

September 2021 - Issue No. 1: 2021-22

E-Edition - www.hsieducation.org

NOTE FROM PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents,

Greetings from Hill Spring International School!

Welcome to our first "Springtimes" edition for this Academic Year. The theme "Towards Hope and Resilience" will be the guiding light and focus for most of our curricular and cocurricular LEARNING and ACTION.

We received the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (Grade12) results on 6 July,2021 with every one of our 48 students being awarded the prestigious IB DIPLOMA. The average score for this cohort of 2021 is a remarkable

6.41/7 grade points, far above the global average of 5.19/7. We had 8 students score a full 45/45 points. Outstanding!

This was soon followed by the IGCSE (Grade 10) results on 12 August, 2021 with 39 students securing an International Certificate of Education (ICE). The average for this cohort was **87.70%**. Outstanding once again!

To add to our academic successes, many of our students participated in various Inter-School and International competitions walking away with the top awards. The Model United Nations conferences have seen HSIS carry away the Award for the Best Delegation at two separate MUNs. Bravo! You will see these and many more such events covered in the pages of this edition.

The Independence Day Assembly was staged and hosted by the current Grade 11 students. I commend them for putting this up in less than 3 weeks after school opened. The buddy learning and sharing system among our three programmes continues to delight all of us. Grade 10 did a Sign Language class for Grades 3 & 4.

My list could go on and on but I will leave you to go through the colourful pages and share my overwhelming pride in that our students of all ages are just doing brilliantly in so many different areas of academics, music, dance, technology, mathematics etc. This newsletter is a delightful record of the many happenings at OUR school and beyond.

Enjoy leafing through it.

Wishing each and every family a very warm and joyous festive season!

My warmest regards, Nalini Pinto



National Level Inter-School Classical Singing Competition

We are immensely proud of Amaira Singh (Gr 3), Samaira Shah (Gr 4) and Aaditya Dhupelia (Gr 6) who won VANDANA - a National level Inter-School classical singing competition hosted by the Heritage Foundation of Art and Culture.

There were 112 schools across 48 cities that participated in this competition held in the month of August 2021. Our three talented singers representing Hill Spring International School were the only winners from the state of Maharashtra in their categories. All three students sang Hindustani Classical Raags with melodic and rhythmic accuracy. They will be presented with their respective prices and certificates from the Heritage Foundation of Art and Culture.

Each one demonstrated their love and passion for music through all audition and practice sessions as they prepared for their final performances. All three students showcased great confidence and performance skills as they performed LIVE in front of the judges.



Congratulations our aspiring singers.

Click on the link below to view the performance snippet.

Vandana-SingersVideo2021.mp4

University of Waterloo

FACULTY OF SCIENCE, DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

CERTIFICATE OF DISTINCTION

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Annual Avogadro Exam – University of Waterloo

The Avogadro Exam conducted by the University of Waterloo, Canada is designed for high school students who have completed, or are nearing completion of, their first high school chemistry course. This is an international exam with participants from across Canada, the United States and around the world. This year it was conducted on the 20th of May 2021.

We are extremely happy to announce that Devarya Shah of Grade XI has scored 100% in the Examination has been declared 1st in the world out of 2974 participants. **Congratulations Devarya!**

CATH CON 2021

Laure Ingran



1ST PLACE- Advait Tahilyani- Bombay International School

2ND PLACE- Viraj Doshi- Hill Spring International

3RD PLACE- Anubhav Agrwal- Navrachana International School Vadodara

HSI Cracks The Code At CATH CON 2021!

CATH CON is an online hackathon competition hosted by the Cathedral and John Cannon School that aims to promote coding and logical thinking among high school students by exercising their coding skills. The hackathon consisted of 5 rounds that took place over three days, 6th – 8th August, 2021 and the contestants were divided into four brackets of North, South, East and West.

The platform used for this hackathon was Hackerrank, which is a platform that focuses on competitive programming challenges for programmers of all levels. Amongst the Junior HSI participants:

Krisha Bang (Grade 8) qualified for the semi-finals Mahip Jain (Grade 8) reached the finals.

