

NEWSISH

August 2022



Editor's Note



Shauryaa Saraogi



Priyanka Janakiraman

The first edition of NewSish 2022 is all about the gradual renewal of activities after the pandemic and the aspirations of our teachers and students for the future. The past two years have been trying, to say the least. But it is now time to look to the future and the slow and steady transition into our "new normal". That is why we chose the theme for this edition to be "Reset: Past, Present, Future".

We would like to thank our Principal, Mrs. Omana Thomas for giving us the opportunity to lead the NewSish team for 2022. We would also like to express our gratitude to Mrs. Jhimli Mitra for her invaluable support and guidance throughout the process and to the Editorial board for their hard work and dedication.

Teachers in charge: Mrs. Jhimli Mitra

Mrs. Lekshmi Nair

Mrs. Jyotsna Khanna

Mrs. Aruna Madhusudan

Front Cover: Sarayu Sanskriti Kaushik

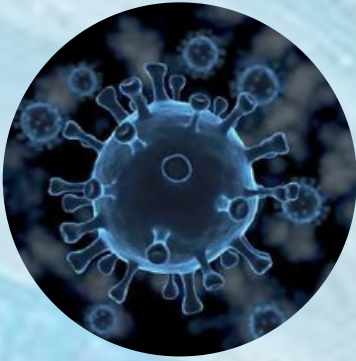
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Ritwik Udipi Rau, Aadhit Udipi Rau, Dhyaan Gambhir, Deeksha Anandh, Tabitha George, Tasha Neethi Rajan, Shauryaa Saraogi, Priyanka Janakiraman, Sharon Grace Prabhu, Ashish, Harshith, Krishna Arvind, Eesha Sambashivan, Nia Rajan, Anaisha Bhatta, Sarah Kurien, Tanvi Arvind, Prashansa Rathod, Shravi, Sai Shreya, Dakshata R, Preetika Grace, Thrilokya, Anupama J, Srija Sriram

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Carona's Ruination

The past years were of peals of merry laughter;
When unhappiness was only a small drop of mist;
Where the antagonist, misery, had no plot twist;
And the warmth of elation
spread rays of positivity far and wide.
The calm before the storm.

Cheerfulness was at its best,
Exhilaration was at no dull roar;
When the brakes had come into play...
It was a dark and a stormy night.
An untimely leap of gloom;
The unexpected creep of the
stumbling block;
A seed that is buried,
will be one that stands to flourish.
And we will rise like the break of dawn...

The crowned killer, murderer of multitudes;
Compelled by calamity into broken clusters
And mass migrations.
Windows descend
Upon the world, a looking-glass scenery and
The hour-glass is upturned.
The People's masque;
Numb to the nameless numbers,
Masked away from the minutiae,
Truth runs astray, while lies
Naked lay.

Full shelves and stockpiles, books and kindling kinships,
Yet
The city of man lies low, the streets simmer in silent
sleep.
The year of uprisings has broken,
Hear ye all the bells!
The drum-beats of hearts and march
Uprose from soils where death seethingly trod!
A lock-down
Look down, and see the unrest that beset
Society's stagnant sod!
Ripples of revolution that thronged thro' the air
Seventeen gun-shots!
And night falls, blood-black and bare.
Have ye forgot
Those endless lines of the faithful that arose
By night and by day—
Doctors & drivers & dutiful defenders,
Ravished from the front-lines of Life
And piled into pyres ashen-gray?
Ah, Time's thievery of guileless lives—
Today: The tea brews and coffee infuses,
The curry stews and raindrops drip, &
Your friends file in in waves.
Languid laughter, chatter is abuzz,
The clatter of clean crockery;
Our yesterday may ne'er resemble the morrow,
Nothing may endure
Except the ephemera of Humanity.

All that has happened has happened
All that was left is gone
O! How we long for the past!

The bitterness of our souls
Compel us oft; to mock the bright
Horizon that lies ahead us
Ever present yet never found
Close, yet leagues distant
A horizon of hope that beckons us
Toward a future of hope
Bright and bleak, instilling
Fearfully dreadful hope in our hearts
Astute we must be; but also considerate
Of our companions
Ever mindful of the distance that lies ahead
With a spirit of pride
And hope untainted
I declare to thee
in shrewd and incomparable
Perspicacity
For even hell in all its terror
Would feel like a field of flowers
if we dared courageously
To share our valuable resources
Then i can assure you that the future is not scary
Though it's heart may look bleak
Fear not friends and foe!
It's not a curse if
What lies ahead is
Serendipity

- Dakshata R 9B

Prashansa Rathod 12 A Ashish 11 C

One on One

We had the honour and privilege of interviewing Mr. MC Govardhana Rangan, an award-winning journalist with more than 25 years of experience in business journalism. He was kind enough to set aside some time to speak with us and answer our questions.

1. How has Newsgathering, reporting and presenting changed across this time span?

Well, according to me, the essence of reporting has always been visiting and being present at the site of the event for the details. The covid pandemic crippled this essential movement of people. We were getting the numbers, statistics, and data, but the human emotion associated with journalism was lacking. It dealt a blow to firsthand reporting.

2. In a growing digital space, do you think print media is dead, or does it still have hope?

laughs Well, being a part of the print media myself, I cannot write my own obituary. For example, when mobile phones entered the scene with a digital clock, people said that watches would die out. The fact is that the demand for watches may have gone down, but they still sell. Overall, in my opinion, print media can survive but in a very minuscule way compared to what it was 10 or 15 years ago. There will be only elite or niche magazines that can sell.



3. How does one sieve real news from fake?

Today, with mobile phones, it is like having a Bloomberg terminal at your disposal, free of cost. As of now, news, in terms of reliability and facts as they happen, is available mostly from experienced players like the Times of India or Reuters at the global level. Hence, we must rely on established news businesses. In a sense, for me, a lot of the social media news that comes out is more of an opinion than news. Therefore, to get actual news, we must rely on prominent agencies.

