
NEW ERA PUBLIC SCHOOL

LUMOS



from darkness to light

EDITOR'S NOTE

*"Do not go gentle into that good night.
Rage, rage against the dying of the light."
-Dylan Thomas*

The bitter cold day seemed to melt into an even more bitter cold night with air so thick it pressed upon ones skin. A couple of sun's rays kissed the dewy grass. I spent my day lounging on the porch, with a warm cup of hot cocoa, steam wafting from it, while listening to the pigeons coo and in the evening, I snuggled inside a blanket with my family to watch the latest episode of a slow-paced thriller series only to end the day with laughter and conversation around the bonfire. When the countdown began, it brought with it a wave of eeriness that sent chills down my spine coercing me to sit back for a moment, as if it had foreseen the extent of the terror of the devastating calamity the world was dealing with and was mocking me for the optimism I held in my eyes (or I might just have a certain flair for exaggeration and dramatics). But in all honesty, it was a splendid start to the year and for that one day, I let myself forget about whatever lied ahead.

It isn't just the uncertainty and danger of the situation that makes me despondent but it is hard to not lose hope when every time we begin to fall back into some semblance of normalcy, something knocks us off the course and leaves us two steps behind where we were. We, children, have paid because of it dearly. Missed out on the recklessness that comes with being a child because so many of us had to step up and act like adults. We were forced to stay inside our homes, away from our friends, locked up between four walls and a computer screen and later faulted for finding solace in them when we didn't even have a choice to begin with.

I always break into a few giggles while recounting that the last time I went out of my house without a mask shielding my face or worry looming in my mind, back when I could hug people without thinking of all the possible viruses that they would infect me with, I'd spent half of that night fretting over the new hairstyle I'd been trying to master for weeks (in my defence not knowing how to make a French braid was a colossal cause of concern for a teenage girl). But what began as a few days of staying at home with people

trying out their hand at cooking, painting and creating art to make effective use of their time, the kind they'd never had this freely before, soon turned into one of mourning and death. It was and still is a testing time for all. Especially the healthcare system and the frontline workers who fought like valiant soldiers and continue to do so.

If past is prologue then we are aware that massive and more glorious empires have been constructed even after the previous ones were entirely turned into specks of dust and tales mothers told their children at night to lull them to sleep. We need to wake up every morning with a silent vow written across our hearts, to not let our future generations go through the immense suffering we have to endure today. To not create such tumultuous conditions where toddlers have to understand the gravity of words such as death and destruction before they learn the basic ABC. So let me conclude by urging everyone to keep your masks up and your hopes higher.

Signing off,
Kashish



INSIGHTS

Convert the Waste to Wealth , not the Wealth to Waste

-Angad Madan, X-E

"A plastic free nature would pave the way to a sustained future."

Plastic is a necessary evil. A versatile and multi purpose substance, it has got numerous benefits and qualities unparalleled to others. The innumerable applications of it present in domestic, industrial, commercial, medical and other areas of work has made it beneficial and helpful enough to bring efficiency in our day-to-day activities. That's the reason why we have so effortlessly and rapidly adapted it in our lives.

There exists an old saying, 'Nothing is Perfect'. If there exist qualities, there would certainly be defects and drawbacks for the same. The more we enjoy its advantages, the negative aspects will bounce back, sometimes unnoticeable to us. The case for plastic is coincidental, it might have been like a true friend to us for 100 years, but now our future doesn't seem to be secured and sustained. A mother is the most compassionate and kind person one knows of . But we, as the children of this Earth, aren't grateful or doing any efforts for all the pain she took. There's no need to point out the impact of plastic on nature. Hence, we must have a consideration or a concern towards the usage of single use plastic items and littered plastic waste as hazards for the environment. The only progressive thoughts to ponder upon are the various inputs and initiatives for the sake of our collective future, emphasizing on the principle of plastic waste management.

Reduce

Use of alternatives for plastic will lead to decrease in the plastic trash accumulated. There are several of them. One can use jute and cloth bags while shopping, buy goods packed of paper and glass and utilize utensils made of wood and bamboo. Nowadays, steel bottles are also used which further contribute to waste management.

