

# TIWAI TALES - SAHYADRI NEWSLETTER



Art By Purna akka

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2023 | SECOND ISSUE

In this second edition of our school newsletter, we unveil a cultural extravaganza with captivating Hindi and English plays that left the audience enthralled. As the farm flourishes, students embrace nature's lessons firsthand. Sports enthusiasts rejoice in the latest athletic triumphs. A one-on-one conversation with the school's new Vice Principal offers insights into his childhood and education. Moreover, we're happy to present innovative initiatives that promise to elevate the learning experience of students. Here's to a tapestry of knowledge, growth, and boundless enthusiasm!

Yours truly,

Editorial Team

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# New Initiatives in School



## News Assembly

By Niloufer Kaur

News assemblies were introduced to bring awareness about national and international events among students. They are currently being conducted biweekly for senior school where themes related to economics, politics, and sports are presented by **students of Grade 12**.

## Education for Sustainable Development

By Niloufer Kaur

This initiative began 2 years ago, when **Mr. Sarat** took part in a year-long **UNESCO program** under the same name. This academic year, ESD is being offered once a week for **classes 9 and 11**. The intent of this program is to provide a first-hand learning experience for students and to integrate academics with activities happening in and around school.

Class 9 is exploring biodiversity on campus; making herbal medicines, understanding resources such as water and energy in school, and attempting a regenerative and ecological approach to design. Whereas, Class 11 is conducting a socioeconomic survey in and around the school, involving members of the local communities.



# Class 11 Play - The Monkey's Paw

By Mr. Abhishek Sharma

The Senior Auditorium of Sahyadri resonated with echoes of suspense and thrill as the students of grade 11 brought the short story of W.W. Jacob, The Monkey's Paw, alive on the stage. The play also turned out to be a social experiment as it helped the new students to mingle with the old lot, seamlessly.

As the narrative of the play, set in a modest English household unfolded, the audience was taken on a roller-coaster of emotions, from excitement to trepidation. They watched how the characters grapple with their desires and confront the harrowing repercussions that ensued.



The strong connection between the actors made their interactions feel real, keeping the audience engaged in the story and making each scene captivating for everyone watching.

## Assembly Updates

- **Open house** - Conducted by students of grade 12, on school culture, consumerism and minimalism
- **The story of shrinking of Aral Sea**, by Class 9 Economics students
- **Discovering Indian Independence** - Civilian stories from the partition by History students of Class 11 and 12
- Education of the masses - experience of **teaching in Hemalkasa by Samiksha akka**
- Literature circle - book reading and discussion in small groups for students of classes 9-12
- **Ahona (Class 11)** - Summer internship with children of sex workers in Kolkata



Science demonstrations by Manish Jain, faculty at Centre for Creative Learning, IIT Gandhinagar

# Bird of the month

This bird, commonly seen around the campus, is quite active during the monsoon months



Male Baya Weaver proudly peeps out of his nest

Baya Weaver is known for hanging nests woven from leaves. The nests hang over water, where predators cannot reach the juveniles easily. Males can make up to 500 trips to build them over the course of 18-20 days.

Baya Weavers are social and gregarious, and many individuals build nests close to each other

## Farm Updates

As mentioned in the previous edition, 88 varieties of rice are being grown in Sahyadri, as a part of seed conservation program. In addition to that, various varieties of finger millet, foxtail millet and barnyard millet are also being grown. There is a dedicated plot for pulses and vegetables too. Although it has rained quite less this year, the impact on growth of crops has not been much.



Class 8 students doing rice plantation as a part of their weekly farming activity block.



Pre-school children taking part in ragi plantation

# The Month in Pictures



भ्रष्टाचार की समस्या को प्रकट करता नाटक, लाख की नाक (सर्वेश्वर दयाल सक्सेना)। निर्देशक, - लक्ष्मण तेलंग। संयोजना- डॉ आलोक त्रिपाठी। प्रस्तुति कक्षा 10



Independence Day assembly by pre school students



Junior students performing a Koli Dance on the occasion of Fresher's eve



Bollywood themed Friendship's day dinner organized by Class 9

# Interview with the Vice Principal - Rajesh Santhanam

By Kabir Rajale

**Q: Could you tell us about your childhood, education, and yourself in general?**

**R:** I was born in **Nepanagar in Madhya Pradesh**. My family lived in various parts of north India, after which we moved down South.

