



THE INFORMANT

TEACHER'S DAY SPECIAL EDITION

Established in 2018

September 2019 | Vol: II | Issue: 04 | Release: 07

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THE WIND BENEATH OUR WINGS

Yashvi Tikmani

On September 5 every year, people across India come together to celebrate Teacher's Day, which is also the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. By gifting their teachers with handmade cards, roses and presents, students in schools and colleges express their love and gratitude to their teachers in myriad ways. Teacher's Day is all about commemorating the contribution of the guiding lights of our lives in shaping and moulding us into what we are today.

From evergreen taunts like, "This is not a fish market" and "I need pin drop silence here," to caring for us and helping us in all possible ways our teachers hold the topmost position. They get students reading and inspire a passion for languages.

Teachers in our school never decline any student for any kind of assistance be it during their rest time or any meal. Our teachers are not just bound to the knowledge given in the books but give the right information with proper guidance and support.

Accomplishing Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's beliefs, we have these living missiles whom we call our teachers. They see their work in action, see the changes they affect, and in so doing they witness their goals coming to fruition. Their goal can be summed up into one short phrase- Helping people.

A teacher can leave an indelible mark , and for many of us: quite a few of our most important decisions are inspired by our teachers. It is a profession which requires an uncanny amount of patience. We should be more understanding on our part and

should not let everything they say, take to our heart.

In appreciation of their everyday efforts, 'Teachers' Day is a relief to teachers from their monotonous and arduous schedule. They enjoy their day with their colleagues while the twelfth graders are dressed as their idols and take classes of the junior grades. The juniors look forward to the fun classes and games taken by their seniors.

The main duty of the celebrations also lies in the hands of class twelfth. They manage the overall event. This year there was a tug of war between the teachers and students as to when will the event be held.

The ultimate winners were teachers and 1st October was decided to be the day of celebration. How much ever we crib about the decision, it was a selfless one. They gave up their day so we could study without any distractions for our Mid-term examinations.

Teachers are the ones who empower us to make the wind favorable to our journey and help us set sail to reach further academically and socially. Happy Teachers' Day to all of our wonderful and magnificent teachers.

Thank you teachers for your invaluable contribution, guidance and encouragement that have given an impetus to our work.

