

Vasant Valley TODAY

Unanimously Yamuna

The infamous Yamuna Yatra. What more than 5 years ago seemed like merely a fantasy, had finally arrived. Strung along with it tales of adventure & excitement told by preceding batches that had had the time of their lives, building up the anticipation of the legendary 12 day journey. All that can be said is, it had been about time.

From the very first whiff of the mountain air, our adventure began as we dove headfirst into an experience that comes only once in a lifetime. Yamuna Yatra meant something different to each and every single person present there and one knows those memories are held close to the heart when spiders the size of your fist and the dirtiest of loos were seen as an adventure, not a challenge.

Yatra, in all its sublimity became about the person that accompanied you to the bathroom in the middle of the night (potentially in the presence of a wild animal) with nothing but a torch. The outstretched hand that kept you from getting crushed under an avalanche of rocks on just another one of those "Death Treks" and the masterminds of our batch that tried forging new paths up the mountains to no avail.

Yatra, with its twists and turns grew into a magical lifetime's experience of gazing up into the brilliance of the stars across clear skies, a solitary experience for city slickers accustomed to smogged out heavens above. Piercing the stillness of the night with crackling bonfires and the songs of our talented young bunch in unison with the roar of the Yamuna. The towering mountains silently witnessed our spontaneous sing-alongs and gusts of laughter and inside jokes. The rush we got as we snuck around and gorged on the forbidden Lays and Yan Yans behind the third eye on the rear view mirror.

We pursued the course of the river and caught our breath at the sight of its multi hues and tones as it cascaded down from its origins. We watched in wonderment the majestic beauty of the river, pure and pristine as it made its way and transformed from a pure silver and blue into an inkable black making us realize the tragedy of this mighty river as it got soiled and abused on its journey to the plains.

The path of the Yamuna gave our journey life as we enjoyed one momentous experience from another. With each and every stop we made (shout-out to Savoy Greens!) old friendships strengthened as new ones got forged. Bonds were created with locals over cricket matches and common ground was found with people in the remotest of villages as we were welcomed into their lives and as we approached the toll gates of Delhi, we entered with heavy hearts and lighter stomachs thanks to the gol-gappas!

SCHOOL WATCH

English Poetry writing results for classes 6-12

Class 6

1st- Khrish Jain
2nd- Amara Alyssa Lall and Kaasvee Kaur

Class 7

1st- Ritwick Sapra
2nd- Rianna Chabbara
3rd- Devananda R. Satish and Saanya Anand

Class 8

1st- Kian Nagpal
2nd- Pradeep Mehra Sahni
3rd- Shaivya Gupta and Shrey Sarin

Class 9

1st- Kavin Bhatia
2nd- Kaviyini Garodia and Vijit Mann
3rd- Noor Tarun Sawhney and Nikita Gupta

Class 10

1st- Armaan Gandhi and Prakriti Mahajan
2nd- Simran Kumar
3rd- Vansh Gandhi

Class 11

1st- Smittee Oberoi
2nd- Karamvir Chopra
3rd- Sehej Kaur and Shubham Kalantri

Class 12

1st- Nayna Puri
2nd- Sohah Sadashiv Kacker & Saniya Sidhu
3rd- Prithvi Singh & Ishita Zutshi

Hindi Saamuhik Kahani Lekhan Pratiyogita of class 9

1st- Vedika Shrikhande, Tarika Lowe, Arshya Gaur and Praneel Midha
2nd- Udaiveer Jain, Preetika Jesudasan, Ayushman Ashish Kher and Prarthna Batura
3rd- Vaibhav Trivedi, Tejas Rawat, Akhil Singh and Abhimanyu J. Kumar

वह ऊँचे-ऊँचे पहाड़,
वह बहती हुई माँ यमुना,
वह कठिन चढ़ाई और
उस अनमोल वातावरण की आभा में
हमें मिले कुछ नए दोस्त, नए अनुभव और कुछ सुनहरे पल
यह सच में एक अविस्मरणीय यात्रा थी।

