

Sahyadri Scribbles

Spring Term 2011

a newsletter prepared by class 6 students

A STEP CHANGE

At Sahyadri, there is lots of excitement about the new plans to make classes 11 and 12. Our Principal, Amresh sir, says, "We are making 11th and 12th because it will be good if students continue in the same culture. It will also be easier for parents because they won't have to look for another school, and for teachers it will be fun to interact with an older age-group as well."

So far, Sahyadri has seen students join in 4th standard and study through 10th. They then have to seek admission for the plus two stage in other schools. The decision to build classes 11 and 12 was taken in January 2010, at a KFI meeting. As the school has been in existence for 15 years and is functioning smoothly, it was felt that the time is now ripe for such expansion. It is estimated that the plus-two section will be ready in about two years. To accommodate new classrooms and dorms, the layout of the school will undergo some changes in two to three years' time.

The school has got 50 acres of land on the hill top. With the new plans, the school will expand, occupying more of the total area. The 11th classrooms will come up in the current staff computer room, while the 12th classrooms are going to be constructed on the land behind the current staff computer room. The new dorms for boys of 11th and 12th will be situated beyond Palash, and the girls will have their dorms near the Dhobi ghat. The Principal's room will shift to the present 9th and 10th cluster. The 4th and 5th classrooms and the Pre-school will have to be shifted, as well as the Dhobi Ghat. The construction of the classes, dorms and other new structures is expected to take approximately one and a half years.

At first, only class 11 will open, with about 30 students. In the second year, class 11 may have a few more students. There would be just one section in each class. The school will continue with the same students as now. Children from other schools who are very good at studies also have a chance of getting admission. Eight or ten new teachers will be recruited, and students will have about eight periods a day. At first, one stream will be offered, either Science or Art. The higher secondary section will probably follow the ISC board.

Amresh sir feels that there will be no major problems in the setting up of 11th and 12th. One challenge to the school will be to draw the higher secondary school students into enough school activities so that they have a sense of responsibility. The school needs to give them good education, and finding good teachers may be another hurdle.

The Committee is trying its best to start the project as soon as possible. The buildings, design, board affiliation and other architects are still being decided. Paathashala, a new residential school in Chennai, is currently in contact with Sahyadri for consultations regarding construction and other needs. Most of the 8th standard students say that, if given a chance, they will stay on in Sahyadri for higher secondary studies.

Reported by Parth and Akshata



NEW SEEDS

Like every year, the process of admission in Sahyadri has begun. The process normally begins in late December and goes on till late March, sometimes extending till late April.



Usually interviews are held in the Principal's office, the Senior Auditorium, or Staff meeting room. Many teachers, including Amresh sir, Shephali akka, Manish sir and Kishore sir conduct the interviews.

Every year, the school gives admission to over fifty students. This year (2011-12), the school will be offering admission to the same number of students, but since there are fewer students in the outgoing batch, the school strength is likely to go up a little.

According to the rules and regulations of Sahyadri, the applicants, including day scholars, have to go through a certain process. It all starts with buying a Sahyadri School admission form which is filled and submitted by the parents/guardians. A date is given for the interview. Both parents and students are interviewed. The questions asked during the student's interview are about the education in their previous school, about their family and about the reasons why they want to join Sahyadri. The result is communicated to the parents after a few days.

Aarya Bhavsar of class 4 feels that the English and Maths paper was very easy. She finished the written test very quickly. Saumya P. of class 5 also feels that the exam was very easy as she had already studied every thing. The Sahyadri School is now waiting for new seeds to grow.

Reported by Nikita

HOWZZAT!

In Sahyadri, cricket is highly popular as a winter sport. The cricket camp, which is held regularly in the second term, generates a lot of excitement. The hope of getting selected for the Junior or Senior team arises in many hearts. When you're selected, you get the feeling that you played well, and the coaches picked you because they appreciated your playing.

The cricket camp is conducted in the second term, as heavy rains make the ground soggy in the first term. The cricket camp was delayed this year. It was supposed to start on 1st December, but the date had to be shifted because untimely rain had made the field too muddy. The cricket camp was conducted from 4th to 18th December, and was attended by 78 students.

The three coaches, Milind Sir, Uday Sir and Upendra Sir, come from Pune, where they train cricket teams. They prepare state level teams to play against other Indian states at the national level.

The students liked the way the coaches trained them slowly, step by step. The coaches made three groups : students who played very well, students who played moderately well and those who couldn't play at all. For the juniors, there were morning and evening sessions, but the seniors had only one session in the evening. In the morning, the timings for the juniors were 6.30 to 7.30 a.m., and in the evening, 2.30 to 3.45 p.m. For the seniors, the timing was 3.45 to 4.45 p.m. In the morning, when the juniors came, they did some exercises and warm-up and learnt some skills. In the evening, they played a match. The seniors also warmed up and took some catches, and in the next session, played a match.

In both the sessions, morning and evening, students warmed up by running around the field. After warming up, in the mornings students practised bowling, batting and fielding. Bowling practice involved target practice, working on good line and length, and learning to leave the ball in the correct line. Regarding bowling, the advice was: "You shouldn't bowl around the wicket to a right-handed batsman." and, "After bowling, you shouldn't go in the danger area."

Batting practice involved learning about drive, batting position and working the leg stump. Students learnt cover and straight drive. They told students: "Always keep one leg in the crease, and one leg out."

Fielding practice focused on how to take a catch, ground fielding and high and low catches. Practice matches were played in the evening. According to Vinit Savla and Jai Banerjee, the process was overall good for the students.

The boys participated in two inter-school matches and both were played in a friendly spirit. Milind Sir selected the junior and senior teams. Dhanraj had helped him with this. Fifteen students got selected for each team. Akshata Akka says there weren't any inter-school matches for the girls because they don't play cricket that much, or that well.



Two matches were played on the Sahyadri field on 12th December. The Sahyadri Senior team took on the Deccan Senior team. DS won the toss and chose to field first. Sahyadri's two openers were Abhigyan and Dhanraj, the Captain. Dhanraj came back to the pavilion early, while Abhigyan made the highest score for the SS, with 27 runs. In the end, SS had made 116 runs in 20 overs. SS got off to a very good start, and their run rate was very good. The DS reached the target in 12 overs and won the match.

That same afternoon, a second match was held in which the Sahyadri Junior Team took on the Deccan Junior team. DJ won the toss and chose to field. Hast was the captain for the Sahyadri Junior team. Kushal and Siddharaj opened. Pushkaraj made 11 runs, which was the highest score made by one person in SJ. The Deccans got the Sahyadri Junior team all out for 37 runs. SJ had tight fielding. The DJ run rate was sluggish. SJ dropped catches. Afterwards, DJ made runs, and on the last run their third wicket fell and their captain, Sreyas, came into bat. DJ won the match in 13 overs, with seven wickets in hand. The Sahyadri Junior team took two wickets, but the Deccans won by eight wickets. "It was easy," Sreyas felt.

As the cricket camp ended, excitement was still palpable. On the last day of the camp, the juniors played a match, 6ths vs 7ths. The sevenths decided to bat first, as they won the toss. They made 50 runs in 5 overs. The openers of 6th were Mazhar and Rounnak. The match was a draw.

After the cricket camp, on 19th December, the students played a match against the teachers. The students won the toss and chose to bat first. The teachers' fielding was tight. There was some confusion when Anjaney and Nishil increased the score of the students. Arjun of 9th made 45 runs for the students, and was the highest scorer in the match. The teachers played well and won the game.

Students are looking forward to next year's cricket camp.

Reported by Rounnak and Kushal

THE CROSS COUNTRY: A RUNDOWN

This year, the cross country was run on the 8th of January, and started at 6.30 am. It was planned by the sports department, which consists of Akshata akka, Parth sir, Vinayak sir and Arun sir.

Before 2002, there was nothing known as cross-country, in Sahyadri. The cross-country race began in a very small way in 2002 and 2003 with a run in which students would go down the hill till a village called Gundalwadi, and



back. It was only in 2004-05 that the school got the idea of the cross-country run and it took its present form. The cross country at Sahyadri began on 3rd January, 2004, because the Principal of the school, Amresh sir, thought that students “should be physically fit, should know how much stamina they have, and how much they can run.”

The total distance of the cross country run has changed over the years. For the cross country run in 2005 and 2006, the route was 12.75 kms long. One more level was added in 2007, and the total distance increased to 15.5 kms. For the last three years, the length of the run has been 15.5 kms, divided into five levels.

The route of the cross-country has remained the same. The cross-country participants gather at the school gate, where the race begins. The route of the cross-country involves running down the hill, crossing the road, following the dirt path, running to a van which contains refreshments, and then making one’s way back to the school gate. Then one runs along the parikrama, which is a path along the boundary of the school, four times. Each round is called one level.

Over the years, the number of levels has changed. There were four levels in 2005 and 2006. From 2007 onwards, the cross country race has had five levels. The cross-country was altogether 15.5 km long. The runners were given two and a half hours to complete as much as they could.

The ground along the route of the cross country is prepared by Akshata akka and the admin staff. To prepare the tracks, flags were put up to indicate the accident prone areas, and the paths were cleared of the undergrowth. Certain points along the route were manned by teachers, a few tenths and a few dadas. These volunteers warned students to slow down at risky points, and served them glucose.

Some people trained for cross-country, practising with Parth sir. During the training, the students practised running, and learnt how to manage their breath while running. The runners got tired after they ran but they felt better after some time. A couple of people got muscle pulls, sprains and leg pain. “Once I finished running, I got a hamstring injury which took one and a half days to heal,” says Raghav of class 6. “I got cramps and took one whole day to recover,” says Maria, also of class 6.