If the demand for plastic in markets gets affected then there would certainly be a decrease in its production, finally resulting in the increase of much needed plastic waste management.

Heavy taxes should be levied on the price of single use plastic and huge fines should be there for violators. Bans and regulations regarding disposing it in open or in any water body should be adhered to with more strictness.

Reuse

Ecobricks are the best example for reuse of plastic wastes. They contain a large plastic bottle inside which various other unimportant items are stored. Plastics have multiple qualities like durability, elasticity, lightness, recyclability and malleability which make them easier to reuse. They can be used in art and craft designs and decorations as well. Managers or hosts of events like weddings and big parties should be concerned towards the total plastic consumption and must have a plan to reutilize the used and unused items.

Usage of only one plastic article like polythene bags, lunch boxes or soap fillers should be restrained for a day and continuance of the same object should be followed for future. Instead of throwing off a used article like a glass or bottle, one should keep it with himself and reuse it for the next purpose.

Recycle

Recycling at grassroots levels can be done by various environmentalists' organizations and institutions by collecting plastic waste from open surroundings, water bodies and landfills. Plastics can be used even after crushing or disposing because of their ability to deform or reshape. They can melt, be torn into pieces and reproduced in a new and totally different form from the previous one by the process of recycling. Segregation of wet and dry waste should be encouraged among the masses so that the concept of recycling is actually implemented in a proper and systematic way.

Industries and factories, having plastic as the major raw material in the production process and generating large bulk of waste, should have an environment friendly procedure for recycling the waste produced. Similarly, recycling can be done in various medical institutions like hospitals and large treatment centers where it can neither be reused nor reduced.

Today plastic can be seen everywhere, in some form or the other , our friend and foe at the same time. We have to increase our friendship with it and, on the other hand, control it's turpitude . A balanced relationship between the plastic and the nature is highly recognized for being the base of our sustained future. Human beings have to work very hard in this field to prevent the beauty of Mother Earth from getting tarnished under the heap of the ruthless plastic waste. The 3R's--**Reduce, Reuse and Recycle** will give rise to the next 3R's-- **Rebirth, Rejuvenate and Restore.**

FUN FACTS OF INDIA

- India is the wettest inhabited place on Earth
- India has over 300,000 mosques and over 2 million Hindu temples
- Rajasthan has a Temple of Rats
- India was the first country to mine diamonds
- India never invaded any country in her last 100000 years of history.
- India is third in the world for billionaires

INSIGHTS

Believing in Yourself

-Tarveen Kaur, XI-C

Hi! My name is Tarveen Kaur. You can call me a lover of life, a passionate girl, a believer and the one who dreams to be a millionaire in the future (which I am quite sure I am going to be one day). I am grateful to the universe for giving me everything that I have in my life today. A nice house, a beautiful car, lovely parents who are the best and a wonderful and magical life. Today I am writing this to encourage people who have lost or lose hope very quickly. You know one thing which is definite in life is death, other than that there is nothing you cannot do or achieve. In this world of materialistic things there is nothing you can't do or achieve – be it owning a Ferrari or being a millionaire. If you want to earn a few million dollars by the end of this year, then first you will have to believe that you can earn a few million dollars and that you are eligible of owning that much of money. Once you do that there is not a thing in this world which will stop you from owning that much money. Your thoughts become your reality, what you think about is going to be there in your hands one day. So, change your thoughts and you will change your reality. And most importantly don't let a thing in this world let you down. People will push you down, suppress you, make you feel miserable but don't let those devils suppress your happiness too. As you see, "Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if one remembers to switch on the light." You might be suffering from a life-threatening situation, but don't forget to smile even during that time. Have faith, you will definitely get through the direst situations of your life. Believe in the process, there is something waiting for you to achieve it. Try to always find optimism in life, you don't need a reason to smile. Always try to be positive no matter what happens, what situation you might be in, remaining optimistic could be your key to overcome the harsh situation. Being successful is not at all a tricky maneuver unless you believe in yourself and have faith in the process of The Universe.

