

Welcome

BODHI BUDS

SCHOOL MAGAZINE

2020 - 2021



BODHISUKHA SCHOOL

What We Think We Become

A SENIOR SECONDARY CO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION AFFILIATED TO CBSE
KATHOR, BADU, BARASAT, KOLKATA-128, EMAIL : bodhisukhaschool@gmail.com

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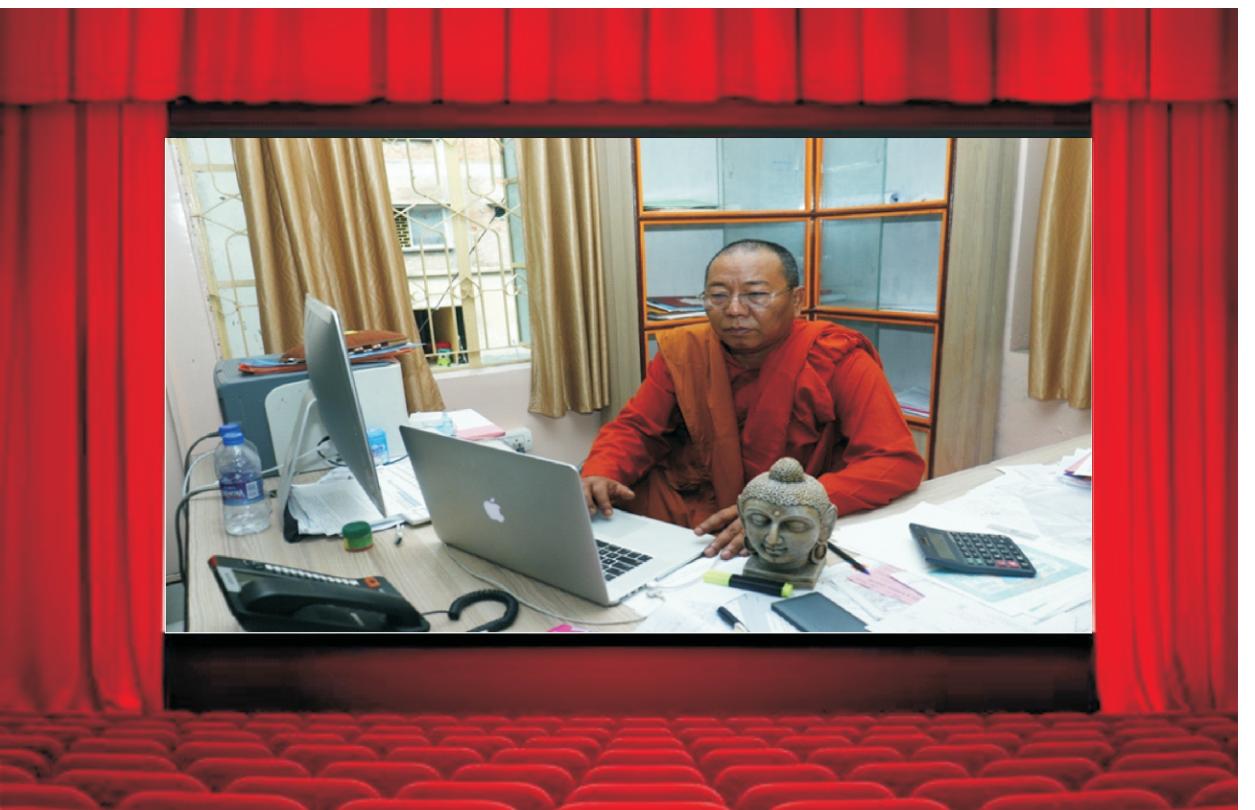
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Mr. Shib Shankar Das

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER FATHER BODHISUKHA SCHOOL, BARASAT, KOLKATA



Ven. Dr. Nando Batha Founder & Chairman

Dear readers,

Warm greetings to all of you!

Bodhisukha School was established in the year 2001 and now I am overwhelmed to declare that the school is one of the prestigious senior secondary CBSE affiliated institution in Barasat, Kolkata.

As an educator, I firmly believe that the purpose of education is not to fill the minds of students with facts...it is to teach them to think for themselves and for others. It was my golden dream to establish an educational institution with this ideology to nourish and nurture the potential of individuals to the extent of perfection. Today, I am overwhelmed to see my dreams gradually taking shape into reality with each passing day. At present, Bodhisukha School is one of the fastest developing schools in Kolkata because of the dedicated efforts and high standards it has set for itself in imparting quality education and living up to its motto - What we think, We Become'.

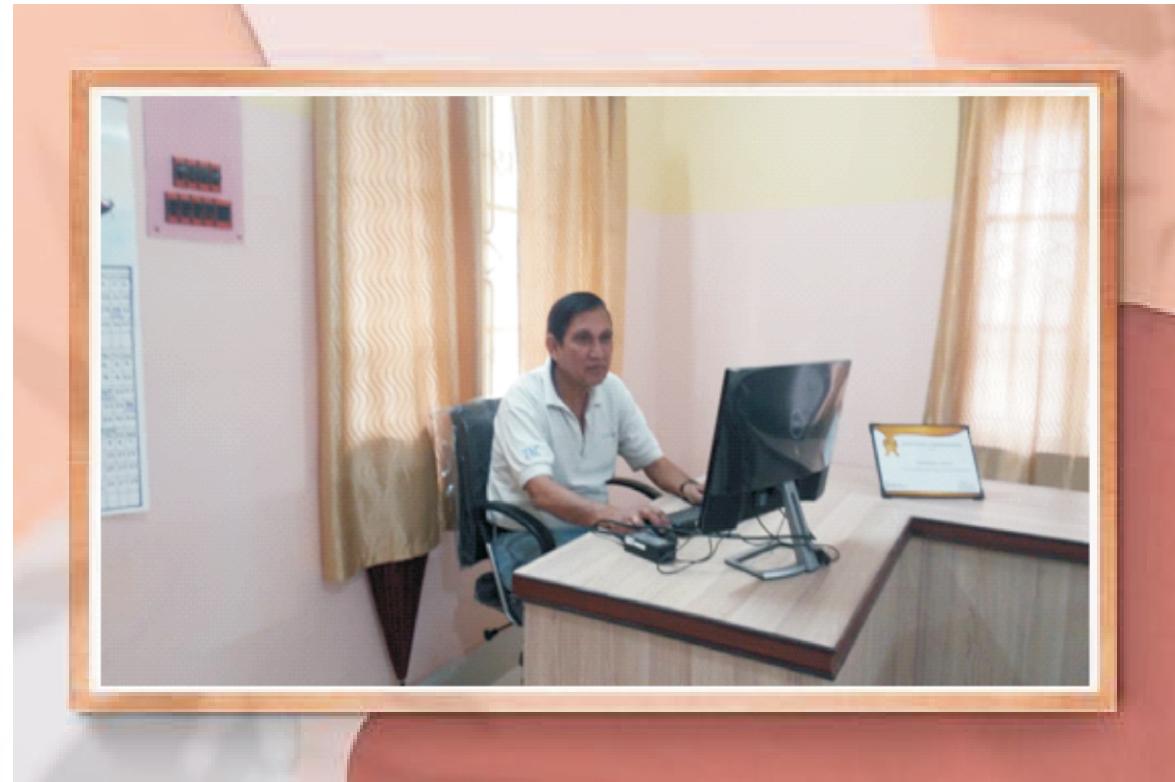
I give my blessings to the students, teachers, staff, guardians and those associated with this institution. I pray and thank the Almighty for the past and place ourselves under his protection and guidance for the future. May His divine magnanimity, continues to lead and guide this prestigious institution for generations to come.

Ven. Dr. Nando Batha

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

BODHISUKHA SCHOOL

Barasat, Kolkata, 700128



Mr. Philip Barua, Secretary

It is my absolute honour to be able to extend my warm greetings to all those associated with this prestigious educational institution. I feel happy to write my message for the school's annual Magazine . Learning binds us all with a love for knowledge, a passion for scientific truth and a thirst for incredible experiences. In today's changing times, the purpose of education is to nurture curiosity, confidence and character. Hence, it becomes our responsibility to ensure that the children are taught the significance of inculcating the right ethics. In addition, our children should learn to excel, value humans, be gentle, form firm opinions and strive for a better tomorrow.

I am so grateful to our Principal, Mrs. Srinwanti Dhar, for her devotion and commitment to the leadership of our school and also for the dutiful staff who work with her.

MESSAGE FROM THE Treasurer

BODHISUKHA SCHOOL
Barasat, Kolkata, 700128



Ananda Bhante, Treasurer

At Bodhisukha School we focus on providing education which can help to enhance the capability of our students. We aim at offering quality education to maximize our composite culture by inculcating good values and preparing them to face every situation with confidence. At BDS, we strive to impart standard education which goes hand in hand with moral education which is crucial in the current times.
Ananda Bhante , Treasurer, Bodhisukha School.



MESSAGE FROM THE Manager

BODHISUKHA SCHOOL
Barasat, Kolkata, 700128



Mr. Shib Shankar Das

Dear students, always remember that nothing stays forever- neither success nor failure. The only thing that is constant in life is change. We have to accept the changes and challenges of life and be mentally focused, firm and determined. Keep learning about new things, God has created infinite capacity in you, make use of it; handle adverse situations fearlessly. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "Live as if you were to die tomorrow but learn as if you were to live forever". I am confident that if you cherish and live these values, you will go a long way and achieve success in all spheres of life.

Wishing you all the very best!

MRS. Srinwanti Dhar, Principal, Bodhisukha School

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2020-2021

A very good afternoon to Venerable

Sir Dr. NandoBatha, founder and chairman of Bodhisukha School, who is also the chief guest of the day

