पॉडकास्ट पर हमारी निर्भरता इतनी बढ़ गई है कि कोई भी काम करते समय केवल इनको सुन कर अपना ज्ञान का भंडार बढ़ा सकते हैं या मनोरंजन कर सकते हैं। तो अब सदियों से हमारा ज्ञान का मुख्य स्रोत जो हमें किताबों से मिलता रहा है, क्या वह अब अपर्याप्त तथा कालग्रस्त हो गया है?

इस सवाल का जवाब पाने के लिए हमें खुद से यह सवाल पूछना होगा कि हम किताबों के बिना रह सकते हैं? और इस प्रश्न का जो उत्तर, सोच-समझकर मेरे मन में आता है वह है - 'नहीं'। जब हमारा कोई नया दोस्त बनता है तब हम अपने बचपन के दोस्त को भूलते नहीं हैं, मेरे लिए, उसी तरह तकनीकी व प्रचीन गतिविधियों के बीच यही रिश्ता है। वास्तव में प्रगति का प्रतीक आधुनिक तथा प्राचीन के मिश्रण में ही दिखाई देता है। यह सच है कि पॉडकास्ट सुविधाजनक और रोचक तो लगता है लेकिन किताबों की जगह कभी नहीं ले सकता।

अनिरुद्ध वत्स 10-A

BAN OF HIJABS IN FRANCE



The French Senate passed a bill prohibiting Muslim women under 18 years of age from wearing hijabs in public areas on the 30th of March. If the bill is passed, Muslim mothers who wear hijabs will be barred from accompanying their children on school trips as well as wearing burkinis in public swimming pools. Some French senators also proposed restricting hijab-wearing women from competing in national and international sports events.

This has also been linked to the murder of Samuel Paty, a school teacher, who showed cartoons of Prophet Muhammad to his students. The bill, expected to be enforced in July 2021, is aimed at the country's 5.7 million Muslim population. If enforced, it would have a significant effect on their lives, including educational opportunities. A growing number of Muslim students in France are opting to leave the French school systems to study abroad.

The French government has denied any form of Islamophobia, claiming that this bill would protect women from oppression and Islam's strict ideals. The passing of this controversial bill has led to protests across France, alongside plenty of tweets and posts about it on social media.

In my opinion, wearing a hijab is a personal choice that the government should not have control over. This bill clearly deprives Muslim women of their human rights. With the controversy, it might be time for France to reconsider their policies.

Twisha Jerath, 10 B

WORLD TODAY

The easiest way to ace a GK quiz!

Nepal's one-horned rhinoceros population has grown by more than 100 since the last 2015 census to about 752 in the latest count.

Amidst the rise of COVID cases, the government of India has banned the export of the Remdesivir injection and its Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) until the coronavirus situation improves.

Wrestler Sonam Malik has qualified for the Tokyo Olympics on Saturday (10th April) in the 62kg category.

Gujarat has had 3,031 forest fires over the past three years, with astonishingly no animal casualties; however, around 48 trees were burned.

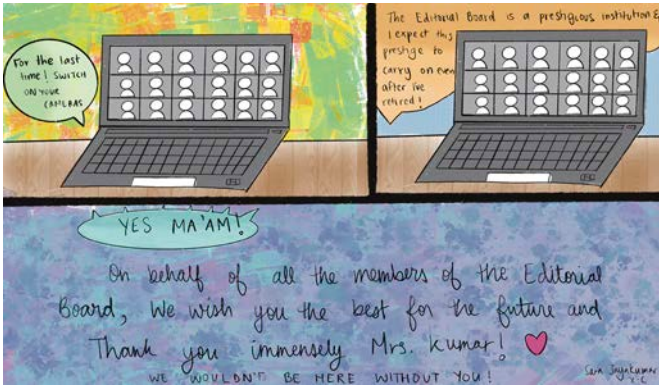
The Indian team beat Argentina (Olympic Champions) 3-2 in the first Hockey Pro League match in Buenos Aires on 10th April.

Maharashtra becomes the first state to administer over 1 crore vaccine doses as of the morning on Sunday, April 11th.

A fire broke out at Naharpur Kasan Village in Gurugram burning 700 huts, no casualties were found.

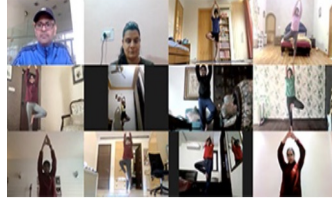


The Editorial Board and Mrs. Kumar



जहाँ चाह - वहाँ राह

खेलकूद का घंटा हमेशा हम सब का प्रिय समय रहा है। स्कूल के मैदान में दौड़ने की आजय और खुशी मिलती है, वो अपने घर में मिलना असम्भव है। वास्तव में, हमारी इच्छा है कि सब वापस सामान्य हो जाए और हम PE की कक्षा का वास्तविक अनुभव कर पाएँ। इतना कुछ होने के बाद भी हमारे अध्यापक और अध्यापिका हमेशा की तरह हमें स्वस्थ रखने की कोशिश में लगे हैं, व शैक्षिक पाठों के बीच में विराम भी प्रदान करते हैं। हमें ऑनलाइन कक्षा के दौरान हर तरह का प्रशिक्षण देने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। इसे रोचक और सुखद बनाने के लिए प्रतियोगिताओं का भी आयोजन भी किया जा रहा है। सुनाने में यह बात अजीब लगेगी लेकिन सभी छात्रों के मन में उत्साह और जोश की भावना भी भर देती है। इसे कहते हैं 'जहाँ चाह वहाँ राह'।



शिक्षकों द्वारा समय-समय पर विशिष्ट कार्यकला एवं प्रतियोगिता के द्वारा योग कला को निखारा जाता है। वे इसे रिकॉर्ड करते हैं और जिस भी छात्र ने सबसे अच्छे अंक पाए, वह विजेता कहलाता है। इसके लिए शिक्षक और छात्र दोनों को मिलकर कार्य करने की आवश्यकता होती है। यह एक आनंददायक प्रक्रिया है जिससे पुराने यादें भी ताज़ा हो जाती हैं। हम सब मैदान में वापस जाने का इंतज़ार नहीं कर सकते, लेकिन हमें इस समय अपने शिक्षकों का अनुपालन करना चाहिए तभी हम स्वस्थ राह पाएँगे।

-अनविरत्नि डागा, 10

The Boy and Corona

“Hi!” said Corona, as he ruffled the boy’s hair. The little boy gazed at him, asking, “Why did you come here? Do you aim to destroy my life?” Cackling loudly, Corona replied, “Oh, child, you know nothing indeed. You humans are so...”

The boy raised his voice, as if trying to make a point, He said, “You have only known us for ten months, and it won’t be long until you are forced to leave!”

Infuriated by him, Corona decided that it was time to seal his mouth shut.

Tears rolled down the boy’s cheeks (If you’re wondering, they were tears of laughter).

Soon enough, Corona’s temper worsened, And he said, “Child, the worst is yet to come, wait till my wings spread out!”

The boy was confused—he wondered and wondered, And finally, he decided that it was time to stand up.

He replied, “Corona, you are nothing but a virus. The human race is so much more.”

Corona’s heartbeat could be heard. It was almost as if his lungs were tearing open. “Child, you have opened my eyes, my blurry vision. You truly are an inspiration.”

And we remain confused—how did a foes’ battle turn into a friendship?

Who was this boy? No one knows this answer... Soon enough, Corona left, kudos to that one young boy.

-Nikasha Manaktala, 9

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