



The Gera School Newsletter

21st December 2024

(Grade 6 – Grade 10)

Dear everyone,

You are getting this (the last of 2024's Newsletters) at the end of January 2025 and so I thought I'd speak of the New Year.

At Assembly at the start of the year, Ms Lizelle Montes, the Assistant Coordinator of the Middle School and also one of our English and History teachers for Grades 6 – 10, did a wonderful Assembly for the students on making the most of the year. She used a clip from the film *Dead Poets Society* starring Robin Williams. (You can watch the clip using the link:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vi0Lbjs5ECI>) Permit me to piggyback on her message and add thoughts of my own.

The film is about how a poetry teacher helps his students make the most of life by making the best use of themselves. He helps students successfully reach within themselves to find direction and purpose and fulfilment. One of his lessons is the exhortation to seize the day (*Carpe diem!*) for today offers opportunities like possibly no other. (Remember the following?: *There are no birds in last year's nest. / Time and tide wait for no man. / I wasted time, and now doth time waste me.....*)

But do we get blasé about New Year resolutions? Or can we value ourselves by valuing time? How we spend our days is of course how we spend our lives – the last two maxims are borrowed ones – and perhaps it is never too late (even on this last day of January) to make a start towards just **one** important thing we need to say or do or achieve. Just one – to begin with. And then the second. And it doesn't stop there...

What if we were to know that we had only a day or two more to live? Would we have regrets about things not said or done? Or would we feel that even though life's little candle has burned out early, we gave it our all and we could have humanly done not much more?

Far too many beautiful and precious dreams are expressed into the ether rather than into the harder but sweeter mill of action. May all of us do something significant, achieve something long-ignored that will make us look back eleven months from now and smile and say, "I am happy and proud. I had a good year – one like never before!"

All the very best to all of us.

Regards,

C P Joseph
PRINCIPAL

EVENTS

INTER-SCHOOL EVENTS

COSMICON

22 students of Grades 8 and 9 participated in the Sharada Mandir Inter-School *Cosmicon* Competition. Gaurang Korgaonkar, Joshua Fernandes and Jezneel Gonzalves secured the 3rd Place in the X and O Sports Competition. It was a wonderful platform for our students to meet peers from other schools, exchange ideas and embrace the spirit of teamwork.



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

The Gera School congratulates its students who participated in the *Model United Nations* hosted by St. Francis Xavier's Higher Secondary School. Their remarkable performance reflected both their passion and skill in diplomacy and debate. Anushka Kushe and Diah Shankhwalker were awarded *Participation Certificates*, with Diah also receiving a *Verbal Mention* for her notable contributions. Simone Kenkre earned a *High Commendation* and was honoured with a *Silver Medal* for her outstanding performance. Adding to the school's accolades, Amaya Mewara received a *Certificate for chairing the UNHRC Committee*, showcasing exceptional leadership.



VISIT TO THE SERENDIPITY ARTS FESTIVAL

On 18th December 2024, the Grade 9 art students visited the Serendipity Art Festival, immersing themselves in diverse artistic expressions.



The students marvelled at immersive installations, from suspended sculptures playing with light and shadow to exhibits crafted from waste materials,

highlighting sustainability with the theme "No Waste is Waste." A standout experience included learning about the pigment lapis lazuli and creating unique designs using Prussian blue. They were also inspired by innovative projects like an artist's experiment with shoes designed to walk on water. Exhibits featuring Goa's cultural history further enriched their understanding of art as a medium for storytelling.



GRADES 6 TO 9 ANNUAL DAY

TGS celebrated its 8th Annual Day

The Grades 6 to 9 Annual Day, held on the 13th of December in the school auditorium, was an unforgettable celebration of artistic expression and cultural heritage. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Chief Guest Mr. Rajesh R. Pednekar and Guest of Honour Mrs. Gayatri Pednekar, who added a touch of inspiration and encouragement to the evening. The programme was a vibrant display of the students' talents across speech, dance, drama, and music, leaving the audience enthralled. The event began with a Disney Medley, where students sang popular Disney songs live, bringing the magic of timeless melodies to the stage. This was followed by the dynamic *Warrior Dance of Chhau* from West Bengal.

The audience was deeply moved by the Hindi play *Savitri Bai Phule: A Beacon of Light*, which paid homage to this social reformer. Adding to the cultural diversity, students performed compelling monologues in French, reflecting their linguistic flair and confidence.