हमारी कक्षा १० की बोर्ड परीक्षा समाप्त होते ही, हमें बस एक ही चीज का इंतजार था और वह थी वस्तु वैली की प्रसिद्ध यमुना यात्रा। ४ अप्रैल की सुबह हम सभी छात्र उत्तेजना से भरे स्कूल पहुँच गए। वह दिने आ गया था जिसका हम सब इंतजार कर रहे थे। हम जल्दी ही गाड़ियों में बैठे और यमुना यात्रा के पहला गंतव्य, मसूरी के लिए निकल पड़े। उत्तरकाशी के खूबसूरत नजारों को देख कर हम आश्चर्यचकित थे। ऊँचे-ऊँचे पहाड़, गहरी वादियाँ और चारों तरफ हरियाली। मसूरी में विश्राम करने के बाद अगली सुबह हम लाखामण्डल के लिए चल पड़े। पहाड़ों पर चढ़ते समय नजारा अद्भुत था। हम गाड़ियों में बातें करते, गाने गाते और वादियों का आनंद उठाते आगे बढ़ते गए। लाखामण्डल पहुँच कर हमें पहली बार माँ यमुना का दर्शन करने को मिला। वह अत्यंत खूबसूरत और निर्मल थी। लाखामण्डल में हमने एक कठिन पहाड़ चढ़ा और इसमें हमने एक दूसरे की मदद भी की। अगले दिन हम 'जानकी चट्टी' पहुँचे जो ८७०० फीट की ऊँचाई पर थी। जानकी चट्टी में बहुत ज्यादा ठंड थी और हमने सबह यमुनोत्री हिमनद की तरफ चढ़ना शुरू किया। चढ़ाने कठिन थी परन्तु हम एक दूसरे की प्रेरणा के स्रोत बने। यमुनोत्री पहुँचने पर हमें कड़ी ठण्ड का सामना करना पड़ा परन्तु गरम चाय और पकौड़ों ने जोश और उमंग को बढ़ावा दिया। हम और ऊपर चढ़े और हमें बर्फ भी मिली। वहाँ का नजारा सच में शानदार था। अगले दिन हम गगनानी गए, जहाँ हमने यमुना के ठंडे पानी में डुबकी लगायी और सबके लिए मिला कर भोजन भी पकाया। शाम को छात्रों ने अपनी प्रतिभा का प्रदर्शन करते हुए गाने गाये, कविताएँ सुनाई और एक नाटिका की प्रस्तुति भी की।

गगनानी के बाद हम पहाड़ों से उतर कर 'पौंटा साहिब' गए। पौंटा साहिब के गरूदवारे में छात्रों ने सेवा भी की। वहाँ के स्वर्गीय माहौल ने हमारे मन को शांति पहुँचाई। हमें सबको घर की याद तो आ रही थी परन्तु हम आपसी संगति का आनंद ले रहे थे। पौंटा साहिब के बाद हम आगरा गए, जहाँ हमने खूबसूरत ताज महल देखा और वृन्दावन गए, जहाँ हमने प्रसिद्ध बाँके बिहारी मंदिर के दर्शन किए।



१६ अप्रैल की सुबह हम थके हुए दिल्ली वापस पहुँचे। हम २ सप्ताह के बाद घर पहुँचने पर खुश तो बहुत हुए परन्तु अभी भी हमें लाखामण्डल की वेह चढ़ाने, यमुनोत्री की सुंदरता, पौंटा साहिब की शान्ति और वृन्दावन की स्वादिष्ट खाना याद आता है। यह बात सोलह आने सच है कि यह अद्भुत यात्रा हमें हमेशा याद रहेगी।

Anoushka Clays (11), Harnoor Singh (11),
अद्वय गुलाटी (११)

SHARP EDGES

(This poem won first prize in the English Poetry Writing Competition. Other award winning poems are available on the school website.)

I looked around myself, lost.
The sharp edges of the window
Shattering into pieces
Had cut my skin.
Crimson blood dripped down the side of
my face.
There were millions like me,
Surrounding me.
They ran helter-skelter
Eerily similar to hunted animals,
But I didn't mind.
The shattering glass, collapsing build-
ings, fires, and most of all, Death;
Had left them scared.
Watching them reminded me I should be
trying to escape like them,
Should be trying to find my family like
them.
But I think I was in shock,
I looked around myself, lost.