Amongst the Senior HSI participants: Malhar Bhide and Aarush Sachdeva (Grade 12) qualified for the semi-finals, Agastya Bahl (Grade 11) and Viraj Doshi (Grade 12) reached the finals. Finally, Viraj Doshi was placed second out of all the 260 participants in the competition.

Viraj Doshi (IBDP Grade 12)



CMUN

ards & Accolades

Hill Spring International School wins Best Delegation Award at CMUN 21!

Twelve students from Grades 10-12 participated in the online CMUN 21, the MUN conference hosted by Cathedral and John Connon School from 27th-29th August. CMUN 21 hosted 434 delegates from 30 schools across India. The conference gave our delegates the opportunity to practise the skills of formal and informal debate, negotiation, diplomacy, lobbying and writing resolutions, that are honed during the weekly MUN Club sessions. The delegates participated in various committees with diverse agendas like the Liberian Civil War of 2002, the legalisation of drugs in Latin America, police reform in the USA, and the creation of ethical laws for cyber entities. Some committees revisited History and discussed the effects of the Great Depression; others chose a futuristic path and considered the state of the world in 2045 in a scenario where the UN had ceased to exist. Six delegates won individual awards for their very meaningful roles in committee, and the whole delegation bagged the BEST delegation award at the conference. Heartiest congratulations to the small but power-packed HSI delegation!





ABMUN

HILL SPRING SHINES AT ABMUN 21

The Hill Spring delegation excelled at ABMUN 21, the online MUN conference hosted by Aditya Birla World Academy from 24th -26th September. The delegation won the Best Delegate award in seven of the eight committees in the conference. Our delegates also won three Outstanding Delegate

awards. Thorough research, excellent debating skills, commendable lobbying and negotiation, as well as detailed paperwork in the form of directives, communiques and resolutions ensured this grand success. The delegates participated in committees that discussed the financial crisis in the Eurozone, the human rights violations due to the conflict between Israel and Palestine, the conflict in Somalia and the colonisation of Antarctica. Some delegates revisited History and took a fresh look at World War 2, while others journeyed into the future and speculated on the outcome of a divided USA! The Press Corps reported on the activities of all the committees. Congratulations delegates for your exceptional performance.



Hill Spring International School wins Best large Delegation at HMUN India two years in row!

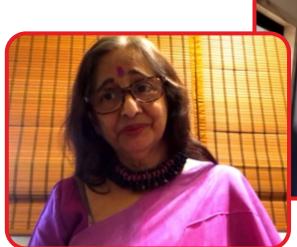
28 students from the IGCSE and IBDP took part in the online edition of the Harvard Model United Nations Conference India 2021 (HMUN India 2021) from 12th to 15th August. This four-day simulation of international relations had more than 920 delegates representing 130 schools from across the world. The delegates assumed the role of UN representatives in committees like DISEC, SPECPOL, SOCHUM, WHO, UNDP, UNEP, ECOFIN, UNESCO and in specialized sessions like the Special Summit on Terrorism, the Security Council and the Russian Cabinet. They debated on issues of global importance like the economic impact of COVID 19, the water security problem, the protection of minorities, ocean pollution and weaponization of social media among others, and experienced the challenges of diplomacy first hand. The delegation once again put up a stellar performance with 14 students bagging prestigious awards. Most notably the school was awarded the Best Large Delegation Award from amongst the 130 schools for the second consecutive year! Thus, every delegate's contribution to the conference was richly rewarded! Two of our delegates, Tarvin Arora and Vansh Shah were also selected as Assistant Directors to work alongside counterparts from the Harvard Secretariat. Well done delegates and well done HSI MUN Club!

HMUN, Dubai

Hill Spring International School started off its MUN season for the academic year 2021-22 with the HMUN Dubai 2021 online conference organised from June 4-7, 2021. Congratulations to Johann Saldanha and Jash Shah for an outstanding participation. A special mention of Jash Shah for once again clinching the Best Delegate Award in SOCHUM! A big bow to Tia Mittle for her spectacular performance as Assistant Director in SOCHUM.