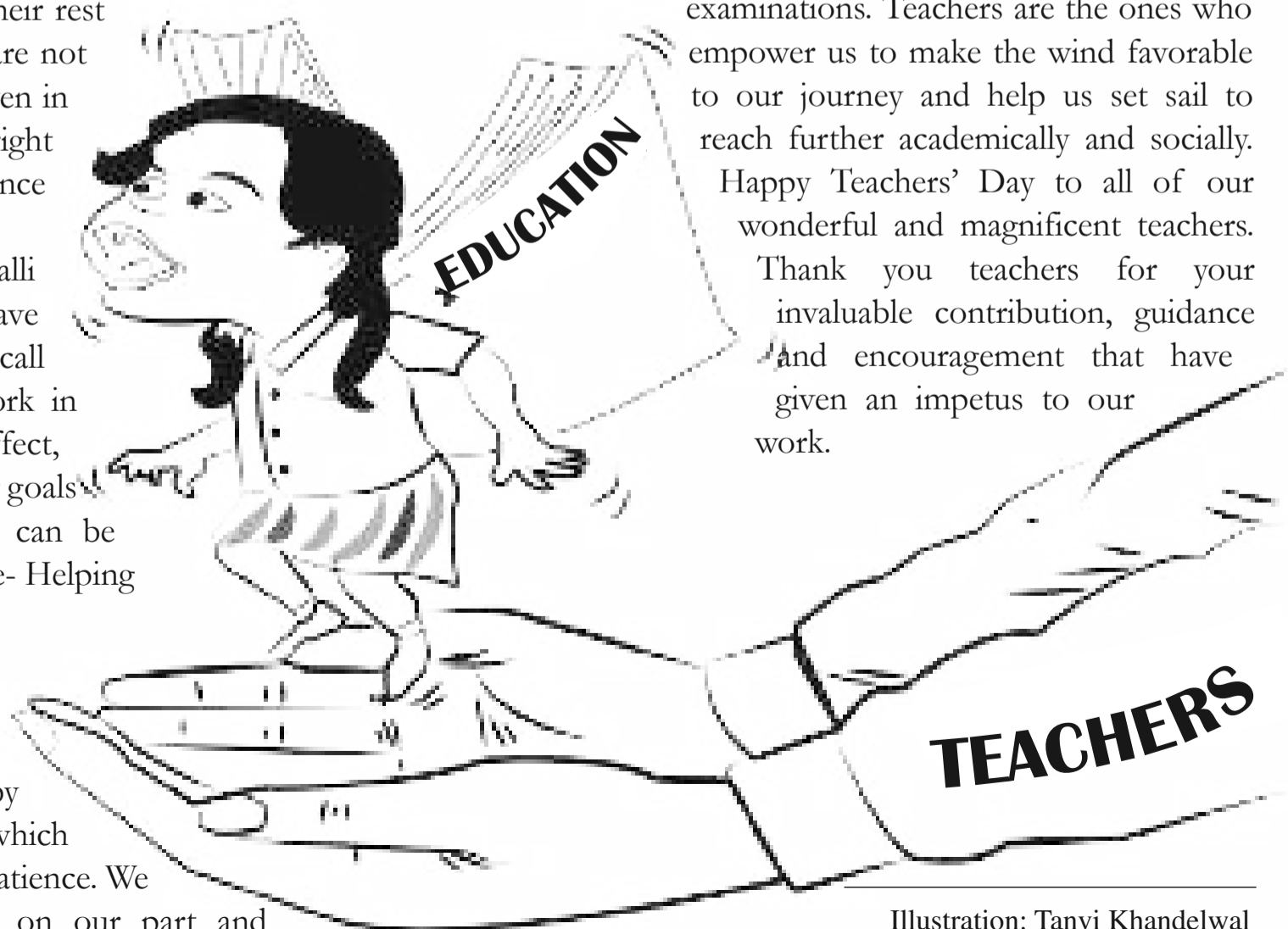


Illustration: Tanvi Khandelwal



Examophobia

“I AM IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH STUDIES AND IT’S COMPLICATED.”

Exams: A simple five letter word which is enough to send shudders down our spine.

Though stressful, exams improve learning. In most subjects, there are specific bodies of knowledge that students are expected to learn. Physics students might learn about thermodynamics, while history students might learn about the cold war. Exams enable us to accurately test students’ depth of understanding of these topics.

“Deep, rich and authentic” assessment tasks are often promoted above exams. These tasks develop several important high-order thinking skills, such as analysis and decision-making. However, they are not alternatives for exams. Exams test a student’s ability to recapitulate the various areas covered in class and their comprehension level. Students are expected to critically analyze and assess the information provided to them and not just blindly cram it.

Those 10 days of exams seem like a lifetime with students counting days similar to a prisoner waiting to get out of jail. Students can be spotted dragging themselves along the corridors with sagging shoulders and prominent half-moons under their eyes. As staying up late becomes a regular feature, caffeine becomes their lifeline. Even an atheist suddenly becomes a staunch believer of God. Just before the exam

begins, everyone can be seen with their noses stuck up in their textbooks as if they can swallow all the information in mere five minutes. Pellucid drops of perspiration coat their brows as they try to concentrate hard.

What they need to keep in mind is that marks do not define their lives. Exams are one of the innumerable tests that they have to face in the course of their lives to learn and grow. Exams need not be taken as a Herculean task. Students can score well by keeping their heads cool too. One-day preparation does not fetch as good results as consistent studying from the start. Challenging but realistic goals should be set for each day. Students can prepare short worksheets to test themselves and study with the help of diagrams and flowcharts. Also, they can refresh their minds by taking regular breaks after every forty-five minutes or so and by eating healthy food. Students should stay calm and have confidence as they have studied hard for it.

The final phase of this long journey is the result day. Face it with an air of confidence, for as the old saying goes ‘whatever you sow, so shall you reap.’ Comparisons only make you either vain or distressed, so keep calm and carry on.

Editorial Team

Globe Trotter

The Brazilian Amazon is ablaze as a record number of fires continue to ravage the humungous rainforest, endangering the 3 million species that reside in it. The rainforest provides approximately 20% of the world oxygen and is vital for our survival. Brazilian space agency suggests that there have been more than 72,000 cases of conflagration in the region since January this year. The vast stretch of flames have been captured by both NASA and NOAA satellites. Some conservationists have also blamed Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro for the forest fires, saying that he has encouraged loggers and farmers to clear the land which has ultimately led to the fires. He has dismissed the claims, saying that it was the “season of the queimada”, when farmers use fire to clear land. The rainforest has been fire-proof



for most of its history, due to its natural moisture and humidity, but droughts and harsh human activities have resulted in this calamity. 40,000 Brazilian troops are being sent into the Amazon in an “unprecedented” operation to fight wildfires as new analysis points the finger at Brazil’s president for letting environmental crisis escalate. This action has resulted in the creation of impenetrable layer of smoke which has spread 1.2 million square miles wide and has devastated large swathes of valuable pristine forest.

The Group of Seven (G7) is an international intergovernmental economic organization consisting of the seven largest IMF-described advanced economies in the world: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The 45th G7 summit was held on 24–26 August 2019, in Biarritz, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France. Topics discussed included global trade, global warming and taxing technology companies. The World Trade Organization agreed to settle disputes more swiftly and to eliminate unfair trade practices. The G7 shared its objectives on Iran and said that it would ensure that Iran never acquires nuclear weapons and would foster peace and stability in the region. In light of the 2019 Hong Kong anti-extradition bill protests, the G7 reaffirms the existence and the importance of the 1984 Sino-British agreement on Hong Kong and called for avoiding violence. Concerns regarding the Amazon crisis were also expressed during the summit.

A Journey Begins

Aaditri Jha, School Counsellor

It was 16 years ago that I walked into a boarding school as a student and walking into Unison on my first day, five months ago, brought back memories of having walked into Welham as a nine-year-old girl, back in 2003. I guess, all boarding schools have a similar energy to them. Although, this time I was on the other side of the fence!

I entered feeling a mix of emotions. I was nervous, hopeful, excited, confident all at the same time. As I walked around that day, I was met with eyes peering at me with judgement, some with questions, some with happiness, some with indifference. Going through the day, I wondered how long it will take me to settle down. Well, it's been four months since then and I already feel like an entire year has gone by.