And now for a few striking points of the cross-country. Both in 2009-10 and 2010-11, Abhigyan has been the first to complete the cross-country. This year, he won with a zooming time of 1:26:42. Right behind him came Yesho and Aakash, with a timing of 1:33:15. Pruthav and Preen came in third, clocking 1:41:19. This year, 177 students took part in the cross country, out of which forty people completed all five levels, forty-six people completed level 4, thirty-eight people completed level 3, forty-two people completed level 2 and eleven people completed level 1. Last year, more students participated in the cross country, of whom ninety eight people completed all five levels.

A few difficulties were faced during this year’s cross-country run. It was too dark and too cold at 6.30 am, when the race was to start, so the race began only by 6:50 am. The dirt path along the parikrama was a bit slippery in places so a few people fell. A few people also got sprains.

Cross country runs are always exciting, and one hopes to see still greater participation next year.

HEATING UP

The Games Committee in Sahyadri School, consisting of Akshata Akka, Parth sir, Rajan sir, Arun sir and Vinayak sir, started planning for the Sports Fest at the start of the Spring Term. Heats for various events are held before the Sports Fest in order to select the better contestants for each event, and also for a little warm-up.

The games teachers conducted practices before the heats, from 10th December onwards. The ground was ready for the Sports Fest by 11th December. The heats were conducted on the football field from the 16th to the 23rd of December, during the P.T. time and the games time, on the football field. There were heats for five running events and five other events. Class 4 did not have heats, as there were only eleven students. Heats were only conducted if there were a large number of people in any group.

Because of unexpected rain in the start of December, the grounds had become soggy and the cricket camp was postponed by three days. As a result of this, the cricket camp session at times clashed with the heats, and the preparation of the ground for the Sports Fest got a little delayed.

Every year, 10th standard 6th subject Art students design the logo for the Sports Fest T-Shirts, and print them in the Art Room. This year's logo, an upside down tortoise with the caption 'Slow and steady wins the race' written below it, was designed by Mukta. They started printing the T-shirts on 23rd December, two days before the Sports Fest, and managed to print enough T-shirts for the school in approximately six hours.

Reported by Vaishnavi and Raji

READY, SET, GO!

Clifford says, 'Sports Fest this year was mostly about running after sugarcane juice.' 'Good night,' says Archit; he felt the music was boring. 'I want more cheese in the sandwiches!' protests Priyanka...

Those were the thoughts of our senior-most students. Now, let's see what the youngest students in our school think. Janhavi of class 4 felt this was the best Sports Fest for her because it was her first. Apeksha also said, 'I really enjoyed the relay, even though my team lost.'

Having a Sports Fest is a tradition here at Sahyadri. Although initially it started off as a one-day fest in 1999, now the School has a two-day Sports Fest every year. Sahyadri isn't the only KFI school that holds a sports Fest; the KFI school in Varanasi also conducts a Sports Fest along with The Valley School and Rishi Valley School. Another tradition in Sahyadri is that each batch wears a different colour T-shirt with a different logo every year, designed by the 10ths. This year's logo was an upside down turtle with the caption 'Slow and steady wins the race'. This logo was designed by Mukta, a 6th subject art student. The logo, as it was originally designed, carried the legend 'Slow and steady wins the race, but I'm relaxing.' However, Prabhat Sir and Salim Sir did not approve of this logo, so it was edited.

Brr... It's freezing. Although it was extremely cold and breezy on the 25th of December, the football field was full of colours and was buzzing with excitement, because the long awaited day had arrived, the first day of Sports Fest.

'Dahine mud!' commanded Vinit, the bearer of the school flag. Each batch stood in three rows, in readiness for the march past, like a big patch of colour. Each batch was led by a flag-bearer. For instance, class 4 was wearing maroon and was led by Apeksha who was holding their flag; class 5, in blue, were led by Avishkar; class 6, in bright orange, were led by Shubh; class 7, in yellow, were led by Savannah; class 8, wearing navy blue, were led by Preen; class 9, wearing red, were led by Rwit; and class 10, in grey, were led by Aditya P. The students who perform the opening and closing ceremony are those who have shown the best sportsmanship and who are interested in sports. After the parade around the football field, the torch was lit and carried for two laps by student representatives from class 10, Vinit led the oath-taking ceremony and a few words were spoken by Ramesh Sir to declare the Sports Fest open.

The Games Committee, which includes Parth Sir, Vinayak Sir, Rajan Sir, Arun sir and Akshata Akka, was responsible for all the arrangements, such as the shamiana, the medical station, the announcement booth, as well as stalls for snacks and juice for the participants.

'Come on, you can run!' the announcement booth encouraged the runners. Sulabha akka, Zabil akka, Aadhithya

Kota, Nayanatara and a few other students were in charge of the announcement booth, which was set up at the entry point of the football field. It was meant to let everyone know what events are going on. The music that was played was mainly instrumental, German and French. Aadithya Kota really enjoyed doing the commentary for the Sports Fest. Apeksha of class 4 felt the music was very encouraging for her. And Damini of class 7 suggested they should play rock music.

Sweet, sour and thirst-quenching, sugarcane juice is an important aspect of Sports Fest. This year's sugarcane juice stall was well organized, since Moin Sir helped. However, there was still a lot of rush and line cutting. Dhairya of class 6 says, 'We should get sugarcane juice at tea-time instead of lemonade, everyday.'

All the events were exciting, as contestants gave their very best, running, jumping and throwing with full force.

In the Sports Fest, four kinds of throws are held: javelin throw, shot put, medicine ball throw and discus throw. Classes 4 to 6 took part only in the medicine ball throw, while the other throws were for classes 7 to 10. For this Sports Fest, Akshata Akka and Vinayak Sir were responsible for the arrangements for the throws.

Some of those who achieved the best results in throws are being mentioned here. In shot-put, among 7th & 8th boys, Vrati threw 8.89 m, and among girls, Nishi I. threw 7.19 m. In the 9th and 10th boys category, Dhanraj and Vedika came first with throws of 9.05m and 7.61 m. In javelin throw, Rishabh and Preetha had the best results with 21.6 m and 13.50 m in the 7th- 8th category, while in the 9th-10th category, Tejal and Arjun had the best results with 20.15 m and 30 m.

In the discus throw, Shruti and Sashank came first in the 7th-8th category, with throws of 17.47m and 20.75 m. In the 9th-10th category, Arjun and Vedika had the best results, with throws of 24.75 m and 17.89 m. In the medicine ball throw, among 5th & 6th boys and girls, Akshay and Aanya came first, with throws of 6.45 and 6.65 m, while in class 4, Apeksha and Lakshman had the best results, with 5.34 m and 6.6 m.

Students like to throw the medicine ball, the shot put, the javelin and the discus as far as they can. However, very few are aware of the weight of this equipment. The shot-put ball weighs around 6 to 8 kg, while the javelin weighs around 600 g, and has a length of 1.82 m. The medicine ball for class 4 weighs 1 kg, and for 5th and 6th class, 2 kg. The discus for the 7, 8, 9 & 10 girls weighs 1 kg, and the one for boys weighs 1.5 kg.

The long jump participants were divided into four groups. The 4ths formed a separate group, the 5ths and 6ths were grouped together, the 7ths competed with the 8ths, while the 9ths and 10ths formed the fourth group. The best jump in each group is listed in the table below.

Category	Contestant	Best Distance
4 Girls	Apeksha	2.11 m
4 Boys	Laxman	2.57 m
5, 6 Boys	Suprabh	3.34 m
5, 6 Girls	Aishwarya	2.77 m
7, 8 Boys	Pareen	4.43 m
9, 10 Girls	Meghana	3.67 m
9, 10 Boys	Saumya	4.83 m



Watching the races on Sports Fest is a real delight. Lot of people ran well, but here are a few people who stood out, in their age groups:

Race	Name	Timing (minutes:seconds)
100 m (4 Boys)	Laxman	19.32
100 m (4 Girls)	Hemali	18.68
100 m (5,6 Boys)	Shaunak	17.48
100 m (5/6 Girls)	Aishwarya	17.64
100 m (7/8 Girls)	Damini	16.96
100 m (7/8 Boys)	Sashank	13.26
100 m (9/10 Boys)	Arjun	13.61
100 m (9/10 Girls)	Shreya	17.04
100 m (Teachers)	Parth sir	12.85
100 m Hurdles (9/10 Boys)	Archit	16.00
200 m (4/5/6 Boys)	Suprabh	42.81
200 m (5/6 Girls)	Aishwarya	42.34
200 m (7/8 Boys)	Pareen	32.58
200 m (7/8 Girls)	Sakhi	37.14
200 m (9/10 Boys)	Arjun	30.81
200 m (9/10 Girls)	Shreya	39.43
400 m (4 Girls)	Hemali	1:45.80
400 m (5/6 Boys)	Suprabh	1:41.59
400 m (5/6 Girls)	Shraddha	1:43.14
400 m (7/8 Boys)	Jai	1:27.34
400 m (7/8 Girls)	Sakhi	1:29.06
400 m (9/10 Girls)	Abitha	1:46.51
800 m (7/8 Boys)	Vrati	3:28.20
800 m (9/10 Boys)	Abhigyan	3:09.92
800 m (7/8/9/10 Girls)	Meghana	3:55.17
1500 m (7/8 Boys)	Pareen	6:40.26
1500 m (9/10 Boys)	Abhigyan	06:04.18
1500 m (7,8,9,10 Girls)	Sakhi	08:01.81



One problem that arose during the Sports Fest this year was that there was not adequate time for practice of March Past and other events because the heats for the events clashed with cricket camp sessions. There were only a few minor injuries this year. Maria of class 6 got a knee sprain and a muscle pull on her knee in her run while Sandip of class 10 got injured in his run twice and got scratches on his elbows. Sonia of class 7 got hurt on her leg during discus throw practice.