Grade 12 Graduation Day May12th 2021



'Elements of 2021'

We bade farewell to the IBDP Batch of 2021 on Wednesday, 12th May 2021, when their journey in school culminated in a Graduation Ceremony held virtually.

In her valedictory address, Principal, Mrs. Nalini Pinto reflected on the challenging times this pandemic year has presented and how well the students adapted to online schooling. She further highlighted that despite the testing times, this batch managed to get the best University placements. She concluded her address with a prayer and blessings for the students, as they embark upon a new phase in their lives. The theme for this year's Graduation was 'Elements' wherein each student was compared to an element from the periodic table. Their personalities and quirks were matched to a certain element in rich tributes which were read out for each student by their mentors, with a special mention of the awards won by the deserving ones.

Students spoke about their memorable moments and experiences in school in the three languages that the school endorses as a part of its multi-cultural ethos. Ananya Dalmia and Ishika Sippy delighted the audience with their Hindi speech where they compared their online 'n

'Elements of 2021'

The HSI Batch of 2021 with their versatile, vivid and vibrant personality traits resemble the elements of the Periodic Table. Our students have their own set of complex characteristics — some act as *catalysts* and tend to cause a *reaction* in the classroom, some are *magnetic* with very attractive qualities, some are a part of the *rare-carth* classification - they are one of a kind, while others are *noble*, completely *non-reactive* to anything in their environment! Each of these elements is unique and holds a special place in our hearts. This *group* has *absorbed* a lot of learning over the two years and have formed everlasting *bonds* of friendship and now as we come to the end of this *period*, we would like to present to you, our

Periodic Table of Elements of 2021...

situation as having 'their feet in two boats' floating on the sea of the IB Diploma Programme. Nandini Taparia and Siya Bhanshali shared their IBDP journey in Spanish appreciating how online schooling brought all students closer together and helped them forge new friendships; whilst Ananya Vora and Maahin Jain had the audience in splits with their French speech where they compared their online classes to historical and cultural landmarks of France. The valedictory speech was delivered by Kiara Wassoodew, who used an analogy of a deck of cards to showcase her exciting and fulfilling journey from the early years at school till the Diploma Programme followed by

Raina Talwar Bhatia who shared her transformational journey at HSIS.

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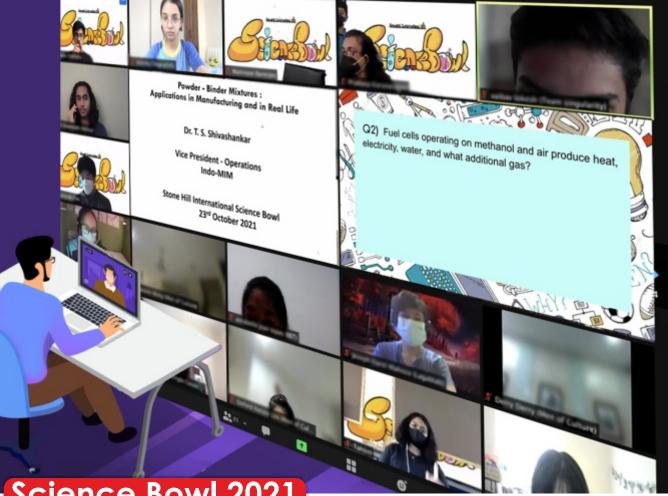
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Mr. Huzaifa Khorakiwala, Ms. Anjana Vaswani, Ms. Oona Dhabhar, and Mr. & Mrs. Samir & Anisha Shah, parents of the school, congratulated the batch and spoke about their experiences as parents of children who faced the rigours of online learning.

Finally, the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Coordinator, Mr. Prashant Gohil, addressed the students, wishing them the best and advised them to learn from the past, think in the present and keep looking forward towards the future.

SPRINGTIMES____



Science Bowl 2021

Hill Spring International excels at Stonehill International Science Bowl 2021

The Stonehill International Science Bowl is an annual event conducted by Stonehill International school. This is a two-day virtual event, presenting students with a plethora of opportunities to earn great rewards by participating in intense competition rounds and fun-filled minievents. This year, the event was conducted on an international level with a myriad of participants from all across the globe. Grade 11 & 12 students from Hill Spring International School seized this opportunity to showcase their scientific knowledge and earn some impressive rewards.

