



# Meraki

Unleashing knowledge, one headline at a time.

This issue:

Student stories

Narrative stories

Creative writing

Articles

Poetry, art and  
more...



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## A Creative Rollercoaster

As we progress through the academic year, this edition of Meraki features a wonderful blend of creativity and wonderfully written articles. Through this edition, you may become informed about fast fashion and its impact, but also expect a few action-packed fantasy stories to spruce things up!

Our magazine aims to showcase the brilliance that can be found within our student body.

We hope you enjoy every bit of this edition!

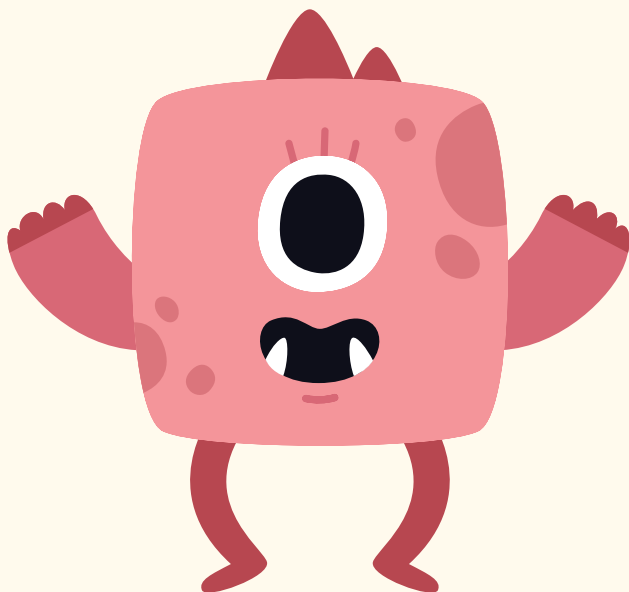


- Dhriti Mukherjee  
School Editor

# How To Catch a Monster

1. First, keep the toy filled cage ready.
2. Then, put the sleeping potion in the chocolate milk.
3. Next, keep the chocolate milk outside his den.
4. After that, hide in the bushes and wait for him to drink the milk.
5. Finally, put the sleeping monster in the cage and take him home.

- Students of Grade 1



# VISIT TO MY HOMETOWN

In the year 2024, during my summer vacation, I went to Gwalior and Shivpuri to spend the holidays with my great-grandmother and family. I went there with my father, mother and grandmother. My great-grandmother and family live on a big farm. In Gwalior, I played a lot with my sister, talked a lot with both my grandmothers, read a book and went out frequently with my grandfather.

When we went to Shivpuri the first thing I did was gardening. There is so much space there to run around; and that I did to my heart's content! We have Sheru, the German Shepherd; Max and Sweety, the Indie dogs and Dika, the duck at the farm. I was afraid of Sheru but enjoyed playing with Sweety and Dika. I chased Dika the duck every time and he would run all around. I even drove the tractor and trolley with my Uncle Jaspal. One day I went and sat on the tractor without telling anyone and shifted the gear lever. The tractor suddenly moved forward and I got really scared. My parents heard the noise and rushed out but did not scold me as I had realized my mistake. What I had done was very dangerous. The next morning I went to herd goats with my mom and the shepherd who had come on the farm with his herd. We celebrated my cousin's birthdays that day.

I even went to the town fair with my grandfather and parents. We sat on some rides and relished local food. On the farm I enjoyed taking a bath in the open field with water coming from the borewell. I went for walks with Mom and my grandmother frequently and even went cycling with my aunt Shiva. We went to visit a family in the village with my grandfather on his motorcycle where I made some friends - Pihu, Ishu and Betu. Even though the weather was extremely hot I really enjoyed the village-life holiday with my family. I was very sad when we were leaving Shivpuri to come back to Goa, but I was also happy to go back and meet my teachers and friends.

- Aryaveer Singh, Grade 3B

# Our day at the zoo!

One day, Skye and I went to the Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary with our parents. We enjoyed walking around and looking at all the animals.

After a while my parents and Skye's mother sat down to eat a picnic snack, but Skye's father took us ahead to see a particular deer.

On the way we started to feel hungry so Skye's father opened his bag to give us chips and juice. Suddenly, out of the blue, a huge monkey jumped out of the trees and grabbed the bag; he wanted all the chips for himself! We screamed our lungs out while Skye's father wrestled with the monkey. Finally, Skye's father threw Skye's juice packet to the monkey to distract him, and then we snuck away with the bag. It was all a nice adventure.

So if you are going to Bondla, watch out for the monkeys!

- Clara Lopes, Grade 1





# The Garden

A descriptive article featuring the five senses.

So sweet **smelling** was the fragrance from a nearby garden that I couldn't resist visiting it. When I reached there, I **noticed** there were flowers with vivid colors all over. There were orchids, roses, marigolds, jasmines, daisies, lilies, irises, and more. A feast to the eyes indeed! There were also huge old trees, spread out like canopies. I **spotted** a gazebo with a lovely seating, right in the middle of the garden. I **saw** there were many people in the park taking a walk, and jogging. I could **hear** some of them chatting, children playing with their pets, and some enjoying the rides. Squeals of laughter and friendly barks filled and **echoed** in the air. I also had a beautiful breath-taking **view** of the sunset, and **tasted** some special aromatic tea from the kiosk that the garden is famous for. Soon it was time to leave as it started getting dark. At the exit, I found a florist selling exotic bouquets. I held my favourite, **sweet-smelling** pastel-colored roses, plucked from the garden itself. I took a bunch at home for my mom, knowing she is fond of flowers. This place is called Walkers Garden Centre, and I look forward to **seeing** it again.