‘Come on, quick, aim!’ the 9ths were shouting while playing dodge ball. Along with dodge ball, there were many other fun events planned for various classes. The events were: Hit-the-ball for the 4th & 5ths, a three legged race for 7th onwards, two games of dodge ball, one for the 7ths & 8ths and the second for the 9ths & 10ths, and an obstacle race for the 4ths, 5ths & 6ths. Split over both the days, these events were organized to encourage more participation.

‘Oh boy, am I hungry!’ say the students at lunch time. This year, on both days, a special lunch was served. Quite a few people liked the lunch, but some disapproved, finding the pizza over cooked.

‘And here come the seven warriors!’ says Aadhithya Kota. The ten lap walk is another Sports Fest tradition, in which the whole school walks around the football field ten times. This year there was a group of seven people in the lead, the so-called ‘seven warriors,’ and they were Aditya Panjabi, Pruthav Mandora, Kishore Sir, Dhanraj Mane Patil, Rahul Juneja, Madhav Panchamiya and Nishval Patel. Pre-schoolers Ashwat and Bilva really enjoyed themselves since they were carried by the seniors on their shoulders.

As the first day of Sports Fest drew to an end, a basketball game was played between teachers and tenths. The game was supposed to start at 5.00 pm, but actually started at 5.30 pm, because the teams were not ready. The students won the game by one point, and overall it was a good game.

Long jump, hammer throw, cricket and foot ball actually make good videos. This was the first year when Sports Videos were screened on Sports Fest. Videos were screen on both the days, in the evenings. The videos showed events related to the Sports Fest held at an international level.



On the second day of the Sports Fest, a volley ball game was played by the 10ths and teachers. This time, the teachers won. Aadithya Kota says, 'We played the game well and faced a lot of unexpected shots.'

'Pull, pull!' everybody huffed and puffed, while playing tug-of-war. One of the last few things done before the closing ceremony is the tug-of-war. This game is played by every class, section -wise. But the 4th & 5th played with mixed teams. 6B, 7A, 8A, 9B and 10A won. In the last round, the teachers won against the tenths. Excitement and anticipation is a part of tug-of-war, although the sadness of the Sports Fest coming to an end also lingers around in the air.

'Arrey yaar, get into the line', say the children, as they prepare for the silent walk, and the Sports Fest draws to an end. The entire school walked in silence around the football field. After that, the school flag was handed over by Vinit and Aishwarya to Abhigyan and Vedika. Then, a few words from our Principal, Amresh sir. And as the sun set, this year's Sports Fest came to an end...

After all the colour, excitement and energy on the field for two days, the field was once again silent.

Reported by Aanya, Shubh and Mazhar

IN OUR ORBIT

Eight new teachers joined Sahyadri this year - Manish sir, Shephali Akka, Menaka Akka, Arun sir, Smriti akka, Kishore sir, Rahee akka and Shubhang sir. Here's a good opportunity to know more about six of them.

Rahee Dahake, who joined Sahyadri only in December 2010, has come from Brussels, where she was a freelance teacher of English in a school for people of all ages. She joined Sahyadri because she was shifting to India and needed a job. She came to know about Sahyadri through the staff of K.F.I, Rishi Valley and Sahyadri.

Rahee Akka is interested in reading, cooking, watching movies, listening to music, writing and travelling. According to her, she got interested in these areas because she grew up with them around her. Life had opened up many paths for her but she chose teaching because she was also interested in interacting with children. Rahee Akka teaches the sixths Social Studies and the ninths French. Her duties in Sahyadri also include library management, prep supervision, being a class teacher and dining hall duties. In addition, she would like to join the theatre workshop and to give suggestions for the Sunday movie.

Kishore sir, the youngest teacher in Sahyadri, has come from Kerala. Born and brought up in Thrissur (Central Kerala), he studied at the National Institute of Technology in Calicut, a bustling city in North Kerala, and graduated in Electronics and Communication Engineering. He says he didn't take up Engineering because he was passionate

about it, but because it was the best available option after school. Kishore sir wasn't keen on taking up a job in the I.T. Industry. Nor did he want to go in for higher studies in Engineering. He had been interested in education for some time, and felt that getting some first hand experience as an adult among children would be a good place to start. He came to know about Sahyadri while searching the internet for a school to work in.

Playing the piano has been Kishore sir's hobby since he was ten years old. He has been trying to learn to play the flute on his own, since last year. About his interest in books, Kishore sir says, "I read almost anything I can get my hands on." According to him, practising music gives him "an immense joy which can't be expressed in words". Reading, on the other hand, opens to him the thoughts and lives of so many people of different cultures and ages, "something which is impossible other than through books".

Right now, Kishore sir teaches Chemistry to the seniors, sometimes oversees the folk dance sessions, and helps some piano students with their practice. He says, "It's too early for me to say what other responsibilities I would like to have. Right now I'm trying my hand at different things and savouring the experience to the fullest."



Arun sir, from Tamil Nadu, joined Sahyadri School this year. He used to teach in the Sholai School in Chennai. He chose to join Sahyadri School as he wished to work in another state and another kind of School.

Arun sir's pastimes are bird watching and photography. He says, "I didn't become a professional in any of these areas because my interest in them grew only after becoming a teacher." Arun sir is the class teacher of 7A and the co-house parent of Jaintia. He teaches Science to the sevenths and Physics to the eighths. He says that he would accept any other responsibilities that come to him.

Before coming to Sahyadri, Shephali akka worked in a software company in Mumbai. She decided to teach because she likes to be with children. She got to know about Sahyadri through her husband, Manish sir.

Shephali akka is satisfied with her work, as she thinks her students enjoy her teaching. She describes her students as 'sometimes quiet and sometimes excited.'

Shephali akka likes this place because of its natural beauty. She would be interested in contributing in the art room, as she finds art and craft very interesting. The message Shephali akka would like to convey to students is: 'Work hard, and be warm and loving.'

Before Shubhang sir came to Sahyadri, he was a management consultant in Ahmedabad. He chose teaching as his profession because he loves children.

He came to Sahyadri as he was fascinated by the way classes are taught here, and by the KFI philosophy. He teaches Maths to the sixth and Economics to the ninth. He was also the class teacher of 6A for a term.

Shubhang sir is satisfied with his work here because he thinks his students are enjoying his teaching. He describes

his students as ‘highly energetic and loving.’ He finds Sahyadri peaceful, enchanting and attractive.

Shubhang sir’s interests include reading historical and science books, business management, photography and trekking. He would like to start a science club and do career counselling for senior students. He would like to encourage all students to ‘be focussed and enjoy your childhood.’

Manish sir was earlier working in IT (Information Technology) consulting services, and has also taught IT in Mumbai. He is very happy to come to Sahyadri, as he wanted to come into full time teaching.

Manish sir was drawn to Sahyadri as he knew some of the teachers here. He likes Sahyadri because of its natural environment and peace. He teaches Maths to class ten students, and is also their table teacher. Manish sir describes his students as ‘friendly and energetic.’ He would also like to teach other subjects, and would like to get more involved in academic matters.

His hobbies are IT, badminton, cricket, taking walks and reading. The message Manish sir would like to give the students is: ‘Enjoy life, and do your best in studies, too.’

Reported by Aishwarya and Dhairya

SILENT SPACES

In Sahyadri, Astachal is the name given to a period of quiet time which students and teachers spend in solitude, sitting on a hill top, at dusk. This has been a long-standing tradition, for it began when the school first started. Astachal is a time for sitting in silence and observing what is outside as well as what arises in the mind, while the sun sets on the distant horizon, behind the hills.

There is one problem which occurs every year, and that is the dry grass. According to Vandana akka, a few of the new students aren’t familiar with Astachal, so they engage themselves by fiddling with stones, sticks and grass.

A couple of people like Sravani and Kushal feel that Astachal is “not that great because we can’t keep quiet for a long time,” whereas Savannah and Joyeeta like Astachal because “You have some quiet time so that you can think of anything that is stuck in your mind.” Sometimes, people come to Vandana akka to share their feelings at the end of Astachal.

Reported by Maria



MELA MUSINGS

Mela is a fun event in Sahyadri. It has been held in School every year since 1999, except for the years 2003, 2004 & 2005. According to Amresh Sir, 'Mela is an opportunity for children to learn more about culture, art, crafts and theatre.' The idea was originally given by teachers of the Valley School and was modified in Sahyadri. This year, the classrooms were used for the Mela. The Mela was held on 13th October, 2010. Rajan Sir and Sudesh sir were the main organizers, and Moin sir helped a lot, too.

The Mela this year was different from other years because for the first time it was held in the 1st term. Earlier, the Mela was always held in the games fields. This time, the school wanted to use the spaces which already exist instead of setting up a shamiana. The Mela usually ended with the 10ths and the ex-students doing folk dance together, but now it's different. In 2009-10, there was a risk of H1N1, so the school didn't allow parents and visitors. The school wanted to keep the students protected and unharmed. This year, again, the school didn't invite parents and visitors because there were more important jobs for the school to do, and the Mela was treated as an in-house affair. The school didn't have a Ferris wheel because, first of all, the Mela wasn't in the open, and secondly, the runners of the Ferris wheel last year were badly injured. Since the Mela was in the interior, and the sound wouldn't reach everywhere, the school didn't have an announcement booth.



The 4th chose 'Hands' as their theme, because they made a lot of things with their hands, and enjoyed doing so. They started working 2-3 weeks before the Mela, because they are very young. According to Anjali Akka, they always came at the right time, and attended to their duties properly. 'Finding common timings for the three teachers (Menaka Akka, Akshata Akka and Anjali Akka) to meet was a little problematic, but we had no major problems', says Anjali Akka. She feels that Menaka Akka gave a lot of her time and energy to the the children, which was very helpful. The 4ths were highly enthusiastic about the Mela. They were assigned the staff meeting room, and also utilized the space outside it. The chocolate and cheese khakhara stalls were the most popular, and the sapling sale was the least popular. They worked the hardest and the longest in preparing the handicrafts-- hand woven and macramé items.