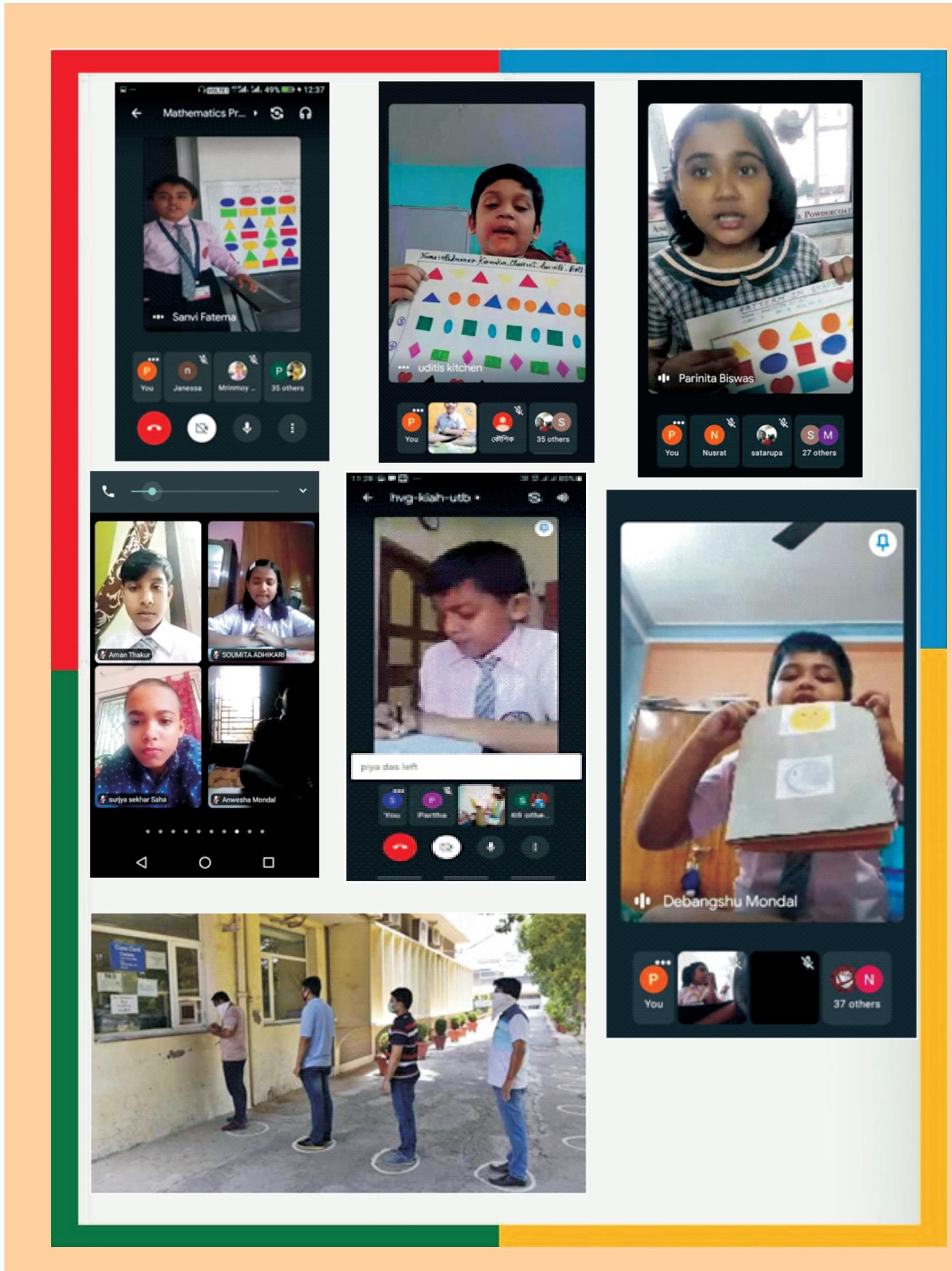
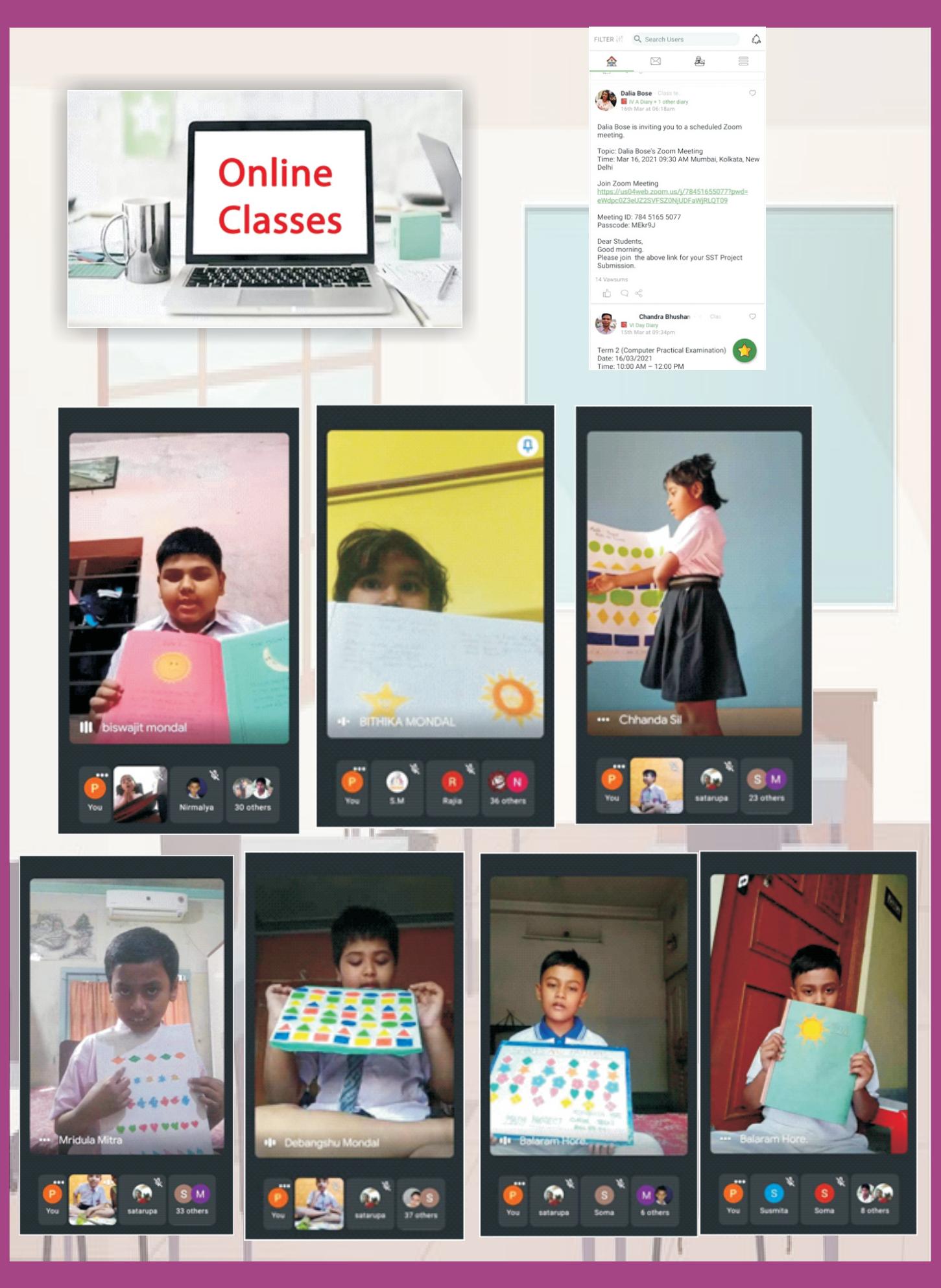
Mr. Philip Barua, secretary of Bodhisukha School, Ananda Bhante, treasurer, Mr. ShibSankar Das, manager

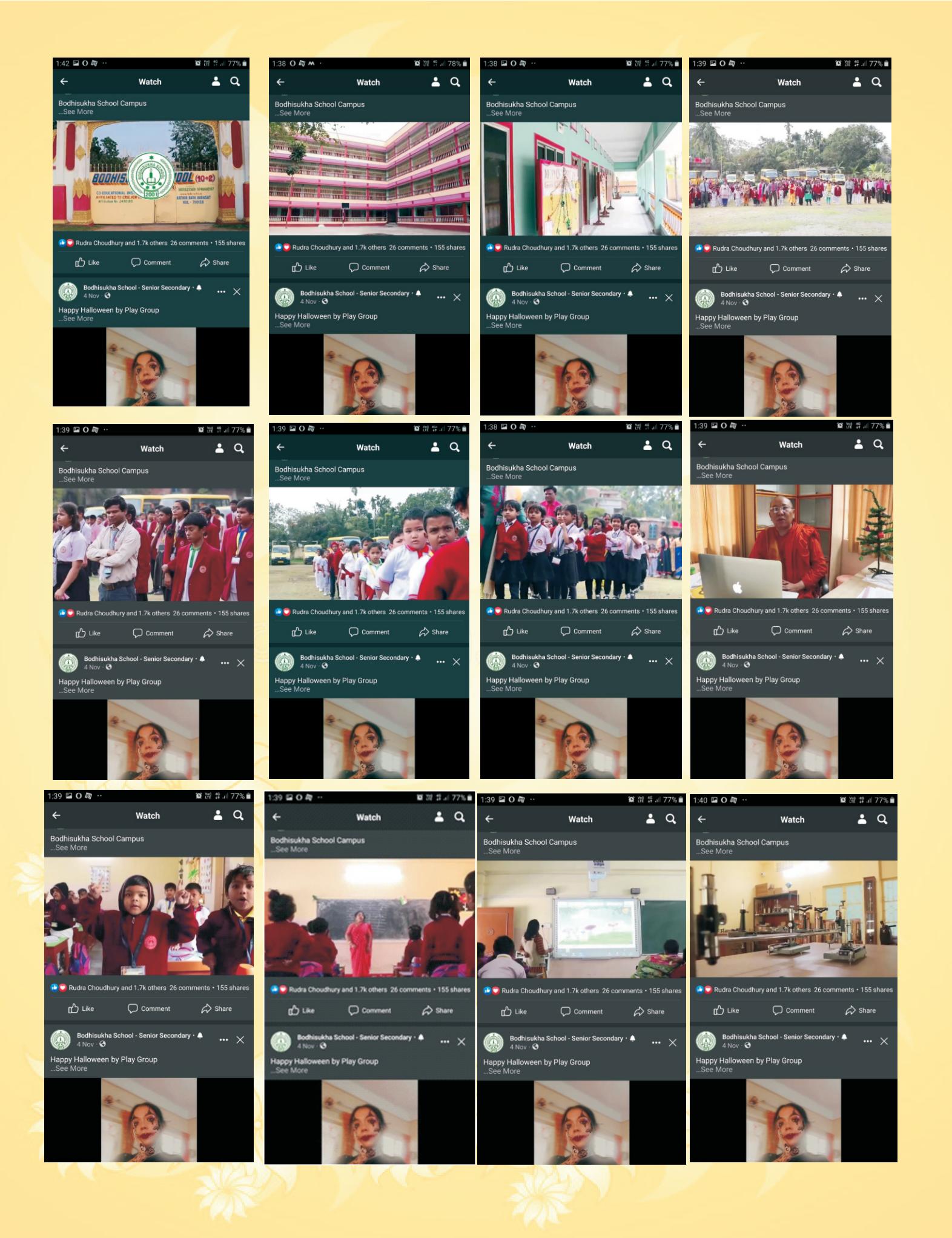
And other members of the managing committee, parents, staff members and my beloved students. It gives me great pleasure to present the annual report of Bodhisukha School 2020-21.

Awarm welcome to everyone. Last year because of the covid-19 pandemic we could not celebrate our annual function. The annual report cards of the session 2019-20 were viewed by guardians online. Hard copy of the report cards were distributed in the month of October before the puja holidays. In order to ensure the continuity of students learning and effective teaching activities during the lockdown period we launched online classes. Students had their online classes in the core subjects through Zoom Cloud Meeting app and BDS app was used to give assignments, project works etc. The schedule for the classes and the corresponding links for the online classes were sent through the BDS app. Through online we have tried to excel in academics as well as sports and other co-curricular activities which would provide scope for all round development of our students in the areas of their specific

interests. Our annual report will help us to appreciate how much thus far we have achieved individually and as a school and at the same time, enable us to understand how far we can go by using our full potential.







ACADEMICS

2020 - 21



The highlights of the AISSE and AISSCE Examination results in respect of our school for academic year 2020-21 we're as follows

TOTAL NO OF STUDENTS - AISSE = 176
APPEARED - 173
PASSED - 173
TOTAL PASSING %.- 100%

TOTAL NO OF STUDENTS - AISSCE = 165
APPEARED - 162
PASSED - 162
TOTAL PASSING %.- 100%



Our school topper in AISSE 2021 examination was

SUBHANKAR DAS
Secured 96%.



Our school topper in AISSCE 2021 examination was

SOURAV GHOSH & SHRESTHA DEBSHARMA
from Science Stream was the highest scorer securing 92%.



WELCOME OF OUR STAFF & TEACHER

During the year we are glad to welcome as members of our staff Ms Aparajita Chatterjee - Assistant Teacher, Mr Nandan Das - Assistant Teacher, Ms. Sayantika Majumdar – Assistant Teacher, Mrs Chandrayee Ganguly - Assistant Teacher, Ms Riyanka Roy - Assistant Teacher, Ms SangitaXalco – Front office assistant



Ms AparajitaChatterjee
Assistant Teacher



Mr Nandan Das
Assistant Teacher



Ms. Sayantika Majumdar
Assistant Teacher



Mrs Chandrayee Ganguly
Assistant Teacher



Ms Riyanka Roy
Assistant Teacher



Ms Sangita Xalco
Front office assistant

The following teachers resigned from our school



Mrs Subra Ghosh



Mr Sabyasachi Mukhopadhyay

Perfect attendance against causal leave. We congratulate each and every teacher of our school for conducting the online classes religiously as per schedule. Each and every staff came to school when ever required.