The sharp edges of millions of pieces of
glass
Digging into my skin

Brought me back to reality.
Blood kept pooling around my feet,
The ability to move still evaded me,
But the sensation of sound had finally
come back.
The world had ceased to be a film play-
ing on and on without stop.

The tremors suddenly came back- after-
shocks-
More buildings fell till only one re-
mained
And that too was swaying.
The panic increased, the screams inten-
sified;
And I finally felt fear-
But I was still stood rooted to the spot,
unable to move.
Surrounded by people, death, debris and
falling structures;
I was still a lonely figure.

Desperate, I dug the glass deeper into
my skin
Feeling it's sharp edges cut me
Creating a deep gash-
It was only going to get deeper.
I'd heard shock was best treated with
pain.

The sharp edges went in deeper and

deeper,
I was trying to feel pain.
I could feel my emotions, could taste
my fear;
And yet, not my limbs.

Another tremor came and the last build-
ing fell.
I was hit by flying debris.
What it was, I couldn't tell.
Unable to balance myself,
My legs gave way,
I fell.

The sharp edges of glass went in deeper;
All of them were inside my skin.
And when the pain finally came,
I prayed for it to go.
The sharp edges were inside me,
Ripping me up.
They did what I wanted them to do-
But they did it too well.

The glass went in deeper and deeper;
It's sharp edges cutting me with every
breath I took.
As I looked at the blood around me;
The pool growing with every passing
second
I realized this was as far as I could go.

Prakriti Mahajan, 10

मौसम के रंग निराले

(यह कविता कक्षा ६ में हुई 'कविता
लेखन प्रतियोगिता' की प्रथम
पुरस्कृत कविता है।)

मौसम के रंग हैं बड़े निराले,
लाल, हरे, पीले, नीले।
मज़ा आता है खूब,
खेलते हैं हम भरपूर।



वसंत ऋतु में हम सब नाचे
गाएँ,
गर्मी में सब आइसक्रीम का
मज़ा उठाएँ।

तू में हम हल्के रंग के कपड़े पहने,
सर्दी में खेले बर्फ से हम छोटे बच्चे।

हो जाती सर्दी,
तो याद आती हमें ठंडी-ठंडी शिकंजी।
हो जाती गर्मी,
तो याद आती हमें गर्म-गर्म कॉफी।

मौसम के रंग हैं बड़े निराले,
इंतज़ार करते हम बेचैन होके।
मौसम जाए, मौसम आए,
नए-अनोखे रंग लाए।

आरुष कपूर ६

मौसम के रंग निराले

मौसम के रंग निराले,
जा मिलके रंग उड़ाए।
और अपना मुँह खिला ले,
अब खुलके तू चिल्ला ले।
इतने सारे मौसम हैं,

उनमें से एक 'ब्लोसम' हैं।
बादल ऊपर छाएँ,

और हम समोसा खाएँ।
बारिश का मौसम आया,

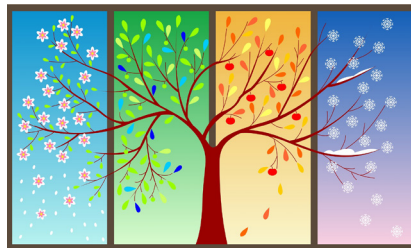
फिर हमने बहुत गाया।
फिर हम एक मेले में गए,

और एक खिलौना लाए।
फिर मेरी माँ ने बोला,

"वाह! अब कहाँ जाएँ?"
और मैंने कहा,

"मौसम के रंग निराले।
चलो मिलके रंग उड़ाए।"

समायरा छाबड़ा, ६



A Game of Chess

Life is like a game of chess,
Sometimes you win, but sometimes it's
a mess.
Always watch out for your every step,
For you never know when you may walk
into a trap.

The rich are always under protection,
While the poor deal with their imminent
destruction.

For since his head is covered with a
crown,
A king is always guarded by his loyal
pawns.

Life is made of two colours, which you
can see with the power of sight,
Like a chess board, it can be black or
white.

One by one, each pawn passes on,
However, unperturbed, Life carries on.