The theme of the fifths was 'Butterflies,' suggested by Rishabh Garikiparithi, who didn't complete the term, but left the school before the Mela. They took ten days to prepare for the Mela. 'The children were enthusiastic but needed to be reminded for helping in Mela stalls', says Madhavi Akka, their class teacher. The cake and cheese sandwich stall was the most popular, and the biggest. Believe it or not, but the fifths cut about 5000 colourful butterflies and pasted them all over the 4th, 5th and 6th cluster. This is what took them the longest time to prepare for. They got the 4th and 5th class to themselves for the stalls.

The sixths chose 'Royalty' as their theme. They took ten days to work on the decorations, and the carpentry work for the stall began two weeks before the Mela. They got the 6A and 6B classes, and the area in front of them. The 6ths managed their stalls well. There was excessive load on a few teachers because Shubhang Sir was ill, Pradnya Akka was too busy to attend to the Mela work and Vinayak Sir had to go home. 'We were three teachers short,' says Rinku Akka, one of the class teachers. In the 6th stall, the games, such as 'Splash!' were the most popular, and the king's court took up the most space. Unfortunately, at the last minute, a few prizes and posters were lost, and the water leaked from the 'fish tank' in one of the games, so things were a little disorderly, but in the end, all was well. The 6ths enjoyed the Mela a lot.

The 7ths had started planning their stall a month before the Mela, but they took only 3-4 days to organize the

whole thing. Their theme was a village of Maharashtra called Satwadi. Sadly, the toy store, which was not part of the initial plan, and had taken the longest time, didn't go as well as the 7ths has expected it to. 'Brimming with ideas and energy, the 7ths worked very well,' says Arun Sir, one of the class teachers. 'The stalls were managed properly, since it was lots of fun. Astonishingly, the bangle stall was the least popular among the students but the most popular with the Didi's and teachers.' The 7ths had fun in the Mela.

Selecting 'Africa' as their theme, the 8ths took a week to prepare for the Mela. According to Rajan Sir, since everything was very planned, the 8ths faced no problems at all. The 8ths got three classes, 7A, 8A & 8B, along with some space outside the cluster, which they used to make a Tribal hut. The food stall that sold subways was the most popular, and had taken the longest time to prepare for.

The 9th standards were enthusiastic about the Mela, and co-operated well. As they had gone for an excursion to Hampi, they had only a week left to prepare for the Mela. After brainstorming a lot, they came up with their theme, a new country called 'Chair- 9ovakia'. They worked hard preparing for the Mela, but unfortunately, some material reached them just two days before the Mela.

The preparations for the 10th stall lasted only four days, because their exams were going on and they didn't want to spend too much time on it. The 10ths discussed the theme a lot and thought of 'Super heroes', but later realized that they needed to order too many things, so instead they made it 'best out of waste'. They got the Art room and the carpentry shed. In the Art room, they didn't get the pottery room and the weaving room. 'Unfortunately, the exams were too close to the Mela, so they were in need of more time, but managed quite well,' says Prabhat Sir, one of the class teachers. Since it was their last Mela, they were enthusiastic and co-operative in managing their stalls. As they also had to print T-shirts, they worked very hard after the exams. Because they were short of time, Salim sir helped a lot in the printing of the T-shirts. They worked at night and completed the T-shirts one day before the Mela, at 5.00 am. Aishwarya Shah of class 10 says, 'We enjoyed the Mela a lot because we came to know how much we actually spend and waste altogether. That's why we chose best out of waste as our theme.' They had made a scary house named Voodoo, inside which a few younger students cried with fright. The 10ths also had a magic show which was popular.

Although the students of Sahyadri love the Mela, some of the teachers feel that conducting the Mela is not very worthwhile. Here are some of their suggestions and opinions. 'Since we spend a lot of money on materials, we could minimize the things to use and have fun at the same time,' says Prabhat Sir. 'We shouldn't have the Mela in its present form, as it takes a lot of energy and materials, and is not very balanced, because you work for many days and get to enjoy it for only 3-4 hours. We can maybe do something different instead of Mela', says Anjali Akka. Rajan Sir, one of the Mela Organizers, says, 'Mela should be there in the present form because it is a chance for children to exhibit their skills and have fun. It's good without any visitors.' Sulabha Akka too thinks Mela is worthwhile, but she says, " We should have the freedom to do it the way we like, and not have class-wise stalls." Given the difference of opinion among teachers, one wonders what shape the Mela will take next year!

Reported by Sharmistha

OUTWARD, HO!

CAMPING OUT

6th standard students of the batch 2011-11 were taken on an excursion to a camp in Garudmaachi, a site surrounded by mountains and hills with waterfalls. They spent three nights and four days there, from the 23rd to the 27th of August. The excursion was planned to that area to teach the students about trees, plantation, bird watching and camping. 34 students of class 6 attended this excursion. Only Poojit and Archana missed the excursion due to illness and had to stay back in school.

Around 7 a.m. on the 23rd, the group had their breakfast, took a bus and started towards Garudmaachi. On the way, they met two instructors who would be guiding them during the excursion. They stopped twice for snacks and juice. At one point, the bus briefly nudged a car. The driver of the car pulled the bus driver out and rough-housed him. Fortunately, he was released and they continued their journey, finally reaching around 11 a.m.

The students, teachers and the seven instructors slept in clean and cosy tents. 'Delicious', 'Awesome', 'Yummy', 'Mama Mia' say some of the 6th standards when they remember the food served at Garudmaachi.

The group visited a Tata Power Plant and a village. They learnt rappelling, river crossing and bridge crossing and learnt how to tie knots for rock climbing and rappelling. Fun games like Fill-the-bucket and Treasure hunt were opportunities to learn other skills, such as using a compass.

Vinayak sir says he got more than he expected. He suggests that the next sixth standard batch should also go to Garudmaachi. "Winter would be a better time to stay there since it was raining a lot in the monsoon term," says Purna akka. Many students cried while coming back, as they didn't want to leave.

AN OLD KINGDOM

The ninth standard were taken to Hampi in the state of Karnataka, in October 2010. Hampi was the ancient capital of Vijayanagar, an empire located near the Tungabhadra river. The city is now in ruins. It was attacked by kings of North India as well as kings from outside India. Rajan Sir, Arun Sir, Vandan akka and Sulabha Akka accompanied the students. According to Arun Sir, they had gone with the thought of learning more about the history of Hampi. The excursion was intended to give students some idea of ancient monuments and ancient history.

All the forty-eight students attended the Hampi excursion, and fortunately no one missed it. They spent two nights at Hampi. The group stayed at a tourist hotel outside Hampi.

They visited the world heritage site in Hampi, and learnt about the history of the empire. They visited the market place, and also explored the palace. A guide conducted a tour, showing the group a science museum and a wild life sanctuary in Bangalore. Their tour also included Halebid and a beautiful monolith rock temple at Belur. They hadn't planned to visit Amber Valley School in Chikmagalur, but paid an unexpected visit.

"The entire look of Hampi seemed surprising to me," said Rajan sir. He also said that the next batch should attend this same excursion. Sulabha akka and Rajan sir enjoyed this excursion a lot. According to Abhigyan and Dhruv, every batch should go to Hampi, for it is fun.

Reported by Sravani and Shounak

TOYS THAT TEACH

A workshop was held in Sahyadri School, to make the teaching of Science more interesting. It was held on December 11th and 12th, 2011, and was conducted by Ashok Rupner, who works with Arvind Gupta in IUCAA, in Pune. Arvind Gupta has visited Sahyadri a few times earlier, to demonstrate science toys.

Ten teachers and forty students attended the workshop. The materials for the workshop were gathered by the school and by Ashok Rupner. On the first day, he taught the group for five hours, and on the second day for two and a half hours. According to Rinku akka, the levitating pencil and simple motors were the most interesting toys of the workshop.

Students learnt a number of Science concepts at the workshop. They learnt about centrifugal force, gravity, magnetism, Bernoulli's principle and electricity. Both junior and senior students found the workshop fun and interesting. Apeksha of class 4 says, "It is interesting, as the toys are from trash, and are easy to make." Sharmishta of class 6 says, "It was interesting, and helped me understand concepts better." Archit of class 10 found the workshop fun, and said it helped reinforce concepts.

The school is now planning to build a room in the Physics lab to make and display such toys. A computer may be used to explain how to make the toys. Students are looking forward to working with Science toys in school.

Reported by Vivek

A WALK THROUGH THE PAST

J. Krishnamurti was a sage, philosopher and educationist who spent most of his life talking to people about life and learning, asking people to understand themselves. He founded several schools in India and abroad, so that children could learn to question everything and understand right living. The very first school of J. Krishnamurti's in India, Rishi Valley, was built in Andhra Pradesh. After some time. Another K.F.I. school came up in Varanasi, the Rajghat Besant School. The School in Chennai and The Valley School in Bangalore, which are day schools, were started next. The youngest KFI school is Sahyadri School, which started on 10th September, 1995.

When K. Krishnamurti expressed his desire to start a new school in the West of India, Achyut Patwardhan, a trustee of the KFI, found a suitable piece of land on top off a hill lying in the Sahyadri ranges. Fifty acres of land was bought by Achyut Patwardhan's friend, Naval Bhai Firodia, and donated to the KFI. It was completely barren, and had only one tree. Sahyadri School started off with a hundred students and twelve teachers, according to Uma Akka, who headed the school at that time. In 1998, all the one sixty five people in school together performed a play in Pune called This Matter of Culture. From the first day of School, music and dance were taught, and were an integral part of life in Sahyadri. Mahesh Pandey was the first dance teacher, and Kavita Upasani the first music teacher in Sahyadri.