SCHOOL FUNCTIONS

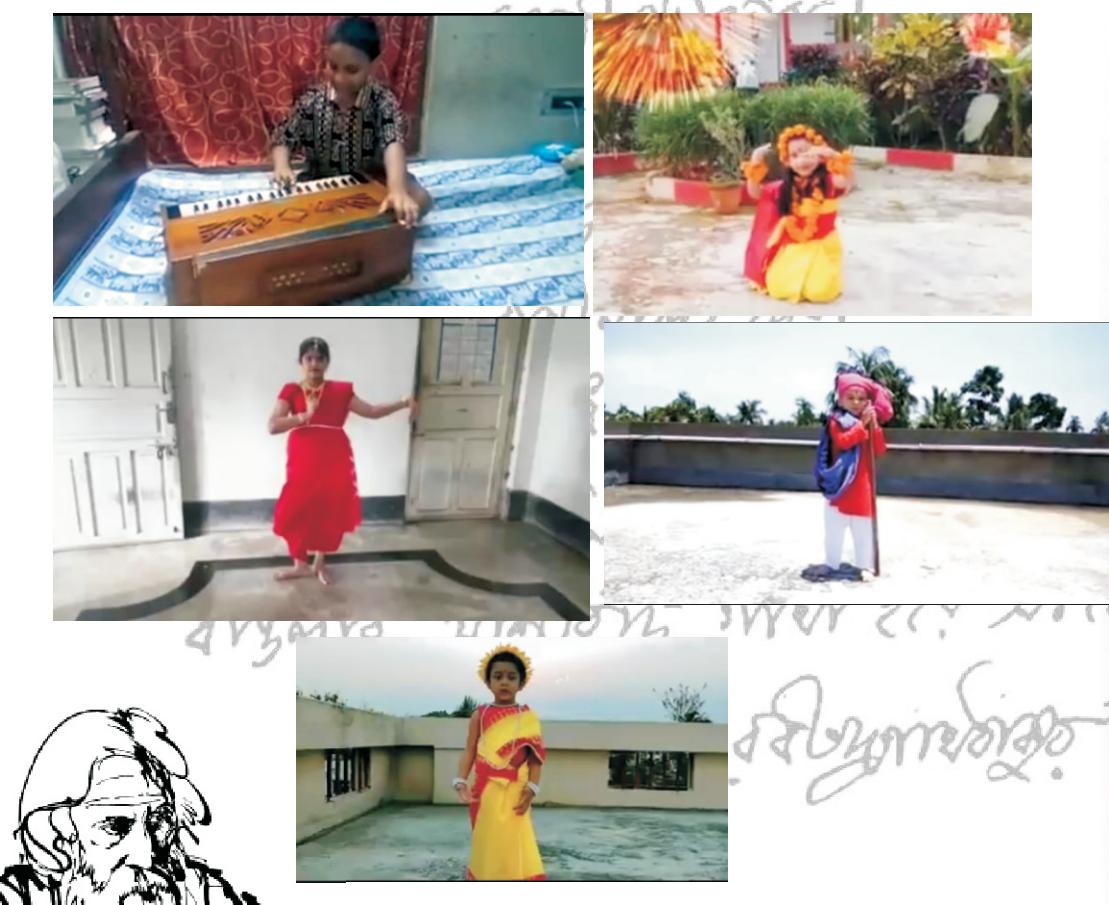


This year, with the school shut due to the pandemic, all kinds of celebrations had to be shifted to the virtual platform, with all kinds of events- ranging from cultural performances to debates- all were planned and executed digitally. However, we chose the virtual platform to celebrate all the events that we would have otherwise celebrated in our school campus if the situation was normal. Moreover, we wanted to ensure that our students don't miss out the fervor of celebrating these programs when the physical celebrations were not possible. This allowed our students a refreshing respite from the boredom associated with staying indoors and not being able to meet their friends in school.



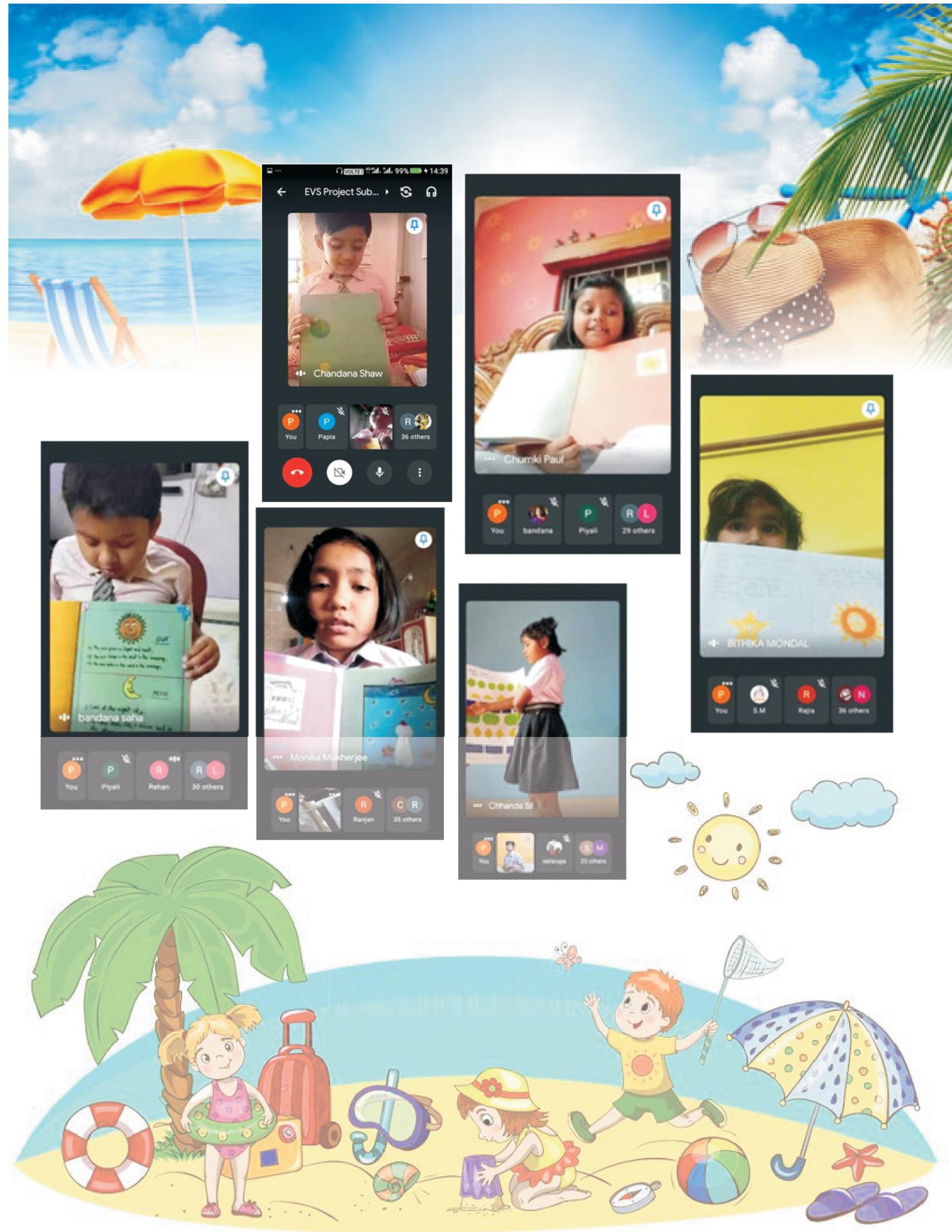
RABINDRA JAYANTI

MAY On 8th May, Rabindra Jayanti was the first event that we celebrated online and which is still available in the Facebook page and 'YouTube' channel of Bodhisukha School. Students from Play group to XII participated in this virtual event. It was a wonderful experience for all as the pandemic turned us towards the real digital world. Students from their homes performed several Rabindra sangeet ,Rabindraniritya and recited poems of Rabindranath Tagore. The program started with our manager sir Mr SHIB SANKAR DAS's speech and ended with the national anthem played by our student from Ukg A. In the pandemic situation, we faced difficulty in delivering books and stationary items but still we managed. However, we used to post all study materials, images of the lessons, home assignments and other crucial learning materials in our E-diary and BDS app to facilitate the teaching-learning process throughout this academic session. Our Chairman Sir, had provided essentials such as rice, pulses during the pandemic situation to the staff members and people who were nearby. This act of kindness helped several people during the difficult times.





This year, we had a very short summer vacation and we resumed our online classes from 11th June, 2020. In order to ensure that our students are equipped to face any challenge we have emphasized on a number of students enrichment programs, by involving them in various activities, like preparing projects, charts, models and others by using the help of digital platform.