When fighting for water,
shelter and food,
Victory becomes more im-
portant than brotherhood.
Life is like an endless
paradox,
At the end of day, the king
and the pawn are put in the
same box.

Khadijah Trumboo, 8

AVENGERS INFINITY WAR

This article may be subject to spoiler risks. Read all Infinity War related documents carefully. (And also, if you still haven't seen it, you really, really should!)

10 years of the Marvel Cinematic Universe and 10 times the adrenaline. With theatres swarming with raving fans and merchandise stores plastered with permanent sold-outs, Infinity War made more money with its pre-bookings than all of the Marvel movies combined. With over 60 superheroes, every frame had a thrill of the chase and dash of vibranium. We visited and re-visited glimpses from each of the battles that each superhero fought, which created an impending sense of terror of Thanos; the most powerful and tormenting villain we've ever witnessed, with a hungry quest to wipe out half of the universe, in order to restore balance.

So the Guardians of the Galaxy, the Avengers, the Wakanda (forever) ns all got together to battle the purple majesty himself. With each Infinity Stone that Thanos embedded in his gauntlet, he acquired another portion of existence, and throughout the course of the film, we saw the unnerving struggles to prevent him from completing his goal. The film-makers really considered our needs and gifted us with perfectly stimulating entries of each of the Avengers, particularly Captain America, and Thor; issuing from a funnel of lightning.

The film was packed with a whirlwind of surprises. It had its "oohs" and "aahs", and it had its exasperations; like when they almost got the gauntlet off Thanos' hand. It had familiar faces from the past. It had the most unexpected, infuriating, 'I'll-hate-Marvel-forever-for-this' ending, and it had its hilarious comic-relief. However, the most exhilarating part of the experience was the enthusiasm of the audience as a



whole, with each one feeling the same turmoil of emotions and going up in hoots and cheers and tears in unison. It was empowering and each scene came alive right before our eyes. Much to Thanos' liking, there was a balance between the action, the comedy and the drama.

Many of us left the hall with gamma-attacks, no vision (Get it?!), fingers that felt like they'd been frozen on ice for 70 years (Sorry Cap!), and a desperate need to SMASH something, but most of all, it left us doused in aching love for Marvel.

Katyayani Jha, 9

Microfiction Evenings:

The tiniest and most entertaining way to read new literature

This workshop was conducted on the parents of Vasant Valley School during the English Showcase. The topic given to them was 'Photograph', and they were given thirty minutes to come up with their very own microfiction. The ten best pieces that we received are as follows:

And we live again and again and again.

Ashima Khemka

Forever known as her "wall of love" the photographs of her seven children and their families could not dispel the thick fog of dementia that covered her mind's lens.

Rebekkah Kumar

She saw her life as a series of photographs the happy moments etched in bright technicolour and the sad ones in sepia.

Mehboob Shaw

Heightened tensions, rising emotions caught, shot, staring at it.

Matin

And once again we see through the lens with our eyes wide shut.

Anuj Datta

There's more to you than what the picture says.

Shikha Gupta

The photograph looked back at her deeper than ever, the fury a silent crescendo. The woman collapsed, satiated, emotionless.

Deepali Mathur

A smile, a memory packed in a frame. Adventures and trips you relive again.

Sunaina Kumar

*What you can see,
I can't see.
But what we both can see,
Is a memory.*

R. Luthra

The sepia tones captured the weathering over the years. The wrinkles on her face told stories of a lifetime. The small cracks, the torn edges, reflected a life lived.

Sameer Nayar

SPORTS ANNOUNCEMENTS



In the final match of the Bishop Cotton School, Under 16 Boys, Cricket tournament, Vasant Valley lost to St. Paul's School by 7 wickets. The team played very well throughout the tournament and tried their best to win.

In the final match Vasant Valley scored 139 runs for six wickets in twenty overs, and Saarthak Khosla scored 48 runs and took two wickets, which contributed towards earning him the award for Best Player of the Tournament. With

his fantastic bowling, Abhay Kumar was given the award for Best Bowler of the Tournament.

The Vasant Valley School Squash team also participated in the 5th Inter School Squash Tournament organised by Pathways World School, Noida.