The principles underlying the school ensure that children are happy in school and get the opportunity to learn more activities, rather than only academics. Accordingly, the school does not make use of fear to control children. Nor are reward and punishment, or competition used to motivate them.

Since 1995, different people have been at the helm of the school, slowly shaping it. The first head of Sahyadri was Uma Akka, who contributed a lot to the school by teaching Maths, helping the new teachers and talking to anxious parents who wanted to know more about the newly built school. After three years, Mr. Gopalan came as the head of the School. Mr. Chittaranjan Kaul came as the third head of the school in 1999. Mrs. Geeta Iyer joined the school as the headmistress in 2002, and stayed for three years. Amresh sir has been the head of the school for the last six years, since 2005.

Since 1995, Sahyadri has had several benefactors. Chief among these was Achuyut Patwardhan, who found the land on top of the hill. His brother, Pama Patwardhan, and sister-in-law, Sunanda Patwardhan, also contributed a lot to the school. Mrs. Rebecca Thomas too made a great contribution to the school.

According to Amresh sir, the year 2007 was a major turning point, when the culture of the school changed in a positive manner. The school has recently acquired land on the banks of the Bhima river, which is also a very significant event.

The students in Sahyadri School come from different places in India, but most commonly from Maharashtra and Gujarat. A number of students get admitted every year. The number could be as low as 40 or as high as 65. This depends on the size of the outgoing batch. Students are selected on the basis of their culture, temperament, skills, interest, personality and attitude. In Sahyadri, English and Maths are the subjects focused on during admission.

Fifteen year later, the spirit of the school is still the same, according to Uma Akka. She says, "When children get something special to eat at lunch, the eagerness to grab it after the silence bell is still the same as it was fifteen years back."

Reported by Rinchen

JAWS, PAWS AND CLAWS

When Sahyadri School began, it didn't have a single blade of grass. There were hardly any creatures living here, except owls. After a while, trees were planted, and soon Sahyadri turned green. Because of this, many animals started to come here from distant places. Sahyadri is now a green hill.

The weather at Sahyadri is generally calm and peaceful. On Python hill it is very breezy. In summer, the temperature varies between 20 degrees Celsius and 40 degrees Celsius. In winter, the temperature varies from 10 degrees Celsius to 30 degrees Celsius. It rains 100 cm annually in Sahyadri.

There are lots of animals species in Sahyadri School. The rarest animals in Sahyadri are the monitor lizard, the Atlas moth, the leopard, wildcats and the paradise flycatcher. The commonest are the red vented bulbul, the jungle

crow and the house crow. The venomous creatures here, which can kill humans, are the spectacled cobra, Russell's viper, the saw scaled viper (or carpet viper), the bamboo pit viper, the common krait and scorpions. According to Prabhat sir, the bamboo pit viper has once bitten Dhobi dada and Tejal. The bamboo pit viper was caught and then left on the parikrama, the boundary of our school. In the case of a venomous sting, the medical unit provides anti-venom serum to the victim. The medical unit has a temporary oxygen tank for emergencies. Peacocks were found near Palash last term for one whole month continuously, in the monsoon. Creatures which have very recently been spotted on campus are the pallid Scop's owl and the red spur fowl. Leopards have occasionally been spotted in Sahyadri, specially in the vacations, and have earlier been known to take away stray dogs. Very recently, leopards were sighted on the grounds of Naval Veerayatan, twice.

There are a large variety of plants in Sahyadri. The commonest tree is subabool and the rarest plant is the glory lily. There are no insect eating plants in Sahyadri. In both terms, tree walks were organized by Reena akka and Prabhat sir. Anjali akka first came up with the idea of tree walks. Tree walks are mostly held in the monsoon because more plants appear then. Zabil akka made a herbarium in 2009 (first term) to help the 8ths identify plants. Nature club was started in 2005 by Prabhat sir, who wanted children to know more about nature. Prabhat sir regularly conducts nature walks on Sundays at 6.00 a.m. This has proved to be inspiring and educative for students.

Last term, two visitors spoke to the school about the natural world. They were Dr. Nammalvar and Dr K. Subramaniam. Dr. Nammalvar is an agricultural scientist who visited the school to give advice about organic agricultural methods that could be used on our school farm. He also spoke to the school about the trees and plants on campus and their uses. Dr K. Subramaniam is an entomologist (insect scientist) working for the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in Pune. He made a power point presentation on dragon flies and damselflies of India, their conservation and importance. He has written many books on insects and a field guide on dragon flies and damsel flies.

Reported by Ajay

RARE RETREAT

Built in November 1999, the Study Centre at Sahyadri was designed by an architect called Pramod Beri and some others. Its main purpose is to make people aware of J. Krishnamurti's teachings and to provide a peaceful place for those who want to take a retreat.

The previous in-charge of Study Centre was Mr. Kishore Khairnar, who had been working there for the last eleven years and had conducted almost 99 workshops on topics such as these:

- The core of teachings: Introduction to J. Krishnamurti
- To be related: Life in relationship

Mr. Kishore Khairnar had also organized programmes involving other schools and study centres. He has now left, having proceeded on leave before retirement. The present in-charge of the Study Centre is Ramesh sir, who is also the Director of Studies at Sahyadri School. He is managing the place along with five others.

About twenty-five people visit the Study Centre every month, and a maximum of twenty-two visitors can be accommodated on the Study Centre campus at a time. The lotus-shaped hall where dialogues are held is the main building of the Study Centre. It also holds a book and DVD library. There are nine cottages and two guest rooms, both for visitors. The Study Centre also has two office blocks and one dining hall, which gets its food supply from the school dining hall.

Ramesh sir says, "In future, I would like to make the Study Centre a more beautiful and welcoming place for all the Sahyadri students."

Reported by Shaurya

IT'S A SMALL, SMALL WORLD

Sahyadri School starts from 4th standard. However, some teachers have children who are too young for class 4. That's why a pre-school was created. The pre-school was started on 26th December 2001 by Geetha Iyer, who was the headmistress then. In the earlier years of pre-school, the mothers themselves taught the pre-schoolers.

The teachers of pre-school are Shephali akka, who joined on the 1st of June, 2010, and Menaka akka, who joined on the 3rd of August 2010. Menaka akka, who was a teacher before, likes teaching because she finds a lot of creativity in children. Shephali akka has not taught pre-school before. The pre-school teacher who left last year, in 2010, was Sunita Sharma.

The children in pre-school are Vedant, Arjun, Sakshi, Bilva, Ashwath, Jahnavi, Isha and Shreeja. The children who are in 3rd standard follow the same timings as the whole school, while the younger pre-school children attend school from 9.30 to 11.50 a.m. The pre-school room, located near the A.V. room, used to be the Second Language room.



The subjects taught in pre-school are Science, Maths, English and Hindi. Students learn all this through activities and love all their subjects. Other than studying, they play, listen to nursery rhymes and stories, and do Art and Music. According to Shephali akka, all the kids work very creatively with their hands.

The pre-school children cannot stop fighting with each other for small reasons, although they relate with each other very well most of the time. According to Menaka akka and Shephali akka, at times they have difficulty in being firm with the children and managing them.

According to Menaka akka, the important principles to keep in mind while educating this age-group are that they should use their bodies and hands, listen attentively, and learn everything in a fun way, through real experiences. Shephali akka says some elements of the Montessori System and Steiner System are being followed in pre-school.

Reported by Angela

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Dining Hall, a yellow building located in the middle of the campus, was extended four years ago because more students joined Sahyadri School and more space was needed.

Sheela Patil, who joined Sahyadri School in March 2005, is the Dining Hall manager. She has been supervising the work and managing the Dining Hall for the last six years. She chose this profession because she is interested in cooking and likes serving people. She is from Mumbai and also enjoys listening to music. She planned to join Sahyadri School because she likes the culture and the people here.

The staff working in the Dining Hall include five Dadas, twenty three didis, three cooks and a store keeper whose name is Sangeeta didi. Some of the Dadas and the store keeper stay in the D.H. for night duty, while Didis go home. The Didis and Dadas come from Wada. Every day, one or two Didis get a day off.

Since the school can't grow its own food, the food supplies for the school are ordered from outside. Vegetables and fruits come from Rajgurunagar, and groceries from Pune, while dairy and bakery products come from Rajgurunagar. All the food supplies are transported in the hired truck or in the school vehicles. The store keeper, Sangeeta didi, manages all the food supplies for the D.H.

The major pieces of equipment in the Dining Hall are a grinder, a pulverizer, a dough-maker, a potato peeler, gas cylinders, an

Aquaguard, an oven and two refrigerators. A big walk-in cooler is used to store fruits and vegetables, and a small fridge holds the supplies that need more cooling.

Problems occur in the Dining Hall when dasas and didis or other staff resign, or when supplies do not reach in time. If the staff resign, Sheela akka manages by arranging a buffet or changing the menu.

If the school provides enough money, Sheela akka is planning to construct a wash area for the D.H., where students and teachers can wash their own plates.

Aarya of Class 4 says, "The food of the D.H. is better than my home food."

Nirupama of class 9 says, "Most of the time I don't like the food and I have tried to bunk lunch a few times."

Reported by Archana

MILK MATTERS

All the students in Sahyadri drink a cup of milk every morning and night, but very few are aware of the story of this milk. Since 2009, Ramdas dada has been providing 150 to 200 litres of milk to Sahyadri every day.

Ramdas dada brings the milk to the school at 6.30 in the morning and 6.30 in the evening. According to Sheela akka, our dining hall manager, the milk is of good quality. It is tested frequently in the school kitchen, using a lactometer. 55 litres of milk are drunk by students and staff, 20 litres are used for making tea and 25 litres are used for setting curd.