The Jive Dance was a perfect way to ring in the festivities of the season. The highlight of the evening was the much-awaited *Jungle Book Musical*. The event truly celebrated the spirit of The Gera School, leaving everyone inspired and proud of the young performers.







CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

The Christmas Special Assembly at TGS was a heartwarming celebration filled with the festive cheer and bliss of the season. Students across Grades came together to mark the significance of Christmas through vibrant performances that truly embodied the spirit of the festival. The Assembly featured melodious carol singing, captivating dance, and the beautifully enacted poetic play on the Nativity, highlighting the true essence of Christmas

— love, hope, and togetherness. Adding to the festive spirit, every Grade contributed by decorating a sock, which was displayed as part of the Christmas décor, symbolizing unity and celebration. This special Assembly was a wonderful reminder of the joy and warmth that the holiday season brings, leaving everyone with smiles and festive cheer to carry forward.



WINTER FETE

The TGS Winter Fete continues to be a cherished tradition, bringing together the school community for a morning filled with joy and purpose. This year was no exception, as Students, Staff, and Parents united for a noble cause, embracing the spirit of togetherness and generosity. The event featured an array of exciting games that kept everyone entertained, while the delectable spread of food options—lovingly prepared by Staff—was a highlight for all attendees. From savoury delights to sweet treats, there was something for every tastebud. A special mention goes to the Student Council and the enthusiastic student volunteers, who displayed exceptional teamwork and responsibility. As the laughter and chatter echoed across the school, it was clear that the Winter Fete was not just about fun—it was a heartwarming reminder of the power of community coming together for a meaningful cause.





MUSIC

GRADES 6 to 8

Students of Grades 6 to 8 practised and performed for the Annual Day with great gusto and enthusiasm, and finally put on a spectacular show. Those selected for the Disney medley sang their hearts out in the practice room and on stage too! Some others were a part of the play choir as well!



DANCE

GRADES 6 & 7

With great dedication the students selected for the Jive dance performance from Grades 6 and 7, prepared and practised their dance moves so that they could put up an enthralling show of moves they have been learning this Term in Dance.





DRAMA

GRADES 6 to 9

The students patiently and diligently went through full rehearsals of the Musical, Jungle Book.

The Choir

The Wolves



Mowgli and Bagheera

The Vultures



Kaa the Snake



The last rehearsal



ART

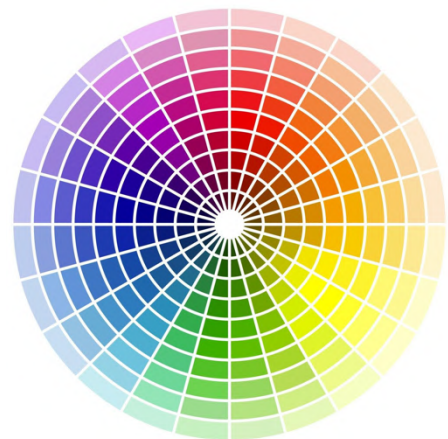
GRADE 6

The 6th Graders recently explored the wax resistance technique while creating beautiful jellyfish artwork. They also experimented with colour mixing using oil pastels and watercolours to bring their jellyfish designs to life. This creative activity allowed the students to understand how different mediums interact to achieve vibrant, lifelike results. The children thoroughly enjoyed the process, showcasing their artistic skills and enthusiasm in this fun, hands-on learning experience.



GRADE 7

Grade 7 learners dived into the world of *colour theory* by learning about different colour schemes. They explored monochrome (using one colour in varying shades), complementary (opposite colours on the colour wheel), analogous (colours next to each other), and split complementary (a main colour and two adjacent to its complement). Through hands-on activities, students applied these schemes to create vibrant artworks, developing a deeper understanding of harmony, contrast, and visual impact in their compositions. This foundation will help them make thoughtful colour choices in future art projects.