4. What is your opinion on freedom of speech and expression regarding social media today?

In a society, there are multiple views. That is freedom of speech and expression. But it is a double-edged sword. There is always a group

complaining that they have been denied the platform and freedom to express themselves. Whether it is a conservative or liberal view, you have the right to express your view. At the same time, some people will be abusive and disrespectful. The burden of choice is really on you to choose whom to listen to. For example, if I'm a newspaper and if your views don't match with mine, I can stop you from expressing your view, whereas, on social media, we can take to Twitter and Facebook to express our views. So, the empowerment part is really good, but the abuse of both language and our freedom is not.



5. Could you please elaborate on some problems you faced during covid?

The biggest problem was, as previously mentioned, the restriction of movement. People were completely confined because of which a lot of events that would have been covered, did not take place at all. Even if they did happen, we were forced to neglect everything that was brewing underneath. One of the things I resent the most is that the entire media coverage about Covid in India has been completely centrally focused - Bombay, Delhi, Madras, and Bangalore. We did not see much information on what happened in towns and villages like Karur; how they were coping, what happened to their primary health system and so on. We have neglected to highlight the plight of people in rural India, especially in these troubled times.

6. Can you give us a walk-through of your career journey?

I started as a crime reporter in a tabloid called "Indian Madras". Then I was with "Indian Express" and then "Financial Express" in Madras. After I moved to business journalism from general news reporting, I was with "Business Line". Post moving to Bombay, I spent a lot of time with international news agencies like "Reuters" and "Bloomberg" for almost 10 years. Then I moved to "The Economic Times" in 2009 and have been here ever since. I am currently senior editor for the Finance and Markets section for the same.

Priyanka Janakiraman- 12A

Shauryaa Saraogi- 12A

Colours & Emotions

We interviewed teachers and students of Sishya School about their experiences before, during, and after Covid-19. Based on the responses, we realized that many people faced challenges but overcame them and have high hopes for the future.

ART AND THE PANDEMIC

Art is a subject that is best taught in person as it needs a lot of real time interaction. When you work in the art room, your mind explodes with ideas as you see the numerous artworks placed on display around the room. It is much harder to acquire the full experience when you work by yourself in front of the glaring screen of a zoom meeting.

These hurdles faced by the teacher as well as the students inspired me to interview Madhu ma'am from the art department.

1. What privileges did you enjoy as an art teacher during the pandemic as well as before it?

Getting to interact with the children you teach was a privilege I took for granted pre-pandemic. During the pandemic, I missed the hustle and bustle of daily school and the children the most.

2. What challenges did you face while teaching art during the pandemic, and how did you overcome them?

Online sessions were a new challenge technologically which took a while to overcome. The vast resources available online are now used as inspiration and as examples. I've now incorporated those tools into my classes.

3. What challenges did your students face during the pandemic?

Availability of art materials was the biggest challenge the children faced. This opened up new avenues for the students' creativity. We tried to substitute our art materials, like coal for charcoal and a mixture of atta, maida and fevicol for clay used in pottery.

4. What are your hopes for your students in the future?

My only hope is my students turn out to be good humans and all their dreams come true.

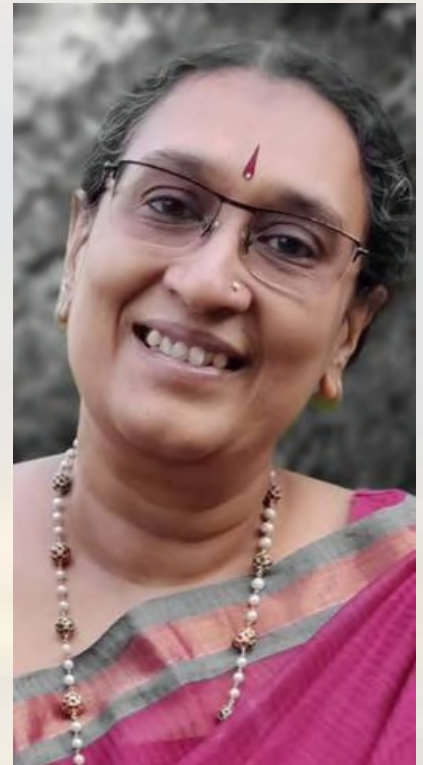
5. How has the Pandemic affected the way you look at things now?

The pandemic has taught me not to take things, circumstances and people for granted. 'Be who you are and do what you want'.

6. Do you think things can go back to being the same as they were pre-pandemic?

Yes, things have started going back to what they were and soon these days will be long forgotten.

Though days have passed and the pandemic is a thing of the past we must remember the ingenious ideas we came up with and use it to paint a bright future.



-Tasha Neethirajan 8C

THE PANDEMIC AND THE PERSONAL TOUCH

(the teacher wishes to remain anonymous)

We took many things for granted before COVID - shaking hands with each other, meeting people face to face, even something as simple as hugging our friends. We, as teachers, thrive on the energy in the classroom. We took that vitality of the classroom for granted. Life during covid brought in a new method of teaching - online classes. It had its advantages. We were able to take a relaxed class as we were teaching from the convenience of our home. But the teacher- student relationship and the energy of the students that makes teaching special were missing. It was almost like any other job. Reopening of schools has brought with it many changes – fear, uncertainty, wearing masks, no sharing things and food, no shaking hands. Yet, physical classes have also brought back the joy and satisfaction of teaching, that

precious student-teacher bond. We teachers can now look forward to 'touching the future' again!

-Sai Shreya 9B

THE PANDEMIC AS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

A fun interview with Jyotsna ma'am

1. When did you join Sishya and have you ever taught any subjects, besides English?

It seems like it has been a lifetime since I joined Sishya. I feel that it has been my second home. I would have taught at Sishya for 25 years in January.(looks like ma'am celebrates her Silver jubilee the same year Sishya celebrates its Golden).I have always taught English and nothing else.