- Sasha Alvares, Grade 4B

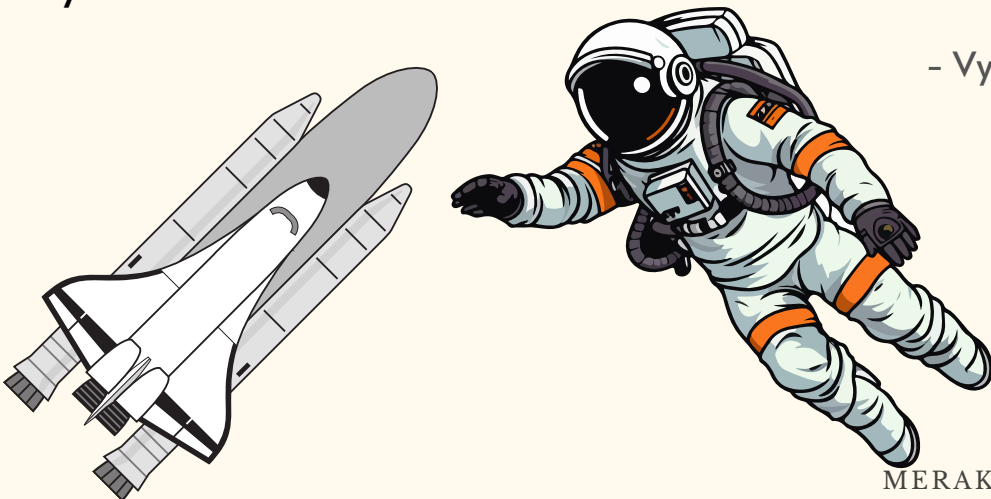


# NASA Astronauts Stuck in Space!

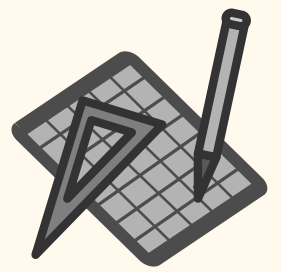
With the Starliner Space Capsule's leakage problems and broken thrust, Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore are stuck in the ISS (International Space Station), orbiting around the Earth. They reached the ISS on June 6th and were expected to return by June 15th. NASA's main reason for sending these two astronauts into space was for the test flight of Boeing's Starliner Space Capsule. NASA says that they will be in orbit until they fix their capsule, or another way is to attach the two astronauts to a mission that is scheduled to launch in September, and return them to earth in February 2025. The name of the space capsule that is scheduled to launch in September is SpaceX Dragon capsule. If SpaceX Dragon is used, the Starliner craft would return to Earth without any crew, but under computer control.

It sounds scary that these astronauts are in space for such a long time. However, Sunita Williams claims to be having a great time in space. She said, 'I am enjoying the environment, eating that great space food and being able to look out the window.' However, being in space is affecting their health, too! It reduces their muscle mass affecting their health. They both are the most qualified astronauts at NASA, so NASA will do the best to help the astronauts recover whenever they are back. Lets hope that they come back soon to their HOMES!

- Vyas Kumbhar, Grade 5B



# My Matharon



On the day before the Matharon in school I had a Math quiz practice known as Matharon practice.

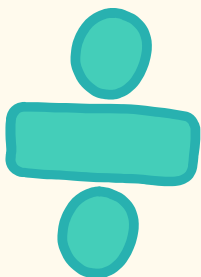
When I got into class, we sat House-wise. My other team mates and I started practising. We were given many stimulating and challenging questions but we were on top of our game and were feeling confident.

That night, my mother printed out sheets for me to practice and on the other hand, my father and I brainstormed all the questions on a phone call. We covered the practice worksheets and did a lot of mental Math.

Finally, the day arrived! I was ready for whatever questions came my way. When it was time to be on stage, I walked confidently and sat in my seat. When it was our turn, it was either Yuven or me giving most of the answers, which were all correct.

Once the quiz was over, the results were announced from last to first place. In 4th place was Phoenix, Hercules was 3rd, Polaris came 2nd and the 1st place was bagged by none other than PEGASUS!

I was ecstatic beyond words to be part of the winning team. When I met my Mom, she jumped for joy and treated my sister and me to ice cream!



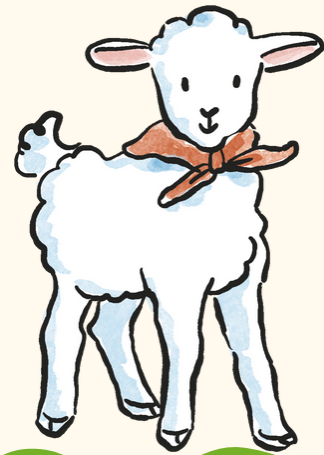
Avyan Kumar, Grade 4B

# COMPLETE THE POEM!

The students of Grade 1 participated in an activity in which they had to complete the poem after being given the first two lines as a prompt.

Mary had a little lamb  
He loved to eat bread and jam  
Once he went to the fair  
And brought home a big bear.  
The bear and he were best friends  
This is where the poem ends.

- Skye Mascarenhas , Grade 1B



Mary had a little lamb  
He loved to eat bread and jam  
Then they got a big, fat cat  
The cat wore a funny hat  
The cat loved to play in the garden  
But she always used to say pardon.

- Nathan Dias , Grade 1B

Mary had a little lamb  
He loved to eat bread and jam  
The lamb was friends with a cat  
Who wore funny, colourful hats  
They went for a ride in a shiny car  
To McDonald's not very far.

- Hailey de Barros, Grade 1B



# My Journey Through Singing

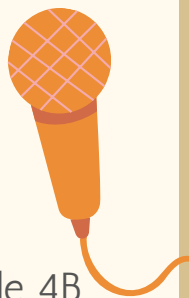
My journey through singing is hard. You need to practise everyday if you want to be a singer. I practise everyday and also go for singing classes.



I want to be a singer and let my voice be heard by everyone. I like singing a lot and the teachers are so sweet. If you want to be a singer you have to select a song that you can sing.



You can also go to music classes so you can improve your singing more. But if you don't like singing you don't have to do it. You may like something else like football or dancing. Everyone likes something, but I like singing and this is my journey through it.



- Ravika Malhotra, Grade 4B

## What is it like living in another country?

Good afternoon, Teachers and my friends  
My name is Aurika and I am from Ukraine. Our famous food is Borshch which is made of beetroot and cabbage. We have lovely dances and songs in my country. My country is very beautiful and has lots of snow. But now there is a big fight going on and my family and I have come to Goa. My Daddy was once in that fight for many months. Then my Daddy said he wanted to go back to his family and so he came home. I love Goa very much because it has nice beaches and sunshine. But I miss Ukraine because my aunty is in Ukraine and I miss her.



- Aurika Arakelian, Grade 1B



# Dengue

This is an informative chart made by a student from Grade 5 about the mosquito-borne illness, dengue. It elaborates on the causes, precautions, symptoms, and treatment of dengue.

**CAUSES**

Dengue is an infectious disease that gets transmitted through mosquitoes.

**CRIMINAL AIDS**

Dengue is caused by a virus from the Flaviviridae family.

It is the female mosquito (*Aedes Aegypti*) also known as the Tiger mosquito that is responsible for transmitting the Dengue virus and this mosquito also transmits the Chikungunya virus and the Zika virus.

The mosquito bites an infected person and then gets infected. When this same mosquito bites another human, the virus gets passed on to that person.

The incubation period of the virus that infects a human is between 9-10 days.

**Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral infection, found in tropical climates and urban areas.**

**SYMPTOMS**

A. If the patient has severe dengue then the symptoms are:

- High grade fever
- Nausea/vomiting
- Pain behind the eyes
- Joint pain
- Bone pain
- Muscle pain
- Headaches
- In very severe cases bleeding from the gums & nose.