The ease with which Dr. Neha carried herself while giving me an introductory tour, I wondered how long it would take me to reach a similar level of familiarity with names of all the girls, the buildings, the roles.

On the same day, walked into the counsellor's room, the first student I was to speak with. Seeing the reluctance in her, only worsened what I was feeling. I realized there is a long way ahead of me. Today, I can confidently say that I have been able to establish a relationship of trust with quite a few of you. I'm yet to break the ice with the rest. This does not mean I don't see you. Maybe walking around school, maybe crying. Or just simply catching you in the middle of that nudge to a friend over an inside joke. I believe, in time, I shall see you too in the Counsellor's Room. For the rest of you, teachers and students, who did take that small leap of faith coming in and speaking, I thank you. I call it a leap of faith because it isn't easy to talk about ourselves, opening up about our feelings, especially to somebody we don't know.

It is the little things that happen in the day that keep us motivated. I'm sure others will agree with me on this. For example, I'm sure the young ladies I sit with in the dining hall dread me for the "sabzi"



or "daal" I force them to eat. But it's adorable when they too playfully come and check on me to see whether or not I am eating my vegetables, porridge or daal! The hugs I get at random or the little notes I find slipped under the door. Or seeing some of you correct yourself as soon as you realize being caught in the act by any of us and sheepishly walk away. Or all the compliments showered on us just before a request for borrowing clothes is put forth! Or the lively spirit with which you come back each time even after I have shouted at you!

I can't recall the exact moment I chose psychology as my profession. But I definitely know that I love every bit of it. I love being

around you all, including the idiosyncrasies each one has! Today, when I talk to my friends from my school days and I tell them that I'm working at a school, we always talk about how we wish we had a counsellor on campus. We tend to ignore our mental health often. This is for all of us, staff and students.

Even if it means taking out half an hour in the morning just to have a quiet morning to oneself with a hot cup of tea or going for a jog in the field, or simply a hug, do it. It will have a wonderful effect on our mental health even if we don't have more time to take out amidst our busy lives.

Illustration: Pitchaya



Was Earth not enough to Pollute?

The definition of space debris has evolved from natural debris found in the solar system, to mass of dysfunctional, artificially created objects in space, especially in the Earth's orbit. This includes damaged satellites, spent rocket stages and fragments from collisions. Earth's orbit is saturated with weather forecast satellites. The United States Strategic Command tracked a total of 17,852 artificial objects in orbit above the Earth, out of which only 1,419 are operational satellites. At this rate we would soon be dealing with issues like space pollution as well.