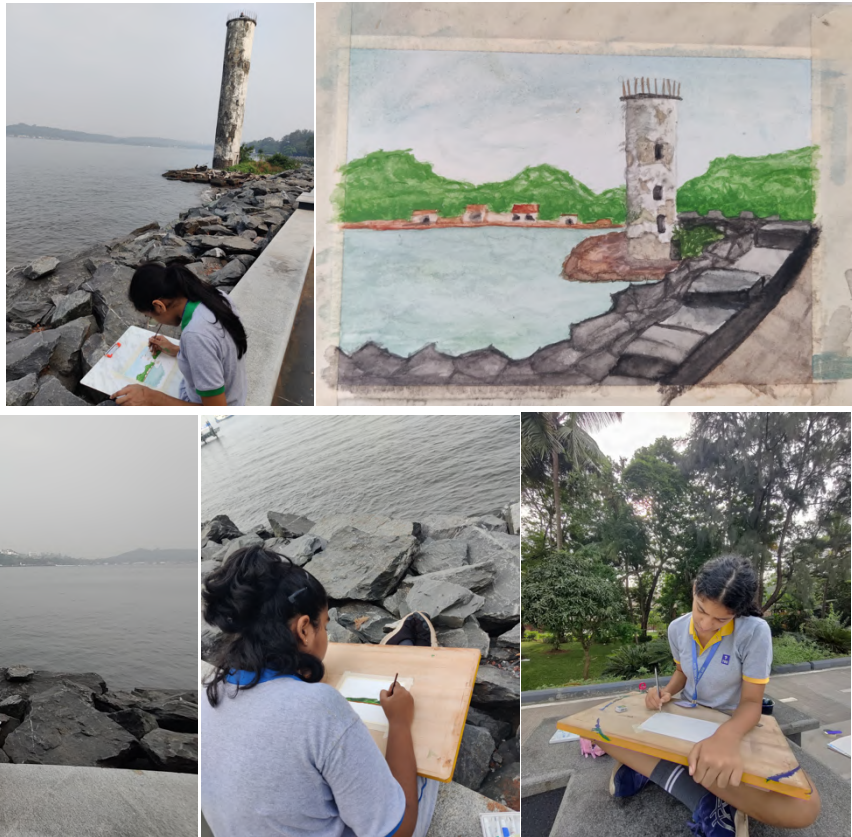
GRADE 8



Grade 8 learners were introduced to the *Rule of Thirds*, an essential principle in art and photography that helps create balanced and visually appealing compositions. Students learned how to divide their canvas into a 3x3 grid and position focal points along the lines or intersections. They practised applying this rule in their sketches and paintings, experimenting with placement and balance to guide the viewer's eye. This activity encouraged students to think critically about composition, leading to stronger and more dynamic artworks.

GRADE 9

Grade 9 learners recently enjoyed a memorable field trip to *Kala Academy* for their first experience with *plein air* (outdoor) painting. The stunning location provided the perfect backdrop as students captured the beauty of the sunlit landscape,



shimmering water, and even lively parrots fluttering nearby. Immersed in nature, they applied their understanding of perspective, light, and atmospheric depth, translating real-

life scenery into art. This enriching experience not only honed their observational skills but also inspired creativity and a deeper connection to their surroundings.

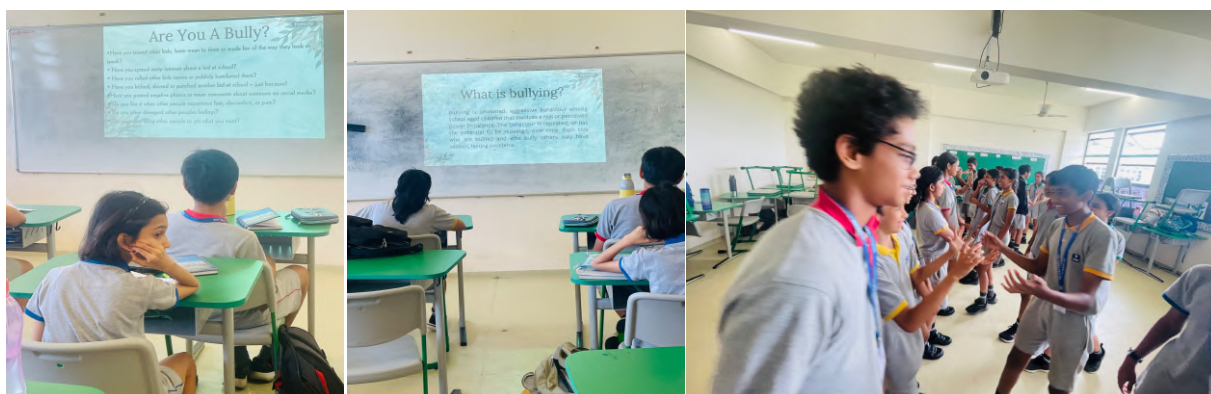
CIRCLE TIME / LEADERSHIP CURRICULUM

GRADE 6

This fortnight the learners of grade 6 had a slow introduction to the complex verb “to bully” and got a clearer understanding of the noun “a bully” as well. Being able to see how this loosely used term can have a very profound impact on lives is the aim of this topic. Hurting another to exert power can make or break a life and our learners need to learn this very important concept as a life lesson.