B. If the patient has a mild case of dengue then the symptoms are:

- aches and pains
- nausea / vomiting
- rash

**TREATMENT**

a) There is no specific dengue treatment available yet.

b) Over the counter medicines like pain killers and Paracetamol can help reduce pain and fever.

c) A patient should also drink plenty of fluids to be hydrated.

d) Avoid greasy, fatty and spicy foods. Stick to light and easy to digest foods.

e) In case of severe dengue symptoms, the patient should be admitted to hospital and given I.V fluids and electrolytes.

f) Efforts should be made to keep the infected person from being bitten again.

**PRECAUTIONS**

a) Control the mosquito population and avoid getting bitten by dengue mosquitoes.

b) Stay in a well screened home.

c) Avoid going outside at dawn or dusk when mosquitoes are the most active.

d) Wear protective clothing.

e) Use mosquito repellents.

f) Reduce a mosquito's habitat by:

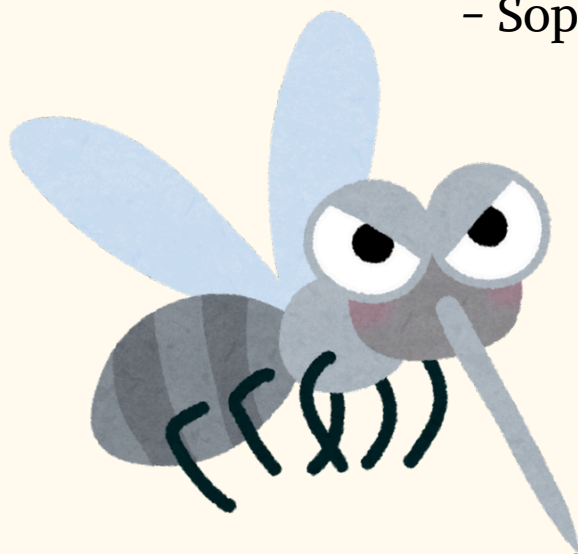
- Eliminating standing water.
- Changing water collection pans for potted plants.
- Keeping rain gutters and drains clean.
- Cleaning bird baths and pet bowls.

**FACTS**

The first dengue vaccine - Dengvaxia was invented in 2015, but its usage has still not been approved in India.

The W.H.O (World Health Organisation) has stated that the vaccine is still not the best way to prevent dengue.

- Sophie Anand, Grade 5A



# SAFETY WITH ELECTRICITY

An excerpt from a speaking activity conducted in Grade 1

Good morning, Teachers and friends.

Electricity is very useful for our lives. It can be good or bad, just like this coin which has 2 sides. Today I'm going to throw light on safety measures to follow when using electricity. In my chart there are many pictures. One girl is putting a fork in the plug; she should not do this. Another girl is using a wet cloth to wipe the table lamp when it is on. She should switch off the lamp and then wipe it with a dry cloth. A boy is attaching 2 broken wires together. He must call an electrician. A third girl is putting her hands on broken wire; she must stay away from it. Yet another girl is putting her finger into the plug and she will get a shock. She should stay away from it and play with toys instead. Wherever you see this sign that says 'CAUTION', you must stay away. If you follow these rules, you will become a superhero. Would you like to be a superhero?



- Delita Dmello, Grade 1B

MERAKI | AUGUST-OCTOBER 24



# Grade One

## Speaking Activity

Good afternoon, everyone!  
My favourite book is called Rise of the Rogues by Beth Davies. I love it very much because it has Batman and speaks about all the villains. My mother used to read me this book at lunch time. Now I can read it by myself. I have read it so many times that I have memorised the book. My mum also has memorised the book. One of the pictures is a fight between the superhero team and the rogues. At the end it has a quiz about the story. I can answer all the questions. I will never get bored of this book.

- VIVAAN ANGLE  
GRADE 1B



Good afternoon, teachers and my friends.  
My favourite book is 365 questions and answers on the Universe. I love it because it has information of the universe. It has beautiful pictures which make the book more nice. You can learn about space and scientists from this book. My dad reads this book with me and I love spending this time with him.

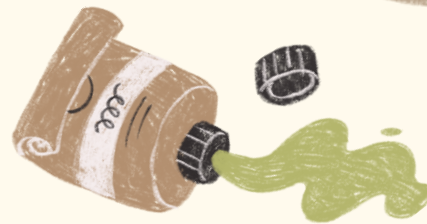
- RISH NAIK  
GRADE 1B



# Art Corner!



- Aarvi Kumbhar, Grade 3B



- Riva Patel, Grade 5A

# The Garden Drama

One morning I heard a rustle of leaves falling while I woke up. I saw a postcard on my bed-side table. I wondered who could have kept it. While I reached out to grab the post my telephone rang. Tring! Tring! I tumbled over my dog's wet squishy toy while reaching across my room to answer the call. It was my brother, Rain. He said, "Alex, hurry and come out to the garden! It's an emergency!". Before I could ask him any further questions, the door bell rang. Ting tong! Ting tong! Worried, I rushed to get the door and there was Rain waiting outside the door. He turned me upside down with his broad muscular arms and took me to the centre of the garden. I could see the world upside down. I could see my relatives, neighbours, friends and family. I couldn't believe it was real; maybe I was still asleep and dreaming. My brother put me down where there was a cake on the table while all gathered around me and sang a Happy Birthday song. I had forgotten my own birthday! And how silly my brother was to embarrass me while I faced everyone in my pajamas! I happily cut my birthday cake, because who says No to cake?! While I was to take a piece of the cake, my naughty brother pushed not only me, but also my friends into the pool. By the time I realised this, almost everyone including aunt Clara were in the pool. My brother jumped in, too, with a splash! Oh! What fun it was seeing everyone enjoy splashing water on one and other. All the madness my brother had planned for me. My birthday was a lot of fun and I enjoyed the day to the fullest.

- Eliza Somani, Grade 4B



# Poetry

## Night

At night when the sun has gone  
and the moon and stars have set  
out in the cool sky, dark and wet,  
all of the wild and scary creatures come out.



While the moon shines because of the sun,  
the wild creatures try to find their prey  
but it is hard for them because they slide away.

Whenever you hear a rumble at night,  
It is because of a grumble  
in the jungle.



- Samara Gurbaxani, 4B

## My Mother

I do not bother, because I have my mother.  
She is the best of the best.  
She cooks delicious food, I know,  
And helps my love for learning grow.  
She plays with me in the rain,  
Even when she is in pain.