Ramdas dada has fourteen cows of the breed Holstein Friesian and Gir. One cow gives 25 litres of milk a day. The names of some of the cows are Jalam, Soniya, Khushoo, Pandri, Moti, Kapila, Laxmi, Ganga, ChandraBhaga, Madhur and Aishwarya. The cows are milked twice a day. Ramdas dada gives his cows a whole trolley of dry grass or green grass every day. He gives injections to the cows if they are ill or if they have any other problems.

One problem that Ramdas dada faces is that the consistency of the milk changes from season to season. The milk becomes thin at times. Another problem occurs when the milk curdles or gets spoilt. In case he falls ill, Ramdas has a driver who brings the milk to school.

Next time you drink a cup of milk, remember where it came from.

Reported by Kishan



LIGHT 'N' SOUND

A team of students handles the audio-visual equipment that the school possesses. The people on the A-V team this year are Hast, Vrati, Nandan, Natasha, Sanskruti, Shruti and Nishi P, all from 8th standard. They were trained by Bhau dada and the present 9ths who were on the A-V team last year.

There are two people from whom the A-V team gets help when major problem crop up. Vinayak sir and Bhau dada. Vinayak Sir and Bhau dada also look after the A-V equipment, along with the A-V team. Problems sometimes crop up while setting the right input for the DVD player and tuning the right amplifier.

The work the A-V team has to do includes joining the cords of the CPU, the projector, the mikes, the speakers, and a voice controller, and setting the projector at an angle so that the picture is clearly visible to the audience. If it is a movie or video which has fluent and fast Hindi or English, the team has to set it up with subtitles. The A-V team do not have specific timings and days. They get a gap of about fifteen days between duty periods.

The school possesses a lot of A-V equipment such as an amplifier, CPUs, speakers, mikes, dimmers (light controllers) and screens. A Ferrari, a wooden table with wheels, is used for carrying the equipment. The A-V team uses a large number of cords, and a mixer for live broadcasts. To prepare for a live broadcast, a mechanic repairs the dish and fixes the connection. The A-V team use a receiver to receive signals for the television which is brought out from the A-V equipment room and connected to the projector and mixer. The live broadcast is used to show a match or other programmes to the school.

While the school is selecting the A-V team, the people who want to be on the team go through a test of their skills. Ananya says, 'We all cross our fingers and hope we will get selected.' She adds, 'I always wanted to be on the A-V team and wanted to work with machines and gadgets.' The other 9ths who were on the A-V team say they had 'amazing fun', and wish that they would get a chance to work with the A-V team again. Bhau dada also has fun while training the students, and feels happy seeing the A-V team at work.

Reported by Dhruv

KNOW THY SHELF

The old library was located in the staff meeting room. The new library was inaugurated on August 1, 2008. It was designed by Shri Nachiket Patwardhan of Pune and the landscaping outside the library was done by Mr Ari Carneri of Brazil. Situated behind the dorms, it has an area of 7.20 sq.m. The library looks attractive with its large, transparent plastic window panes and the mezzanine floor. It affords a grand view of the hills and the Bhima, and has many climbers growing all around it.

The books in the library come from the book shops of Pune and Mumbai and sometimes, people donate books too. The teachers go out to buy books for the library. The British Library at times donates books which are withdrawn from their library. Earlier, students used to recommend books for the library, but now the teachers recommend them. According to Ramesh sir, classics are recommended the most. Ten or twenty books are lost or torn every year, according to Devi dada.

The arrangement of books on the shelves is done subject-wise and author-wise. The librarian goes through the summary of the books and then decides which books should be assigned for juniors and seniors.

Some rules need to be followed in the library. According to Rita akka and Devi dada, users are expected to maintain silence in the library, not to eat anything and not to play noisily just outside the library. The kinds of equipment which the library still needs are cupboards, more shelves, furniture and audio-visual gadgets like computers.

According to Rita akka, the library has many problems. Students at times tear the pages of the books or take books out along with the cards. According to Rita akka, the library could improve if there was a catalogue for the books so that the students and teachers could search for the books they want more easily. Rita akka says, "Reading a book is more enjoyable than watching a movie."

Ramesh sir says, "Children should visit the library more often and read lots and lots of books."

Reported by Tamanna

SURVEYING THE SCENE

A survey of the reading habits of the students of class 6 was conducted in the first week of January, 2011. Each student of class 6 was asked a set of five questions orally, and the responses were noted. The data gathered through the survey has been presented in three forms - as graphs, tables and statements.

Almost the whole 6th batch reads books. Only three students don't read books. Usually, they don't have place to read and they don't find books interesting. One interesting development was that Ajay, who seldom read fiction earlier, started reading in the Diwali vacations and is now an avid reader.

All the children of class 6 like adventure books. Students also like mystery, comics (humour), fantasy, ghost stories and novels. Only two people, Ajay and Parth, like fairy tales.

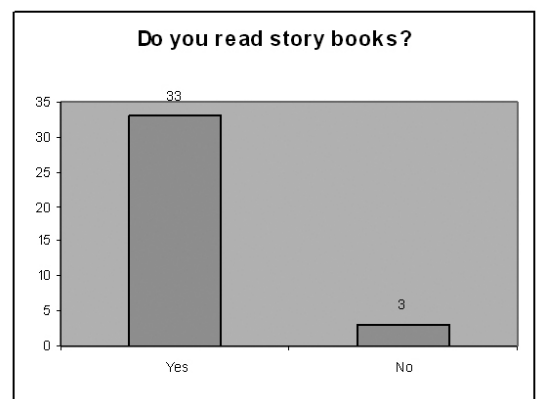
28 students read one or two books in a week and some students can't read that fast. Five students, who are good at English, usually read more than two books.

Authors such as Enid Blyton, Roald Dahl, J. K. Rowling and Rick Riordan are very popular with the sixths. Ruskin Bond and Erin Hunter are also popular, but not as much. Enid Blyton's genre is adventure and mystery. Roald Dahl writes funny books and adventure books. J. K. Rowling and Rick Riordan write fantasy books.

Q1. Do you like to read books?

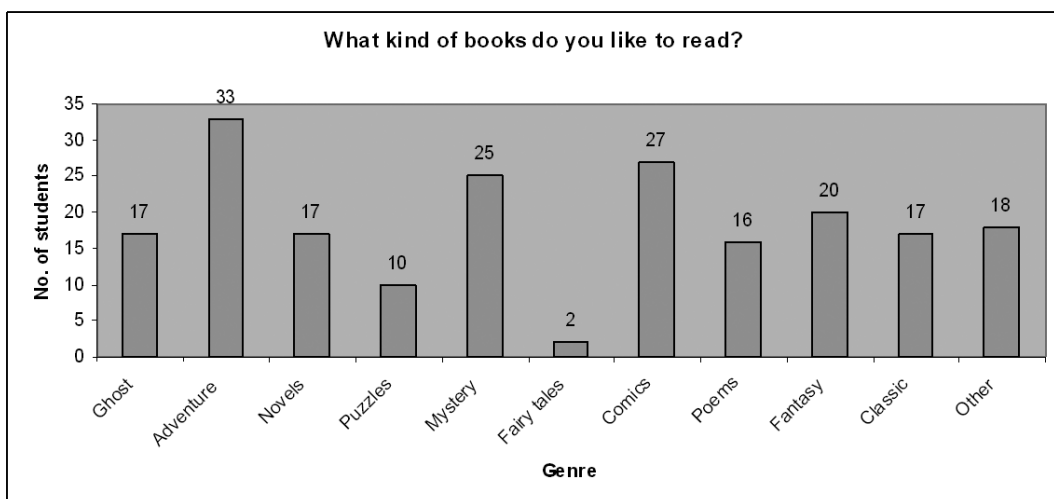
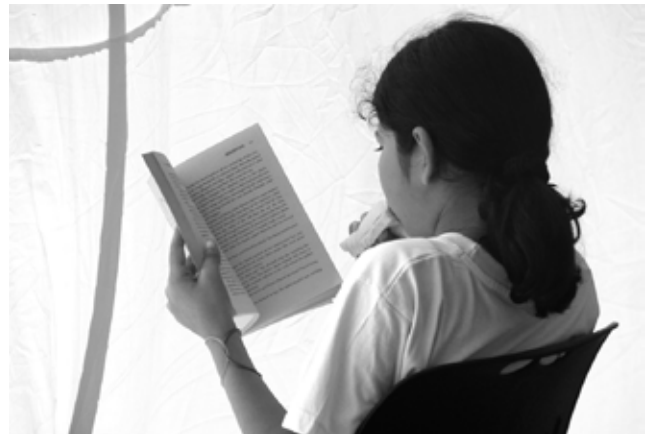
Yes - 33 students