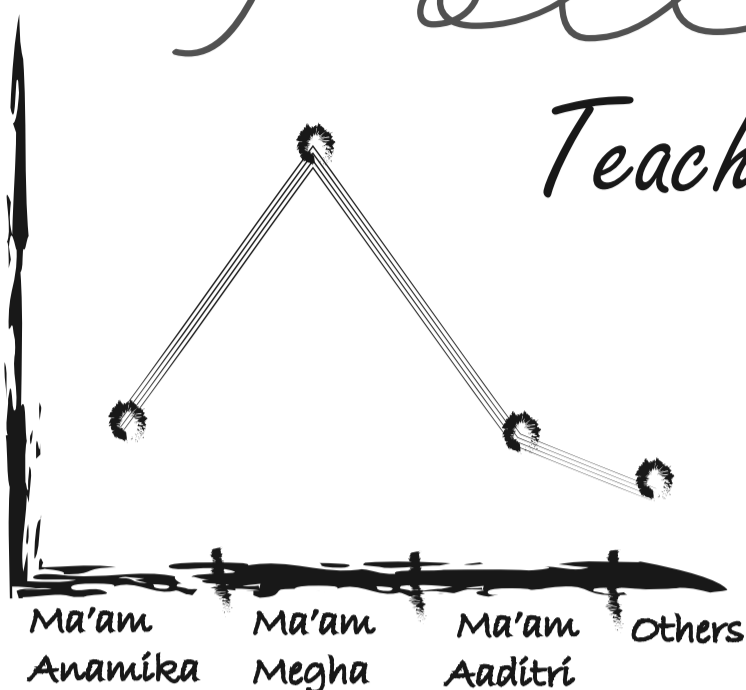
Article: Ritvi Jain

Illustration: Eshika Agarwal



Polls

Teachers' In Vogue

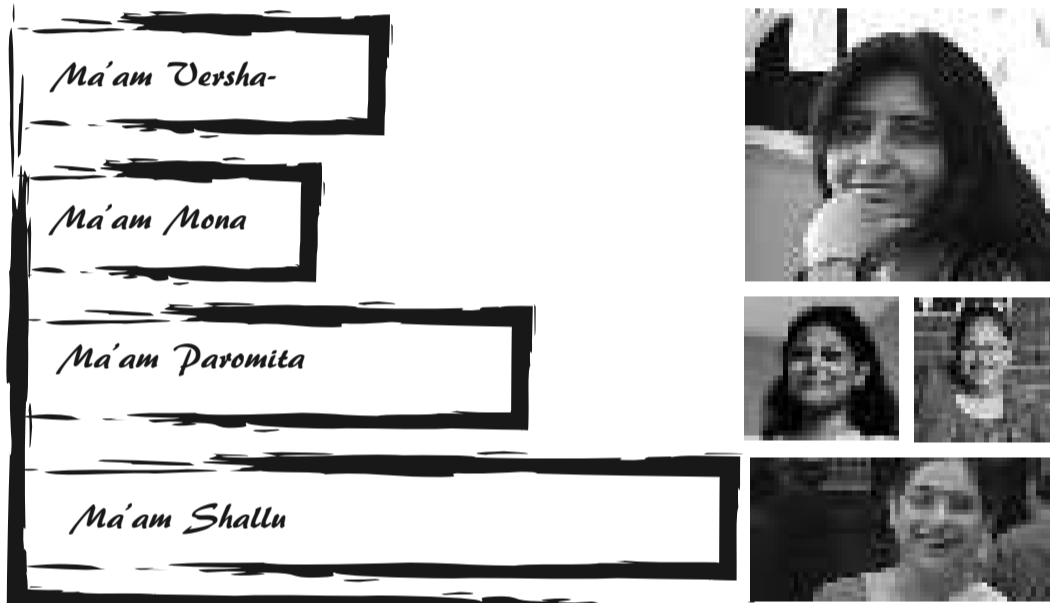


Being taught by the teachers everyday, the students do notice a handful of things about them while teaching, extending from their habits to outfits. The children also look upto them for their dress sense. Ma'am Megha tops this category with plentiful votes and closely following her are Ma'am Anamika and Ms. Aaditri.



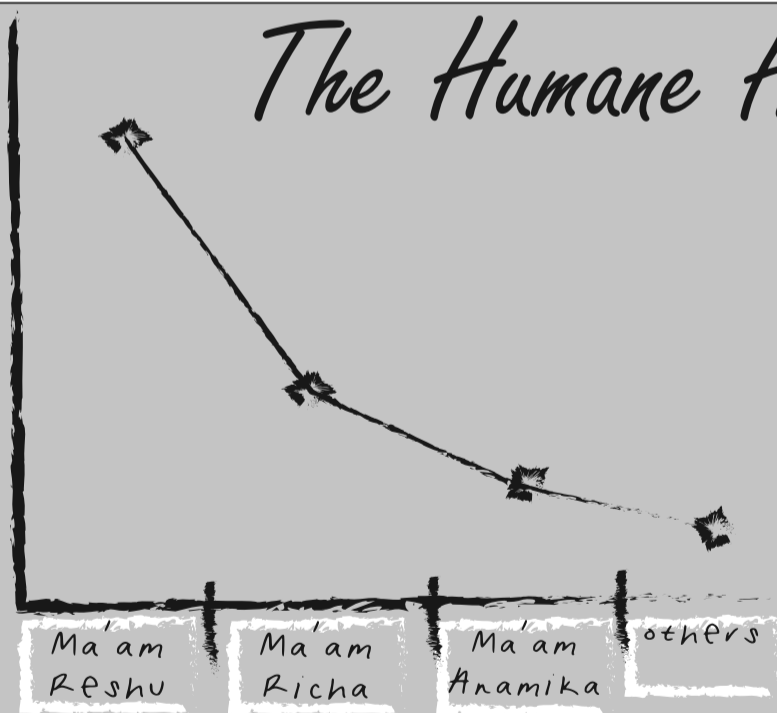
DISCLAIMER

Some teachers' presence is enough to prevent students from loitering around and scamper back to their classes. These are the very same teachers who play an immense role in preparing the students for their future obstacles. Ma'am Shallu proves to be the scariest teacher of the school leaving behind Ma'am Paromita, Ma'am Versha and Ma'am Mona.