The teams had to excel in three rounds for qualification, the Speed Quiz, an MCQ quiz and Jeopardy. The final round consisted of the TOP 5 teams. This was a buzzer round in which the team with the quickest and most accurate responses achieved maximum points.

Grade 11 students, Siddhant Sharma,

Gigi Pandole, Prakhar Goel were placed first overall and Grade 12 students Devarya Shah, Nysa Adurkar, Aarush Sachdev were placed second.

Another important aspect of this competition was the MPRMS (Modern Problems Require Modern Solutions). As a part of this competition round, teams were given exactly 40 minutes to come up with a scientific innovation for a problem. The innovation was judged by the science faculty based on its creativity, feasibility and application of scientific principles. Grade 11 students, Vidisha Chopra, Sakina Bhopalwala, Sia Sehgal bagged the top prize for this competition.

Apart from these intense competition rounds, the event consisted of many funfilled, lighthearted icebreaker rounds to build comfort and conversation with competing teams. Overall, it was an enriching and fruitful experience for all the participants. Every team from Hill Spring International School managed to bag an award and leave a mark.



Raksha Bandhan

The learners celebrated 'Raksha Bandhan' by watching a short video on why it is celebrated. They created their own rakhis using loose parts and recycled materials. Ziaan displayed the IB learner profiles of being a communicator and knowledgeable when he told his peers that 'Raksha Bandhan' is celebrated in the month of Shravan and that 'Raksha' means to protect and 'Bandhan' means relationship. He elaborated that it is the duty of all brothers and sisters to nurture this special bond.

India

Applaud-worthy Assemblies

On Friday, the 13th of August 2021, Dressed in their tri-colour best, Nursery learners celebrated Independence Day They were made aware of the colours of the national flag, the national symbols of India and the governing body of our country through a presentation. To end the festivities, they all stood tall and proudly sang the national anthem and showed their respect by saluting the flag.

Junior KG learners were made aware of freedom fighters who were hopeful and resilient in instrumenting and leading India towards independence. To add to the festivities, they dressed in tricoloured clothes and watched a presentation on the different symbols of India.

Independence Day

The Senior KG learners displayed national pride by donning traditional clothes and singing the National Anthem. We salute the heroes of yesterday who gave us our today! Jai Hind!

The students of Grade 1 celebrated Independence Day with vigour and enthusiasm. They watched a power point



presentation, videos and had discussion on their understanding of the word 'independence'.

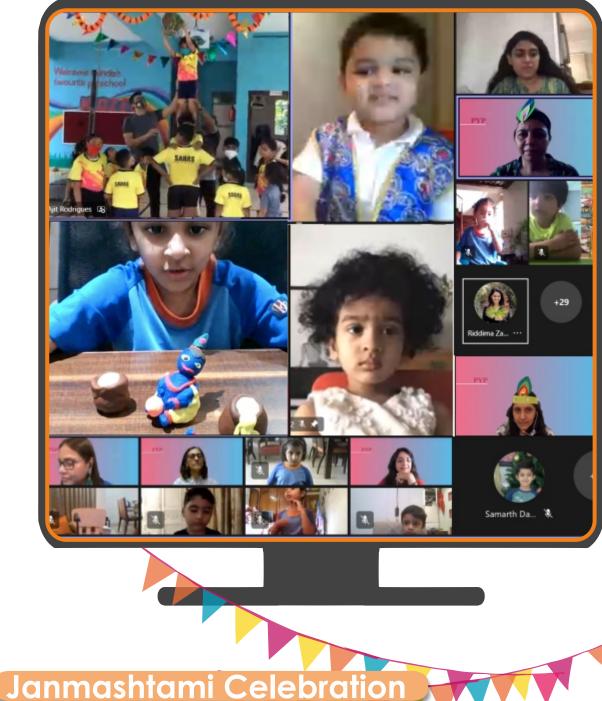


Hill Spring Celebrates 75 Years of Freedom!