2. Was teaching at Sishya your first job as a teacher? If no, where did you teach before?

No, I have taught at Loreto Convent Delhi Cantt, which is my alma mater. Incidentally I took over as the class teacher of Grade 6B from the lady who was my class teacher when I was in Grade 6.

I have also taught at Manavsthal New Delhi, BlueBells Gurgaon and Air Force Navy School Bangalore.

3. What do you enjoy about teaching at Sishya?

The fast-paced events, the holidays, the bright and eager faces in school, the friends I have made and of course the various challenges which are thrown at us teachers!

4. How were you affected during the pandemic and what are your opinions on online schooling?

I initially thought that the pandemic 'holidays' were a boon! I did not realise that the days would change into weeks, months and then two years. Professionally, time stood still and the time tables and classes were put together very quickly.

Online classes can be fun if connectivity is not an issue and one is technologically proficient. I learned a lot, took lots of help from

students for various nuances which I was not aware of. Classes were a learning experience for both the teacher and the taught!

5. What are your hopes for the school in the foreseeable future?

Sishya is going strong at 50. I am sure that it will always continue to bring up the best individuals who will continue to 'aspire and excel'. I am so glad to be interviewed in the Golden Jubilee year!

-Aadhit Rau 9 C

STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

(the student wishes to remain anonymous)

1.What was your original reaction when the lockdown was announced and how did it change with the passing of months?

Originally, I was super excited as who wouldn't love to attend school from the comfort of their own home? But as time moved on, I began dreading it.

2.What were the highs and lows you faced in your life during the pandemic?

I didn't really have much of a high, the lows though were quite a few.... I was a student who had just joined and attended the first day of Sishya when immediately the lockdown was announced the next. Also being so close with my family proved that it's not always a good thing. It made me miss my offline school days so much.

3. How did it affect your mental and physical health?

I became so lazy! I never thought that my name and 'lazy' would ever be used in the same sentence. It was hard for me to even get up from my bed, so you can bet I didn't even do the smallest bit of exercise. I began sweating every time I even thought of games classes being held offline.

4.Online schooling took most by surprise. What were the advantages you observed?

It certainly had its pro's. Food whenever I wished for it, no travelling

back and forth and it was just easier for sure.

5. Did you come across any disadvantages of online schooling as well? Too many. My mother being in the next room didn't help otherwise! I

was constantly watched over like a hawk and my brother would ever so lovingly jump scare me when I least expected it. I also know quite a few people who would have had a heart attack when they went to the Ophthalmologist to get their eyes checked. The internet and a distracted environment were not ideal to actually learn something. So for me personally, the disadvantages outnumber the advantages.

6. What did you miss most about offline school, and which do you think is actually preferable?

Gossip for sure. Online there is not much one can do in the five minutes break between each class, and I also somehow missed being taught on a blackboard.

7. What are your hopes for the future of Sishya, especially after such a turn in our lives?

I truly do hope none of the future students ever encounter such a scenario. It messed up a whole lot and it's hard to get back. Education should never be hindered, especially not in such a way. I marveled at how the teachers shifted from a board to a screen so quickly. They were truly a rock for us and put up with the Wi-Fi nonsense all of us had at some point in time.

-Pritika Gracelyn 9 C

THE PANDEMIC AND ITS DRAWBACKS

(The teacher wishes to stay anonymous)

Did you think there was going to be a pandemic? After the news, it might have been obvious. How did you first react when we went on lockdown?

It came about out of the blue. Just like a nightmare, businesses, shops, and even entire industries shut down for various reasons. When we learned that our loved ones were suffering from this dreadful virus, we were expected to accept the fact that we would be unable to aid them

for fear of our own safety. We only heard the phrases "oxymeter," "thermometer," or "stay home, keep safe."

2. Were you able to adapt to the new way of education? Was it convenient?

All educational institutions were asked to adopt the new teaching methodology, and schools went online. Of course, it was challenging because we weren't used to that style of instruction. We came to the conclusion that learning is more important than whining about our lack of technological knowledge.

3. What were your upsides and downsides to the pandemic?

I gained a great deal of knowledge about friends, family members, and even complete strangers who sought to assist one another. Since most of the stores were closed, we had trouble procuring even the most basic necessities, including groceries and veggies.

4. When they decided to re-open school, did you look forward to it or had you adapted to 'life in the pandemic'?

Yes, I had been looking forward to the day of reopening. Even though we adjusted to living throughout the pandemic, I missed the excitement of facilitating learning in physical sessions. Although it was challenging to get up early for work, doing so was preferable to dwelling on this terrible virus.

5. What were some new things you learned while being stuck at home? The two most important things I learnt were how to use various computer resources and how to educate technically.

6. Why do you want to remain anonymous?

I choose to maintain my anonymity because anyone who has suffered adversity and triumphed might inspire others. We will overcome everything if we have hope to do so, I wanted to be one of the individuals who can say that.

- Eesha. M. S 7 B

Hope is about looking for rainbows in the rain and stars in the darkness. Once we choose hope, anything is possible.

Current affairs

India's new president

Droupadi Murmu was elected as the 15th president of India on 25th July 2022. She is the first person to be in the tribal community and the second woman to be elected as the president of India. BJP started celebrations across the country as soon as it was announced that Droupadi Murmu was elected president.



Independence Day Celebration

On August 15th 1947 India got Independence from the British rule after 200 years. This year India will be celebrating their 75th year of Independence. The government has aimed to hoist 200 million tricolours. To make this possible the government has set up a campaign called Har Ghar Tiranga. This campaign is set up to encourage people to hoist Tiranga at home and mark the 75th year of India's Independence.