You can create your own future; the power lies in your hand to control your future and rewrite your destiny. Do what fascinate you the most, what intrigues you the most. And most importantly do what brings peace to your soul. Don't give any feeling to anything you don't love. If you love anything or anyone then you are going to get it no matter what.

HOW TO FILL POSITIVITY IN YOUR LIFE

The first and foremost thing to fill positivity in your life is to strictly eliminate negative words/thoughts from your life. Remember what you give to someone is what you will receive. If you give love, you will get love; if you give sympathy, you will get sympathy. Don't say anything to anyone or about anyone that you don't want to receive. When you say something bad about your envy or your enemy then you get filled with negativity and that negativity will keep on feeding on your thoughts until it extracts every bit of positive things left in your mind. These negative thoughts might even persist for ages, and everything will begin to appear gloomy to you. You might even get distant from the ones you love. So, don't say anything negative to someone and in fact don't even let those negative words to enter your mind. Always keep in mind what you are saying is ultimately what you are going to get as these processes of giving and receiving work simultaneously in life.

The second thing that you can do on an individual level to bring positivity in your life is to stop listening to what others say about you. Their feelings about you does not matter. What really matters is how you feel about your body, how you embrace your body. Don't let other feelings about you influence you. "Once you start embracing your body, the whole world will start embracing you. "When you don't let the others influence you, you will always be surrounded with positive vibes and this will increase the level of positivity in your life and you will never feel dejected or desperate.

In the last, don't forget where you come from even if you are at the heights of your career. Love your parents – the ones who gave you an incredible life, be grateful to them and don't forget to give as much as possible. The more you give, the more you will receive. Some of the biggest millionaires/billionaires of the world are also great philanthropists. Let your dreams have wings, don't cage them, let them fly. Failures will be there, there will be times when you would need a box of tissues to console yourself but then don't forget to come back and again start living your life. Failures are a part of life and they can't be eliminated but then again don't let them to restrict you from living your life. You can have everything if you just believe in yourself. The whole universe can be yours with just a snap of fingers if you believe in yourself. So, believe, have faith in the process of the universe, just accept what comes your way and don't be afraid of failures—accept them.

This is Tarveen Kaur signing off for now! I hope this content will help you to some extent.

WORD OF THE MONTH

Placate (verb): To make someone less angry or upset

Usage:

1. They placated the students by promising them fair marks.
2. His father asked him to placate his sister from her tough time.
3. A movie is always good way to placate one's mood.

INSIGHTS

Nightmares

-Yashvi Bansal, XI-A

How old were you when you realised that the world wasn't the safe place our elders pretended it was for our happiness?

How old were you when you realised that your parents weren't infallible, that they were as human as you and wouldn't always be able to protect you?

How old were you when you realised that death was a big deal, that not going on forever was a potential phobia?

How old were you when you realised that fear, that protecting mechanism, actually worked against you at times and crippled you in a way no disease could?

How old were you when you found out the difference between a human and an animal, then the crushing reality that humans were actually animals, that just being a human didn't guarantee humanity?

These are realizations that have struck us all at some point of time or the other, and are actually conscious nightmares.

They lead to existential crises. They sow the seed of worry. They eat away at your mind.

Yet, among all these fears, we still jump when we see a lizard. We still scream when someone jumps at us from behind a door (as a joke, of course, attackers are an entirely different matter). We know there are bigger things in the universe, but we still allow ourselves to let the small things matter.

And that is where our salvation lies. The crushing reality of life combated with its little joys. Life struggling against life, and yet still allowing us a few moments of happiness.

The dried rose in a book. The little goodnight kiss from your mother. The chilling warmth of memories. The laughter forgetting the pain. The good grade which won't matter ten years down the line, but gives you a day to remember, and realise the power of the mind, the way it knows how to record the most important things. A glass of water after a long, thirsty day. Those, and many uncountable things, make up the army with which we fight fear and nightmares.