Hill Spring International School celebrated India's 75th Independence Day. Under the current circumstances, the event took place on the virtual platform Microsoft Teams Live on the theme 'United in Diversity.'

The live event commenced with a warm welcome speech by Principal Mrs. Nalini Pinto. The hosts of the event, Nandini Kataria and Prakhar Goel from Grade 11. smoothly guided the audience through the various aspects of the assembly. The skit presented the theme of "United in Diversity" by examining five scenes about distinctive scenarios that could take place with anyone on any single day in India. All scenes began with a timestamp and characters in them were tied together by the common thread of everyday biases. The narrative emphasized how as Indian citizens, we, knowingly or unknowingly, still hold on to certain biases based on one another's cultural differences and fail to acknowledge them as discriminatory and disrespectful towards others. Instead, these differences should be looked at as diversities which enrich our cultural fabric. We should unite by embracing each other's uniqueness instead of dividing ourselves based on religious, regional, gender, or even social biases. Scenes were strategically placed between a dance performance, a fusion of classical and contemporary styles, and a musical finale of the 90's classic Mile sur mera tumhara, toh sur bane humare.

The invite and slide graphics were thoughtfully designed by Riya Narain (Grade 12). Video editors Arjandev Singh (Grade 12) and Savyan Aggarwal (Grade 11) seamlessly put together all the multiple digital elements. This virtual event had over 2000 live viewers.



Janmashtami Çelebration

Ajit Sir ensured the customary fanfare and joie de vivre that is associated with the annual Janmashtami Celebrations in Hill Spring. The entire Pre-primary celebrated the birth of Lord Krishna by witnessing the ritual of 'Dahi handi', the breaking of an earthern pot filled with sweets, on Microsoft Teams from the safety of home. Children danced to popular folk music and listened to 'Bal Krishna' short stories through a short and pictorial slide show. The students made ladoos for their family.

Celebration & Learning



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Loose parts create endless possibilities and invite creativity. Imagination, creativity, curiosity, desire and need are the motivation of loose parts. Integrating the principles of play with culture, the learners were asked to create play dough sculptures of the beloved Lord Ganesha and adorn it with embellishments to welcome him into their homes with the onset of Ganesh Utsav.



To begin the learning journey, the Nursery homeroom teachers had a one-on-one interaction with each learner to allow them a safe and comfortable environment to get to know the teachers and help build a bond with them. Thereafter, they were paired with a classmate for peer interaction so that they could begin to get to know their peers as well.

Junior KG) 'Who We Are'



Junior KG invited Ms. Farida and Ms. Jignasa, they belong to different cultures to the virtual classroom to give us an insight into their homes making the learners aware of all the aspects that make us 'Who We Are'.

Pre Primary Hope & Reselience parent interaction

Shanaya Agarwal' mother Mrs. Agarwal conducted an interactive session with the learners of Junior KG. She narrated a wonderful story of 'Rani Rampal' that was ageappropriate and brought an understanding for our theme of the year– Hope and Resilience. The story taught the young learners never to give up on our dreams!





For the parent interactive session on Hope and Resilience. She read a story - The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle, followed by a discussion on the meaning of the word 'Resilience' and a short activity where the learners planted few seeds in a plastic container.

Mrs. Agarwal, Rehansh's mother, Senior KG, introduced the Theme of this academic year 'Hope and Resilience' through the story of Gandhiji and his historic Dandi March. Learners bounced a bouncy ball to connect resilience to the ability to bounce back. They dressed as Gandhiji, outlined their little palms and coloured in the tri colour, and said, 'Jai Hind' with a salute to conclude the session.

Anecdotes

Aeyanah- Gandhi ji helped our country get freedom ...he never lost hope.

Thea- Gandhi helped poor people get salt... he never gave up...that is what hope means.