No - 3 students



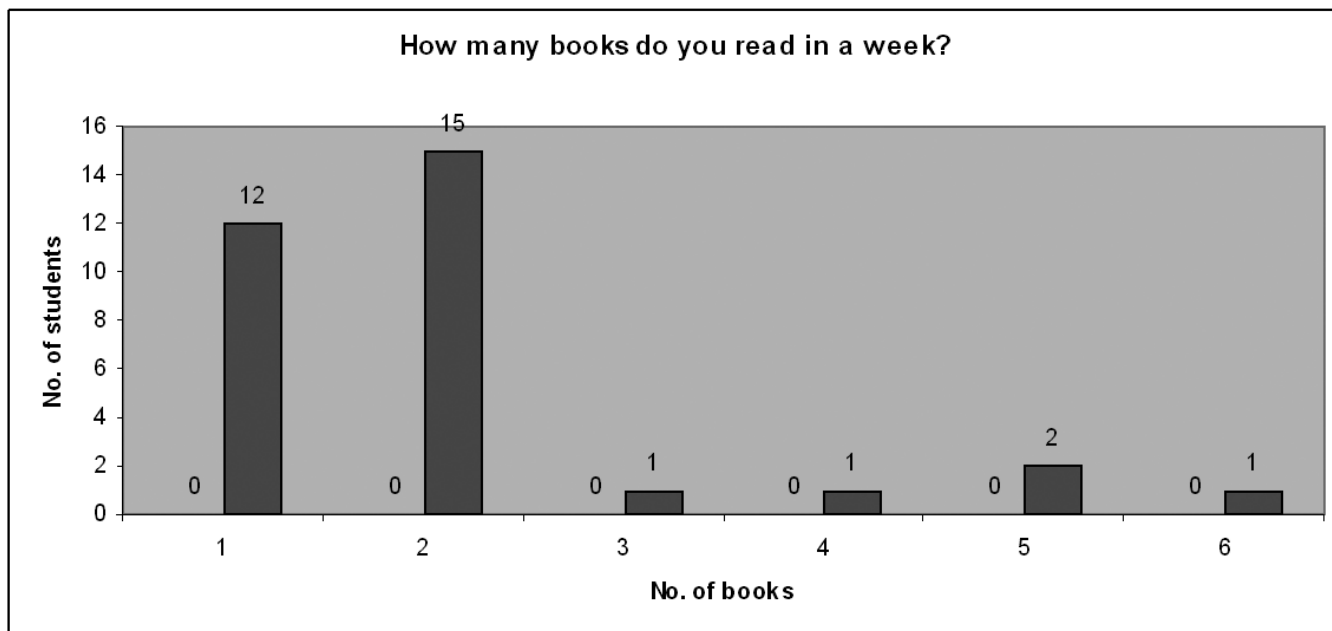
Q2. What kind of books do you like to read?

Genre	no. of students
Ghost	17
Adventure	33
Novels	17
Puzzles	10
Mystery	25
Fairy tales	2
Comics	27
Poems	16
Fantasy	20
Classic	17
Other	18



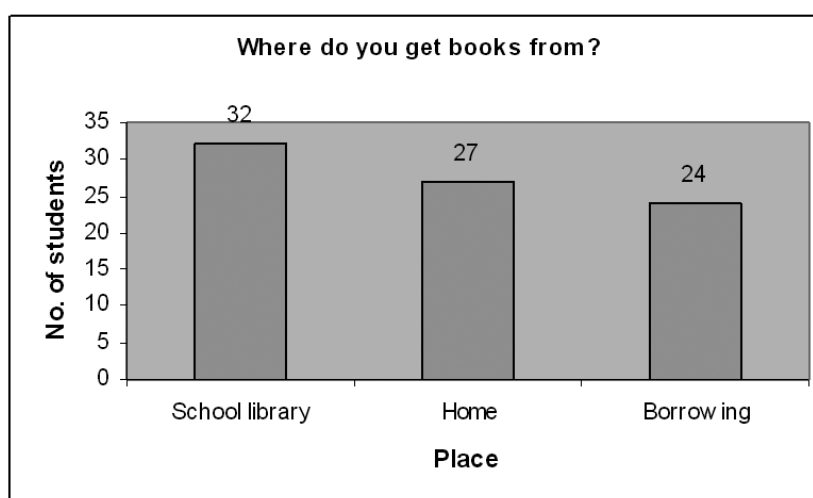
Q3. How many books do you read in a week?

<u>No. of books</u>	<u>No. of students</u>
1	12
2	15
3	1
4	1
5	2
6	1



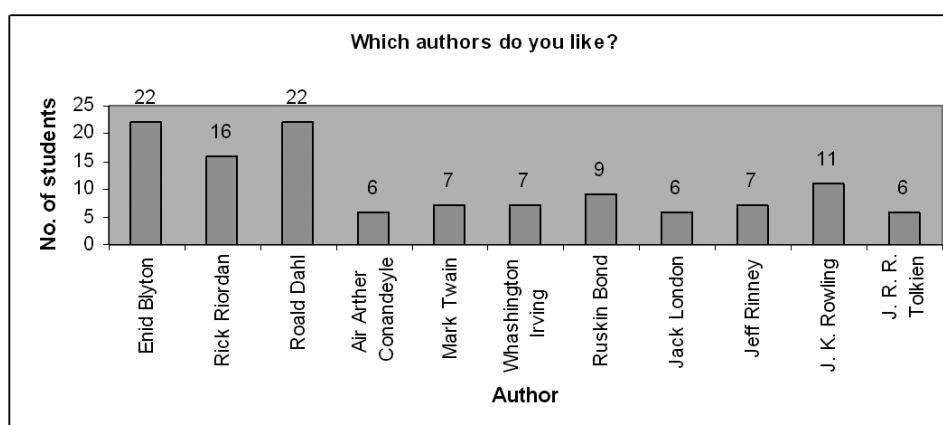
Q4. Where do you get books from?

<u>Place</u>	<u>No. of students</u>
School library	32
Home	27
Borrowing	24



Q5. Which authors do you like?

<u>Author</u>	<u>No. of students</u>
Enid Blyton	22
Rick Riordan	16
Roald Dahl	22
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	6
Mark Twain	7
Washington Irving	7
Ruskin Bond	9
Jack London	6
Jeff Rinney	7
J. K. Rowling	11
J. R. R. Tolkien	6



OF PILLS AND POTIONS

The Medical unit is placed in a low-lying area behind Phalguni dorm, its back facing the Shambhu hill. Dr. Pradnya Virnak has been taking care of Sahyadrians' health since April 2009, when she joined school.

The previous MU was placed in Gogate Sir's current residence. The doctor was Bharati Akka, who is not in our school anymore. The current Medical Unit was built over the years 2006, 2007 and 2008. Mr. Nachiket Patwardhan designed it. It has three wards - one for girls, one for boys, and an isolation ward which is also used for teachers, if required sometimes - a dressing room (for dressing wounds and cuts), an emergency room, the doctor's consulting room and two store rooms. The MU is open for children from 8 a.m. to 8.50 a.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. For the staff, the MU is open from 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

In case of any major injuries or illnesses, students visit Pune for a medical check up. Dental (teeth), orthopaedic (bone), dermatological (skin), ophthalmologic (eyes) and E.N.T. (ear, nose & throat) trips are arranged by Pradnya akka. The dental trips are arranged thrice in a term and the others are arranged when required. The school's wide range of medicines is supplied by Sunil Medicals in Chaas or by any other medical store in Pune. Usually, brands which are known to give good results are chosen.

Pradnya Akka is of constant help, and is always available to students in case of any injuries or illnesses. 'I feel students should be using warm clothes this term because of the harsh weather, eating an adequate amount of food, drinking lots of water, having good practices of personal hygiene and getting enough rest,' says Pradnya Akka. Her preferred approach towards treating people is prevention, but as some children don't realize the importance of prevention, she ends up treating them. According to Pradnya akka, in some situations, there is not enough space to accommodate patients. She feels her job is quite satisfying for her. She faces difficulties when children visit the MU outside sick-reporting timings. She also feels the need for additional staff.

The status of health in Sahyadri varies from time to time. The major illnesses this year in Sahyadri were conjunctivitis, viral fever and indigestion. Approximately 150 students get admitted per month. According to Pradnya akka, the current status of the Sahyadrians' health is poor due to bad weather, low temperatures, poor personal hygiene and inadequate protection from the cold.

Other than the doctor, there is constant help and support provided to the students by the didis. The two didis who work in the MU are Subhadra Pokharkar and Leelabai Bhoir. They work in two shifts: 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. The didis also bring the meals for the students admitted in the MU.

Vrati of class 8 says, 'When I get admitted, I just get so bored, life seems so slow..., ' while Janhavi of class 4 feels 'I just like the feeling of being there.'

Reported by Rajalakshmi

POTS AND PAINTS

The Art Room is located in the south west direction, straight down from the Principal's office. Its door-step is shaped like a diamond, and if you look to your right you will see a Buddha meditating gracefully under a tree. Inside, you find a central well surrounded by steps, with activity rooms on all four sides. Only the carpentry room is outside, parallel to where the Buddha sits.

The art room is managed by Salim Sir, Purna Akka, Ram Sir, David Sir, Bhanudas dada and Mangesh dada. Bhanudas dada manages pottery, Ram sir does weaving, David sir does graphics, while Purna akka takes painting for junior classes and batik, and Salim sir takes painting for senior classes. Mangesh dada helps in keeping the accounts, and manages the art room as well as the issuing of materials. Students do pottery, weaving, graphics, batik and carpentry. However, carpentry isn't open to classes 4 and 5, and is not a very regular activity. The Art Room is open from 9.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. For pottery, the materials required are clay, Plaster of Paris and oxide colours for ceramics. For weaving, cotton threads, jute and coloured paper strips are used. For graphics, printing ink, lino sheets and photo-sensitive screen films are used. For painting, water base colours, poster colours, brushes and paper, including handmade paper, are kept in supply.

So far, the Art Room has not faced any problems other than people falling down the stairs. There is a plan to expand the batik and pottery rooms for more space.

The sixth subject and students of class 9 are Irikaa, Bhavya, Noor, Pooja, Kerfegar, Arjun and Kaivalya, while in class

10, Clifford, Nabha, Mukta, Avantika, Mallika, Saumya, Kajal and Maitreyi are the art students. Out of the three options--still life, composition and nature study--students have to choose two. When sketching still life, one draws any object that has been arranged. In nature sketches and paintings, one draws leaves, flowers and so on. When doing a composition, one needs to draw something from one's imagination.



Nowadays, most students borrow things like paints, crayons and so on from the Art Room. They use the things they borrow and do the art work in their classroom.