BOOK REVIEW

Like The Flowing River By Paulo Coelho

-Yashvi Bansal, XI-A

When I was entrusted with the New Era Newsletter's review column, I wondered which book to review for a while. Finally, I settled on 'Like the Flowing River' by Paulo Coelho, the expert on philosophy and spirituality. Let us all improve our transcendental knowledge with the wonderful insight this book provides.

Like the Flowing River is a collection of various anecdotes. These include experiences from the author's own life, fables in folklore and snippets of many other things. The best thing about this book is the simplicity of the pieces. They are all experiences the common man can relate to, despite flowing from a famous author's pen. Coelho finds magic in all spheres of life, in all seemingly tiny things. The reader discovers the wise teacher a pencil is, the lesson Genghis Khan learnt from his falcon, and myths like those of the Devil's Pool.

This is a book of reflections, an ode to humanity and the necessity of opening your heart to see and love the little things. It includes pieces on spirituality and religion, which are, of course, a matter of opinion, but do help one reflect on many things. Its preface talks about what fifteen-year-old Coelho thought about 'writers', which is an entertaining article and at the same time, deeply illuminating of the struggles and stereotypes that surround us. Each short snippet takes around three minutes to read but could be talked about for more than three hours.

Do yourself a favor and read this book. We'll all come away with some new insights and a shift in perspective.

A quote from the book : I'm not doing anything, and yet I'm also doing the most important thing a man can do: I'm listening to what I needed to hear from myself.

Rating : 4.5/5

RIDDLES

1. Turn me on my side and I am everything. Cut me in half and I am nothing. What am I?
2. I have cities, but no houses. I have mountains, but no trees. I have water, but no fish. What am I?
3. I come from a mine and get surrounded by wood always. Everyone uses me. What am I?
4. I have keys, but no locks and space, and no rooms. You can enter, but you can't go outside. What am I?
5. What gets wet while drying?

1. 8, 2. Map, 3. Pencil Lead, 4. Keyboard, 5. Towel

THOUGHTS IN RHYME

Screeching

-Nandini Singh Rathore, XI-A

In the ocean
Once I am dead
My heart will still beat
At it's normal rhythm
Singing a song
Melody to my ears
Maybe melody to yours
But screeching to some.

In the ocean
Once I am dead
I'll part my ways
From this untrustworthy world
In maybe perhaps the heaven
I'll meet my heart again
It's still beating
The rhythm is same
It's still melody to my ears
But maybe screeching to yours.

The World of Memories

-Ayaana Kapoor, IX-B

When the evening falls
And the moon's beam strikes into my room,
My eyes gaze to the window for hours on end
And everything just surrounds me with the feeling of gloom.
And then I enter into another world
The world of memories,
Where the best and the worst moments of your life live
And some remain as a mystery.

Folks, yes! There are some memories which are unforgettable
Some might be pleasant,
While some are just terrible.

I quite often think
Why do we muse over some memories in mind?
Some never fade away
Yet some faint over time

Then my soul howls at me,
"Don't you know the truth of life?
To make every moment a memory
'Twas only you, so don't feel contrite!"

Lo! There I sit drooping
Breathing a sigh of bliss,
With vague thoughts flashing
And then I catch a wink.

Shadows of the Soul

-Nandini Singh Rathore, XI-A

I feel I'm new in here
Maybe I really am
But somehow, now I fell settled
In this fake ocean
But not fake anymore
Not to please someone else
But being myself now
To please myself
I really am not a stranger anymore
I have really settled in this evil world
But maybe as a kind soul
Though my soul still seeks
A new peaceful world of its own
Still I am not a stranger anymore.

An Ode to a Soldier

-Divyanshu Sharma, XI-D

Sometimes they also want to stay at home
And spend time with their loved ones
Taking a break from standing in the hot suns
And always holding their heavy guns

They are humans and have emotions too
But nothing is dearer to them than their nations
Name another, who is that self-sacrificing
And bolder, than a Soldier

To save our country's beauty
The soldiers fight and
Sometimes, sacrificing themselves on duty

Oh! There's a soldier looking at the sky
While he knows his duty can always ask him
To say his final goodbyes

The pain of loss makes the eyes teary
A mother lives with the fact
That her sun has forever set
But she is ready to send her other children
To fight for the nation and be her pride

Captain Vikram Batra and many more to come...
And many that have already left...
Are the ones, that Mother India can proudly say are her sons!