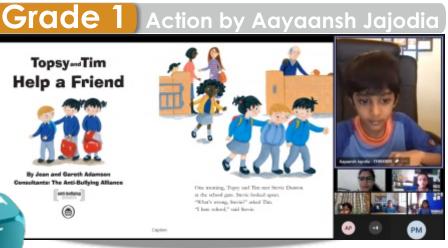
Ziaan- the chakra has 24 spokes for 24 hrs. He got freedom from British. Resilience means to bounce back.

Rehaansh-Believe in Gandhi and God, be nice and kind to people.



Naira- Hope means wish, Gandhi wished to make his own salt.

Arsh-if there is a problem you fight it. Azaia- if there is trouble solve it, act on it Yatika- Work hard towards your goal.



Aayaansh Jajodia took 'action' when he narrated a story "Topsy and Tim" on behaviour and our responsibility towards our own well-being and that of others.

anguage Portrait



The Language Portrait is an exercise that raises the awareness of one's language use and preferences.

It is an age-appropriate task that can be used by children from a variety of language backgrounds, where students colour in their languages on a drawn silhouette of a body. They chose different colours, shapes, and symbols to express their linguistic identity. The students participated by visualising their linguistic repertoire using the outline of the body silhouette and raising the awareness on one's language using their preferences.

Behaviour & Mannerism

Guest speaker, Mrs. Jain delivered an informative talk on behaviour and mannerism. The session not only exposed the students to appropriate behaviour but also sensitised them to importance of good manners.







We are grateful to our guest speaker Ms. Priya Kathpal for sparing her valuable time in conducting a session on the Food Pyramid. The students got an insight of the various food groups

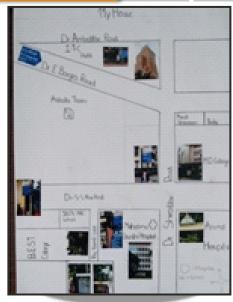
and essential nutrients for a healthy growth. The session was followed by many relevant questions asked by the students like why does our body need proteins, are potatoes healthy for a growing child.

Mental Health

The unit – Personal Choices focused on the physical and mental well-being of a human being. A well known Mental Health Coach Ms. Charu Sheila came as a quest speaker and spoke to the students about the importance of taking care of the mind as much as we like to do for our bodies. She also shared many exercises and strategies to keep our minds fit and stable. The session was well planned and led to relevant inquiries and interest from the students of Grade 2.



Grade 6 Map Reading





As part of the geography unit on maps, learners were assigned a field activity to make a sketch map of the locality they live in. Learners were encouraged to walk around their neighborhood, take pictures of roads and local landmarks and create a map depicting the area. Further comparison of their effort with a google maps image of the same area enhanced their knowledge and understanding of maps.

Grade 10 History



Having studied about how Hitler gained and maintained control over Germany after WW1, students were naturally curious to know more about Hitler's psyche and his motives behind his actions. To enable this, students were engaged in a fun activity wherein they could 'interview' Hitler's holographic image. They were very excited to 'ask' Hitler multiple questions and hear the responses directly from the man himself.



The students of Grade 10 conducted a workshop on sign language for the students of Grade 3. They spoke about the need for expression. They also spoke about being inclusive and treating everyone equally, thereby bringing out empathy.



Stories from Different Cultures

Stories from different cultures offer different perspectives

Dr Lubna Mansuri and Mrs. Tejal Munim, guest speakers for Grade 3 for their Unit on Literary Works. They read stories in Urdu and Gujarati respectively, emphasizing the importance of different languages and cultures and how they offer different perspectives.



Grade 4 American Sign Language



As a part of the Global Perspectives outreach, the students of Grade 10 from the Language and Communication Team of Hill Spring International School conducted a short workshop in Grade 4 on the basics of American Sign Language. They connected to the Grade 4 unit of Rights and Responsibilities bringing out the



importance of learning sign language to communicate with people with hearing disabilities. The students of Grade 4 and Grade 10 had a productive discussion on the protection right of special needs in which everyone including people with special needs have the right to participate fully in life with dignity.

Grade 4 Mind and body Wellness

FROM MONKEY MIND TO MINDFULNESS

- Meditation is a great way to learn to control your mind.
- The mind is like a monkey, making noise and being mischievous all the time.
- If you don't learn to control it , it will control you.
- Do you wish to be in control or the monkey mind to be in control?