She cheers me up when I am sad,  
And shouts at me when I am bad.  
In her eyes I see the star,  
Her love for me can reach so far.  
Mom, I love you and I know that you love me too.  
My mom is the best of the best!



- Rivaan Naik, 3A

# The Mystery of the Lost Hero

“Cleaning day,” sighed Celeste heavily. She and her sister Thalia used to clean their house once every two weeks, quicker than they could imagine. They liked cleaning, but they never looked forward to climbing up the ‘ladder-of-the-haunted’, which led to the attic. They cleaned their house and as soon as they started, the joy of cleaning came to an end. Thalia and Celeste shivered at the thought of climbing the creaky ladder stairs, and shuddered at the sight of miniature creatures that lurked behind dusty carpets, worn out clothes and box upon box of old items. With a deep breath, they headed up the ladder, opened the door and went inside. Celeste turned on the light which was very dim but showed mercy to a bit of light. Suddenly Thalia slipped over an old scarf and crashed on the floor. After Celeste helped her up, she found an old frayed piece of paper.

They picked it up curiously and left the attic to ponder the mysteries that this paper held. As they headed downstairs, they unrolled it. It was a map. It was patched and felt really thin between their fingers. It smelt of saffron and it was clear that this piece of paper had been through a lot. It had a large ‘1998’ on top. Intrigued, they traced this date with excited hands. Suddenly, they were teleported to an unknown land.

They landed with a soft thump and the two sisters stared. They had landed on grass the colour of purple grapes. Wait, what? Purple grass? They were amazed at this sight and eager to see more. Looming above them, casting an enormous shadow was a mountain, the biggest they had seen. As they gawked at this majestic part of nature, a rumble shook the ground. “Celeste, I’m scared,” cried Thalia. “Don’t worry. Everything will be all right,” said Celeste gently.

As the ground shook once more, the rocks of the mountain started to crumble. Fear didn’t hesitate to possess the girls’ minds and bodies. They went closer, taking their time and as they edged closer, they realized it was a cave. They decided to rest in its shelter and plonked down on the bed of earth. Suddenly, a voice echoed across the cave stabbing and plundering their hearts. As they stood there wondering what to do, a woman stepped forward. As the girls realized who it was they clapped their hands and jumped in glee. It was the greatest superhero, Alexa Laylande, who had been missing for 13 years.

She had saved their country from days and hours of peril and disrepute. Alexa said, “I purposely went missing to see what you citizens would do but nobody bothered to come and look for me, so I hid some special objects all around the country including the map which would lead them here. Kudos to both of you for finding it as well as me. I really appreciate it.”

Overjoyed, Thalia and Celeste went with Alexa back to their country along with the map. They decided to call her the Lost Hero. They promised her that they would visit her, and the two sisters continued to spread word about Alexa Laylande. Perhaps they still visit her. Maybe the map is also hidden there, within the mysteries of the attic.

- Saanchi Kelkar, Grade 7A

# Sustainable Agriculture

Sustainable agriculture is an essential approach for meeting the growing demand for food while preserving the environment and natural resources. With population growth and climate change placing pressure on food systems, farmers are turning to innovative practices that boost productivity without harming ecosystems.

Key among these is precision farming, which uses technology like drones, sensors, and GPS to monitor crop and soil health. This allows farmers to use water, fertilizers, and pesticides more efficiently, reducing waste and environmental impact while increasing yields.

Another important practice is organic and regenerative farming, which focuses on improving soil health and biodiversity. Organic farming avoids synthetic chemicals, using natural methods like crop rotation and composting to maintain soil fertility. Regenerative farming builds on this by actively enhancing the soil through techniques like cover cropping and reduced tillage. These practices help sequester carbon, support ecosystems, and create more resilient farmlands.

Vertical farming is another breakthrough, particularly in urban areas. By growing crops in stacked layers within controlled indoor environments, vertical farms use less land and water than traditional farms, providing fresh, local produce with reduced transportation emissions. This method is increasingly popular in cities with limited space for agriculture.

While sustainable agriculture shows promise, there are challenges such as the high cost of new technologies and the need for greater market support. However, with continued investment in sustainable practices, agriculture can evolve to be more resilient and environmentally friendly, offering a brighter future for food security and the planet.

- Aradyha Sidhu, Grade 6A



# The Fast Fashion Economy: Why Your Wardrobe is a Bigger Threat to the Planet than Oil Spills

Are you a person who finds thrill in walking into a store and buying cheap apparel even though you don't need it? In other words, do you partake in fast fashion? As much as this clothing may benefit you and your bank account, our planet is left pleading to be saved from those very choices. The fast fashion industry, due to its disposable nature, has become a significant contributor to environmental degradation. Brands like Zara, H&M, and Shein produce new collections weekly, persuading consumers to buy more often. The very idea of wearing the garment once is what fuels the demand for new clothes, leading to a massive increase in production, and a decrease in our planet's health. The fashion industry is responsible for approximately 10% of global carbon emissions—more than all international flights and maritime shipping combined.

**Water waste and pollution:** The textile industry is one of the largest consumers of water throughout the world. Furthermore, the untreated wastewater is often discharged into water bodies, containing dyes, heavy metals, and microplastics, which threaten aquatic life.

**Carbon emissions and energy use:** The fast fashion industry is reliant on synthetic fibres, which increase its carbon footprint. Polyester production, for example, is highly energy-intensive, releasing nearly three times more carbon dioxide than cotton! Moreover, synthetic fibres can take hundreds of years to decompose.

**Waste and Landfill Overload:** Where are our clothes and apparel sent? Globally, many truckloads of textiles are sent to landfills or incinerators every waking second! In America alone, an estimated 11.3 million tons of textile waste – equivalent to 85% of all textiles – end up in landfills on a yearly basis.

I myself participated in a business event in school called NEXUS, alongside my peers, Vivaan Gracias, Vaishnavi Vedant, Xaria D'cruz and Leander Pinto. We had to create a business plan to sell organic, sustainable clothing. The event helped me gain a better understanding of the insights of fast fashion and its negative aspects while also making me rethink my consumption habits.

How can you help? Simple! Choose sustainable fashion! You can do this by adopting sustainable habits like buying second-hand clothing, giving old clothes to any nearby thrift stores, buying from sustainable brands or embracing the concept of a capsule wardrobe! The fast fashion industry poses a serious threat to our planet! Do your part and save the environment. There is always a hope for a better, and greener tomorrow!

