

SAHYADRI SCHOOL KFI

TIWAI TALES



Art by Mahi Kaiwar (ISC 2021 batch)

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We're back with yet another issue of the school newsletter.

From festivals to workshops and camps, the first month of the year was marked with gatherings and festivities. In this issue, we've tried to give everyone a glimpse into life at school by delving into the sports fest, farewell, and birding workshop, along with other events. The newsletter is entirely student-led this time — from editing to compilation. Join us on this literary journey as we reflect on the events of the last few weeks. We hope this turns out to be an enriching read. Feel free to share your feedback with us.

Warm regards,
Vedika and Vidushi
Student Editors of Tiwai Tales

Highlights of this Issue

- Birding workshop by Santharam sir
- Sports fest
- Christmas celebrations and New year's eve
- Makar Sankranti celebrations
- Interview with Dhobi Dada
- Farewell '24

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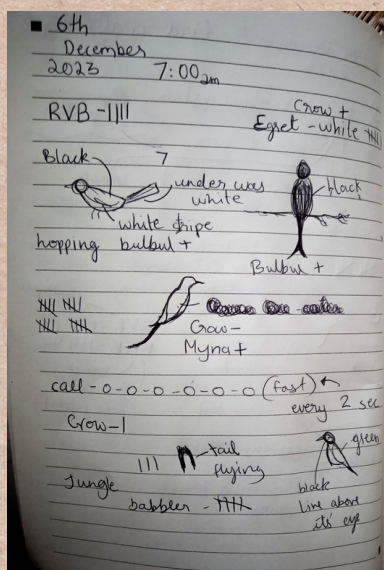
Birding Workshop by Santharam sir

By Niloufer Kaur

Every student who has spent their childhood in Sahyadri, or any KFI school for that matter, is acquainted with the common trees, snakes, animals, and birds in that area. Perhaps, only a few observant ones notice the insects and the patterns of the natural world, such as which flower is in bloom in which month or which birds you see in a particular season. Such is the relationship of the students and the biodiversity that surrounds the school. This connection is fostered by many of our teachers, and Santharam sir is one such teacher from Rishi Valley. He regularly goes on bird walks and, over the span of about 45 years, has collected an enormous amount of data and observed bird behavior and patterns.

He often visits Sahyadri and conducts bird walks for all age groups, including teachers. During this term, he organized a workshop from 3rd to 9th December. We went birding every day, and many juniors enthusiastically joined along with some seniors. After documenting the birds we observed throughout the week, we identified a total of 106 species. These included birds such as the Common Iora, Golden Oriole, Pale-Billed Flowerpecker, Tufted Duck, and many more.

While it is important to document the species one sees, since this is more of a learning experience, the emphasis is on observation rather than naming the birds. Therefore, Santaram sir forbade us from doing that. Instead, we noted down the color, size, and shape of various parts of the birds' bodies, which we later checked in the bird field guides. This approach allows one to develop skills for the next time they encounter a new bird because the skill that makes a birdwatcher 'good' is observation. Instantly naming a bird just classifies it, putting it in a box. When you truly look at a bird, you notice the small nuances and its behavioral patterns. Overall, it was a new and enriching experience for everyone who joined.



Field Notes taken during the workshop

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Sports Fest

By Kabir Rajale

Recently, we all witnessed and participated in yet another fantastic edition of the Sports Fest. The unmistakable scent of adrenaline permeated the air, and the excitement seemed boundless. However, in sports, we often fail to look beyond the scoreboard and the desire for victory. I believe that in moments like these, it is important to revisit what Shirali Sir spoke about in his opening speech.

"How should one lose?" he asked. "With dignity," he answered. He seemed to be inquiring about our approach towards winning and losing. When we lose, do we do so with respect and composure, or do we throw tantrums and succumb to anger? "Win or lose, it is important to do so with dignity" he said.

I believe that the core principles of sportsmanship are dignity, discipline, and honor. Perhaps, we need not consciously make an effort to lose with dignity but if we have love, respect, and discipline in our hearts, it will happen automatically. Similarly, I think that discipline is not something we must impose upon ourselves;

rather, it is an intrinsic quality arising from the love of sport. This was highlighted by Rajesh Sir in his closing speech as well.