The various teams performed excellently in their own categories, each contributing towards earning Vasant Valley the overall second place in the tournament.

Mr. Pankaj Seth





Biography-

Florence Nightingale was born on 12th May, 1820, in London. She was born into a life of wealth, large homes and travel. Even her name Florence was special. She was named after the beautiful city she was born in, Florence. Florence's childhood was not great at all. Even though she was very wealthy and her house was larger than a regular mansion, she used to feel lonely at times and was rather stubborn. She was very hard working but surprisingly, she never went to school. She and her sister, Parthenope, had a governess and a tutor each. Hospitals were filthy in those days and nurses did a little more than hold the hands of sick patients. As Florence grew older, she worked hard to change this. She trained her nurses and cared tirelessly for her patients. Finally, Florence's hard work paid off! Now because of her hard work, the world has improved hospitals, trained staff, better treatment and more facilities. Florence Nightingale became very famous at the time of the Crimean War (1853-1856) because of her bravery. Sometimes at night she would stay awake in her hospital

and take a look at all her patients with a lamp in her hand. That's why she is referred to as the 'Lady with the lamp'. Throughout her lifetime she has received numerous medals and trophies but the best one she can remember was when she was awarded the 'Royal Red Cross' by Queen Victoria in 1883. She was definitely a heroine! She was clever, brave and full of courage. Her motto is "Healer to the wounded, Comfort to the poor", and she has inspired the whole nursing community.

Janya Kathuria V - A

Picture Prompt Story Writing



A Trip to the Zoo:

One day Manya and her little brother Tony visited a zoo in Thailand with their parents. They both were excited as they loved animals. Tony wanted to see the tiger and Manya wanted to see all kinds of beautiful birds. Mr. Trumboo, had an idea! He would take Tony to see the tiger and Mrs. Trumboo would take Manya to see the birds. They all agreed and off they went on their amazing trips. After Tony and Mr. Trumboo had seen the tiger, they started their journey towards the aviary. On their way they saw monkeys and elephants. When they finally reached, Tony and his dad found Manya and their mom at a talking bird's cage. They were amazed to see the talking bird. With a curious look on her face, Manya asked the caretaker what kind of bird it was. He replied it was a parrot. Another visitor who was listening to their conversation seemed unsure if that species of parrot could talk. Suddenly a battery fell out from the parrot's abdomen. The Trumboo family decided never to go to a zoo again!

Shirin Sultana Shaw IV - C

Flyosaurus:

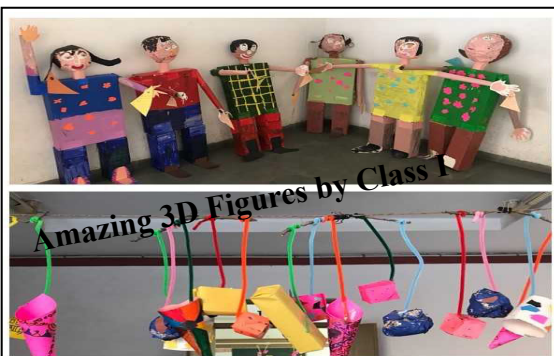
My name is Flyosaurus. I am a carnivore. I live in forests that are on mountains. I can fly up to 30 km in half an hour. I love eating birds and chewing their bones. I am a big dinosaur with huge wings. I am reddish orange in colour. I have a beak like an eagle to tear the meat of my prey. My friends are the Brachiosaurus and Pterodactyl.



Vedang S Sasturkar II - B

If I were a fairy I would go to a child's house and take a tooth away. I would live in a tiny house. My house would be made of cotton. It would be soft and comfortable. I would sparkle like glitter. I hope you can meet me someday.

Mehreen Sharma II - C



Recipe for Chocolate Lollipops

Serves 4, Time 30 minutes

Ingredients

1. 2 packets of digestive biscuits
2. One tin of condensed milk
3. Two table spoons cocoa powder
4. Hershey's chocolate syrup
5. Some toothpicks and peanuts

Method:

First, take the biscuits and crush them with a rolling pin. Then put the biscuits in a bowl. After that, pour the condensed milk in the same bowl. Next, add cocoa powder in the bowl and mix everything.