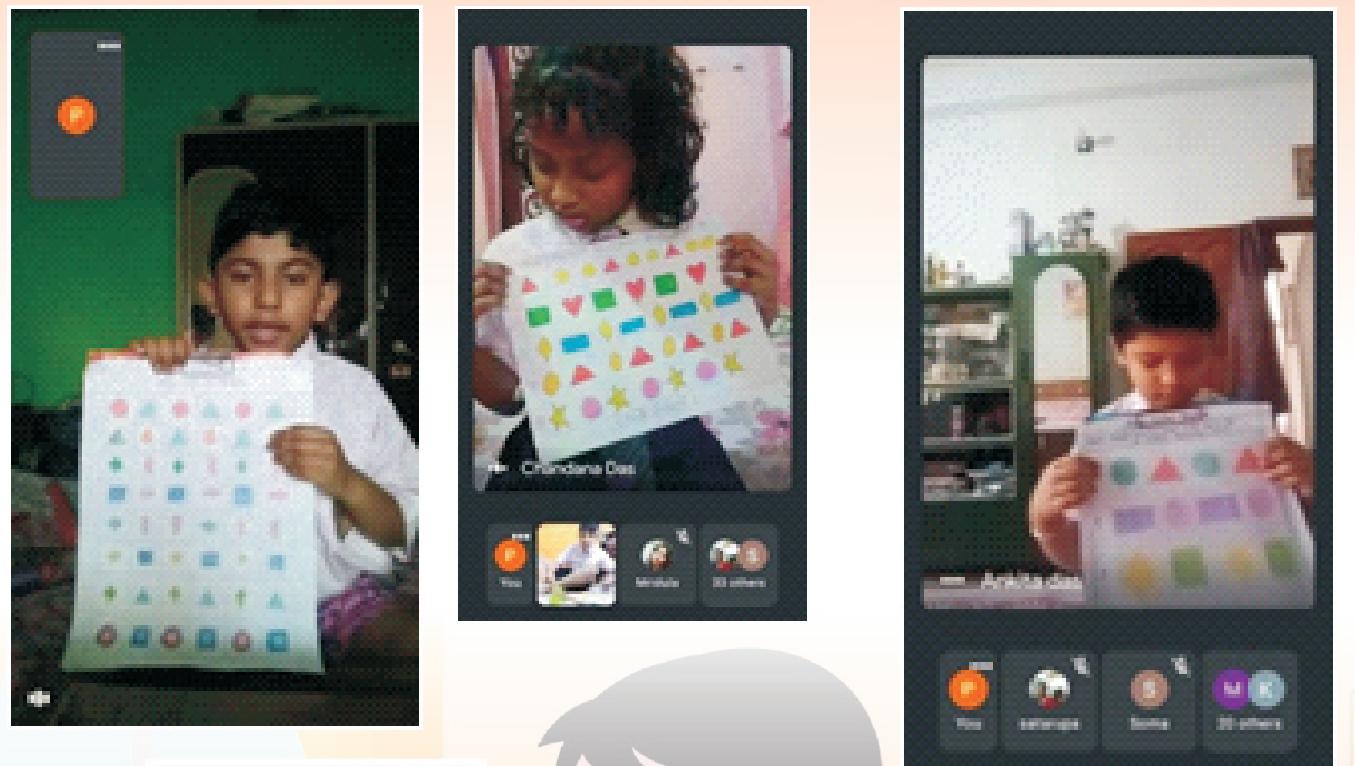


JUNE In order to ensure overall development of our students even in the lockdown, we conducted our house and club meetings regularly. House Meets were conducted to make necessary discussions related to inter-house competitions. We allowed our students to participate in various inter-house competitions to offer them a chance to display their talent but also help them learn valuable lessons on team work and selfless service even during the trying times. Respective House Masters of all the four houses (Red, Green, Blue & Yellow respectively), posted the links for their house meetings in BDS app. The Club masters of the six clubs ie., Singing, Dancing, Recitation, Drama, Art & Craft and Yoga Club also posted the zoom links in BDS app. Students belonging to the respective Houses and Clubs actively participated in all these meetings. On 20st June, 2020, school celebrated online yoga day, under the guidance of our Physical education teacher, Mr. Biswas. Our students performed various yoga asana which was really entertaining and interesting to watch and learn. The students also gave a speech on the benefits of yoga. It was a house competition. The winner of the event was Red House. Students were given certificates. The COVID 19 had turned the world upside down. In this topsy-turvy world, we at Bodhisukha School decided to be more creative on the virtual platform and tried to channelize the focus of our students towards the need to save the resources and reconnect with nature. On 30th June, 2020, we celebrated 'Environmental Day' virtually. House wise our students participated in this program. The students were requested to prepare 4 charts and 4 models from each house and submit a video of 2minutes duration. The students were excited to be a part of this virtual celebration. They received proper guidelines, assistance and support of their respective House Masters. Unique efforts were taken by the students to prepare beautiful charts and models based on the themes selected by each House. It allowed them to showcase their creativity while being confined in their houses amidst the lockdown period and imbibe environmental consciousness which was the need of the hour. It was an inter house competition. The house winner was Yellow House.



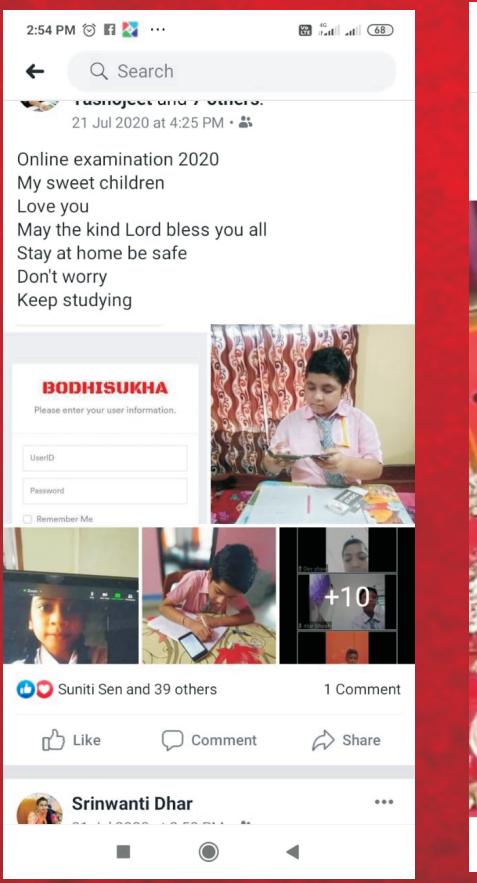
JULY

JULY Regular scheduled online classes started from 17th April 2020 and on 21st July 2020 our students had their very first online assessment. Bodhisukha School took the big leap and our students loved it. They were excited and eager to give their best in the online examinations. I would like this opportunity to congratulate our web master Mr Maung and his IT team whose efforts have paid off. We proudly declare that Online Assessment was a regular feature of our online schooling on 27th July 2020 the School had organized Inter house quiz competition, for juniors and seniors. Blue house was the winner of both junior school and senior school quiz competition



August

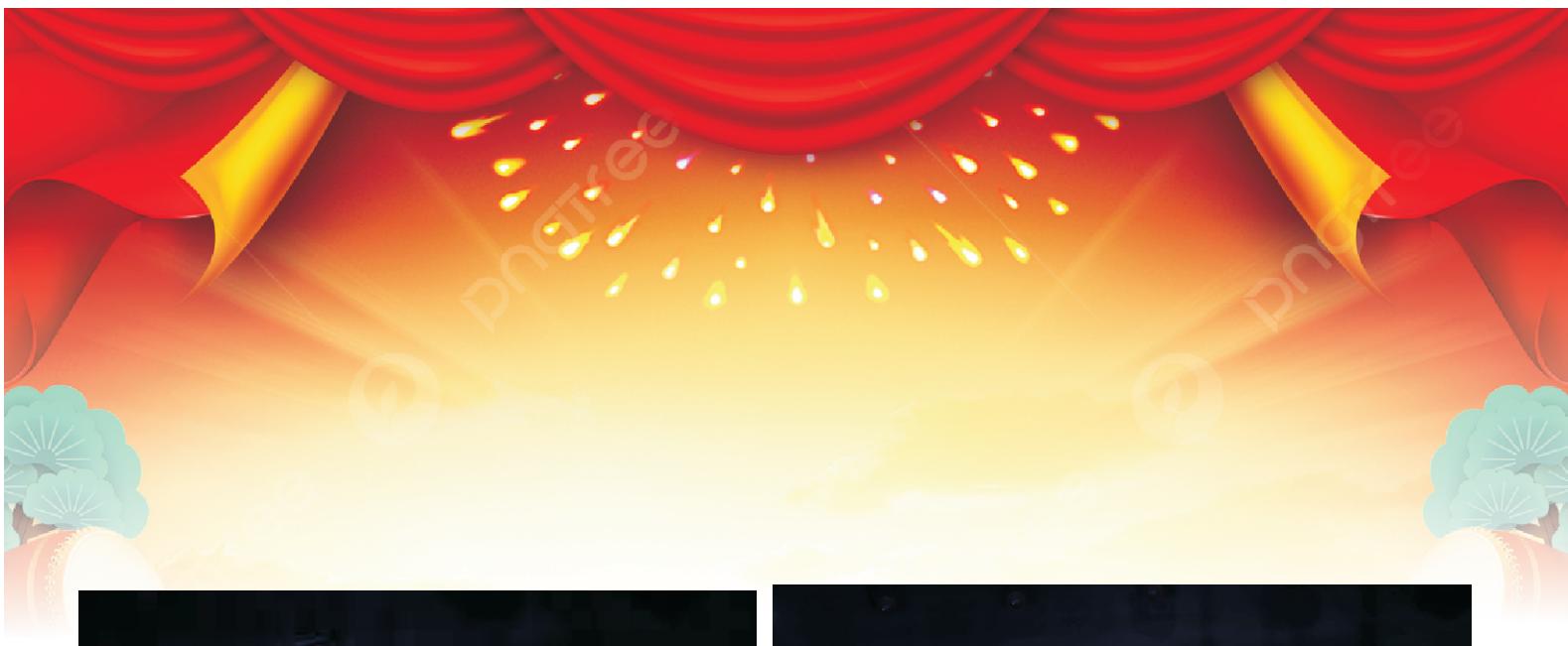
This year our school had organized an Inter House Elocution Competition for junior school on 8th August, on the virtual platform. It which allowed students from classes 3 to 6 participate and exhibit their oratory skills. The topics of elocution were these:- – MOBILE PHONE, LOCKDOWN, ONLINE CLASSES, MASK, SOCIAL DISTANCING, COVID 19, QUARANTINE LIFE. Green House were the winners of elocution On the same day, an Inter house Debate competition for Senior School was also conducted online. Students from classes 7-11 took part in this event. Debate topic was given on the spot. 1. Online schooling is as useful as normal schooling. 2. Scoring good marks is not only the only indication of a bright future. 3. If you can implement what you have learnt, then only you are educated. 4. Streams should be chosen according to strength not according to trend. The winner of the Inter House Debate Competition was Blue House Both these programs were webcasted live and it is still available in the Facebook page of Bodhisukha School. Amidst the COVID 19 Pandemic, the 74th Independence Day was celebrated by Bodhisukha School but with a slight twist, as it was webcasted live. On this occasion, all the classes from playgroup up to class twelve participated with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor. The program began with an inaugural song sung by Shubhankar Das, a student of class X. After the inaugural song, our Chairman the most Venerable Dr. Nando Batha unfurled our National Flag in the school campus. The flag hoisting ceremony was followed by an inspiring speech of our Chairman Sir who declared the program open. The program was streamed live in the digital platform to enable all the students and guardians to watch the show live from their homes and take part in the patriotic celebrations virtually. Our students put up a great performance in the form of songs, dances, recitations, speeches and craft work which helped them to express their love for the nation and also remember the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters. On this day ,an Inter House Recitation Competition was also organised for both Junior and Senior School. The winners of this event was Ahenjita Paul from Junior School and Priyancy Chakraborty from Green House



September

Teacher's Day was celebrated on 5th September with immense zeal and enthusiasm. Teacher's Day was celebrated online on 5th September. Students expressed their appreciation for teachers and also participated in Online Inter House Singing Competition. We tried to make available a new platform to the students to display their talent. From the Junior School, there was a joint winner Red House and Yellow House. From Senior School Green House was the winner. On 26th September 2020 Primary School celebrated food festival encouraging healthy eating habits.





October

Like every year we celebrated Founder's Day on 31st October 2020 but this time it was online and apart from a combined program by students and staff members for our founder Sir the most Venerable Dr. NandoBatha, we also had our annual prize distribution and award ceremony on the same day. The occasion was graced by Mr Ken Kawasaki and Madam Visakha Kawasaki from Sri Lanka who were present with us online. .