I hope all of us focus on the process rather than the outcome. Let's cultivate love and respect for one another, embrace discipline to refine our craft, and encourage active participation for an even better Sports Fest next year.

"The keen athlete is disciplining himself all the time, is he not? His joy in playing games and the very necessity to keep fit makes him go to bed early, refrain from smoking, eat the right food and generally observe the rules of good health. His discipline is not an imposition or a conflict, but a natural outcome of his enjoyment of athletics."

- J.Krishnamurti



Picture from Cross Country Run which was conducted at the start of the year, on 7th January.



Football and Lawn Tennis Camps were held in January by two coaches from Pune - Sandesh sir and Amit sir

Christmas

By Nishta Nandagopal

On December 25th, Christmas, we had an amazing and musical evening filled with carols, and everyone was in the Christmas spirit! The event was organized by Kimaya and Anshuman of Grade 12. We enjoyed carols such as 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,' 'So This is Christmas,' 'Jingle Bell Rock,' 'Silent Night,' and many more. The carols were performed batch-wise, with the entire school present, and the audience hummed along too!

After the event, Shirali sir came dressed as Santa and distributed chocolates to everyone. Then, we moved to the D.H. for a cup or two of hot chocolate and proceeded to our dorm in a daze of cheer and good spirit!



Christmas Carol by the Pre-School students

New Year's eve

By Nishta Nandagopal

New Year's Eve was a very eventful day, organized by the 8th graders with the theme of the Mughal Dynasty. The celebration included games, a quiz, and storytelling in the evening. Around 8:30 pm, we moved to the library for dinner, 'following the path' to a feast! All the drinks, main course, and desserts followed the theme of the day and were truly delicious, satisfying everyone's appetite. We enjoyed the laughter, food, and music.

Afterward, the Senior school students had Folk dance from 10 to 11:55 pm. After the juniors joined the Auditorium, we all gathered in batch circles for the epic countdown to the New Year and counted down from 10. It was a beautiful, emotional, and wonderful night filled with music, friends, and fun. The new year had an epic start for us.



Performance by Vipul Rikhi, accompanied by Nikhil sir and Lakshman Telang sir, on December 23. He sang many Kabir Bhajans, including some which are present in our Geet Gunjan collection like *Zara Halke Gaadi Haako*

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Sports Fest 2023



Storytelling workshop with Grade 7



Play by Class 7, directed by Vinayak Sharma sir and Saher akka



Classes 10 (left) and 12 (right) on the occasion of farewell

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Mughal Project by Grade 8

By Prachi akka

This term, Grade 8 worked on a project called “Sangam-Manthan: Confluence-Churning” that explored various aspects of life during the Mughal period. They investigated topics such as architecture, handicrafts, games, etc. To present their research, they conducted 3 assemblies, a Mehfil, and an exhibition showcasing photographs of artifacts and monuments from the Mughal, Rajput, and Deccan kingdoms. The assemblies delved into textiles and jewelry of the Mughal period and featured a guest dancer who conducted a lecture demonstration. The Mehfil was an intimate gathering focused on music and poetry. In the last assembly, some students performed a qawwali in Kathak style. During their art classes, they created a textile map of India and experimented with embroidering Chikankari and weaving Jamdani.



Makar Sankranti Celebrations

By Shivalika Jhunjhunwala



On the occasion of Makar Sankranti, the school farm team and students of Class 6 organized a display of farm harvest. This included a variety of vegetables such as brinjal, cherry tomato, spinach, beans, gourds, radish, air potatoes, and grains like rice, millet, and wheat. Milk was made to boil over in an earthen pot on a mud stove which was then made into Kheer/ Payasam with a mix of all 88 varieties of rice. This sweet was relished by all as part of the festive lunch that day.

Interview with Abhishek Dandu - Dhobi Dada

By Saranya Akshintala



Q. Where are you from?

A. I am from Mahbubnagar district, Telangana.

Q. How long have you been working here?

A. I have been working here for about 10 years.

Q. Have any of your family members worked here?

A. Yes, my father used to work in the school when it started, but he left and is now farming back in our village. I spent a few months during my childhood in Sahyadri.