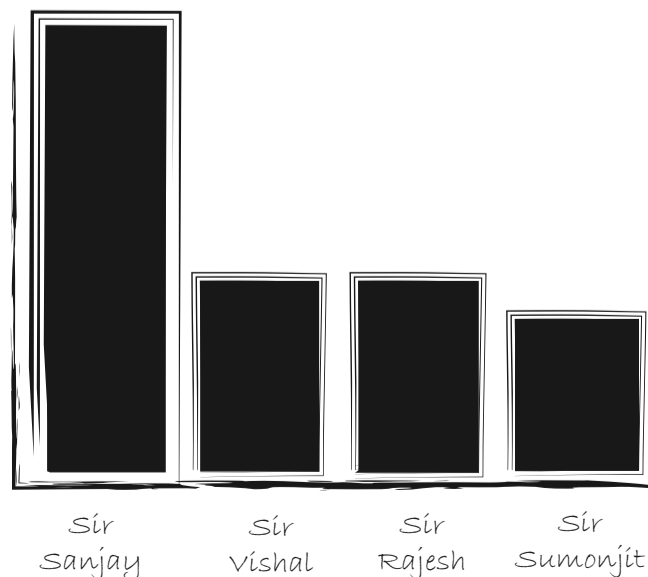
The Humane Humans

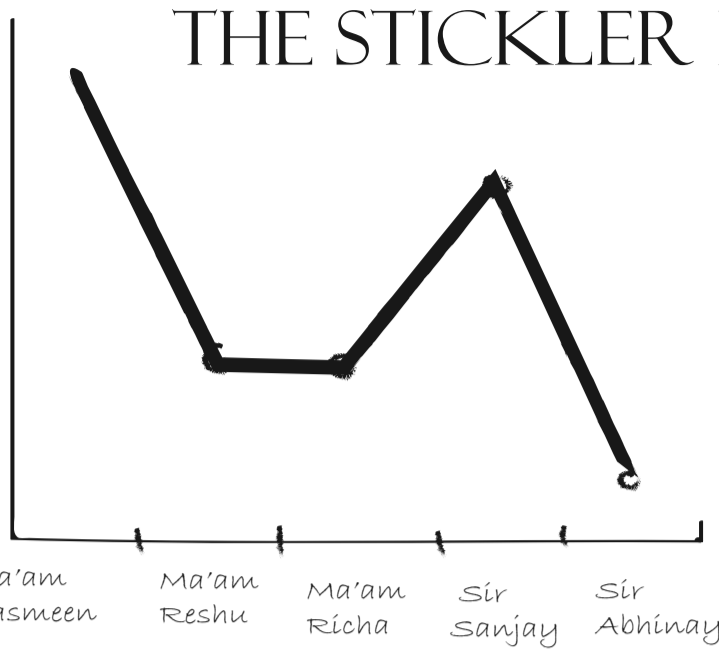
Motherly attributes are a part of a teacher's personality. Her empathizing power is admired by all and students are left awestruck by her capability to love all her students, without partiality. A teacher's tenderness is one to be cherished and her warmth is to be longed for. Ma'am Reshu thus again turns out to be the most caring teacher and Ma'am Richa and Ma'am Anamika follow closely behind.



The Standup Comedian

Then comes the teachers who make their students chortle recklessly. The children dread the subjects they teach but they certainly enjoy sitting in these teachers' classes. This male dominated category is topped by Sir Sanjay and followed by Sir Vishal, Sir Rajesh and Sir Sumonjit.

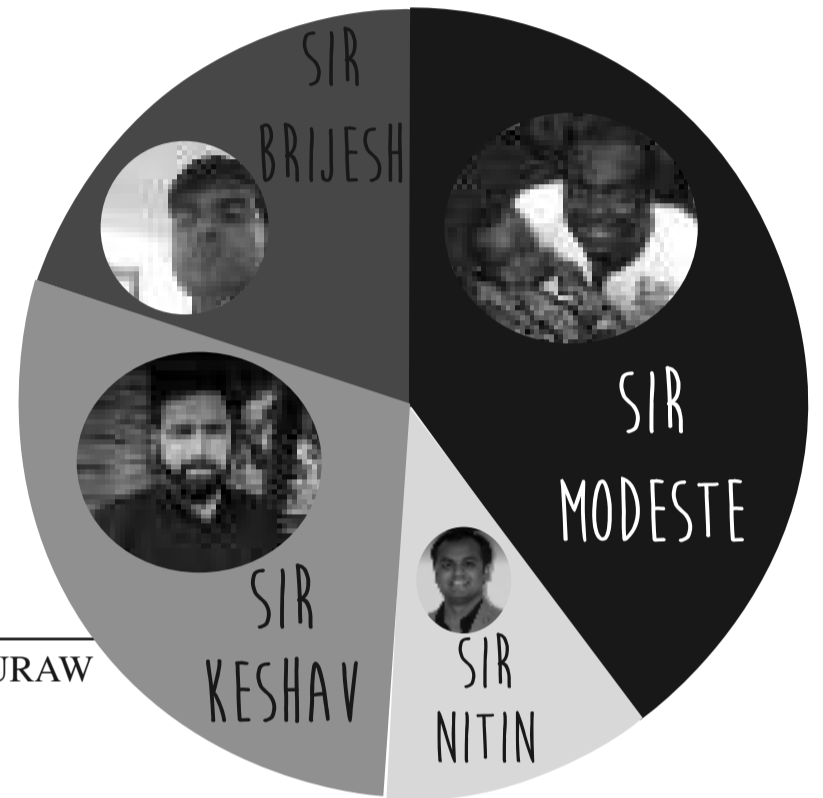




Being well managed and organized is one of the many traits that shapes one's personality. It prevents us from being careless and helps us to manage time. As observational learning plays an integral part in a student's life, the students are motivated to be organized by these teachers. Ma'am Yasmeen has been voted as the most organized teacher.

THE VEILED USAIN BOLT

Yet another male dominated category shows us how important sports is along with our academics. When these teachers, whom the students have only pictured inside the classroom, step into the sports field the students view them with utmost respect and awe. A perfect epitome of a teacher who is intrigued by his subject as well as sports is Modeste sir. Following him are Keshav sir, Brijesh sir and Niteen sir.