GRADE 7



Learners were engaged in a very complex discussion on the topic “bullying”. Do two wrongs make a right? Can someone who has been severely abused just once call the action bullying? Am I a bully? Can adults bully children and vice versa? These were just some of the topics we delved into and some of the questions the learners chose to discuss.

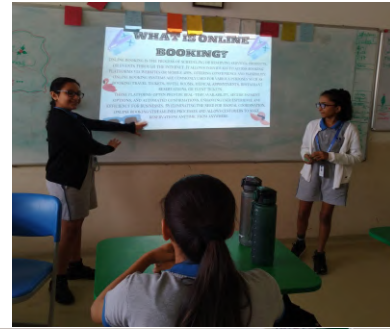
GRADE 8

The definition of bullying is a very loaded statement. But a few words stood out to this grade... repeated, power, trolling, weaker; to name just a few. When learners are able to create their own definition to incorporate what feelings they have experienced is when real learning is sure to take place.

ICT

GRADE 6

Learners were introduced to the concept of AI and automated technologies. They revisited the topics of system and application software, and further dwelled on integrated applications. Learners discussed how artificial intelligence is being used around us in the world, in terms of simple applications/devices; for e.g. search engines, digital assistants, spam filters, and NPCs. They also saw how AI is used in various industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, retailing, etc. Learners then researched about a few pros and cons of AI and its uses.



GRADE 7

Learners were re-introduced to flowcharts and Python codes. They discussed the importance of decomposing a problem into smaller easier-to-solve parts, and were able to create decomposition diagrams for the same. Learners further went through the iterative-development process in detail; and later worked on using conditional statements to provide choices to the user in their programs using the 'if ... else if ... else ...' statement.



GRADE 8

Learners were re-introduced to flowcharts, pseudocodes, and Python codes. They are working on decomposing a problem statement to create a multi-level quiz game using the Python programming language. Learners worked on creating subroutines, also known as procedures/subprograms.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

GRADE 9

Learners were introduced to single-table databases. They were able to find similarities and differences between using a regular spreadsheet, and a database, to save and maintain their data. Learners were able to interpret and write SQL queries to retrieve/analyse data from various data sets, and apply it to the practical use of a database. Furthermore, they are now learning to convert their previously written pseudocodes into Python codes. They started with the basic input/output, declaration, sequencing, and selection statements. Learners will now move on to iterations, file handling, and string handling statements too.



Learners revised the programming concepts (constants and variables, I/O). They discussed the basic concepts required to solve a problem (sequence, selection, iteration, counting and totalling, use of operators and string handling - functions). They were able to write a program in Python to create a sign up that takes the username and password as input. The username had to have min 5 and max 10 chars; while the password needed to be a min 8 and max 12 characters along with min 1 uppercase and lowercase letter in it.

FRENCH

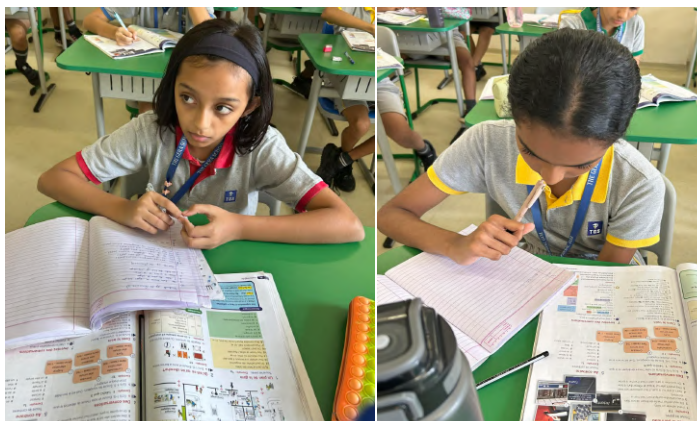
GRADE 6

In Grade 6 French, students successfully completed Unit 5, *Des bandes dessinées*, where they explored the fascinating world of French comic books. They discussed popular comic characters such as Tintin and Astérix, delving into their cultural significance and unique stories. Additionally, students identified and practiced the conjugation of regular -ER verbs, enhancing their understanding of verb patterns and sentence structures.