November:

This year we all gathered virtually for the School elections of the academic session 2020-21. The elections for the prestigious posts of School Captain and School Vice Captain was conducted by means of online voting. Everybody was very much excited about this event. All the candidates from each of the four houses were introduced by the House Masters. After the introduction, all the candidates delivered their speeches as their names were called out. After the online voting, we announced the eligible candidates as Our School Captain and School vice Captain

Koustav Dhali
(School Captain)

Kaustav Sengupta
(School Vice Captain)

Along with this, the selection of House Captains and Vice House Captains was also held on the same day. After the declaration of the names of the candidates who secured the prestigious titles, it was time for the ritual of oath taking which couldn't be avoided even though the program was conducted virtually. Red House Captain



RED HOUSE
Suvam Bain
(Red House Captain)



RED HOUSE
Paromita Sarkar
(Red House Vice Captain)



RED HOUSE
Bidhya Dhar
(Yellow House Captain)



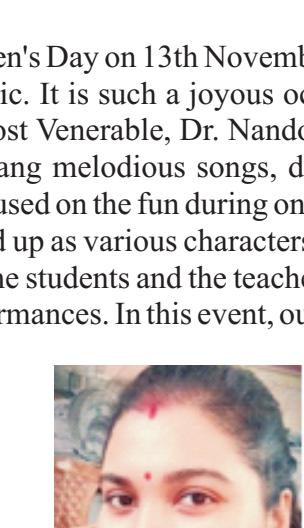
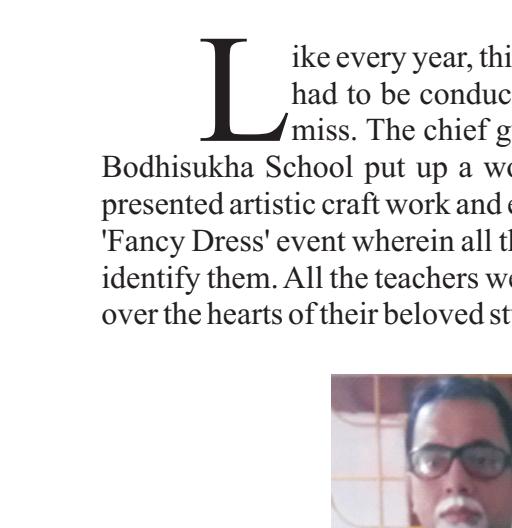
RED HOUSE
Saptak Mondal
(Yellow House Vice Captain)



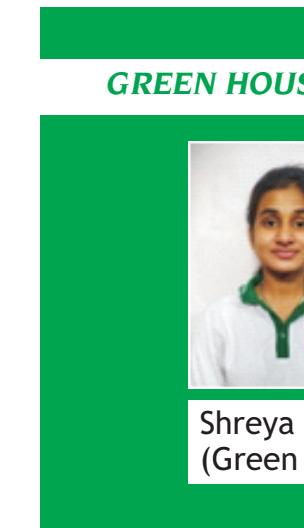
BLUE HOUSE
Neha Prasad
(Blue House Captain)



BLUE HOUSE
Dipannita Bhattacharya
(Blue House Vice Captain)



GREEN HOUSE
Swarnali Sen
(Green House Captain)



GREEN HOUSE
Shreya Singh
(Green House Vice Captain)



Like every year, this year also we celebrated Children's Day on 13th November. However, this year it had to be conducted virtually due to the pandemic. It is such a joyous occasion that we couldn't miss. The chief guest of this program was the most Venerable, Dr. Nando Batha. The teachers of Bodhisukha School put up a wonderful program where they sang melodious songs, danced to soulful music, presented artistic craft work and enacted a short drama which focused on the fun during online classes. There was a 'Fancy Dress' event wherein all the teachers of our school dressed up as various characters and our students had to identify them. All the teachers were asked various questions by the students and the teachers tried their best to win over the hearts of their beloved students with their fun filled performances. In this event, our teachers,



Were chosen to be Mr& Miss Bodhisukha respectively. On 28th November, we had organized an Online Quiz Competition for both Junior and Senior School. Since, it was an Inter House Competition, hence, students from the four houses from Senior and Junior School participated in this event. There were ten exciting rounds. Our teachers played the role of Quiz masters for all the ten rounds. The winner from Junior School was Green House and from senior school it was Blue House.



JANUARY

On 22nd January 2021 after a lots of hard work the school presented its first online grandparents day celebration performed by Grandparents and children of primary school. On 26th January the School celebrated 72nd Republic day live from school premises with patriotic song and dances and a short play on Unity and diversity. The national flag was unfurled by our Chairman sir Dr Nando Batha. Sir in his speech wished al staff students and guardians to be free from corona virus. Our primary students also participated in various creative activities like Food Day (pithe – puli day, sandwich day, paratha day), Christmas Day, New Year greeting card activity etc throughout the year.



FEBRUARY

We all know that Sports Day is a day that children look forward to at the end of the academic session. Sadly, this year we couldn't organize the sports events in the school due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. However, we didn't wanted to miss out this event.Hence, we decided to organize a Virtual Sports Day event for our children. On 15th February we had organized an Inter House Sports Competition. This time it was with a twist because we had conducted it virtually under the guidance of our Physical Education Teacher, Mr. Biswas. Sports for Play group was Caterpillar Race and the winner was YELLOW HOUSE Sports Event for LKG was Frog Jump and the winner was YELLOW HOUSE Sports for UKG was Apple Race and the winner was Green House Sports for Class 1 was Biscuit Race and the winner was Green House Sports for class 2 was Carrot Race and the winner was Red House Sports for Boys of class 3 and 4 was Jumping over the box and the winner was Nilkanta Bhowmik of Green House Sports for Girls of class 3 and 4 was Throwing a tennis ball against the wall and catching. And the winner was Anushka Singh of Green House. Sports for Boys of class 5 and 6 was Throwing a ball in the basket. The winner was Abir Ghosh of Yellow House. Sports for Girls of classes 5 and 6 was Tanisha Sengupta of Yellow House. Sports for Boys of classes 7 and 8 was Hopping in one leg. Arnab Sarkar from Yellow House was the winner of this event. Sports for Girls of classes 7 and 8 was Throwing a tennis ball into the air and clapping hands before catching. Priyancy Chakraborty of Green House was the winner of this event. Sports for Boys of classes 9 to 12 was Dibs . Saikat Biswas from Green House was the winner. Sports for Girls of classes 9 to 12 was Standing on one leg. Bidhya Dhar from Yellow House was the winner. On 18th February 2021 finally the school was able to reopen for students from classes 9 to 12 following CBSE guidelines regarding covid protocol.



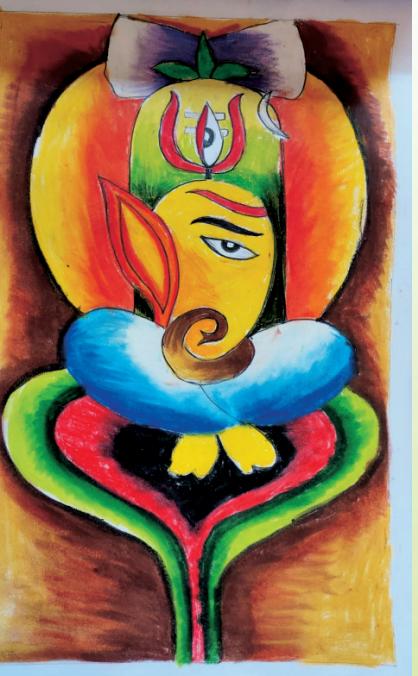
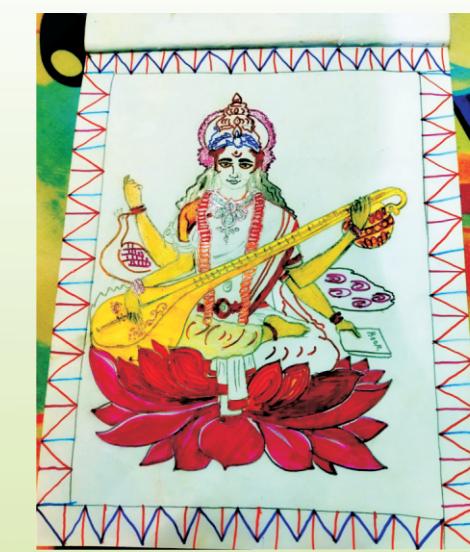
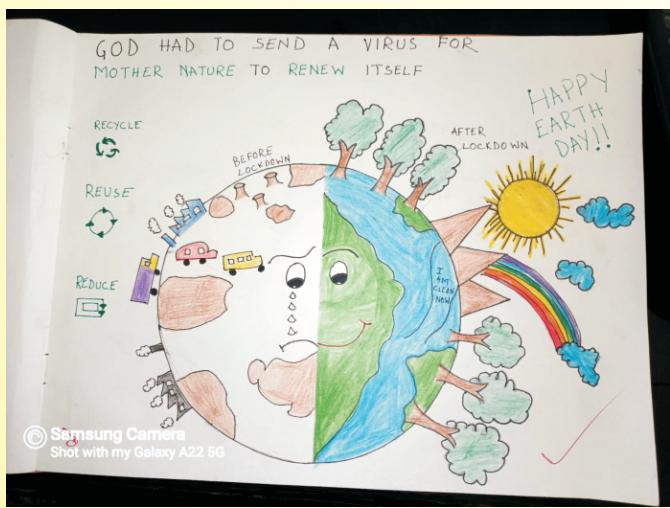
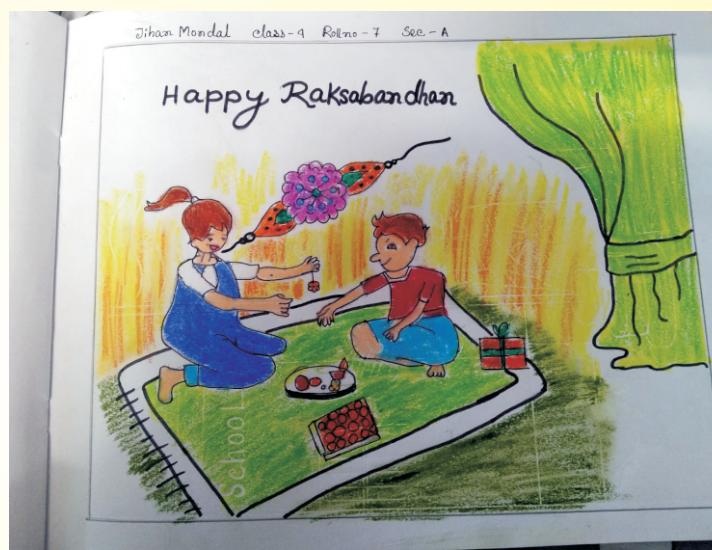
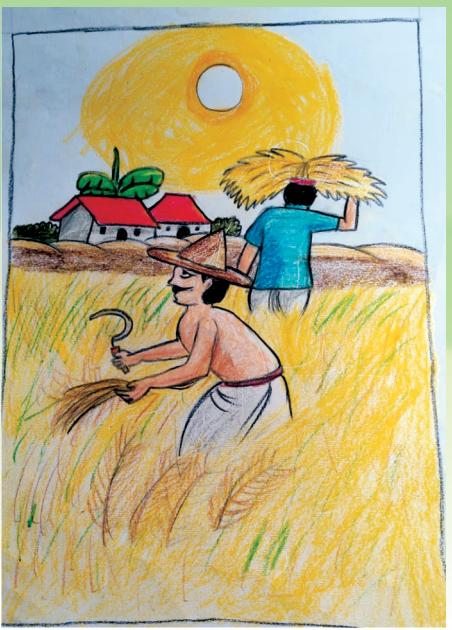
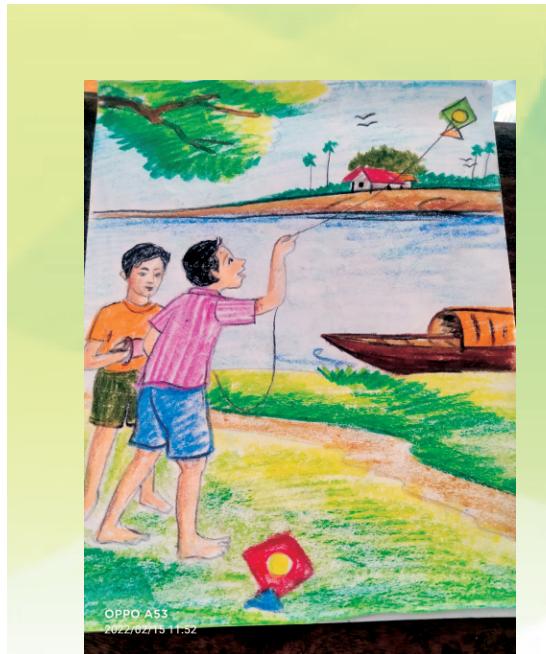