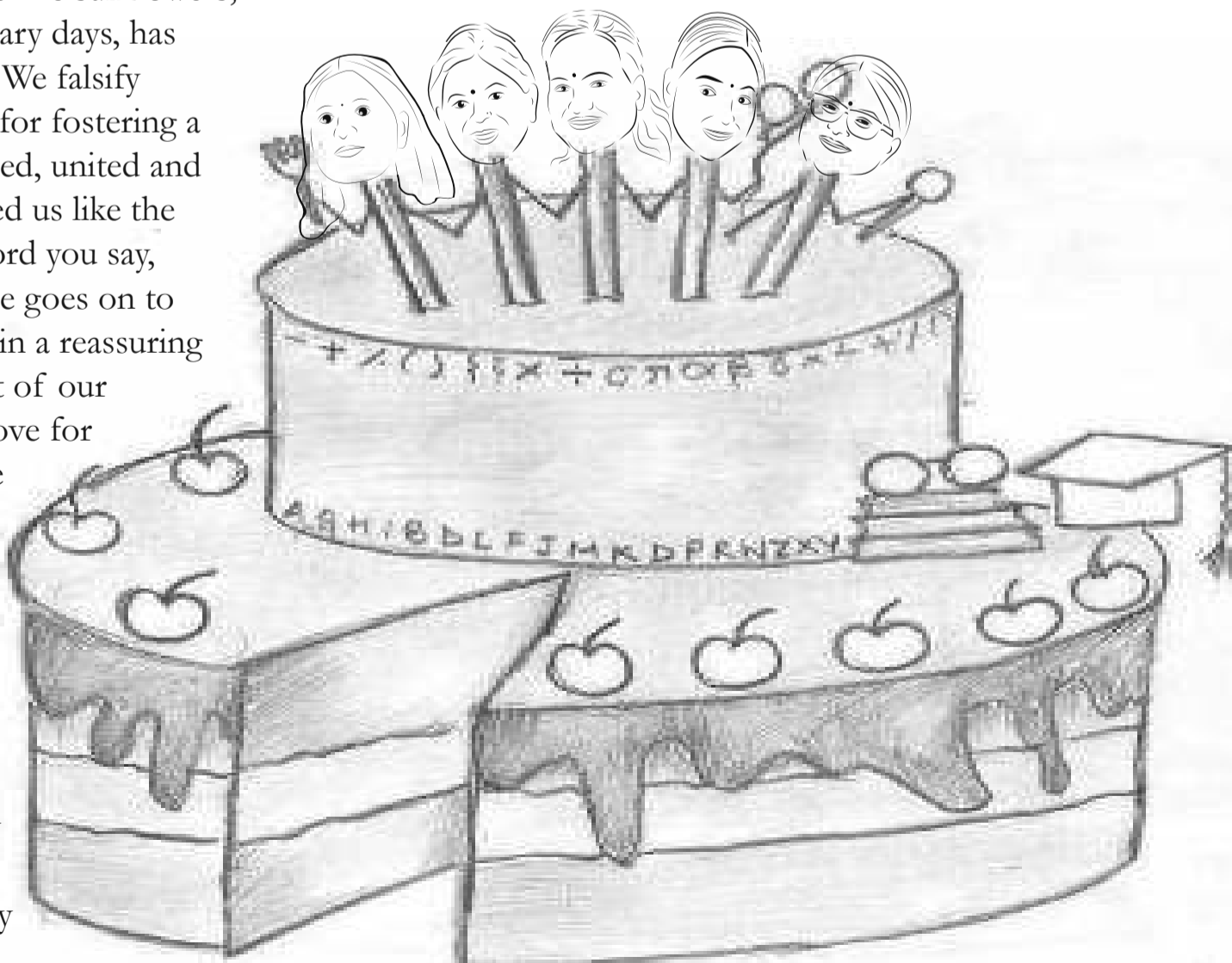


URAW

Happy Teachers' Day

EDITORIAL

The way your teachings lead us to become like sunflowers; standing tall and finding light even on dreary days, has never let us diminish our self-confidence. We falsify unfeigned embellishment to our mentors for fostering a secure space where students are empowered, united and unafraid. In times of darkness you have led us like the scintillating light of lighthouses. Every word you say, every class you take, every paper you grade goes on to changing lives of innumerable youngsters in a reassuring and encouraging way. You form the Heart of our integrated system, continuing to instill a love for learning and helping us reach the pinnacle of our careers. The patience in putting up with the outbursts of nerve-wrecking students and sacrifices of our teachers should be celebrated every day and not just one day in a year. From enlightening us with your wisdom to transforming us with your intellect, you have taught us how to work diligently with perseverance. Thank you for making us what we are today! We will undoubtedly make you proud in the years to come.





Though it's not like Hogwarts!

Reshu Dora, Teacher

Children have always been an uplifting source of joy to me. When I am with my students, I love to talk to them about their roles in this beautiful world of ours. You must have read many enchanting fairytales and stories. But, the world itself is the greatest fairytale and story of adventure that was ever written. And, children are the most charming characters in this story, for I firmly believe in letting kids be kids; just let them be princesses, pirates; let the bath be the sea!

As rightly quoted by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, "Grown-ups have a strange way of segregating themselves into groups. They build barriers of religion, caste, color, party, nation and rich and poor. Fortunately, children do not know much about these barriers."

I love this unfiltered nature of children's minds that makes them unique and special. Students, like everyone, have a need to connect with others,



including their teachers who can be their mentors and role models. As a teacher, I have always experienced a sense of contentment in getting to know my students both academically and personally.

At Unison World School, I rejoice in the level of deep connections that I am able to develop with my students while seeing so many facets of their

personalities and lives. I cherish being able to create an environment where girls feel safe to talk about anything. Lines of the personal and professional are often blurred while working in a boarding school.