- Anushka Kushe, Grade 9



# ORGANIC CHEMISTRY: THE SCIENCE OF LIFE

All living organisms contain molecules built to a common plan. Most chemical components of living organisms are organic carbon compounds, wherein carbon atoms covalently bond other carbon, hydrogen oxygen or nitrogen atoms. Organic compounds in living matter are extraordinarily varied and many are extremely large and complex. A single cell of common bacterium *Escherichia coli* contains about 5000 different types of organic compounds with 3000 different kinds of proteins and 1000 different kinds of nucleic acid, both being intricate and complex molecules.

There may be well over 50,000 different kinds of proteins which are simply complex organic molecules. In fact, each species of living organism has its own set of protein and nucleic acid organic molecules. However, the immense diversity of organic molecules in living organisms is reducible to a basic simplicity. This is because all the organic macromolecules of cells are composed of certain fundamental micromolecules, strung into long chains of 50 to many thousands of units. Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) is constructed from only four different kinds of micromolecules, the deoxyribonucleotides, arranged in a characteristic sequence. Protein consists of covalently linked chains of 20 different amino acids. These amino acids can be arranged in many sequences to form various proteins. Moreover, the few nucleotides that form all nucleic acids and the 20 amino acids that compose all proteins, are identical in all species, whether microbial, plant or animal. This fact strongly suggests that all living organisms possess a common ancestor.

Over 90% of solid organic matter of living organisms, containing many thousands of different organic macromolecules, is formed by just 36 simple micromolecules. So, we need to know the structure and properties of only relatively few organic compounds to understand the structure of biological macromolecules. Each of the simple micromolecules serves multiple functions in living cells. Amino acid molecules are the foundations of proteins and components of hormones, alkaloids, pigments, etc. Nucleotides comprise nucleic acid and are coenzymes, etc. With this, we can postulate certain dictates of organic nuclear logic: 1: Organic macromolecules share a similar, basic structure. 2: All living organisms are composed of similar foundational micromolecules, and seem to share a common ancestor. 3: Identifying an organism is possible by identifying its unique nucleic acids and proteins. 4: All organic biomolecules are specialised.

- Oishik Panda, Grade 10

# My Nexus Journey: Growing in Business and Lifeskills

My journey at Nexus, a Business Event for the Secondary section, was an exhilarating experience that pushed me beyond my limits. As a Grade 8 student, I was initially filled with excitement and anticipation, but the reality of the challenge soon set in.

One of the most significant challenges we faced was budgeting. Our scenario was to create handicrafts, which meant sourcing raw materials and ensuring cost-effective production. This required careful planning and a lot of discussions, but it also taught us valuable skills in financial management.

Time constraints posed another obstacle. With exams looming, we had only a week to prepare for Nexus. This meant working tirelessly, often late into the night, to ensure that our project was ready. Despite the pressure, the experience was incredibly rewarding, as it taught me the importance of time management and efficient work.

I had the opportunity to make candles, a skill I never thought I would acquire. The entire process was fun and interactive, and it was evident that our team was putting our brains to the test. Brainstorming ideas endlessly, we explored various possibilities and ultimately selected the most promising concept.

Before the event, I was brimming with enthusiasm. However, as we progressed through the preparations, the reality of the competition began to sink in. The pressure to succeed was immense, and there were moments when I doubted our abilities.

In the end, the experience was incredibly fulfilling. Not only did I learn valuable skills, but I also had the opportunity to work collaboratively with talented individuals. The sense of accomplishment I felt when we won the competition was indescribable. It was a testament to our hard work, dedication, and innovative thinking.

One of the most significant takeaways from Nexus was the realization that this event is a perfect fit for business-minded students. It provided a glimpse into the world of entrepreneurship, allowing us to understand the challenges, rewards and the immense potential of the business world.

My team, Phoenix House, consisted of Neel Patil, Sia Karmali, Praveena Rane, Rudraveer Singh and yours truly. Each of us played a crucial role in our success. Our dedication, creativity, and unwavering support helped us overcome the obstacles we faced.

As I reflect on my journey at Nexus, I am filled with a sense of pride and accomplishment. This experience has ignited my passion for business and inspired me to pursue my goals.

- Tia Virani,  
Grade 8

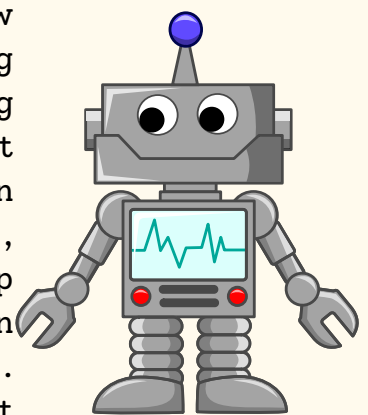
# THE OCEAN

The vibrant flowers unfurled their petals before me. Beside me, my best friend was chattering non-stop, but I wasn't paying attention. Instead, I was absorbed in the aroma of the crisp, fresh ocean air, the miniscule sand grains tickling my feet, and, of course, the ocean itself. I always marvelled at how a single body of water could connect the entire world and all its continents. I also pondered how this water body could sustain the Earth, why fish chose the oceans, rivers, and lakes as their home instead of other forms on the Earth's surface. But one thing I knew for sure: the ocean forged a special bond between my mom and me.

- Megan Zoe Dsouza, Grade 7A

## How an Algo Trading Robot Works

Imagine a stock market cyborg. This algorithmic trading robot scans the market constantly, like a hawk eyeing a mouse. It's programmed to identify specific patterns, like a stock price dipping below its average for the day with unusually high trading volume. This could signal a potential buying opportunity. The bot then checks its pre-set rules. If the price falls further than a certain threshold, the bot springs into action, automatically placing a buy order to scoop up shares at a discount. All this happens in milliseconds, faster than any human could react. The goal? To capitalize on fleeting market inefficiencies and snatch profits before they disappear. Of course, the market is a tricky beast, and what works today might flop tomorrow. But that's where the beauty of these bots lies - to be able to learn and adapt. Or maybe, work well enough that they do not need to adapt.



- Marcel Padgaonkar, Grade 10

# Right to Write!

Every child deserves a right  
A right to dream,  
A right to ask,  
A right to flow like a rushing stream,  
A right to learn,  
A right to live,  
A right to earn.  
Each kid has a brain like ours,  
It's up to you to make it shine and dance.  
It's not fair for us to learn while they still yearn.  
They have a right,  
A right to learn.  
A spark that ignites in every mind,  
Can light the fire that burns bright,  
In every house,  
In every child,  
Burns a light,  
A light to learn.



- Gaurang Vats, Grade 6A



# Dark Oxygen

For many years, it was believed that oxygen was only produced by photosynthesis in plants and algae. Moreover, about half the oxygen we breathe comes from the ocean, and it was believed that this oxygen was produced by marine plants through photosynthesis, which requires sunlight. However, in a recent discovery scientists found oxygen 4000 metres below sea level, where no sunlight can penetrate. This oxygen was termed “dark oxygen”.