Our soldiers demand nothing in return
Just protect the nation, when it's your turn

Our Army's only vision — Above Nation there is no religion

SPORTS CORNER

- **The Pandemic Olympics:** Tokyo Olympics 2020 which finally happened this year were undoubtedly India's best performance at summer Olympics. India won 7 medals which consisted of 1 gold medal, 2 silver medals and 4 bronze medals. Neeraj Chopra won a historic gold medal for javelin throw, it was the first gold medal in athletics for India.
- **The Paralympics:** India performed impeccably at the Paralympics which were held in Tokyo from 24 August to 5 September this year. India won 19 medals which consisted of 5 gold medals, 8 silver medals and 6 bronze medals. Shooter Avani Lekhara became the first ever Indian to win a medal in shooting. She won 2 medals which consisted of a gold medal in 10m air rifle standing SH1 event and a bronze medal in 50 m Rifle 3 position SH1 event.
- **T20 Cricket World Cup:** The T20 Men's World Cup which was supposed to happen in Australia last year but got delayed because of COVID-19. The World cup was first shifted to India but then BCCI decided to host it in UAE due to the pandemic. India was not able to qualify for the semi-finals, they played 5 matches in which they won 3 matches and lost 2 matches to Pakistan and New Zealand. After a wait of 14 years, Australia finally won their first T20 World Cup. Now Australia have won 6 Cricket World cups in total which makes them the country with most number of world cup titles.
- **US Open:** the 141st edition of the US Open was held this year from 30 August till 12 September. The winner of the men's singles category was Daniil Medvedev and the runner up was Novak Djokovic. The winner of the women's single category was Emma Raducanu who was just a 19 year old at the moment. She became the first British Woman to win a major in 44 years.



HINDI CORNER

Somhya Anand, IX-G



Keneisha Cambow, VIII-E



CREATIVE STROKES

Kayna Panjrath, VIII-F



Atul Manchanda, VII-B

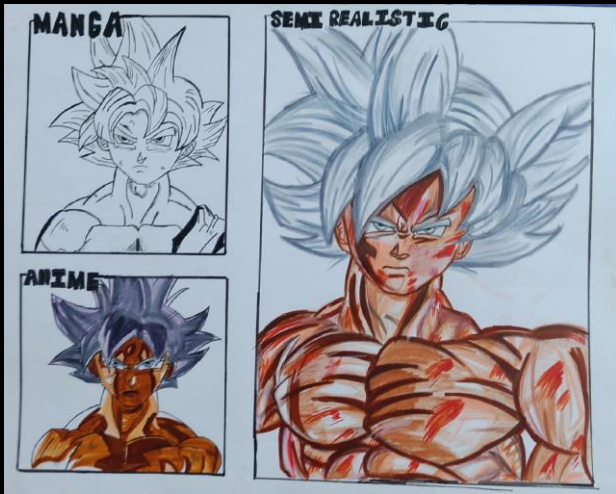


Sant Malhotra, IX-D



CREATIVE STROKES

Dharam Malhotra, VI-E



DIGITAL CANVAS

Simran Arora, XI-A



Devanshi Nayak, VII-A



Simran Arora, XI-A



ACHIEVERS' SECTION

Commerce

Logo Refresh, Sanskriti School (3rd position)

Chhavi Chabbra (XII-D)
Tanya Passan (XII-D)

English

Zonal English Debate Competition 2021-22

Junior Girls (3rd Position)
Cheryl Bhatia (VII)
Divya Vashisht (VIII)

Junior Boys (2nd Position)
Pavit S. Bhasin (VIII)
Sarvagya Vohra (VIII)

Senior Girls (1st Position)
Kashish Malhotra (XI-A)
Kavleen Kaur (XI-A)

Senior Boys (2nd Position)
Divyanshu Sharma
Bhavay Wahani (XI-C)

Zonal English Poem Recitation Competition 2021-22

Junior Girls (2nd Position)
Mollee Dhiman (VIII)