My parents always had a deep passion for education, I inherited their love for books, studies, and knowledge. Back when I lived in Mysore, the Mysore Zoo was next door. The curator of the zoo was a very good friend of my father and we used to be frequent visitors of the zoo. That's where I got my love for animals, and Biology.

After college, I did my MSc Biology in Hyderabad. I also did an MBA, just to earn money at that time, but I wasn't really enjoying what I was doing. I met a **KFI Trustee in Chennai**, and she asked me if I wanted to become a teacher, and soon after that I joined **Rajghat Besant School** and discovered my love for teaching, and here I am.

**Q: What do you look forward to in Sahyadri?**

**R:** I see great potential in the children of Sahyadri, all of you are so academically driven! I have witnessed so much goodness at heart and innocence here. All of you were so welcoming when my family and I came! So many people came and talked to me.

I **look forward to working with the children**, I think a school should be student-driven, I think the students should take more initiative.



**Q: What are 3 things you want the students to know about you ?**

**R:** Hmm...what do I say? I guess I want them to know that **I failed Grade 12 Math**, it hurt me, but I realised that I was only human. Anyone can fail, and I never had teachers that helped me fall in love with the subject. It's not necessary to be perfect at everything. You can fail, and rise from it. Failure is only temporary.

I am **very passionate about the Sciences**. I have always seen the sciences as integrated and integral to one's education.

What else...? Oh, yes, **I have a love for language**. My family has lived in so many places, I had the opportunity to learn a lot of languages. I know Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and English. I don't think English has to necessarily be the major language, there are so many other beautiful languages and ways to communicate.

# Sports Updates

Sports teachers have come up with many new initiatives this term in order to engage the students in various different ways. Badminton and table tennis tournaments for juniors and seniors have been held in the last month.

A riveting hockey match was organized on August 25, with many students in the audience were left enthralled.

Yoga sessions are being conducted by Vinayak Khude sir and Zumba by Nishtha akka.

Students were also excited to take part in the carrom tournament, which has just concluded.



Tug of War organized for junior school on August 19th. Courtesy - Vinayak Khude sir

## CPR Sessions by Dr. Reshma

**CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation)** is a first aid technique that can be used if someone is not able to breathe properly or if their heart has stopped working

The CPR sessions were organized for senior students by **Dr. Reshma** in order to equip them with skills to respond in emergency situations.

These sessions were planned such that students would receive scientific knowledge along with hands-on practice with the help of mannequins. The students actively participated in the sessions and enjoyed their learning experience.





# Sessions by GoodEnough



GoodEnough, a collective of trained mental health professionals from Bengaluru conducted wellbeing sessions for students of Grades 10, 11, and 12. Sessions were related to bonding and relationships, responsibility in relationships, sexuality and intimacy, gender identity etc. Students increasingly feel the need to discuss these matters and the school realized that a formal space is required to converse about it. Interactive sessions on the same topics were organized for a group of teachers as well.



## KFI public gathering

The Krishnamurti Foundation India (KFI) annual public gathering will be hosted by Sahyadri School this year from **18-21 November, 2023**. The theme of the gathering is “**Living in a changing and divided world. The place of self-knowledge.**” During the course of the 4 days, participants and facilitators will explore the theme through talks, small group discussions and watching recorded videos of Krishnamurti.

More information is available on <https://www.sahyadrischool.org/kfi-annual-gathering-2023/>

### What to expect in the next issue?

- School day (September 9th/10th)
- Play by Class 8 and Class 12
- Bharatnatyam performance
- Musical Evening, and a lot more!

Newsletter team

Nishta, Niloufer, Vedika, Sharanya, Shivalika, Kabir, Vidushi, Vaishnavi Rajesh and Mr. Shrinidhi Mahishi