The class has now commenced Unit 6E, *En famille*, focusing on family activities. Students are learning to describe daily routines and engage in conversations about family life. This unit encourages the use of new vocabulary and expressions in meaningful contexts, fostering communication skills. The progression from comics to real-life themes keeps the learning dynamic and enjoyable!

GRADE 7

Grade 7 students focused on using the *passé composé* (perfect tense) to describe past events and daily activities. They explored verbs that require *être* as the auxiliary verb in the perfect tense, such as *aller* (to go), *venir* (to come), and *arriver* (to arrive), and practised forming sentences like *Je suis allé(e)* (I went) and *Elle est arrivée* (She arrived). Through this, they learned subject-



verb agreement and how to use *être* with verbs of movement and change of state. Students also applied these concepts in various contexts, including personal experiences and travel-related topics, such as *une journée à Londres* (a day in London). They practised both affirmative and negative forms, along with asking and answering questions in the past tense. They reinforced their skills with vocabulary related to air travel, using verbs like *partir* (to leave) and *arriver* (to arrive) in the context of airport experiences. Additionally, students worked on improving their fluency by applying the *passé composé* in conversation and written exercises.

GRADE 8

In Grade 8 French, students successfully completed Unit 7E *Je peux vous aider* and Unit 7F *C'est extra*, where they expanded their vocabulary and improved their conversational skills. These units focused on practical scenarios, enhancing students' ability to offer help and express opinions confidently.

The class has now commenced Unit 5B *On fait des projets!*, which introduces planning and discussing future events. The grammar focus for this unit is *le futur simple* with both regular and irregular verb conjugations. Students practised forming and using this tense through various written exercises, strengthening their understanding and accuracy. The focus on conjugation ensures a solid foundation in expressing future intentions, enabling students to apply this knowledge in speaking and writing tasks effectively.

GRADE 9

This fortnight, Grade 9 students explored various aspects of French leisure activities, enhancing their listening, speaking, and vocabulary skills. They engaged in dialogues about young people's hobbies, digital habits, and television preferences, improving their comprehension and fluency. Through conversations about "Les jeunes et les loisirs" and "La Vie Numérique et les Loisirs," students practiced using vocabulary related to hobbies, technology, and music, such as genres, radio stations, and TV programs. A significant part of the learning focused on expressing preferences, using comparatives to describe television programmes, and discussing books and reading habits.

Moreover, the students fine-tuned their grammar, particularly in using pronouns and superlatives. They also delved into cinema, discussing favourite films, actors, and using superlatives to describe them. This diverse approach encouraged critical thinking and effective communication in real-life contexts.

HINDI

GRADE 6

The learners engaged in a variety of activities to enhance their listening, comprehension, vocabulary, and writing skills. They participated in a formative assessment (FA) listening activity where they listened to a story, comprehended it, and answered related questions to strengthen their listening and comprehension abilities. Additionally, they practised dictation to improve their spelling.

The learners also watched a story, which helped them build their vocabulary. They applied the newly learned words by writing answers to questions based on the story.

In their study of the chapter *Safed Bagula*, they used a reciprocal teaching strategy. They worked in groups with specific roles such as Reader, Questioner, and Summarizer, fostering collaboration and deeper understanding of the text.

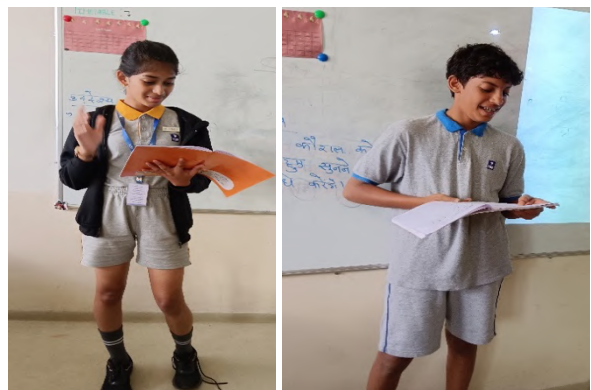
The learners wrote new words from the chapter and incorporated them into *anuched lekhan* (paragraph writing) and sentences. The topic for *anuched lekhan* was *Bagiche mein Ek Shaam*, and they presented their paragraphs in class. This activity helped them develop confidence, vocabulary, critical thinking, and writing skills. Finally, they shared their views on how they help and treat birds, fostering a sense of responsibility and care toward animals.