Helping the girls to imbibe and inculcate the habits of taking care of each other, learning about life together, sharing both their happy and sad moments, learning about what they want to do after school, brings me happiness.

I don't know how successful I have been in shaping tender, impressionable minds, not neglecting to educate their hearts when educating their brains; I have definitely found satisfaction in spending time with the beautiful souls – my students, my children.

For sure, Hogwarts' image is a captivating one, a desire for many parents and their children enjoying a Harry Potter style schooling, but, in reality, life in a boarding school is much more exciting and exuberant, not only for students but also for teachers.

Illustration: Ritvi Jain

SMALL TALK

Sir Sanjay

IF SOMEONE WANTS ANYTHING, ASK KHUSHI MALPANI, BECAUSE SHE HAS BOTH MAAL AND PAANI

Ma'am Meenu

It's not like that, Beta

Ma'am Paromita

Young Ladies!

Why are you looking at me? Am I that beautiful?

Sir Rajesh

IF YOU DON'T DO MATHS YOU'LL MAKE BLUNDERS. BUT, IF YOU DO MATHS YOU'LL MAKE WONDERS WHICH WILL MAKE THUNDERS.

POST LUNCH SESSIONS BECOME LIKE RECESSIONS

Sir Keshav

AMERICA IS THE ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY

Sir Sumanjit

Paar Neeche!

Ma'am KHUSHBOO

It was a BANG on performance

Ma'am Mona

YOU NEED TO KNOW HOW TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN ACADEMICS & ACTIVITIES
BE A BOARDING SCHOOL PRODUCT!

MA'AM SUSHIMA

SURRENDER YOUR BADGE!



A Mere Fantasy Must Be True...

Swagata Chakroborty, Teacher

Monsoon was late that year, complimented with massive forest fires everywhere. As I looked outside my window, I saw mountain ranges glowing with reddish yellow hues in the dark night. Thick black fumes formed clouds, yet it did not seem to pour. The flames were destroying the thick forest of Kumaun range rapidly. Everywhere there were symptoms of destruction on this green planet. The forests were intentionally burnt to clear them.

I felt restless and disturbed. My program did not run, the robot yacht was not sailing properly, in addition to these-the forest fires! Probably the time had come to escape the Earth, to search for another planet.

A sudden melodious ringtone stopped my thoughts. It was serene and calm. I wanted to know the source, so I rushed near the door. Crossing the balcony, I stepped down in the lawn. It was coming from the small pool where I had kept my incomplete robot yacht. I ran towards the pool.

What a wonderful scene it was! The clouds had moved far away revealing the shining moon. My robot yacht was sailing. But how could it be possible! I remember I had kept the remote beside my bed as the battery needed to be charged.

A chill ran down my spine. 'Is it something supernatural, probably an...alien?' I thought. Ultimately, I reached near the pool and saw a very common face. He was whistling a melodious tune and in harmony with his hand movement, the yacht was sailing back and forth, left and right. 'But who was he?' On reaching near the yacht, I finally recognized it. It was the big puppet I had made in puppetry class and behind that puppet, stood a smiling face. Oh, he must have come from the lab to steal the robot yacht or to break it. I got suspicious.

"Who are you? And what are you doing here?"

"Sh...Sh...!" he held his finger to his lips. "Listen to the tune and enjoy the bright moonlight.", he whispered.

"But my yacht? You are taking it..." He touched my elbow and I came to a standstill.

The mystic night, the melodious tune, cool breeze and the sailing yacht, everything came into life. My heart was over pouring with joy! Gradually everything started to make sense. I watched carefully and noticed that a puppet was in control of the yacht.

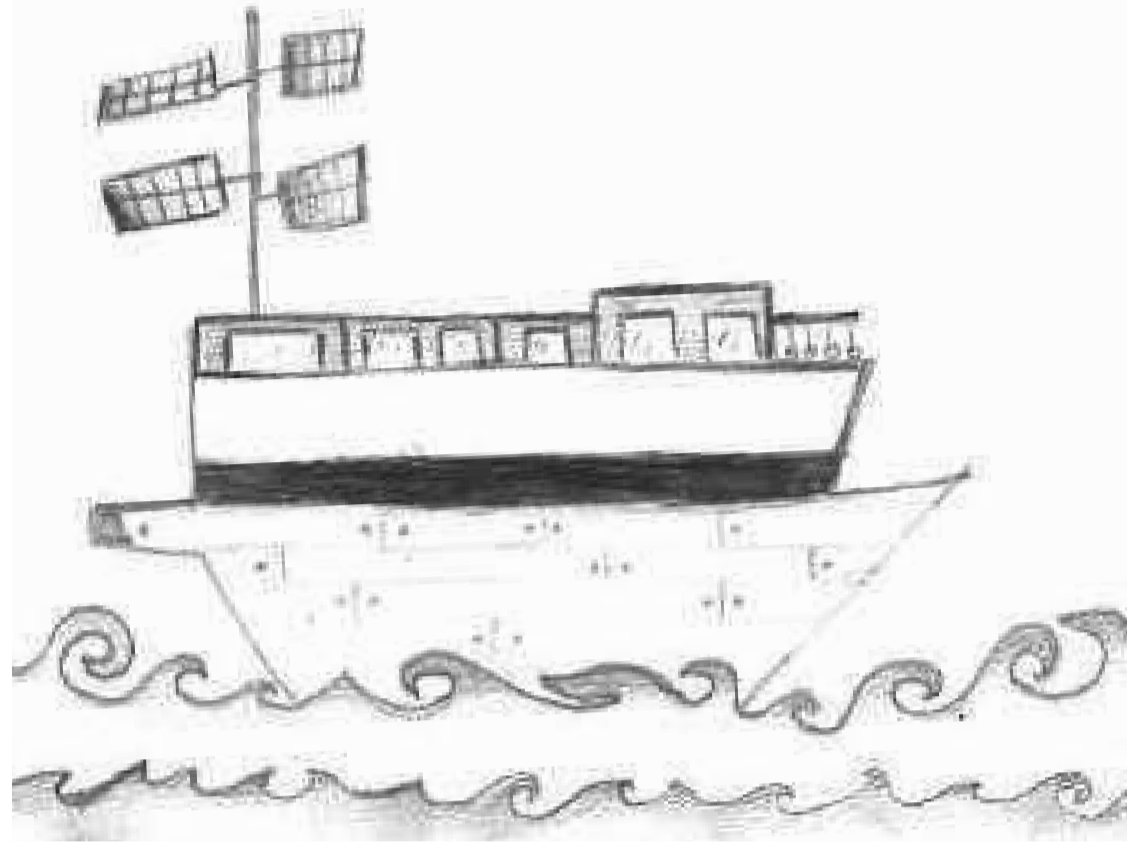
The music stopped after a while. There was a deafening silence.