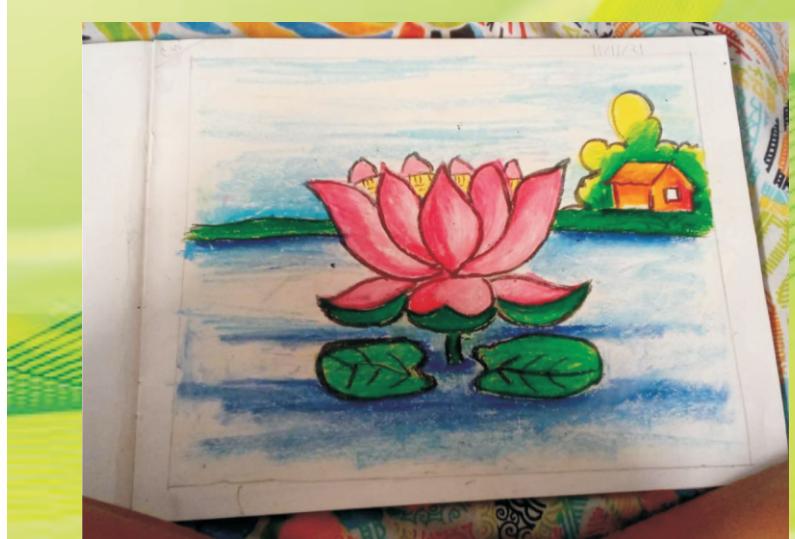
MARCH

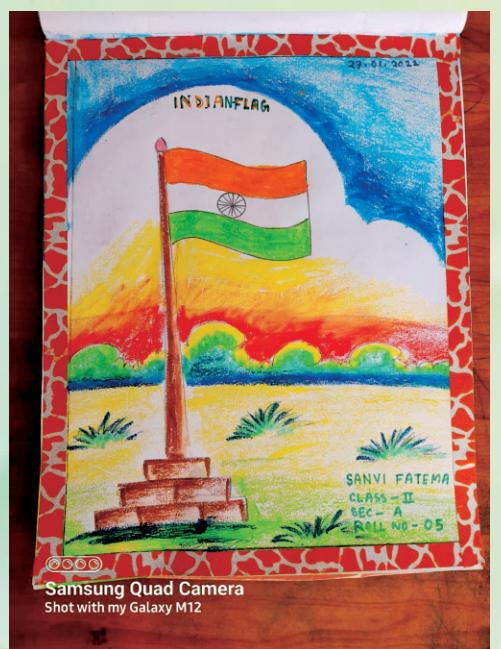
From 1st March 2021 students of classes 9 and 11 had their offline final examination in school. The school followed all the norms mentioned by the state government and also the guidelines mentioned by the Board for conducting the offline examinations in the school premises. During the examination, social distancing was maintained by both the teachers and students, respectively. India's First Virtual Toy Fair was also a major event of this academic session. Students participated enthusiastically in the indoor toy making process. Videos were uploaded in BDS app.

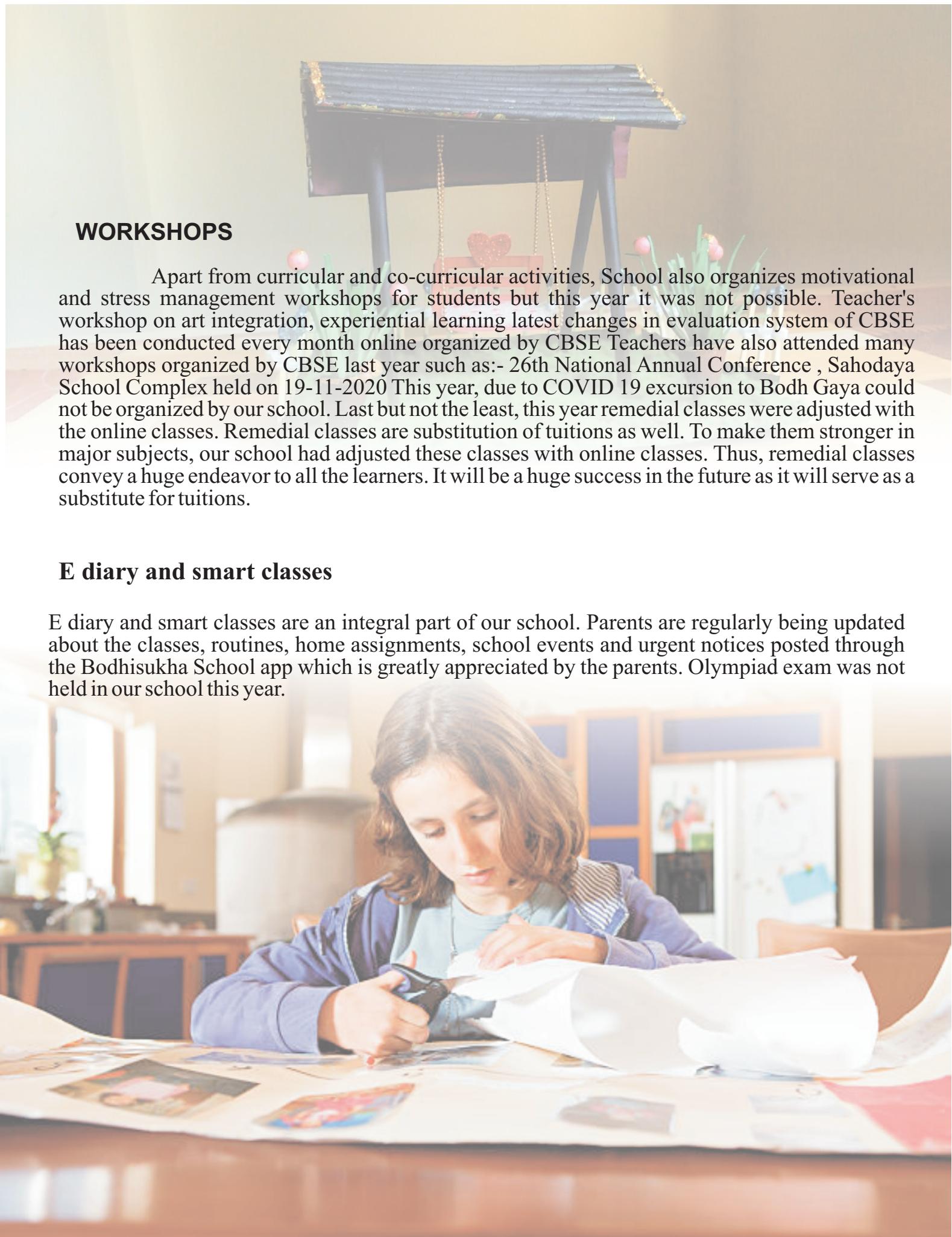
December

This year on 20th December, we had organised an online Dance Competition. Dance competitions are a great way to engage children creatively. We had organised this event for both the junior and the senior school students. This event helped to keep the spirits of the students high mostly during the lockdown period. There were four rounds for both the junior and senior school participants. The rounds were – Rabindra Nritya, Folk , Classical and Own Choice rounds. From Junior School, Green House was the winner. From Senior School, we had joint winners – Green House and Yellow House. On 23rd December 2020 primary school organized Virtual Christmas Day with great pomp and glory.









WORKSHOPS

Apart from curricular and co-curricular activities, School also organizes motivational and stress management workshops for students but this year it was not possible. Teacher's workshop on art integration, experiential learning latest changes in evaluation system of CBSE has been conducted every month online organized by CBSE Teachers have also attended many workshops organized by CBSE last year such as:- 26th National Annual Conference , Sahodaya School Complex held on 19-11-2020 This year, due to COVID 19 excursion to Bodh Gaya could not be organized by our school. Last but not the least, this year remedial classes were adjusted with the online classes. Remedial classes are substitution of tuitions as well. To make them stronger in major subjects, our school had adjusted these classes with online classes. Thus, remedial classes convey a huge endeavor to all the learners. It will be a huge success in the future as it will serve as a substitute for tuitions.

E diary and smart classes

E diary and smart classes are an integral part of our school. Parents are regularly being updated about the classes, routines, home assignments, school events and urgent notices posted through the Bodhisukha School app which is greatly appreciated by the parents. Olympiad exam was not held in our school this year.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

YOGA CLUB

The yoga club is held under the able guidance of Sohine Roy, Madhusudan Biswas, Tapash Paul, Sajib Halder. The yoga club focuses on imbibing healthy habits in students. In addition, guide students to achieve a peaceful body and mind through yoga practices.



RECITATION CLUB

The Recitation club is held under the able guidance of Dalia Bose, Aritri Saha, Chandrasekhar Dey and Preeti Dutta. The recitation club trains the students to cultivate their oratory skills. The recitation club managed to showcase their talents throughout the session.



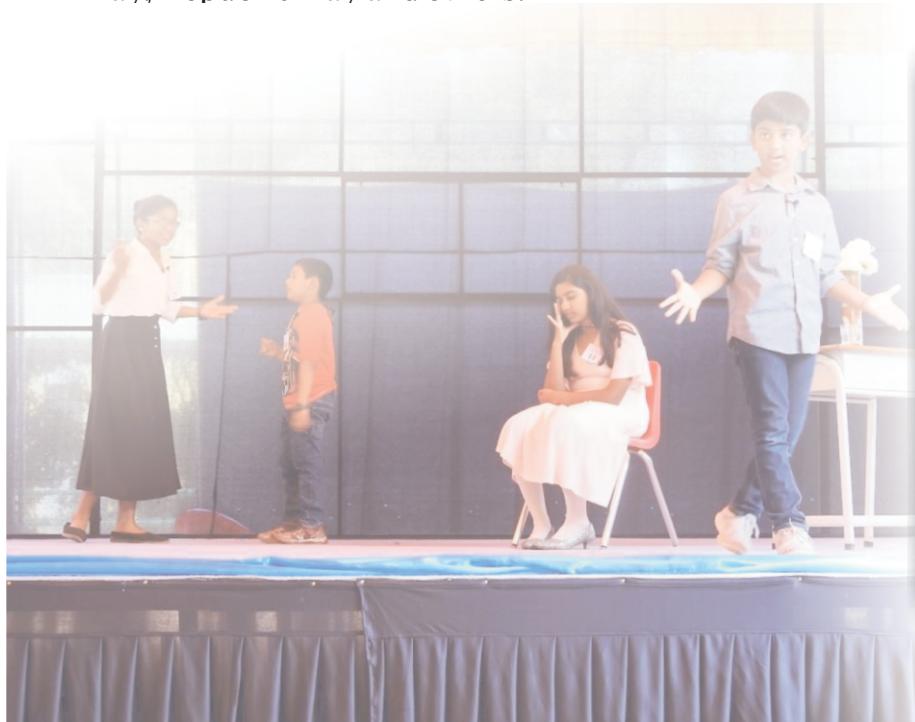
MUSIC CLUB

The Music Club is held under the able guidance of Ramita Mukhopadhyay, Moumita Bose, Mousumi Moitra, Rahima Khatun. The music club trains the school choir and also guilds students for various occasions such as Independence Day, founders day etc. The aim of the Music Club is to enhance their vocal quality and offer opportunities to boost their talents.



DRAMA CLUB

The Drama Club is held under the able guidance of Sayantika Majumdar, Sukanya Biswas, Partho Ghoshal and Anjali Roy. The dramatics club trains the students to enhance their expressions and enact their roles effortlessly and have managed to show case their talent in various occasion. It aims at nurturing their communication abilities and promoting social awareness. The dramatics club managed to show case their talent in various occasions such as Independence Day, Children's Day, Republic Day and others.