Chess Olympiad

The 44th Chess Olympiad organized by FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Échecs) was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu from 28th July to 10th August 2022. This was the first ever Chess Olympiad to be held in India. It was supposed to be held in Moscow, Russia but due to the Russia-Ukraine war it was relocated to Chennai. Over



150 countries took part in the 44th Chess Olympiad. Ukraine won the gold medal and Georgia claimed the silver. India won two bronze medals, seven individual medals which included two gold, one silver and two bronze. India also won the Nona Gaprindashvili Cup.



Ayman al-Zawahiri, an Egyptian-born terrorist who served as a close associate of Osama bin Laden and served as the emir of al Qaeda after bin Laden's death, was shot by a US drone strike on July 31st.



Salman Rushdie, the author of the controversial novel The Satanic Verses, was stabbed when he was preparing for a lecture in New York State. The book angered Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini for its portrayal of Prophet Muhammad, and Rushdie had been living in hiding since its publication in 1988. Press releases expect the author to lose an eye, though his condition seems to be improving.



The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launched a rocket on August 6, which failed in successfully placing its satellites in orbit. ISRO aimed for a circular orbit, but instead, due to miscalculation in the fourth phase of the launch, it was put in an elliptical orbit, and five hours after its launch ISRO reported a loss of data and confirmed the failure of the mission.



Ritwik Udipi Rau
12A Anaisha Bhatta
6A

The Russo-Ukrainian War

The Russo-Ukrainian War began in 2014 and escalated in 2022 with Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Over 6.4 million Ukrainians fled the country during the invasion, causing Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II. Global food shortages were also caused by the invasion.

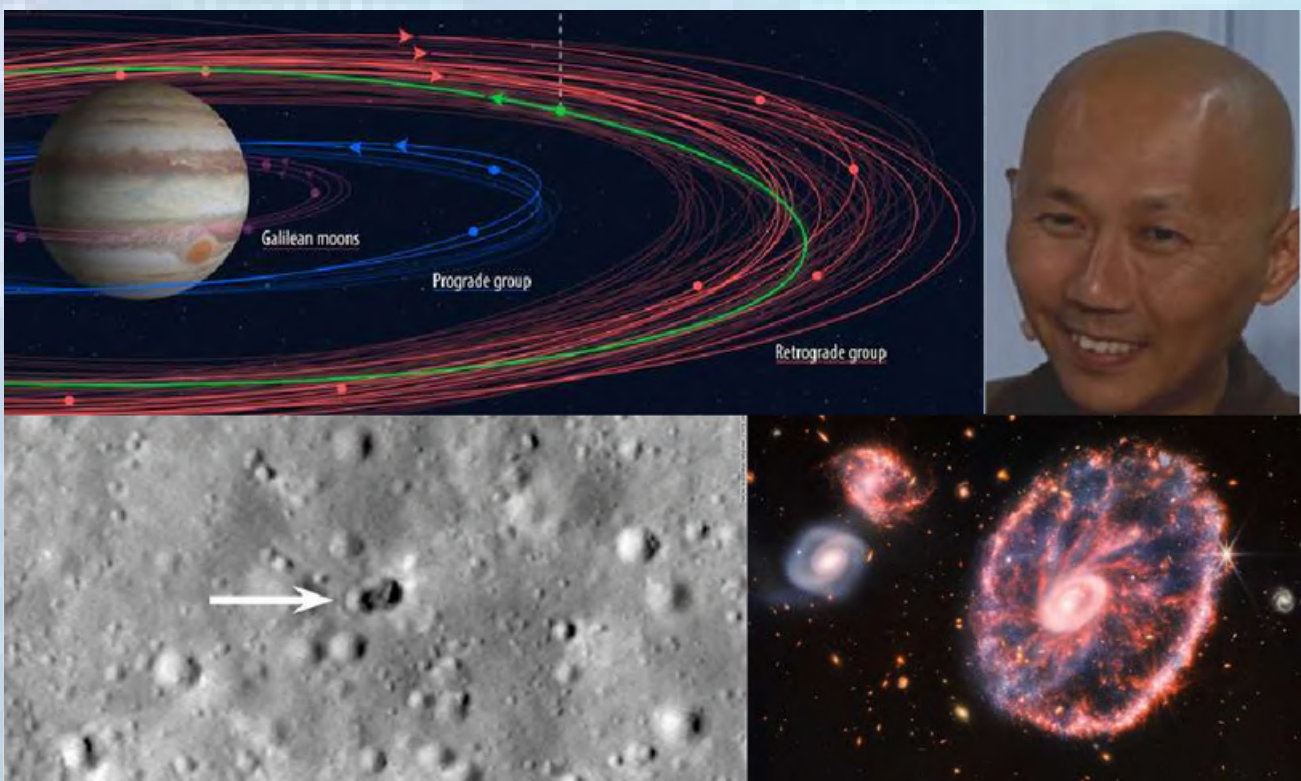
As soon as Putin announced the "demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine" on 24 February, the invasion began. Airstrikes and missiles hit Kyiv within minutes, and multiple ground invasions followed. Volodymyr Zelenskyy imposed martial law and banned all-male Ukrainian citizens between 18 and 60 from leaving the country.

In March, the Russian advance towards Kyiv stalled. Amidst heavy losses and strong Ukrainian resistance, Russian troops retreated from Kyiv Oblast by 3 April. On 19 April, Russia launched a renewed attack on Donbas, which has been proceeding very slowly. Ansk Oblast was only fully captured by 3 July, while other fronts remained largely stationary. At the same time, Russian forces continued to bomb both military and civilian targets far from the frontline. As a result of the increased military aid Ukraine is receiving from abroad, Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov announced on July 20 that his country would expand the 'special operations' front beyond the original objectives of the Donbas region to include military objectives in Zaporizhzhia Oblast and Kherson Oblast.