"Who are you? How did you make the yacht move without the remote?"

"I am in your conscience. I am the biggest remote in you, the will power, the dream."

"Is it possible to create a puppet who can sail a robot yacht?"

"If you wish...", he smiled and turned back.



"Please tell me your name, who are you? You came like a Pied piper!"

His long shadow was disappearing quietly along with that bright smile. Clouds were covering the moon again; my nostrils filled with the smell of wet soil as it started drizzling.

"Please don't go, take me along with you." I cried, tears welled up in my eyes.

The sound of the morning alarm woke me up from my deep slumber. I realized it was just a dream. It started pouring heavily. A big relief. The forest fire will be extinguished soon. I looked down at my yacht and the remote. I thought over my dream and felt relaxed.

My yacht is sailing now. I corrected the program. I have joined a musical device in my robot, and used a puppet in the yacht. It has a sensor, which is coordinated with my hand movement.

"I dream of a dream,

Which is so true.

I dream of a dream,

That makes me awake through.

I dream of a dream

Which drives me to think well.

I dream of a dream,

That allows me to fail.

I connect to reality

And fantasy.

As I wish to dream of a dream

Which links with inner melody."

Illustration: Eshika Agarwal



Farewell

- to the one and only



For some, you may be the candle
But for me, you are the light,
That showed me how to handle
Even the daunting without fright.

For some, your eyes may be warm
But for me, they are bright,
They showed me the right platform
Leading me to a greater height.

For some, you may be spring
But for me, you are the flowers,
That groomed me little wings
To fly higher than the towers.

For some you may be an occasional help,
But for me you are like my mother;
You nurtured me, cared for me
And loved me like no other.

For some you'll be gone forever
But you'll always remain in my heart;
You guided me, helped me,
And always held my hand from the start.

For some you may be a teacher
But for me, you are an angel;
An angel whom I'll never forget
But for now, it is 'farewell'.

A message for our Ma'am Neelam
Poem: Yashvi Tikmani
Illustration: Preet Jakhar

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(Hint: Sign In with a Teacher ID)

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Fam-ILY

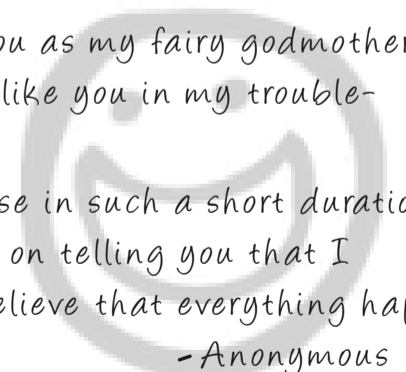
To Ma'am Neha

We entered the class like any other day
Oh! We thought, no study, only play!
Talking and laughing on our way
That's when Ekta saw the empty chair;
Thought she, was it a nightmare!
Tears welled up in Nandini's eyes,
So Ananya ran to stop her cries
Gauri and Riddhi sitting together,
Discussing how she left her essence forever
Suddenly, Vidhi and Sakshi woke up from their
slumber
Realising that it was 1st of October
Then it dawned on us that:
She is not just a teacher, not just a counselor,
not just a mentor but,
"OUR MOTHER"

Poem: Anonymous

This is to my blissful mentors,

- Ma'am Seema your importance in my life is unbounded. I have always looked up to you as my fairy godmother and you have never treated me less than a Cinderella. It feels so special to have someone like you in my troublesome life.
- Ma'am Aaditri, your importance is prodigious. It has been rare to have someone so close in such a short duration. You always pay heed to my immaterial talks, everlasting jokes and my childlike acts and on telling you that I know something about you makes you inquisitive to no limits. Thank you for making me believe that everything happens for a reason.



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