ART & CRAFT

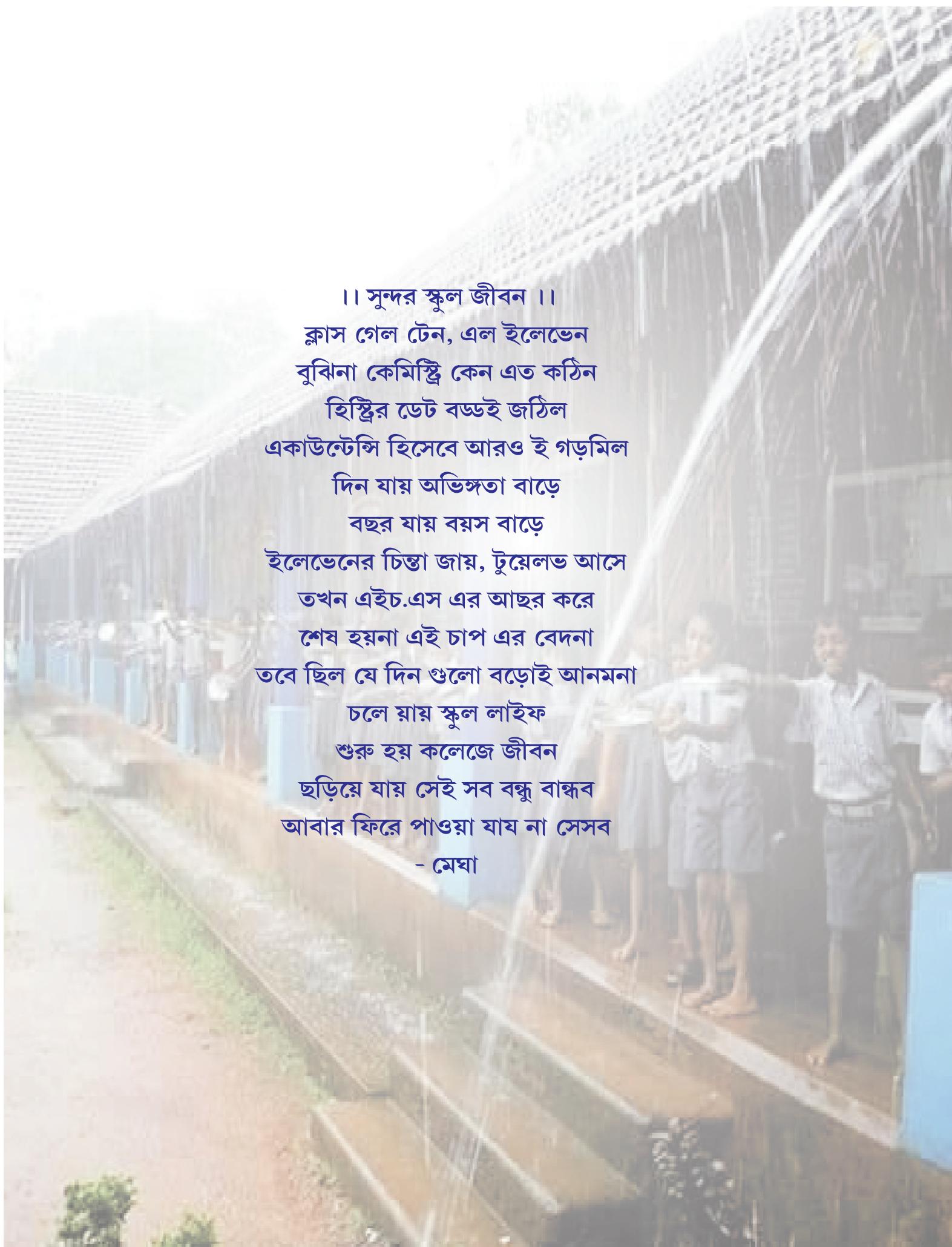
The art and craft is held under the able guidance of Jarita Chowdhury, Ipsita Paul, Gouri Dey. The aim of the art club to inculcate creativity among students and bring fourth the hidden talents of the students which would otherwise have been gone unnoticed. The children are allowed to use their imagination in presenting art work. In each and every



DANCE CLUB

The Dance club is held under the able guidance of Jhuma Saha, Trisha Paul, Sangita Das and Chandryee Ganguly. The dance club trains the students to develop their performance skills. The dance club managed to put up beautiful performances throughout this session.





॥ সুন্দর স্কুল জীবন ॥
ক্লাস গেল টেন, এল ইলেভেন
বুবিনা কেমিস্ট্রি কেন এত কঠিন
হিস্ট্রির ডেট বড়ই জঠিল
একাউন্টেন্সি হিসেবে আরও ই গড়মিল
দিন যায় অভিষ্ঠতা বাড়ে
বছর যায় বয়স বাড়ে
ইলেভেনের চিন্তা জায়, টুয়েলভ আসে
তখন এইচ.এস এর আছুর করে
শেষ হয়না এই চাপ এর বেদনা
তবে ছিল যে দিন গুলো বড়োই আনমনা
চলে যায় স্কুল লাইফ
শুরু হয় কলেজে জীবন
ছড়িয়ে যায় সেই সব বন্ধু বান্ধব
আবার ফিরে পাওয়া যায় না সেসব
- মেঘা

Gratitude to Ganga!!!

Oh Ganga!!! I know not how you flow
so placidly across the belts of this intricate land
of magnificence!
I know not how the droplets of your auspicious gleam
splatter athwart the horizon of this dexterous valley
of exuberance!!
All what I know is that a sight of yours brings
a slice of profundity in my heart
and presents me a sliver of astonishment.

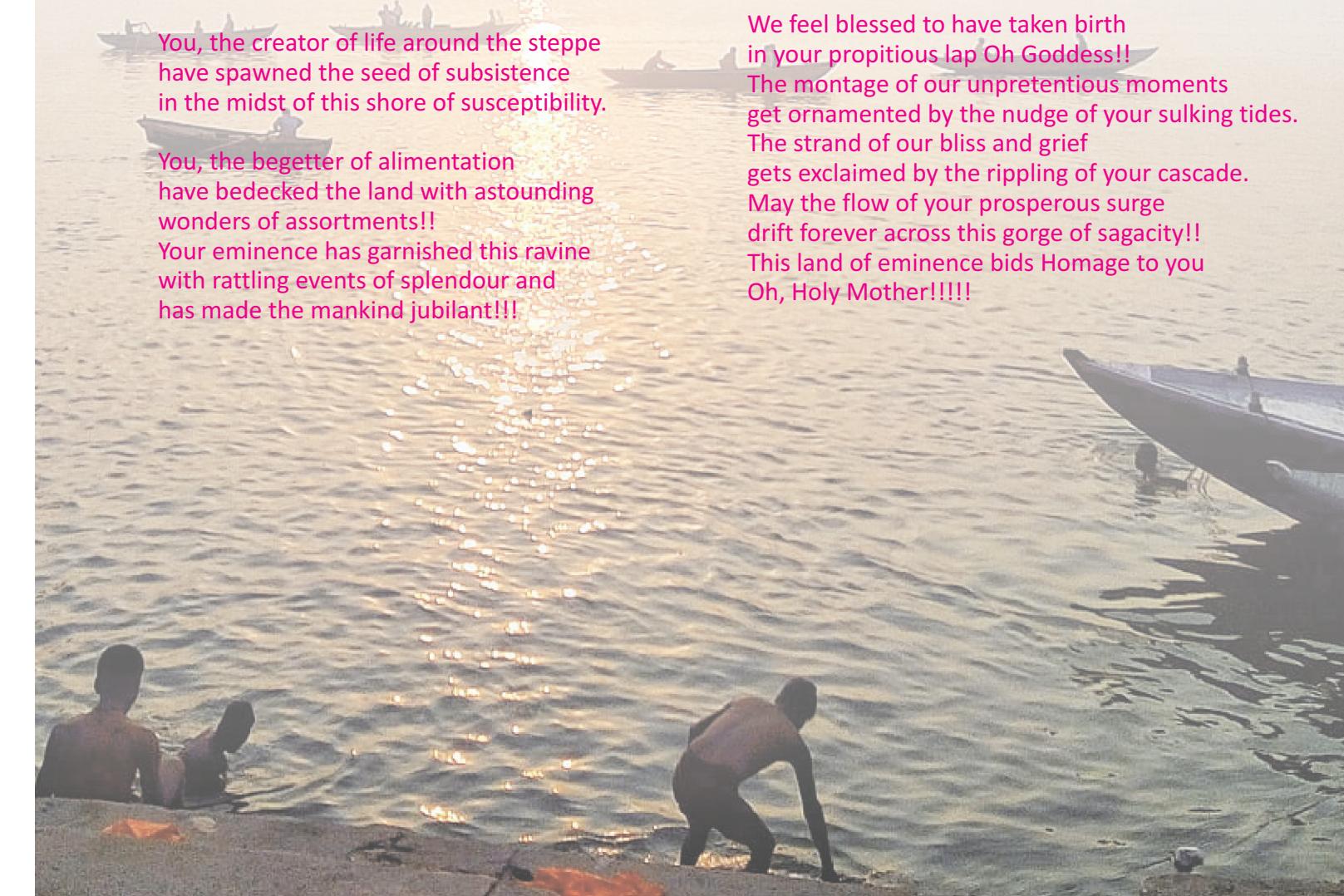
The waves of your sternum keep oscillating
through the presence of my being.
The hymns of your sanctity keep resonating
through the rampart of my vivacity!
The fragrance of your waves keeps proliferating
through the realms of my cognizance.
You have nurtured me in your glorified breast
Oh, Sacred Mother!!!!
Hence,
The sense of my existence is deficient
without the presence of your exalted benediction.

You, the creator of life around the steppe
have spawned the seed of subsistence
in the midst of this shore of susceptibility.

You, the begetter of alimentation
have bedecked the land with astounding
wonders of assortments!!
Your eminence has garnished this ravine
with rattling events of splendour and
has made the mankind jubilant!!!

The Mud which builds our huts,
is gleaned out of your basin.
The Water which quenches our thirst
is your precious boon.
The Grains which plenish our hunger
get affluence by your touch.
Every single nuance of our lives remains adorned
by your exquisite glint oh Mother!
Hence,
The melody of our advent and exequit
gets acquainted by your eternal stream!!!

We feel blessed to have taken birth
in your propitious lap Oh Goddess!!
The montage of our unpretentious moments
get ornamented by the nudge of your sulking tides.
The strand of our bliss and grief
gets exclaimed by the rippling of your cascade.
May the flow of your prosperous surge
drift forever across this gorge of sagacity!!
This land of eminence bids Homage to you
Oh, Holy Mother!!!!



Four Literary Geniuses Circumscribing

MY INTELLECTUAL ENTITY

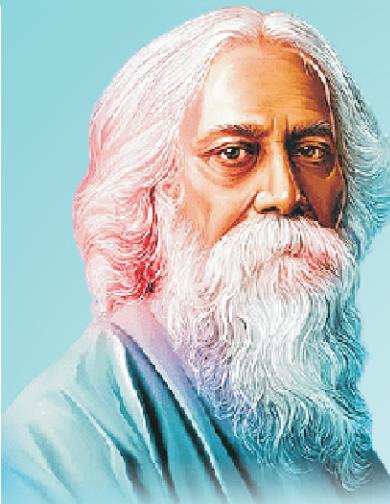
The stream “Humanities” particularly is not considered to be a clever choice for pursuing Higher studies by most of the people of our sub-continent. Science appears to be a much more practical and feasible career choice for the majority of the population. I myself have received many inquisitive glances and inquiries for choosing Humanities in class 11th after scoring 96% marks in CBSE Class 10 Boards! That's a quite natural and inevitable repercussion of making uncommon academic choices but I personally don't regret the decision at all as Humanities is the stream which actually fascinates me. The pivotal force behind my opting Humanities in class 11 was pursuing Literature for my higher studies. Literature has always been my favourite realm, the domain where I am completely comfortable and acquainted. But, literature for me is not limited or constrained among a few languages of cultures. For me literature is universal and the only intimate language or medium which can connect people across the whole world indiscriminate of caste, race, religion, ethnicity, gender and so on. So, in this article, I will showcase four of my all-time favourite writers across different countries, languages and styles. This can be considered as an auspicious offering to all of my readers from my side as a scholar of World Literature.