Space Trivia

1. In 2021 Kai Ly, an amateur astronomer discovered a new moon around Jupiter. Now Jupiter has 80 moons! Using old telescope images, Ly was able to spot the unnamed satellite orbiting Jupiter, which is nearly 385 million miles from Earth.
2. In July 2021, the world's first picture of a black hole 6.5 billion times the mass of the sun was published—an image of a powerful jet blasting off from one of these supermassive objects.
3. In 2022, a rocket booster thought to be left over from a Chinese lunar mission smashed into the moon in March, making the hunk of metal the first-known space junk to unintentionally crash into our natural satellite. It made a crater in the moon that measured as long as a tractor trailer (65 feet)
4. In August 2022 the James Webb telescope captured a picture of a vivid collision between. It happened between a huge galaxy called the Cartwheel galaxy and a small galaxy nearby.
5. India's much-delayed maiden human spaceflight space mission, Gaganyaan will be launched in 2024. It will sum up to a cost of 9023 crores. The spacecraft is being designed to carry three people.
6. NASA's Artemis program will be sending astronauts to the lunar South Pole by 2024. They are also coming up with a new space suit design. If successful, this mission will land the first woman on the moon.



School events

ANNUAL INTER-HOUSE SWIMMING MEET

The annual inter-house swimming meet occurred on Saturday, 18th of June 2022 at the SDAT Aquatic Complex in Velachery. This was the first swim meet in two years, after 2019 due to the unfortunate pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. There were around 150 participants who took part in the meet across various age categories. Looking at the anxious competitors accompanied by their kith and kin, the competition fever caught on.

With a charged-up atmosphere, the intense competition commenced and it was getting harder to predict the winners with every passing second. It was clear that the students, parents and teachers were all excited to be back to cheer the participants of the meet. Overall, it was a brilliant display of talent and sportsmanship by the swimmers of Sishya.

Godavari bagged the overall championship trophy followed by Sutlej. Narmada placed third and Cauvery placed fourth. The best swimmer of the meet across the five divisions for the boys was Akash Chhabria of Sutlej house and for girls was Annika Viji of Godavari house. Cheers filled the air when the results were announced and gave a new ray of hope to all.

The pandemic had made us lose hope over the two years. However, it was clear that the competitive spirit was still persistent in every swimmer present at the meet. Apart from the use of masks albeit begrudgingly, not much had changed over the two years. The excitement, the spirit and talent were still present and they could not be extinguished by a mere lockdown. The swim meet closed off with a bang and made every swimmer and spectator hope for a bigger and better swim meet the following year.



SISHYAMRITA 2022

After two years of being online, Sishya was finally able to bring its signature inter-school cultural event back. Traditionally organized by the super seniors (students of class 12), Sishyamrita is an assemblage of a plethora of stimulating events that are thoughtfully planned and methodically implemented.

This year we had 18 events spread across 2 days- 1st and 2nd July. Under the leadership of Sarayu Kaushik and Vidhan Jalan, our Cultural secretaries, and with the guidance of our teachers with Subhra Chakravarti as head, the event went off successfully having been an incredible experience for the 17 schools that participated and the students on campus who helped organize it. Vidhi Jalan And Prabhat. M of class 12 worked on creating a website that aided with the registration process and we had an Instagram account for better reach.

The participants' creativity, imagination, quick thinking, ability to work under pressure, teamwork, and talent were tested in events like Comic Con, Gully Boy, Sishya Hacks, Colour Blast, Tenali Raman, Basketball, Jukebox, Caveman Cuisine, Shark Tank, and Shipwreck just to name a few. Kicking off with the hilariously done Adzab and electrifying music performances it was a truly golden event.



After two days of intense competition, going up against fierce competitors like Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram and Vaels International School, Don Bosco Matriculation Higher Secondary School bagged the overall championship trophy.

We had an overwhelmingly positive response this year. With incredibly welcoming volunteers on campus (students of class 11 and 12) to guide them, when necessary, all participants enjoyed themselves thoroughly in an atmosphere of healthy competition, cheering proudly for their schools and exhibiting extreme school spirit.



-Sharon Grace Prabhu 12 A

SISHYA FETE

The Sishya Fete, themed 'Celebrating 50 years of Blue', was held on 30th July 2022, returning in all its pomp and with fervour after a long hiatus. From the date of its announcement to the raffle ticket sales and to the Fete day itself, the excitement was palpable! This year is extra special as Sishya marks 50 years since inception, a significant milestone and achievement.

By 3pm the Fete was announced open by the School PTA. Students, parents and friends of students all made a beeline for the entry-ticket counters and coupon stalls.

Banners, colourful stalls and tents in blue & white (in keeping with the theme), with variety entertainment, amusements and food were well thought out, planned and laid along the perimeter of our large field and on the basket-ball court. Music in the air added to the carnival atmosphere!

Stalls for amusement [Mini-Kidzania, Zorbing], competition [Paintball, A-Minute to Win-it], entertainment [Virtual Reality (VR)], and many more were thoughtfully interspersed with an interesting array of food stalls [Dominos Food Truck, Good Food-Good Mood stalls Pizzas, Pastas, Popsicles] to make the whole experience fun and rewarding.

As the Grand Raffle winners were announced that evening, the lucky ones went on stage to receive some of the most coveted prizes, including Samsung Tabs, iPads, iPhones and more.

Tanveer Sethi of class XII-B was indeed the star of the evening! As DJ he kept the evening alive. He had people tapping their feet and nodding their heads without realizing, regardless of genre, tempo or style! A live band also played, thereafter.

This year's FETE was a runaway success with over 4000 footfalls and record day-sales, that doubled our target. The Sishya Fete will forever leave an indelible mark in our minds of our School-life.