Junior Boys (1st Position)
Hardik Panjwani (VIII)

Lotus valley International School- Quizardary (1st position)

Somhya Anand (IX-G)
Ramya Raj (X-F)

Hindi

Zonal Hindi Debate Competition

Junior Boys (1st Position)
Dharam Malhotra (VI-E)
Shashwat (VI)

Senior Boys (1st Position)
Hardik Kakkar (XI-D)

Guransh Singh

Queens Mary School

Swarachit Kavita Paath (3rd Position)
Yashvi Bansal (XI-A)

Mathematics

St. Marks Senior. Secondary School Meera Bagh

Quest 2021- Building Blocks (3rd Position)
Sunshrey Cambow (VIII-E)

Queens Mary School

Talent Fair - Mathematics Art In Desmos (1st Position)
Bhavay Wahani (XI-C)
Ajitesh Dash (XI-B)

Science

We are pleased to announce that the students who participated in a month long training in February, 2021 organised by Scienceplace on how to use ASTROMETRICA software to search Asteroids from live images taken by PAN-Starrs Telescope, have discovered an Asteroid. We congratulate the students who were involved and have made us immensely proud:

Armaandeep Singh (8th)
Harshvardhan Kapoor (9th)
Balagopal A (12th)

Multimedia

Vasant Valley Multimedial (3rd position)

Actors

Bani Singh
Bhavay Wahani
Pankhuri Singh
Ridham Kharbanda

Editors

Jairaj Singh
Parmod Singh Khanna

Director of Photography

Darsh Pal Singh

ACHIEVERS' SECTION

Dance

AURA 2021 Dance Elite (1st position)
Manvi Nayak (VI-A)

Tabla

Rhythmic Raga (2nd Position)
Harkeerat Singh Sobti (VIII-C)

Rhythmic Divine (2nd Position)
Harkeerat Singh Sobti (VIII-C)
Tarang (2nd Position)
Harkeerat Singh (VIII-C)

Vocals

Zonal Jr. Girls (2nd position)
Divjot Singh (VIII-B)
Zonal Jr. Boys(2nd position)
Sujot Singh (VI-B)

Zonal Sr. Boys (1st Position)
Chaitanya Kumar (XI-A)
Gourav Singh (IX-H)

Instrumental Music

Zonal Jr. Boys (1st position)
Manveer Singh (VI-D)
Harkeerat Singh Sobti (VIII-C)

Inter Zonal Jr. Boys (1st position)

Manveer Singh (VI-D))
Harkeerat Singh Sobti (VIII-C)

Drawing/Poster

Zonal Jr. Boys (1st position)
Saksham Dhawan (VIII-E)

Zonal Jr. Girls (2nd Position)
Himani Grover (VIII-A)

Zonal Sr. Boys (1st position)
Vishesh Nayak (X-F)

Sports

Badminton Zonals Tournament

Sr. Boys(2nd position)
Gurjas Singh (XII-B)
Rakshit Talwar (XI-D)

Jr. Boys (3rd position)
Angad Singh (IX-F)
Dev Makan (IX-F)
Armaan Sharma (IX-F)
Ansh Arora (IX-F)

Jr. Girls(2nd position)
Shreya Luthra (IX-F)
Sidhi Babuta (IX-F)

Table Tennis Zonals Tournament

Sr. Boys (2nd position)
Ojasvi Yadav (XII-B)
Raunak Singh (XII-B)
Armaan (XII)

Sr. Girls (1st position)
Aarushi Sharma (XII-B)
Mannat Kochar (X-F)

Jr. Boys(1st position)
Prathamjyot (IX-E)
Eshaan Bedi (IX-E)
Hritvik Neel (IX-E)
Manas Chhabra (IX-E)

Jr. Girls(3rd Position)
Nandini Dahi (IX-E)
Kanishka (IX-E)
Jia Mehendiria (IX-E)

Athletics Zonals Tournament

100m
Shreya Luthra (GOLD)

800m
Shreya Luthra (SILVER)

1500m
Shreya Luthra (GOLD)

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