Now, make small chocolate balls with your hands. Finally, drizzle the Hershey's chocolate syrup on the chocolate balls and put a toothpick in each chocolate ball. Enjoy the scrumptious chocolate lollipops with your family.

Avanti Chopra III - B



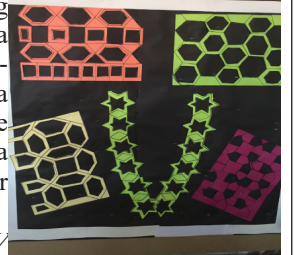
मेरी कल्पना की दुनिया

मेरी कल्पना बहुत बड़ी है,
 वहाँ मेरी कल्पना की दुनिया में खड़ी है।
 मेरी कल्पना खुशियों से भरी है,
 मेरी ज़मीन मोतियों से भरी है।
 मेरी दुनिया में खाना खाओ,
 नाच - नाच के गाना गाओ।
 जो मेरी दुनिया में आएँगे,
 प्रसन्न होकर ही जाएँगे।
 मेरी दुनिया में ताज़े - ताज़े फल,
 क्योंकि खेत में चलाते हैं हम हल।
 खुशी से भरी है मेरी दुनिया,
 किसी को नहीं होता है चिकिन गुनिया।

जानिश भल्ला, आरव मनहास, रोहण कुमार, सुवीर ढींगरा और रोहित, कक्षा पाँच

Tessellations are designs or patterns which are made up of shapes or polygons. We did a project on "Jaali work" using tessellations. We used hexagons, pentagons, a star shaped decagon, kite etc. and made a pattern on coloured chart paper. Then we used a pair of scissors to cut out the drawings to make the tessellation look like Jaali work. We had a great time using stencils to draw shapes in our groups.

Amyra Puri and Reanna Singh Class V



आज की दुनिया

यरुशलम में 14 मई को अमेरिकी दूतावास के विवादास्पद तरीके से खलने से पहले गाजा पट्टी में हिंसक संघर्ष हुआ और इजराइली गोलीबारी में 25 फिलिस्तीनी मारे गये एवं सैकड़ों अन्य घायल हो गये।

अफगानिस्तान में इस्लामिक स्टेट से जुड़े संगठनों और तालिबान ने हाल के महीनों में सिलसिलेवार हमले किये हैं, जिसमें कई लोग मारे गये हैं।

इंडोनेशिया में पुलिस स्टेशन के पास आतंकीयों का आत्मघाती धमाका और 4 लोगों की मौत हुई, 10 घायल हुए।

पाकिस्तान के विभिन्न हिस्सों में आई आंधी और फिर भारी बारिश ने कम से कम 15 लोगों की जान ले ली है और 22 अन्य जखमी हो गए हैं।

कर्नाटक चुनाव में बी.जे.पी ने १०४ सीटें जीती लेकिन उनको बहुमत प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है। बी.जे.पी, कांग्रेस और जे.डी(एस) के बीच में ये संघर्ष चल रहा है कि सरकार कौन बनाएगा।

वाराणसी में एक फ्लाईओवर के गिरने से पंद्रह लोगों की मृत्यु हो गयी और कई लोग घायल हो गए।
अनाहिता कुकरेजा, ९



upon the genre they like, they can find various anime that suit their palates- be it fantasy, horror, romance, sci-fi or even psychological. In the world of anime, there is a place for anyone and everyone.

REASONS TO BE AN ANIME MANIAC

Anime; i.e., Japanese “cartoons” (animations), have been quite a raging and an annoying (for some non-believers) topic in many, if not all, classes of the school. And everyone can thank those “crazily obsessed anime lovers” aka, ‘otaku’s’ that have somehow permeated the entire school for this. Hopefully, reading this will make those non-believers convert, and finally join the club.

Firstly, one needs to look at the so-called arguments that certify anime being unworthy of being viewed. One tends to believe that anime is very awkwardly paced, with some events taking place at an outrageous speed and others taking ages to progress. Also, some people might find the exposition in anime substandard since they feel it doesn’t follow the spoken rule of films- namely, ‘Show, don’t tell your emotions’.