-Tanvi Arvind 11 A

CISCE Athletics Regionals

On August 1st and 2nd, Sishya had the opportunity to host the Regional CISCE meet in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. Being Sishya's 50th year, our school had the opportunity to celebrate it in style! 929 students from various schools in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry participated in this grand event with participants in sub-junior, junior and senior categories.

The Chief Guest of the function was Muneer Sait, a 7 time Olympian and winner of a bronze medal in the 1968 Olympics as part of the Indian Hockey Team. After the last few years of the pandemic, masks and lockdowns, it was wonderful to see so many students interacting, competing and doing what children do – play sports! The venue for the event was also apt - Jawaharlal Stadium. It is one of the best athletics venues in the country with a state-of-the-art synthetic track and a seating capacity of 40,000.

The event commenced with the opening ceremony where all the schools marched to the tune of the school band - each contingent led by one of Sishya's students and the choir serenading the stadium with the Tamil Thai Vazhtu.

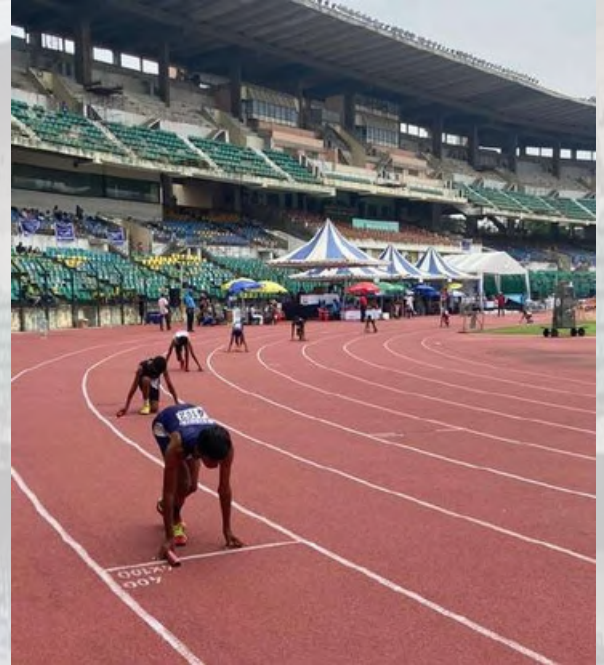
Vidhi Jalan and Aditya Chhabria, our Games Captains, carried the torch around the stadium. Despite the typically hot Chennai weather, all the events were conducted flawlessly. The teachers, students and sport officials all worked cooperatively to make the event a success. The closing ceremony was performed by girls of 9,10 and 11 standard who performed an elegant saree dance.

The overall winner of the tournament was St. Jude's, Ooty winning several medals closely followed by Stanes school, Coimbatore. Many of the athletes now move on to the CISCE National Athletic Meet in Pune to be held in November.



Sishya won silver in the 4*100 meters relay, the 4*400m relay - senior girls category, and many more in individual.

Inspired by the setting of this event, I am sure many of the Sishya students will start training for next year's meet, where Team Sishya will scale greater heights.



-Krishna Arvind 11 A

TEACHER-ALUMNI INTERVIEWS

Shree Ma'am

Q1. How long were you a teacher at Sishya?

I was a teacher at Sishya for about 31 years. I joined in the year 1987 and retired in 2019, a year before the pandemic.

Q2. Which subject did you teach and how was your experience?

I initially taught Mathematics and English and even Chemistry for a while. But primarily I taught biology.

My heart belongs to Sishya. I have only taught at this school and it has been the best teaching experience. I am also well aware of the happenings at the moment and have very good friends in the school. So, I am still very much connected to the school and its people.

Q3. What is your take on the advantages and disadvantages of online classes?

Well one can attend online classes from anywhere in the world. Also, the meetings can be recorded which help students to refer to in case they have any queries or missed out any key information. But as children attend school from their homes there are a lot of distractions which affects their concentration. Teachers are unable to connect with children and help them out as they would during offline school.

Q4. Have you heard about the current teachers' experiences teaching online?

Yes definitely. Many of the teachers have told me that they are doubtful whether the students are paying attention during classes or not. They also find it extremely difficult to grade papers. But again, teaching online using PowerPoint presentations help in showing diagrams, charts and videos instead of drawing or conveying on the blackboard which is time consuming.

Q5. What do you think is the future of teaching? With the proliferation of online coaching do you see a threat to the standard school-based teaching positions?

I believe that there is a shortage of good teachers and it is extremely difficult to find good and qualified



ones. I believe all these online teaching platforms like Byjus are like a revision for what has already been taught in school. I personally think that the school establishment will remain but one could never know what the future unfolds in the long run.

Q6. Being a retired teacher, what would your advice be to the teachers and students coming back to school after nearly two years?

Enjoy yourself. That's all I have to say. I really miss teaching and given a chance I should jump back into it. And Sishya is where I taught so it holds a special place in my heart. School life is the best for both students and teachers and all one has to do is make the most of it.

Philomena Ma'am

Let's start this interview with a trip down memory lane. This is an old photo from your time here. Can you give the readers some context into what was happening when this photo was taken? And how Sishya was back in the day?

Leela Ma'am used to sit at another desk on my right, Geetha Ma'am on my left, and Chitra Ma'am opposite. I think this photo must have been taken before 2006.

I can't remember the occasion but it could have been a birthday celebration or potluck in



our staffroom in The Library Block had not been completed and our Staffroom was above the Principal's office. The school day used to end at 1.30 pm which made it possible for the students to pursue and excel in other activities like Tennis, Swimming, and Music.

When did you join Sishya, and how was your first day here?

I joined Sishya in Jan 1997. Mr. Simcock was the Principal. Everyone was very friendly and welcoming.

What is one book that you think everyone should read at least once?

Jonathan Livingston Seagull by Richard Bach.

What character archetype is closest to your personality?

I think I would put myself into the 'Everyman' category....an ordinary person who would like to learn, love, laugh and live life to the fullest.