MEDITATION

- We can keep our internal body clean through the process of Prayer, Meditation and food for thought.
- When we pray, the VIBRATION of the words in our prayer has a very positive effect on our mind and body. It cleans our mind and body and makes it calm and peaceful.
- What is mediation?
- It is taking time out to go inward, to silence the noisy mind, connect with your self, to listen to your body, tuning in.



Mrs. Asbanaah Ardeshir engaged the students with a very relevant example of how one would be after a day, a week, a month, or a year of not cleaning the house? The same example applies to not having a mind and body detox. She shared some doable and ageappropriate strategies for relieving negative thoughts in order to communicate with our inner self like meditation and food for thought.

Guest Speaker Session – Svaraa Shah

Students of Grade 4 got the opportunity to Interact with Svaraa Shah, the founder of Webucate – an organisation that educates students with career opportunities along with ISL interpretations in order to extend the same opportunities to the deaf community.

The students of Grade 4 are learning about rights and responsibilities and are aware of the Right to Education. Svaraa spoke about the lack of interpreters of the Indian Sign Language and how this hampers the opportunities for the deaf. Webucate came about as a realisation, after the digital reliance due to COVID 19, which worsened the situation for them.

Seventeen-year-old Svaraa, spoke about her inspiration, struggles, learning through her process of running Webucate. Students of Grade 4 are



using their skills and talent to raise awareness and money to promote equal rights and opportunities to help their community. We hope this interaction has inspired them in some way to continue with their action with more rigour.

<u>SPRINGTIMES</u>

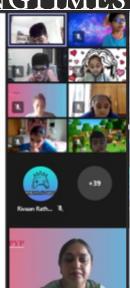








- A refugee is someone who has crossed national borders
- There are many reasons as to why refugees leave their country
- This could be due to conflict, poverty and much more
- Refugees temporarily live in refugee camps where they get access to these facilities
- Organization's such as Humanitarian Aid International have refugee camps in India



Grade 4 Refugees right to a better life

Students of Grade 4 got an opportunity to interact with the 10th Graders who spoke about their initiative towards ensuring the rights of refugees.

Grade 10 students spoke about the reasons for people moving, both push and pull factors and the circumstances they go through, on being refugees. They spoke about their initiative, whereby are working with an organisation which deals with Refugees who flee from Pakistan due to religious persecution. They work towards making refugees selfsufficient in order to lead a better life.

The interaction was a fresh perspective on citizenship and refugees for the students of Grade 4.

Grad

Purpose of Art



THE PURPOSE OF ART

THE PURPOSE OF ART IS SELF EXPRESSION. IT IS A WAY TO SHOW SOMEONE'S FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS. IT CAN MAKE A POLITICAL STATEMENT, A RELIGIOUS STATEMENT OR EVEN A WHIMSICAL STATEMENT. ART IS VERY PERSONAL AND EVOKES DIFFERENT FEELINGS IN DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

Discovering the Purpose of Art with Ms. Varsha Pandit

IBDP Art Teacher Ms. Varsha Pandit introduced students of Grade V to the Purpose of Art focusing on how and why we create and respond to Artwork through our personal experiences and emotions. Students enjoyed analyzing a variety of Artworks and styles of several different Artists and finally shared their perspective while creatively expressing their viewpoints through visual art.



Grade 5 Dance Activity

In connection to their unit on Arts, Grade 5 experienced creative movement and how to create authentic movements. We had Ms. Hemali Vora, a Creative Movement therapist who guided them through the process and made them experience this form. They expressed how they felt after the class on a scale of 1-10 (1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest). This activity really got them relaxed and channeled their energy in a space of selfexploration.

Panel Discussion with the PYP Hill Spring Arts Team



The students of Grade V enthusiastically participated in a panel discussion on creativity and innovation in the Arts. (Music, Drama, Art and Dance). They had the opportunity to use their questioning skills and make connections between different forms of Art realizing the history, creativity, expression and interpretation required to understand the different forms of Art.