However, the real issue seems to be that people tend to completely miss the point of anime. It is not just a source of entertainment, it is a medium to express complex issues and ideas in a way which any person can truly understand and relate to. The so-called ‘slow paced’ scenes focusing on character development become crucial for the viewers to have an in-depth understanding of the characters they are following, while the fast-paced action scenes leave them hooked and thirsting for more. Anime like ‘Attack on Titan’ introduce themes like the power-hungry nature of certain world superpowers and how the selfish actions of a few in power can lead to dire consequences for the masses. ‘Chihayafuru’ is a sports-based anime that helped revive a dying out historical sport of Japan. Anime is a lot more than just entertainment (though it is an excellent form of it)- it is a way to open your eyes and look at the world in a newer way.

The world of anime is an imaginative and unpredictable one. Unlike most of the animated shows available, protagonists can suffer in anime. The suddenness of a character’s death and the way it seamlessly integrates with the plot makes the entire experience of watching anime all the more enjoyable and realistic.

Watching anime also gives viewers a slight understanding of Japanese language and culture. Thanks to the Japanese culture which anime never fails to reflect, anyone who has ever watched anime will be familiar with the customary pre-meal exclamation of ‘itadakimasu’, and the use of honorifics in a Japanese conversation (‘-san’, ‘-kun’, ‘-sama’, ‘-chan’ etc).

People rely far too much on the stereotypes about anime which portray them as childish, creepy or inappropriate, and thus don’t try to experiment on their own. This mindset prevents many from appreciating anime, so they fail to realize that depending upon the genre they like, they can find various anime that suit their palates- be it fantasy, horror, romance, sci-fi or even psychological.

Prakriti Mahajan (10), Isaac Kalenga (9), Vijit Mann (9)

AN OFFBEAT HOLIDAY



As the month of May begins, though physically present in class, our bodies sway rhythmically to the sound of the waves crashing against the rocks, our mouths drooling over the dessert section at the breakfast buffet, while the sound of the rustling of the leaves and birds chirping away overpowers the English lectures. Everything seems so close and so real that you can almost feel the summer breeze through your hair.

There is a lot of planning that goes on this month and then there is conflict between choices. Choices of which places are suitable for vacation in India is often overlooked. Having a multitude of cultures, terrain, emotions and everything, India has so much more to offer than just Goa, which seems to be the most preferred vacation spot.

If you’re looking for a more serene, laid back, coastal destination, then Pondicherry is the place for you. Pondicherry is a concoction of two very different worlds. You’re hit with more than what you can ever take in. These two worlds being the aesthetic French colonial era and the elegant and contemporary southern India, the past and the present. These two worlds rather than underscoring the dualism, amalgamate into this beautiful substance. Calm and pristine beaches with calmer beach facing libraries, bright yellow architecture in contrast to the blue sky and ocean, and an endless list of experiences. The other very interesting aspect is Auroville, an experimental, non-religious and cash free township where you can get a glimpse of a near perfect society and also engage in community service.

India redefines adventure. There are ample choices for deep-sea diving or exquisite treks. If you’re searching for euphoria then, Parvati Valley in Himachal Pradesh will exceed your expectations to another level. With a perfect mishmash of serenity and adventurous treks to snow capped and majestic mountains, you’ll have trouble coping up with a multitude of experiences and emotions.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the pearls of the Indian Ocean glisten amongst a hundred shades of blue. Ranked as one of the best places in the world for deep sea diving, you can witness the world under in motion. It is also home to the only active volcano in the Indian subcontinent and a variety of flora and fauna satisfying the geologists and biologists in you.

If you’re looking for a more memorable, impacting, swaying and adventurous holiday, then it is a sure thing to say that you don’t have to travel thousands of miles across the sea to experience one.

Sachin Babu, 11

Which Vasant Valley House do you really belong in?