What was an incident that made you think that teaching was the right profession for you?

I had set my heart on doing Medicine but my father who was a Doctor himself thought that teaching was the best profession for women so I did my Master's in

English Language and Literature and joined a college as an Assistant Professor in the department of English. I have never regretted the decision.

What is your favorite memory associated with Sishya?

When a class 12 student wrote a farewell note which said "LOOK MA'AM I CAN FLY".

Who was your favorite teacher? How were your school days?

Miss Dorothy Stopford...a domiciled European lady who used to teach English and Geography. She liked to teach with her eyes closed. Once in Geography class we turned the globe upside down and neatly fell off our chairs laughing as she pointed to the wrong countries! All of us have fond memories of her brilliant way of bringing the poems of Wordsworth to life. My childhood was quite idyllic with weekly picnics, Summer vacations with the extended family in the Nilgiris, and Christmas holidays in Madra



**-Tabitha George 10 A
Harshith 11 A**

Riasai Subheesh

Riasai Subheesh graduated in 2021 from Sishya. I was privileged to know her from the time I spent under her supervision in the English Club.

1. How do you think life changed from before COVID to during COVID to after COVID? Elaborate on that.

I wasn't the most social person before COVID and the whole two-year lockdown changed that for me. It was very hard for me to maintain social relationships as well. Before COVID, I was very happy with my solitude and going to a college changed that a lot. Now, I am a lot more social than I was back then.

2. What did you do to adapt to "the new normal" lifestyle during COVID? If you had to give one piece of advice to your pre-covid self, what would that be and why?

I watched a TV show that I was obsessed with and kept in touch with a few close friends of mine. I also had this really strange sleep cycle for a while. I woke up at 3 a.m., watched a few episodes of a TV show, made some lemon tea for myself, finished the day's online classes, just relaxed for the rest of the day and slept at 8 p.m.

You need to learn to be content with the small things in life. It is very important to do things that makes you happy and surround yourself with the people who help you grow.



3. How did the pandemic affect/compromise your goals as a student?

I was not a student who had too many goals. I came into Sishya wanting to major in Psychology, but in a couple months, my tune changed and I realized English Literature was the path for me. The

board exams did not happen, so nothing felt worth studying for (things did not feel real). It's honestly hard to work on a goal in an environment that isn't conducive to that.

4. How did you feel when you had to study/work alone, and not in the company of your friends? Did you feel lonely? Elaborate on that.

Loneliness is part and parcel of the lockdown. There were classes that I got through only because my friends helped me with them (like economics). If I had attended school in person, I would have definitely enjoyed 12th grade a lot more.

5. What have you learnt from COVID as a student?

As a student, I learnt that I had very bad time management skills. I was a huge procrastinator. My attention span was extremely short. It helps to reach out to your teachers incase you are struggling with something. That's something I did consistently in 11th and 12th grade.

6. How was the graduation ceremony conducted?

The graduation ceremony for three batches was conducted in July. Unfortunately, I caught COVID and I wasn't able to attend it.

-Deeksha Anandh 10 C

Praanavi Arun

1. How does it feel to be able to explore beyond the blue umbrella of Sishya?

I joined Sishya in LKG and this has been my home for 14 years. It is daunting to leave Sishya after being in such a protective environment, but I believe Sishya has prepared me for the competitive world.

2. I'm sure graduation must've been a plethora of emotions. Would you say all the Covid protocols that you had to follow made graduation a bit harder?

Absolutely. Due to Covid, three batches graduated at the same time. This posed a challenge as the amount of people present made the ceremony a little impersonal. Covid made us lose out on memorable

events.

3. Speaking of Covid, how do you think it played a role in your school life, specifically your academics and your friendships?

As I mentioned before, our batch missed out on so many events. We weren't given captaincy, inter-house activities, and excursions. It was a challenge to interact with our classmates and teachers on zoom. It was difficult to pay attention and focus during online classes.

4. Covid brought a lot of new professions and career options into the limelight. Would you say that gave you a chance to explore your options after Sishya?

Scientists predict that the next pandemic is going to be related to mental health. Covid made us realize that mental health is not something we can ignore anymore. I explored my options in the mental health sector and started a mental health gender and sexuality alliance (MHGSA) at school.

5. That brings me to my next question. Could you give us a peak at what you have planned for your future?

I intend to major in Psychology and minor in Biology at Krea University. I plan to specialize in neuropsychology abroad and explore research and development opportunities.

6. Could you share your views on the future of Sishya students, with regards to that?

It is wonderful to see our school adopting new methods to improve the teaching-learning process. Our school is changing and evolving for the better and it is up to you to utilize the resources. Our teachers are there to guide us and help us figure out what we want to do and they personally molded me and helped me pick the right choice.

7. And lastly, do you have anything to say to everyone back here at Sishya?

Cherish every moment, we don't know when everything can change. Appreciate your house, classmates and teachers and fully experience every second.



In November 2021 the **EFIS** students participated in NeNoWriMo, here are two articles from the 1st students, for the others, follow the QR code

THE RABBIT AND THE WOLF

By Nayanka

Once upon a time, a rabbit was living in a forest. A wolf wandered into the forest. The wolf spotted the rabbit. The wolf didn't hunt the rabbit because a human saved it from the wolf because he liked rabbits. The wolf fled from the forest. Then, the human took the rabbit and caressed it for a bit and took it home. The rabbit became his favorite pet. He named it Petty Pet.

Petty pet grew bigger and bigger and the human liked him. Petty liked that human. The human's name was Humany Hume.

Petty played a lot with Humany Hume. And they lived very happily.

Humany Hume and Petty pet went to the forest and walked and walked. They played together in the forest. They played hide and go seek and baked some cupcakes together. Humany Hume and Petty Pet went to bed together. Humany Hume didn't have enough space on the bed. Petty Pet is huge and that was the reason why Humany Hume didn't have enough space.