When the school first started in September 1995, there was actually no Art Room at all! In fact, the present art building was a classroom. Students did art in their classrooms at that time. Between the year 1997-1998, the 'classroom' got converted into an art room. Eight years ago, Prabhakar sir taught batik here. Sukant Sir and Chandan Sir came from the Valley school for a short period of time to help with the Mela.

Salim sir says, "Teachers try to manage the Art Room basically to make the children work more enthusiastically."

Purna akka says, "Every art teacher feels you should enjoy the process and experiment with new ideas, not getting affected when something goes wrong, for example with paintings, pots and so on. When we make mistakes, we learn where we went wrong, we improve on it, challenge ourselves to try difficult things and become more involved."

Ram Sir says, "The students have to find the skill, a sense of design and how to do the activity. If the students misbehave, I send them out of the room, so that they feel guilty for misbehaving, and forgive them later on."

And David sir says, "For learning, you need patience and concentration, with no rush in the work. Show discipline while demonstrating how something is done. This does not count only for art but for every subject."

Reported by Raghav

YAWNING IN THE MAWNING

Sahyadri School gives emphasis to the physical fitness of students and has a rich physical education programme. Vinayak sir, Akshata akka and Parth sir, Arun sir and Rajan sir are on the games committee which conducts yoga, PT and games for the entire school, and takes care of the courts and fields.

All Sahyadri students who are physically fit have to attend PT. It is conducted by Parth sir and Akshata akka on the football field, handball court, the roads on campus, the flag post area and the basketball court. The students run, do exercises and sometimes play relays, football, volleyball, throwball and basketball.

Students play various games for recreation and physical fitness in Sahyadri. The main sports played are football, softball, basketball, volleyball, handball, badminton, cricket, hockey, table-tennis and many others. Camps are conducted for football and cricket, but are generally not held for other sports as it is difficult to find coaches and takes too much time for individual sports like badminton and T.T.

In Sahyadri, all the sports equipment is kept in a store-room located just behind the tuck shop. Sahebrao dada is in charge of the store-room maintenance. Akshata akka and Parth sir instruct Sahebrao dada about what is to be done. The equipment is purchased from Pune. When more equipment is needed, Akshata akka or Parth sir place an order for it, and Sandeep sir purchases it. Difficulties are faced when students don't return the equipment or leave it on the field.

Yoga is conducted in the Senior Auditorium by Vinayak sir, for the physical and mental fitness of students. Yoga classes are held twice a week for each class, from 6:10 a.m. till 6:50 a.m. for the Juniors and from 6:50 a.m. till 7:30 a.m. for the seniors. Yoga helps the students to concentrate and focus on their work and keep their mind calm. Vinayak sir feels that the only problem in Yoga classes are the mosquitoes. According to Vinayak sir, students like Avishkar from 5th, Maria from 6th, Rishabh from 7th, Aaditya Sikchi from 8th, Shreya from 9th and Archit from 10th have special aptitude for Yoga.

Reported by Koustubh

TUCK TALK

Keep walking left from the senior auditorium porch, and you reach a building called 'Kanchan', which is the location of the tuck shop and phone booth. The tuck shop is for children to buy food items, stationery and toiletries from, and the phone booth is for children to call their parents. These are both very important in the lives of boarders, when they feel hungry or homesick.

Earlier, the tuck shop used to be in the office block. Now, from 2007, it is near the book store. The food items available are selected by the house parents, who make sure that the tuck is not too oily or too spicy, and does not have too much of chemical preservatives. Till now, three people have been in charge of the tuck shop, Amit dada, Siraj dada and Sangita didi. Currently, Siraj dada is in charge again, since 25th November, 2010.

The tuck shop in charge, Siraj dada, joined the school on 28th June, 1997. As the second tuck shop in charge in our school, he is happy with his role. He has holidays on Friday to spend time with his children. He works in the tuck shop from 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

The tuck shop has different days and timings for different dorms and teachers. On Monday three dorms come to get their tuck, on Wednesday four dorms, and on Tuesday also, four dorms. The dorm matrons take the tuck to the dorms in the rest hour. Sometimes, the matrons take children along to get their tuck.

Poojit of class 6 says, "The school should buy some other kinds of food." Nimbu Masala and Murmura are two of the students' favourites. Aanya of class 6 feels that the juniors should get more amount of money than the seniors because the juniors feel hungrier than the seniors. Akshay of class 6 feels the tuck is good and the amount of money should be Rs. 80/-. Apeksha of class 4 feels the food is cool. Mithil of class 4 feels "the amount of money we get is enough."

Located right next to the tuck shop, the phone booth is meant for students to call up their parents. It has always been more or less in the same place. At present, Siraj dada is in charge of the phone booth. The earlier phone booth in-charge is now in-charge of the dining hall store. Students are not able to receive calls in the phone booth; it is meant only for making calls. Students make a monthly call, and are allowed an extra call in case of special need. Sometimes visitors call from the phone booth if their mobiles malfunction.

Earlier, in Sahyadri, students were not allowed to call home unless they had some urgent reason. According to Prabhat sir, the system of students making a monthly call started when our school got a better phone connection.

Siraj dada takes care of the tuck shop as well as the phone booth. He also manages the letters. He sometimes has some confusion in managing the tuck shop and phone booth at the same time. Otherwise everything is fine for him.

Rishi of class 4 feels, "Students should get at least fifteen minutes to call their parents." "We should know when the call is going to be cut, otherwise we don't get to say 'bye' to our parents," says Sudhanshu of class 5. Ram of class 6 says, "They should extend the phone booth and get more telephones, so more people can call at once."

Reported by Subho

WONDERFUL WEEKENDS

In Sahyadri, students look forward to Saturday, which is a half day, and Sunday, as it is a holiday. If you were to visit Sahyadri on a Saturday, you would find students playing games, going for hobby classes, watching folk-dance and enjoying a special dinner. In the dorm, they get to chat with friends while having tuck, and sleep late at night. You would find students wearing T-shirts and roaming around the campus with friends. On Sundays, which get off to a sleepy start, students enjoy a special breakfast and lunch, attend various hobby classes and get to watch a movie.

Get with the beat!

Mahesh Pande sir, the first dance teacher in Sahyadri, started the folk-dance tradition in school. The 9th and 10th still perform folk-dance in the senior audi at 6.30 p.m. on Saturdays. Some of the dances are Ma Avarek, Jiffy Mixer, Circadian Circle and Tennessee Wig-Walk. The teachers that conduct the folk-dance are Kishore Sir, Arun Sir, Parth Sir and Shephali Akka. In the second term, the eighths learn folk-dance from the ninths at 10.30 a.m. on Sundays, in the senior audi.

Children have to follow certain rules, because folk-dance is a cultural event. People have to keep quiet, and during folk-dance, girls aren't allowed to wear T-shirts. Children are not always punctual for folk-dance. The other problem that crops up is that children do not keep quiet even if reminded a number of times. Sometimes teachers have to take stern action, sending students back to their dorms.

The Sunday clubs

To make Saturday and Sunday even more exciting, teachers have organized some clubs for the students. In the first term, teachers offered the nature club, the maths club, the origami club, the sketching club, the drums club, the music appreciation club and the photography club. In the second term, the clubs for drums, origami, sketching and photography have been dropped.

Prabhat sir is organizing the nature club for the sixth year now. The nature club goes for a walk on Sunday mornings. An average of five to ten people attend the nature walk. The most consistent students in the nature club are Tejal, Mukta and Ozair. Recent special sightings include the red spur fowl, which was spotted near the Astachal hill, the Indian silverbill, the red-throated flycatcher and the pallid Scops owl.

The one problem that keeps cropping up is that sometimes a large number of people attend the nature walk. To solve the problem, Prabhat sir divides them into groups and the groups later compare notes.

Sa Re Ga Ma...

As most students like music and dance in Sahyadri, seven different hobby classes are offered to students: guitar, sitar, piano, violin, Bharatanatyam, vocal music and tabla. Out of these, guitar, sitar and Bharatanatyam are held on weekends. 27 students have enrolled for piano and violin combined, approximately 20 for vocal music and about 50 or 60 students for sitar. If on the weekend you pass by the music room, you will hear Girish Sir singing Sa, Re, Ga... and his students playing the ragas on their sitars. Near the pre-school, you will hear Juee akka reciting, 'Tai.. tath..tai' as students perform different Bharatanatyam compositions. And if you were to approach the A-V room, you would hear students playing songs on their guitars, with Amol sir. According to Bharati akka, one problem that keeps cropping up is that students forget to go on time for their hobby classes. They are irregular, so they need to be given reminders.



The big screen

To bring the weekend to a fun close, Zabil akka shows a movie on Sunday afternoon. The movies are usually shown in the senior audi or the A-V room at 5.00 p.m. or 5.30 p.m. Most of the movies shown on Sundays have been very popular among students and teachers. At times, there might be a problem with the disc if it gets stuck, or the projector may not be in good condition. To solve these problems, Zabil akka fast forwards the CD and sends the projector for repair. Zabil akka enjoys her work, but sometimes she gets worried if she doesn't find a good movie to show to the school.

Dishing it out

Special food is served on every Saturday and Sunday. For dinner on Saturday, pasta, garlic bread, rice, custard, veg cutlet and soup are served, and on the next Saturday, the menu has noodles, Manchurian, soup and custard. These two menus alternate. On Sunday mornings, the breakfast consists of hot, crispy, freshly made dosas with aloo, sambar and chutney. If on a Sunday one passes the dining hall at lunch time, one will smell the fragrance of chhole, puri/bhatura, aloo-methi, rice and dal. Sheela akka says, "Most of the students like the food we serve on weekends."

Put together, the movies, the hobby classes, the clubs, the food and the folk-dance are what make the weekend so very special in Sahyadri.

Reported by Suprabh