The discovery was made in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, a vast area in the Pacific Ocean. This dark oxygen is produced by polymetallic nodules present on the seabed. These nodules are rock-like formations that form when dissolved metals in the seawater collect on fragments of shells or other debris; this process takes millions of years. These nodules are rich in lithium, cobalt and copper.

Moreover, these materials are not only used by companies to make batteries but also cause the nodules to act as batteries, which can produce electric currents on its surface. The electric current produced then splits the seawater into hydrogen and oxygen by a process called electrolysis, electrolysis is the breaking down or decomposition of an ionic compound by the passage of an electric current.

This discovery has again highlighted how little we know about our oceans and has caused scientists to revisit several questions such as ‘How did life really begin on earth?’. In conclusion, the discovery of dark oxygen has opened up new gates for research and exploration, showcasing how there is still much to learn and many secrets yet to be uncovered.

- Kanish Chimalkar, Grade 10



# The Magical World

In a quiet, tiny village, a girl named Amber lived alone in a small house. She was as pretty as the stars and had the spirit of a horse. Everyone knew her as a kind, intelligent and stunning girl. She was a sixteen-year-old girl who had lost her parents at the age of thirteen, which made her quite independent. Amber was a very curious girl for her age. She believed in magical creatures and magical people. She watched many cartoons, which contained magic and fairies and dragons. This is the reason she had always wanted to learn about magic or at least prove that it existed.

One pleasant morning, as Amber was sitting on a chair in her house reading a book about mythology, she heard a loud thud in the attic. She decided to check it out and she saw a bird hurt on the ground. One of its wings was broken. Amber decided to help. She saw something glowing under the wing of the bird. It turned out to be a piece of glowing paper! She opened the paper and in that paper was a map that was drawn, which led from her house to an unknown place. She applied some balm and left the bird to heal on the chair; then she decided to find this place. It didn't look very far but she packed some snacks just in case.

Amber had a really good feeling about this trip, She walked and walked but saw nothing. After twenty minutes of walking, she saw a cave and entered it. There were crystals everywhere and she saw a ladder leading to a door. She climbed up and saw a pathway and there was a glowing thing on it. It looked like a portal. The minute Amber entered it, she saw that the sky was a bright crystalline blue. The plants were pink in colour and there were creatures that looked so magical. She saw fairies and elves and dragons. Amber was speechless and felt utter joy. A fairy came and told Amber that this was where she had been born and that she was a magical being. She cried tears of happiness. Suddenly, she saw the most unexpected thing. It was her parents smiling at her and looking proud. Amber instantly started bawling. Her parents had put the map under the owl's wing and had sent the owl as a sign just so Amber could find this place and find her parents one day and know the truth.

Ever since then, she has lived in this magical world. She is the happiest she has ever been.. Sometimes, she visits her house and visits the bird that couldn't fly; occasionally, she took the bird with her to the magical world. Amber has learnt how to practise magic and has become one of the most powerful people in the magical world.

- Eranah D'Silva, Grade 7A





# The Economics of Influencer Marketing: How Posting Selfies Pays the Rent

As the growth of technology increases, so do different job opportunities. Social media has platforms where users post selfies, and videos and make blogs about various content, and by doing this they gain followers; these followers mean everything to them. We, as a group of people, went from posting selfies online on these platforms for just entertainment to making these selfies our job. The more followers and likes a user has the more the company of the platform pays them. These payments are in bulk and can be up to 10k USD per video or more. This is the reason many people even quit jobs such as working at fast food chains and started to post online with the hope that they become famous and start earning more money. Platforms such as Youtube, TikTok, and Instagram are the main ones that people earn on. Brands partner up with influencers by paying them money and free samples and in return, the influencer makes a video about promoting the company. This benefits companies as they don't have to pay enormous amounts to advertise in areas such as billboards because they can just pay famous influencers for a lower price and have higher chances of attracting more customers.

People often mistake celebrities for influencers. Celebrities make a living by working in jobs such as acting or singing, whereas influencers only focus on social media and nothing else. This is why anyone can become an influencer online. The rise of this new form of marketing has created an entire ecosystem of support industries. With the growth of advanced technology, new jobs come into offer such as video editors, social media managers, influencers, and even graphic designers. The fashion region has also immensely been affected by social media influencers as fans of influencers notice the type of clothing that the influencer wears and would want to have the same. Fashion and clothing companies then change their clothing models to those that are in trend because they know that fans would want the kind of clothes influencers to wear. The line between genuine content and paid promotion is blurred. This leads to concerns about authenticity. Followers start to doubt influencers that the products they promote are really worth it and not just to earn money. This brings us to doubt if influencers are to be trusted or not.

From an economic perspective, the influencer economy has contributed to the expansion of the gig economy. People now have options available to look for multiple income sources rather than traditional employment. This brings flexibility and creativity, but can also lead to instability and unpredictability. Influencer culture has created pressure to project an idealized life which can lead to unrealistic expectations among followers. Consumers who are followers are now spending more on products. As long as there are new trends on social media and there are followers to support, influencers will always be able to pay the rent.

- Arnav Bhatia, Grade 9



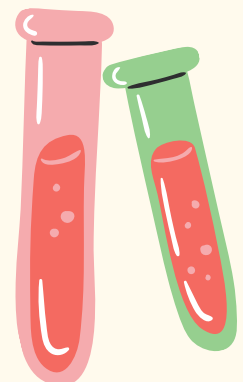
# My Experience on the Science Competition

Recently, our school had an inter-grade science competition in which my group was assigned the topic 'Ways to recycle food waste'. It's safe to say my group members and I were conflicted; we were slightly bewildered and were starting to lead towards the same old idea of composting! Until we stumbled on the concept of 'biofuels'.

To give a brief on the procedure, biofuel is to be made by putting together the food waste and an ethanol-alkoxide solution combined with used oil. The oil has to be heated to around 55–60°C and then can be incorporated into the mixture. Sure, it seems easy right? Wrong! We made many mistakes as students do, but with the help of our amazing teachers and our will to achieve our goal, we did it! We had successful results to a certain extent coming from our three types of raw materials used for the biofuels (proteins, greens and carbohydrates) with carbohydrates being our best and shockingly proteins being our worst.

Overall, my emotions throughout this experience were a rollercoaster ride. Stress, relief and stress all over again. However, as the group leader I could not be more proud of my group and the experiment we conducted. It gave us a sense of accomplishment as our hard work paid off.