Petty Pet was snuggling with him and Humany Hume enjoyed the snuggle since Petty Pet was very soft and fluffy.

They ate pancakes for breakfast. It tasted delicious. So, Humany Hume made more pancakes and also made some chocolate pancakes. For dinner, they made rice, omelette, and sambar. Humany Hume and Petty Pet slept together after a scrumptious meal. They were very happy!

Les textes de cette doubles page ont été créés dans le cadre de la participation des élèves de l'EFIS à [NaNoWriMo](#)



NaNoWriMo

Image courtesy of NaNoWriMo

D'autres histoires et écrits à lire sur le [blog de l'EFIS](#)

<https://www.efis-chennai.com/tousauteursefis/>



The Unicorn

By Licornila (Nila)

Once upon a time a unicorn was walking in the forest. She was lost. A girl was walking in the forest and saw this unicorn and she took it home to keep it as her pet. The girl was taking care of it very carefully everyday. And she named her Alice.

Then, the unicorn's mommy saw her baby in the house. She was panicking. So, the mommy unicorn barged into the house and took her baby back.

The mommy scolded her baby because she didn't ask her mommy if she can go into the forest. The baby unicorn asked in the middle of the night if she can go into the forest. She saw a human with a knife, then she hid in a bush.

The baby was scared of the darkness, so she went back to the mommy to sleep with her.

The following morning, she had to go to school and she was very afraid. And, the mommy asked why. The baby told her that she saw a human with a knife the previous night and that was why she was scared.

The baby told her mommy that she doesn't have a bag and that they need to go and buy it. They went and bought a bag and the stationaries. She then went to school and was not afraid anymore.

She went to school and all her classmates teased her that she doesn't write well. And the baby unicorn cried.

She went back home and told her mommy that she doesn't want to go to school. But the mommy convinced her to go to school. And she did and it got better!



**Les jeunes
auteurs de l'EFIS
avec leurs
certificats
NaNoWriMo et
leur enseignante
Mme
Rajagopalan**

Fun Corner

A) Find the words: The opposites of the following words are in the matrix:

- Anxious
- Victory
- Scepticism
- Truth
- Accept
- Public
- Enter

C	J	K	L	Q	M	P	B	H	A
A	G	E	P	N	T	R	U	S	T
R	S	X	F	Z	L	I	E	K	D
E	F	Y	I	K	T	V	R	F	M
F	O	W	G	A	L	A	N	T	E
R	K	Q	E	J	F	T	S	O	X
E	I	F	Y	U	J	E	S	X	I
E	E	G	K	O	P	I	E	K	T
D	E	N	Y	T	M	B	L	H	A

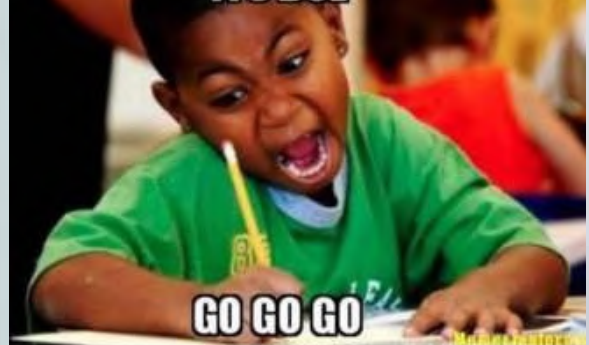
Try saying each of these tongue twisters three times continuously:

- 1) The great Greek grape growers grow great Greek grapes.
- 2) Red lorry yellow lorry, red lorry yellow lorry

**WHEN YOUR TEACHER KEEPS
TALKING AFTER THE BELL RINGS**



**FINISHING HOMEWORK THE DAY
ITS DUE**

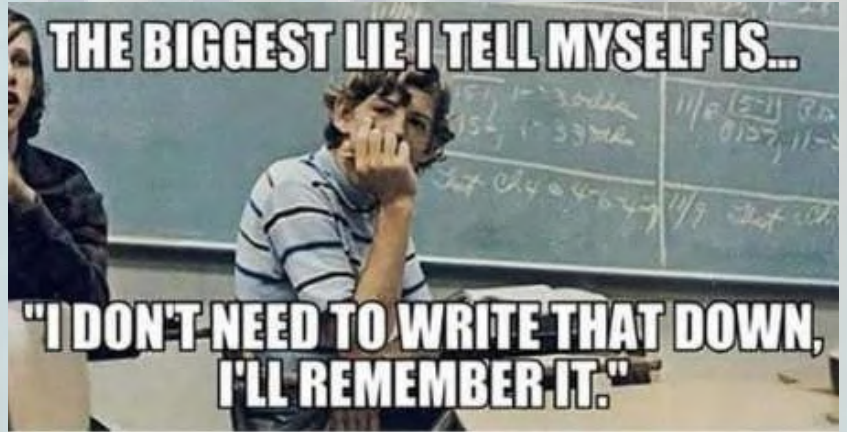




**Searching the
spelling for a
word I've
forgotten how to
spell**



**Completely
rearranging
the sentence to
avoid using
that word**



B) Who doesn't love brain teasers and challenging riddles? Put yourself to the test with these tricky riddles!

1. What word in the English language does the following: the first two letters signify a male, the first three letters signify a female, the first four letters signify a great, while the entire word signifies a great woman. What is the word?
2. Grandpa went out for a walk and it started to rain. He didn't bring an umbrella or a hat. His clothes got soaked, but not a hair on his head was wet. How is this possible?
3. "I have keys, but no locks. I have space, but no room. You can enter, but can't go outside." What am I?

Answers:
A) Carefree, defeat, trust,
lie, deny, private, exit
B) 1. Heroine, 2. He was
bald, 3. A keyboard

**- Shravi Nahar 11 A
Sarah Kurien 8B
Anupama J 7B**