1. How would your friends describe you?

- a) Social
- b) Optimistic
- c) Competitive
- d) Entertaining

2. Which Harry Potter character do you identify with the most?

- a) Fred Weasley
- b) Luna Lovegood
- c) Draco Malfoy
- d) Cedric Diggory



3. What are you most likely to be doing on Sports Day?

- a) Sneaking into other houses to talk to your friends
- b) Cheering
- c) Participating
- d) Gossiping

4. What's your favourite school activity?

- a) Inter house Western Music Competition
- b) Founders day
- c) Track and Field Meet
- d) Art Marathon



5. What would you like to do the most in the summer?

- a) Summer Camp
- b) Road Trip
- c) Mountain Retreat
- d) Beach Getaway

If You Got... Mostly A's

You are an extrovert, and love meeting new people. You enjoy making people laugh, and are probably the joker of your group. You also feel thrilled whenever you take risks. You don't mind performing in front of people. You definitely belong in Red house.



If You Got... Mostly B's

Quirky and optimistic, you are incredibly loyal to your house. You enjoy being a part of a group, but also enjoy yourself while you're alone. You belong in Blue house.

If You Got... Mostly C's

Incredibly competitive and athletic, you steal the show when sports are involved. You enjoy your solidarity, and always do activities in your spare time. Green is the house for you!



If You Got... Mostly D's

Talented at any art form, you enjoy talking. You always know how to make your friends laugh and are incredibly loyal to them. Yellow house is where you belong.



Sanaa Sharma (10), Reana Soni (10)

A Note from the Editor...

With summer right around the corner, a certain question comes to mind, "What should I do this summer?" Here are a few ways I recommend you spend your time, and trust me, I won't let you down. (I hope!)

- READ! You'd be surprised by how fun and immersive reading a good book can be.
- Pursue a HOBBY! During the academic year, most students don't find the time to work on the things they love, so spend some of the time you've been given pursuing these hobbies!
- CS! Give back to the community that continuously gives to you. Help out at an NGO, or give your old clothes and books away to charity. Do your best to help those who aren't as privileged as you or me!
- Try something NEW! Give yourself the freedom to experience something you've never done before. Try out a new sport, give your wardrobe a second look, redo your room. It's the new things you do that really make your summers memorable.
- Go on an ADVENTURE! It's crazy how little we've seen of the city we live in. Go out with a few friends and visit parts of the city that you've never seen before, maybe even go on a tour!

Those are a few things that I've done or wished I'd done, that made my summers memorable and exciting. I'm sure there are many other ways you will find to entertain yourselves, so have a great summer, and I can't wait to see you again in July!

Sahil Armaan Kumar, 12

AN INVASION OF PRIVACY?

The topic up for debate today is that "This house believes that social networking sites are taking away our right to privacy," and I do hope that I will be able to convince you otherwise.

Let us begin by understanding what exactly a 'social network' is. The Oxford dictionary defines a social network as a dedicated website or application that enables users to communicate with each other by posting information. Whilst making it amply clear that all that is posted WILL be viewed and interpreted by people at large.

However, these sites do not deny us self-control, which we as intelligent citizens must exercise. In short, you are as private as you want to be because no one can coerce you into sharing something that you, of your own volition, may not want to. Before criticizing these social networking sites, it's important to look within and see; how many of us have read the terms and agreements before clicking on the "I agree" button, or bothered reading the small print when downloading new software? I'm sure that if we are honest with ourselves, the number of us who have not done either of these things will far outweigh the number who have.

Our privacy is firmly in our control and if we feel it's being invaded then we must be more careful of the information we post publicly. In my humble opinion, social networking sites merely serve as a platform. A platform to interact, to communicate; a platform to educate ourselves through the knowledge of others.

I agree that social networks do have their vices, but who, or what does not? Even when a law is made, or a legislation is passed, its weaknesses come to be seen along with the passage of time. But that doesn't mean we remove the law or legislation altogether. Instead, we start fine-tuning them so that the positives may outweigh the negatives.

Similarly, all that these social network sites need is proper regulation. And while most of them are working on correcting their flaws, it's important for us to remember that our strength lies in using these sites to our advantage, while continuously safeguarding our interests by the mechanisms provided to us, like privacy control, the blocking feature, disabling geolocation data, etc.

I would like to conclude by saying that I truly believe that the ability to adapt to technology is getting enhanced, and the trick is that while this progression takes place, you should not allow people to openly access information about you; instead, only let them access the information which you are willing to provide.



Ishan Kapur, 8

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