– Simone Kenkre, Grade 9



# Should death row inmates replace animals in scientific testing?

When considering whether death row inmates should be offered the opportunity to participate in scientific testing as an alternative to animal testing, several critical factors come into play. The severity of the crime, the loss of innocent lives, the fairness of the trial, and the often-discriminatory application of the death penalty all influence the decision to sentence someone to death. Many argue that allowing a heinous criminal to circumvent or delay punishment is unjust. However, what if death row inmates were given the chance to volunteer for scientific testing, particularly in areas that could greatly benefit from human trials—such as pharmaceuticals, medical research, or product safety testing? This could reduce the need for animal testing and bolster the safety and reliability of consumer products. Animal testing's impact is staggering: over 110 million animals die annually in unsuccessful experiments, and global expenditure on such testing exceeds 14 billion dollars. A human alternative, particularly using individuals sentenced to death, could offer scientific advancement and an opportunity for redemption to the condemned. Despite this potential, reducing the severity of a death sentence in exchange for testing remains controversial. It might unintentionally encourage criminal behaviour by offering an 'escape route'. Additionally, public unease could rise in communities where such measures are implemented.

Should death row inmates replace animals in scientific testing?

Given that most countries have abolished the death penalty, finding a suitable alternative for the 110 million animals lost each year to testing remains challenging. Innovative options like using cell cultures, human tissues, computer models, and volunteer studies are attractive prospects. These approaches, though still evolving, show promise. Ultimately, while animal testing should be minimised, offering death row inmates as substitutes must be approached with caution. Expanding usage of advanced computer models, cell-based technologies and voluntary human trials appears to be a more ethically and logically sound alternative and could create an equilibrium of judicial rigour and humane treatment.

- Jezneel Gonsalves, Grade 9

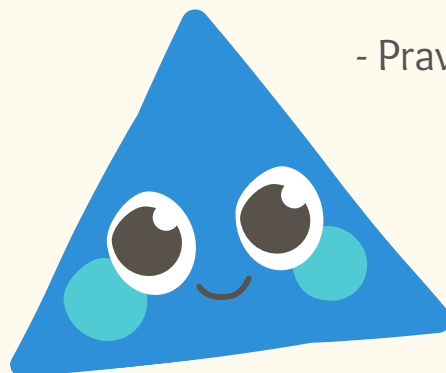
# Why the Triangle is the Strongest Shape in Structures

You may have heard that the triangle is the strongest shape, stronger than all four-sided polygons like the square, rectangle, and rhombus. If you have never heard about this, you must have seen it. Think about the everyday bridge you use; most of the time, this bridge will be made of these three-sided polygons.

In one of our Math classes, when we were learning about the properties of triangles, we conducted an activity to understand why the triangle is considered the strongest shape. In this activity, we were told to use straws and clay to assemble a pentagon, square, and triangle. After we were done, we were asked to put pressure on the vertex of each shape. The pentagon and square both deformed and slanted, but the triangle kept its shape and remained in its original form.

This happens because a square collapses even though the sides are of fixed length, and the angles of the square or rectangle can change even though the sides remain the same in length. However, if you look at a triangle, you will notice that you can't change the angles of a triangle without changing the length of the sides or constructing a new triangle.

This is the reason why triangles are used to make infrastructure like bridges and arches sturdier for daily use, making triangles the strongest polygon.



- Praveena Rane, Grade 7A

# Biosensors for Detection of Heavy Metals in Water

Biosensors are special tools that help us find harmful metals, like lead and mercury, in contaminated water. These metals can be very dangerous to our health, even in small amounts. Traditional methods to detect these metals often need expensive machines and experts to operate them. Biosensors offer a simpler and cheaper solution.

A biosensor has two main parts: a biological part and a detector. The biological part could be something like bacteria or enzymes. This part reacts with the heavy metals in the water. When it reacts, it sends a signal to the detector. This signal tells us if there are heavy metals in the water and how much of them are present.

One great thing about biosensors is that they are portable and easy to use. They can give quick results right where you are, without needing to send samples to a lab. This makes them very useful for checking water quality in places that are far from big cities. For example, people living in rural areas can easily test their water for safety without relying on distant laboratories.

Recent improvements have made biosensors even better. New materials and technologies have made them more sensitive, meaning they can detect even tiny amounts of heavy metals. This is important because even small amounts can be harmful. Scientists are constantly working to enhance these tools, making them more accurate and reliable.

Using biosensors for detecting heavy metals in water is a big step forward. They help us keep our water safe to drink and protect the environment from pollution. As technology advances, we can expect biosensors to become even more common and useful in our daily lives. This progress in biosensor technology not only ensures our health but also contributes to a cleaner and safer environment.

In conclusion, biosensors are transforming the way we monitor water quality. They provide a practical, efficient, and cost-effective solution for detecting dangerous heavy metals, ensuring our water is safe. Embracing this technology is essential for safeguarding our health and preserving the environment for future generations.

- Sidhant Ahuja, Grade 10

# La Nouvelle Fin de La Blanche Neige

Il était une fois une princesse qui avait la peau blanche comme la neige. Elle s'appelait Blanche-Neige. Quand elle était petite, sa mère, la reine, est morte. Il a été temps pour son père, le roi, de se remarier, avec une femme très belle mais très arrogante. Chaque matin, elle se regardait dans son miroir magique. Un jour, son miroir lui a dit : « Ô reine, tu es très belle, mais Blanche-Neige est la plus belle dans ce royaume. » En entendant ces mots, la reine est devenue pâle de rage et de jalousie. Elle a commencé à détester Blanche-Neige. Un jour, elle a demandé à un de ses serviteurs de tuer Blanche-Neige. Mais elle était si belle qu'il l'a laissée partir dans les bois. Elle est allée dans une petite maison cachée sous les arbres. Plus tard sont arrivés là-bas les sept petits nains, à qui elle a raconté ses aventures. Mais la méchante reine cherchait toujours Blanche-Neige pour la tuer. Habillée en vieille dame, elle lui a offert une pomme empoisonnée, rouge d'un côté et blanche de l'autre. Les nains ont trouvé Blanche-Neige morte. Elle semblait dormir dans son cercueil de verre. Elle reposait au milieu de la forêt, les nains à ses côtés, quand un jour un prince, qui était en voyage, s'est arrêté chez les nains. Il a vu Blanche-Neige et l'a sauvée en faisant sortir de sa bouche le morceau de pomme empoisonné. Aussitôt, elle a ouvert les yeux, pour voir le prince la regarder et lui dire tout ce qui s'était passé, avant de lui dire tout son amour pour elle, Ils se sont mariés, ont vécu heureux et ont eu beaucoup d'enfants.