Q. What does your day typically look like?

A. My day starts at 6 am when I wake up and get ready for work. I begin working at 7 am and continue until around 8:30 pm. I visit five dorms every day, four in the morning before lunch, and one in the afternoon. After washing and drying the clothes, my colleagues and I at the Dhobi Ghat iron them and put them back in the bundle.

Q. Can you tell us how the school was earlier?

A. The Dhobi Ghat was where the Krishna and Kaveri dorms are now located. Our living quarters were situated where the Chandan and Chinar dorms are currently present.

Q. If you wanted to say one thing to the students, what would it be?

A. Students should ensure that clothes are not inside out when they put them in the Dhobi bundle. Their admission numbers often get erased, making it difficult to read them. Hence, it would be good if they stitch the numbers to their clothes. The limit to the number of clothes should also be followed.

Q. What do you like the most about this school?

A. I really like the natural environment of the school.

Q. What do you usually do in your free time?

A. I usually do not have free time, but if I do, I listen to Telugu songs, or watch movies.

Farm Updates

by Vedika Dhir

Winter is an amazing time of the year, as good sunshine and moderate temperatures allow for the growth of vegetables, tubers, bulbs, and wheat. At school, we are growing 7 varieties of wheat this season - Saatu (barley), Kathiya (red wheat from MP), Paigambari, Bansi, Kali Baal, Black Wheat & Khapli.

Wheat has been intercropped with black gram (chana) and mustard (to attract bees for pollination). Chana is a dicot plant with deep roots that harbor nitrogen-fixing bacteria in its root nodules which compliments the fertilizer needs of the wheat plant.

Fun fact about Paigambari - this yellowish-golden variety is native to northern India and dates back to the Indus Valley Civilization. The grains have a distinct spherical shape, unlike most other wheat varieties which have an oval shape. The dough made of Paigambari has good elasticity and is found to be excellent for puran-poli and bread making thus, works as a good substitute for maida (refined flour).



Farewell '24

by Vedika Dhir

This year's farewell, much like previous ones, evoked a mix of emotions. The Class 12 batch song 'Atrangi Yaari' brought tears to everyone's eyes. While Chatur's anchoring (portrayed by Shiv, Class 11) had everyone laughing until they had stitches. The students of Classes 9 and 11 decided on a 'Starry Night' (inspired by Van Gogh) theme for the decor, leaving everyone speechless.

Various other performances included the Class 10 batch song - 'Senorita' (ZNMD), and 'Saansein' by Siddhant and Shauryevir, 'Samajavaragamana' by the Telugu gang of 12th along with nostalgic and soft-hearted **speeches** by Kimaya, Anshuman and Naren, Anushka, and Nikhil.

The highlight of the event was the games played: 'Guess Who,' 'Wheel Unfortunate,' and 'Guess the Baby Pictures'

This was followed by a special dinner, which included Vandan akka's Bhel and Sudesh sir's Thecha. For dessert, brownies satisfied everyone's sweet tooth.

The evening continued with a bonfire organized after dinner. Dhirr and Nirvaan from Grade 10 stole the show with their hilarity-filled stand-up comedy. Akriti and Ved of Grade 12 delivered an impromptu speech, providing a perfect end to the night.

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Assemblies with Junior school

- **Poetry recitation** by Grade 4 and 5 Students
- **Journey to the Ancient World: Exploring Civilizations**, by class 6 students



Assembly by Class 6 in the library

Assemblies with Senior school

- **Israel-Palestine Conflict** by Nishta
- **History of Weaving** by Akshay, Aashvi and Mahati
- **9 ways of Helping the planet, and Ourselves** by Grade 11 EVS students
- **Understanding Sustainable building practices** by Tejas Kotak, Hunnarshala
- **Topology** by Paridhi and Prakriti
- **Dopamine** by Vinita Contractor, Nutrition and Lifestyle Coach
- **Excursion Assembly** - Visit to Hemalkasa and Anandwan by Class 9
- **Story of 14 Trees**, by Dr. Pravin Bhagwat, founder of the NGO

Art Exhibition



Display of work done by Art students of Grades 10 and 12

WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- 5th and 7th Excursion
- Hilltop Entrepreneur
- Workshops, and much more

Newsletter team

Nishta, Niloufer, Vedika, Saranya, Shivalika, Kabir, Vidushi from Class 11, and Mr. Shrinidhi Mahishi