William Shakespeare: This name is most probably recognised by all the literature admirers across the world. (Even the laymen who may not conceive any knowledge or interest about literature) Many people must not have read Shakespeare directly but they must have surely heard “To be, or Not to be; That is the Question” at least once in their lives, such is the intoxication of The Bard on all of us. Shakespeare is one of the most important playwrights, poets and overall literary persons to me for various reasons. Firstly, the intricacy of his language, the free-flowing usage of Iambic Pentameter and the delicate treatment of poetry are some of the instances which distinguish him from all other playwrights or poets of his contemporary time and even modern literature. Secondly, the handling of characters, Shakespeare has created enormous memorable characters across his huge body of work. From the amiable Robin Goodfellow or Puck (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) to the hypnotizing Prospero (*The Tempest*). From the fantabulous Mark Antony (*Julius Caesar*) to the haunting Lady Macbeth (*Macbeth*). [Don't forget “Hamlet”, the uncrowned king of **Shakespearean Tragedy**] All these characters have left long-lasting or everlasting (to be more specific) impacts on the hearts and minds of millions of readers and scholars across the World since centuries. (The real number is uncountable actually). The third and most significant element which makes Shakespeare so special to me is his surprising and refreshing Contemporariness. After passing so many centuries, his writings are still so contemporary and relevant in today's literary and practical society. Some of his most significant works include: Hamlet, Macbeth, Othello, Julius Caesar, Romeo and Juliet, Antony and Cleopatra, The Tempest and A Midsummer Night's Dream. (Don't forget Shakespearean Sonnets)

“This above all: to thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.”

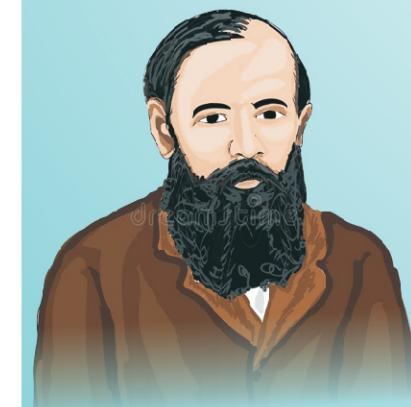
— William Shakespeare, Hamlet



1.Rabindranath Tagore: If one name represents Indian Literature in its full stature, then is undoubtedly Tagore! The first Indian, Asian and also non-European to be awarded the Noble Prize in literature. (Tagore is the one and only Indian to be awarded the Noble Prize for Literature since 1913). He is that one literary person who had enough courage and self-respect to reject or return his Knighthood after the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. His poetries, short stories, novels, dramas and songs have inspired multiple generations of literature admirers. For me, he is the eternal friend, philosopher, guide without whom I can't survive may be, Tagore's poetry has turned into a necessity for my wellbeing, it can be allegorised as my intellectual, mental and emotional Oxygen. There is not a single day that I pass without reading and thinking about Tagore. His writing style, philosophical outlook and unending mystics makes him so essential and contemporary to me. He has created some of the most powerful and dignified Female characters in the history of Indian Literature including: Binodini from **Chokher Bali**, Bimola from **Ghare Bairey**, Damini from **Chaturanga**, Labanya from **ShesherKabita**, Ela from **Char Adhyay**, Charulata from **Nashtanirh** and many more. All these qualities make him the Eternal Gurudev of Indian and Asian Literature.

Some of his important works: Novels- Chokher Bali, Ghare Bairey, Gora, Chaturanga, ShesherKabita. Short Stories: Postmaster, Kabuliwala, Chhuti, Manihara, Samapti and many more. Drama: Raktakarabi (Red Oleanders), TasherDesh (The Kingdom of Cards), Dakghor (The Postoffice) and many more. (Don't forget Tagore's poetry and intricate songs, which are perfect examples of harmony among musicality and poetry.)

“Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high
Where knowledge is free
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
By narrow domestic walls
Where words come out from the depth of truth
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection”



Fyodor Dostoyevsky: When it comes to Russian Literature, the first two names which strike our minds are Leo Tolstoy and Anton Chekhov, two of the brightest names of Russian literature. Tolstoy's novels (Anna Karenina, War and Peace for instance) and Chekhov's enormous number of brilliant short stories and plays have ornamented the world of Russian Literature since centuries now. But one name which often goes unpronounced is of Fyodor Dostoyevsky, the originator of Modern European Existentialist literature. Dostoyevsky's writing explores human psyche, socio-political and spiritual atmosphere with a variety of Philosophical and Religious themes. Some times I get confused while reading Dostoyevsky whether I am reading a fiction or a detailed work of Human Psychopathology by a renowned Psychologist!! Famous philosopher and psychologist Fredrick Nietzsche once described Dostoyevsky as, “The only Psychologist from whom I

1.have anything to learn.” The element of Dostoyevsky's literature which fascinates me the most is the amalgamation of existentialism, mysticism and Psychic exploration. His characters are often so intricately crafted that they don't seem to be fictitious characters and start haunting us as living beings. Whenever I suffer any emotional turmoil, whenever I am in a grief-stricken condition, I keep going back to Dostoyevsky to be pacified as he is the only person who understands my emotional and psychic ailments so effortlessly. Every time I turn some of the pages of his novella Notes from Underground, tears conquer my eyes and my mind shivers in utter amazement, “How can a person of 19th century who died in 1881, about 123 years before I was born, can understand my feelings so intricately.” When I put down the book, what remains with me is Dostoyevsky's spiritual essence and an obscure confusion!!!

Some of his important works include: Crime and Punishment, The Idiot, The Brother Karamazov (which is considered by many literary critics and readers to be the best novel ever written in the history of World Literature) and Notes from Underground.

**“Pain and suffering are always inevitable for a large intelligence and a deep heart.
The really great men must, I think, have great sadness on earth.”**

— Fyodor Dostoevsky, Crime and Punishment



1.Franz Kafka: I am a kind of reader and scholar who doesn't have biasness or favouritism towards any particular writer or language in literature but still if somebody asks me “who is my most favourite writer of all”, then it must be Franz Kafka!!! My most intimate and personal writer whom I will prefer over any other writer across languages. Kafka was born as a German speaking Bohemian short story writer and novelist who lived in Prague for most of his intellectually productive years. He is considered to be one of the most important names in the history of German literature. I consider Kafka to be the harbinger of Modern European literature for several reasons. The primary reason behind this supposition is that his writing consists of an amalgamation all the central elements of Modern Literature including: **Existentialism, Alienation, Mysticism, Nihilism, individualism, Surrealism** and a perfect combination of **Romanticism and Materialism**. He is also considered to be the brightest name in the origination of Surrealistic literature. His novels are very hard to recapitulate and even creepy in some instances may be. The basic plot of his novels travel from Realism to Surrealism or from Conscious realm to the sub-conscious realm. His characters are often confused and bewildered across the novel (some of the important characters include- Gregor Samsa from **Metamorphosis**, Joseph K from **The Trial**, K from **The Castle** etc.) and after completing his novels or novellas we, the readers too often reside in an obscure, ambiguous, bewildering realm!!! That's the magic of Kafka. Reading at least one paragraph of Kafka every day gives me peace of mind and the strength to accommodate with the bewildering world.

Some of the important works of Kafka: Novels- The Trial, The Castle, Amerika- The Man who Disappeared.

Longer Stories: Metamorphosis, The Judgement, The Hunger Artist, In the Penal Colony, The Country Doctor etc.

Kafka's Flash fictions and are also important to understand his psychic exploration and don't forget about Kafka's Diary and letters!!!

“There they lay, but not in the forgetfulness of the previous night. She was seeking and he was seeking, they raged and contorted their faces and bored their heads into each other's bosom in the urgency of seeking something, and their embraces and their tossing limbs did not avail to make them forget, but only reminded them of what they sought”

— Franz Kafka, Franz Kafka's **The Castle**



CORONA AND HUMANITY: A WIDER PERSPECTIVE

Humanity's ego had negativity reached its extreme and prior to the beginning of the new decade. Technological advancements in the field of automobiles, pharmaceuticals, electronics and others had rocketed to sky high levels during the last decade. People had all the technology that they could even dream of. The environment as usual was neglected by one and all was in a horrendous condition with a huge spike in pollution levels with the release of CO₂, NO₂ and SO₂. Animal population had reached so low that even national parks and zoos did not have adequate numbers. Then came our 'Destroyer' and nature's 'Saviour', the 'Novel Coronavirus:COVID-19'. Nature is self-reliant, something which humans have failed to understand till date. Nature can take care of itself when exploited to certain extent. But the entire scenario changes when some humans try to satisfy their greed by mercilessly exploiting the nature, the price of which has to be paid by innocent others. Landslides due to excessive mining, floods due to deforestation are the worst hits. Even this COVID-19 pandemic with its destructive potential is a form of nature's wrath and retaliation which has been unreleased due to the eating habitual of some people and the remaining world is suffering for it. Even then the technological advancements of mankind stand futile especially when the world crucially needs it.

The lockdowns across countries has kept people in their homes for nearly five whole months putting a halt to all activities around the globe, providing nature the time it significantly needs for recuperation. Prior to the pandemic those animals which were long back driven out from their shelters due to the expanding urbanisation have also come back. This even includes the dolphins in the Marine Drive of Mumbai, deer in the holy mountain of Tirupati, even rhinos in Guwahati. Even people who used to travel around the world for their profession have also returned home. Having no time for themselves and their families, they have turned towards their beloved ones and their health and are having a great time altogether.

While there have been positive impacts on the live of some, there also have been negative impacts on the lives of many. Most of these disadvantaged belong to the lower sections of the society which includes daily wage workers, household help and farmers among many. There are even people who had just begun to settle in their careers when this lightning struck them. Unemployment has rooted itself even more than ever. With no forms of work available in India especially, they are being forced back into their villages further slowing our country in the great race of nations. One of the fields which was unexpectedly and heavily affected is the field of education across the globe. Schools, colleges, universities have been forced to shut down due to the increased chance of spreading of the virus and the students had to return to their countries and homes to prevent the disease.



The online classes which have been introduced to carry forward education has put up its own set of challenges. Passive learning among the students and inexperience among the teachers are the major problems. Debut of certain teachers and students to this online form of education has resulted in this problem. The students are not able to absorb what is being taught due to the lack of interaction with their fellow classmates as well as teachers. Another problem is mainly concentrated among the people of the lower sections due to their inability to afford the devices required. However, to tackle this complication, the Government of India has launched certain TV channels for education specifically.

As a coin has two sides, similarly, this lockdown has also given a boost to several other industries and sectors which the normal conditions were unable to. E-commerce and pharmaceutical are the most successful ones. These industries have been given such a great boost that their services are being spread far and wide. Electronics sector which had shown a slow start initially, has also started to expand its sales. Through the food industry has had a setback due to no dine-ins possible, however home delivery of food also helped restaurants from shutting off down. With no sport being played with a live audience across the world, major sporting tournaments like Olympics has also been postponed. The organisations involved have also incurred huge losses.

The only thing that has benefited from this lockdown is our body and the environment. People who once never had time for their body now have nothing to do and have taken up various programmes for the benefit of their body. People have taken up yoga and various exercises for strengthening their core. The environment which neglected the most has made us realise the consequences of doing so. This time is also helping the environment in recovering from the mess that we humans have created is a great relief for environmentalists. Air quality has reached such high levels that it had not reached in over a decade. Due to the closure of factories, the water quality has also surged in an encouraging manner.

Nature always gives us certain signals whenever we overdo something, it is when we ignore these signals that mankind runs into such devastating pandemics and epidemic. Climate change is one such signal, if we do not attend to the signal, then no one knows what mother nature has her sleeve for us this time. As said wisely by Wangari Maathai, "The environment and the economy are really both sides of a coin. If we cannot sustain the environment, we cannot sustain ourselves." We need to take care of nature in the same way we take care of our parents for it is this very parent that has always helped man in all endeavours.