Cinq années plus tard, blanche neige et le prince ont eu beaucoup d'enfants, une petite maison dans une forêt et un chien. Le prince était heureux mais il ne savait pas que Blanche Neige avait une liaison avec un autre prince. Elle a voulu divorcer le prince mais elle ne savait pas comment faire ça. Un jour, elle a décidé de lui dire. Il était furieux et il l'a enfermé dans une salle. Beaucoup de jours ont passé et le prince lui a donné des repas. Mais, il y avait une fenêtre dans la salle et Blanche Neige pouvait envoyer des messages à son amoureux à travers les oiseaux. Elle a envoyé un message avec les oiseaux à l'autre prince en lui expliquant la situation. Après qu'il a reçu le message, il est venu à cheval et il a sauvé Blanche neige et ses enfants et les a emmené à sa maison. Ils y ont habité et y ont vécu une bonne vie.

– Shannon Fernandes, Joshua Fernandes and Diah Shankhwalkar, Grade 9





# Poetry

## चिड़िया रानी

छोटी चिड़िया दाल पर बैठी ,  
फुदक - फुदक कर मुझे लुभाती  
उड़ती - फिरती डाली - डाली , ची - ची करके , शोर मचाती  
नील गगन में जब वह , उड़ती  
बादल से भी बातें करती  
यह छोटी सी , चिड़िया रानी  
करती है अपनी मन मानी



- मिताषा, कक्षा 1 अ



## बारिश

बारिश रिमझिम - रिमझिम आती हैं ।  
सबको खुश कर जाती हैं ,  
अपना जल बरसाती हैं ।  
गर्मी दूर भगाती हैं ,  
बारिश रिमझिम आती हैं ।  
धरती को नहला जाती हैं ,  
सूखे वन हरे हो जाते हैं ।  
हरे - भरे खेत लहराते हैं ,  
बाग़ - बगीचे महक जाते हैं ,  
बच्चे - बूढ़े खुश हो जाते हैं ।

- अनंत परमल, कक्षा 4 अ

## वह कौन है ?

लम्बा कान , टिमटिमाती नाक , छोटी पूँछ ,  
और कूदना वोह चाहता है  
वह कौन है ?  
क्या आप पता चला सकते हैं ?  
मैं उसे गाजर और जलकुंभी खिलाता हूँ

उसके कान लम्बे हैं ,  
उसकी पूँछ छोटी है ,  
और वोह कोई शोर नहीं करता ,  
टिमटिमाती नाक , छोटी पूँछ ,  
और कूदना वह चाहता है  
वह है मेरा प्यारा खरगोश

- नव्या कूपर, कक्षा 5B



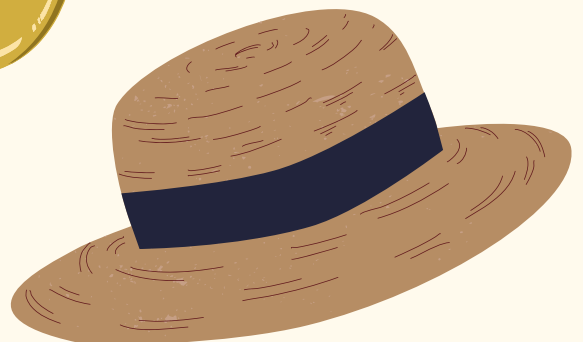
# La Mode

Gucci, Louis Vuitton et Balenciaga sont des marques connues de la mode. La mode est une force puissante. La mode est importante mais a aussi ses aspects négatifs, mais comment ?

La mode est une nécessité. Cependant, n'acheter que des vêtements coûteux n'est pas nécessaire. D'une part, la mode permet aux personnes d'affirmer leur identité et de renforcer leur assurance. Porter des vêtements tendance peut procurer un sentiment d'inclusion dans un groupe ou une tendance.

C'est sûr que la mode a des avantages et des inconvénients. Je crois que les inconvénients surpassent les avantages.

- Ian Godinho, Grade 9





# “About me” in French

Je m'appelle Marquez. J'ai dix ans. Je suis étudiant. J'habite à Dabolim, Goa, alors je suis Indien. Je suis gentil, intelligent et jeune. Je parle un peu français et anglais. J'aime manger des pâtes, de la glace et de la pizza. Ma mère s'appelle Althea, elle a trente-huit ans. Elle est Indienne. Elle habite avec moi. Elle est boulangère. Elle est sympathique, gentille et jolie. Elle parle anglais, konkani et hindi. Elle aime boire du jus de fruits et manger des tartines. Mon père s'appelle Keegan, il a quarante-deux ans. Il est ingénieur. Il est Indien et il est intelligent, gentil et musclé. Il parle anglais, konkani et hindi. Il aime aussi boire du café et manger des sandwiches au poulet.

- Marquez Menezes, Grade 5B



Je m'appelle Emily. J'ai onze ans. Je suis étudiante. J'habite à Porvorim en Inde, alors je suis indienne. Je suis jolie, grande et belle. Je parle un peu français, anglais, konkani et hindi. J'aime manger du chocolat et de la pizza. Ma mère s'appelle Joyce, elle a quarante ans. Elle est Indienne. Elle habite avec mon père, mon frère et moi à Porvorim. Elle est boulangère. Elle est intelligente, gentille et belle. Elle parle anglais, konkani et hindi. Mon père s'appelle Isle, il a quarante ans. Il est Indien et il est intelligent, gentil et beau. Il parle anglais, konkani et hindi. Il aime aussi manger du chocolat et de la pizza. Mon frère s'appelle Joshua. Il est Indien. Il a quatorze ans. Il est intelligent, beau et grand. Il est étudiant.

- Emily Fernandes, Grade 5A



# LA MAISON DE MES RÊVES

La maison de mes rêves serait une grande maison avec un jardin et de préférence une piscine. J'aimerais qu'il y ait 3 grandes chambres avec chacune leur salle de bain, mais je souhaite que la chambre principale ait une baignoire et un dressing. Je voudrais que la maison ait 4 salles de bains, une salle d'eau incluse avec les salles de bains des chambres pour que mes invités puissent les utiliser. Je veux que la maison ait un salon spacieux et une pièce pour mon espace de conversation. La cuisine doit être ouverte et grande, et avoir un îlot et une longue table à manger. Il devrait également y avoir un sous-sol pouvant être transformé en salle de jeux et en bar et cinéma à domicile. J'aimerais également que la maison ait un bureau dans lequel travailler, qui ferait également office de studio pour mes créations de mode. La maison devra également avoir un garage pour ranger mes voitures et mes outils. Dans l'ensemble, j'aimerais vraiment que la maison s'inspire des designs du milieu du siècle, car c'est une esthétique que j'aime vraiment et qui correspondrait à mes goûts.

- Amaya Gloweli Mewara, Grade 9