GRADE 7

The learners studied the poem *Mere Gaanv Ke Log* and engaged in discussions about the differences between village and city life. They explored how people in villages often live without modern facilities yet find happiness in simplicity. This discussion also emphasized the importance of being grateful for what we have. The learners expanded their vocabulary with words like *itra*, *abhinandan*, *vidvan*, *antas*, *gaurav*, and *prabhu*. They practised *paryayvachi shabd* (synonyms) and learned how to form *visheshan* (adjectives) from given words. To further improve their spelling skills, a dictation activity was conducted based on the poem.

They also practised writing *samvad* (dialogue) using new words from the poem. The topic for the dialogue was *Samachar Dekhne ke Baad Do Logon ke Beech Samvad* (A Conversation Between Two People After Watching the News). Learners presented their dialogues in front of their peers, which helped build confidence and enhance critical thinking skills. Additionally, learners participated in a formative assessment (FA) focused on listening skills.



GRADE 8

The learners watched a video and participated in a discussion, enhancing their understanding and building vocabulary such as *dakhila*, *sampann*, *santulan*, *parampara*,

and *sarpanch*. They applied this vocabulary in an essay on the topic *Ekta ka Bal* (The Strength of Unity).

They further explored the chapter *Is School Mein Plastic Dekar Padhate Hain Bachhe* using a reciprocal teaching strategy. Organized into groups with specific roles—Reader, Questioner, Clarifier, and Summarizer—this collaborative approach facilitated a deeper understanding of the chapter and strengthened their vocabulary.



Discussions focused on the privilege of accessing quality education compared to children who struggle due to financial constraints, fostering gratitude and awareness. The chapter also highlighted the impact of plastic pollution and ways to reuse plastic responsibly. To improve their spelling skills, learners participated in a dictation activity based on the chapter. Additionally, they engaged in a debate on the topic *Kya Hum Sansaar Ko Plastic Mukht Kar Sakte Hain?* (Can We Make the World Plastic-Free?). The debate featured two teams: one speaking for the topic and the other against it, followed by a rebuttal round. This activity helped develop their public speaking and critical thinking skills.

Learners also expanded their vocabulary with words like *prashasan*, *guhar*, *abhibhavak*, *khadan*, *aabadi*, and *prerit*. Using this vocabulary, they wrote an essay on the topic *Plastic Hamare Jeevan Ka Ehem Ang Hai* (Plastic: An Essential Part of Our Lives).

GRADE 9

To prepare for IGCSE, learners participated in a listening activity where they listened to audio recordings of interviews and stories and answered related questions. They noted vocabulary from the audio, including



prernadayak, *aadan-pradaan*, *saamajikta*, *rachnatmak*, *atulniya*, *samaadhan*, *romanchak*, *sulabh*, *bebaak*, and *bhraman*, enriching their language skills.

Learners also read the article *Kya Karta Hai Low Blood Pressure*, to get better at reading comprehension and vocabulary building.

Further, learners explored the chapter *Plastic: Kooda Abhishap Nahi, Vardan Hai*, where they built vocabulary such as *abhishap*, *vardan*, *punarchkrit*, *nirman*, *sanrudha*, *parivartit*, *prakriya*, and *aadhyatmik*. Through discussions, they learned to view plastic not as a curse but as a resource that can be reused and recycled. Topics included waste management, the

importance of keeping surroundings clean, and individual responsibility in maintaining cleanliness. Learners shared ideas about garbage segregation and how they can contribute to environmental cleanliness.

Using the new vocabulary, learners wrote essays (*nibandh lekhan*) on the topic *Plastic: Vardaan ya Abhishap* (Plastic: A Boon or a Curse), which they presented to their peers. They also practiced *saransh lekhan* (summary writing) and shared their summaries with their classmates.

P.E

GRADES 6 TO 9

Students are engaged in various activities for the upcoming Annual Sports Day. No more information for now!

NEWS FROM EACH GRADE

GRADE 6

ENGLISH

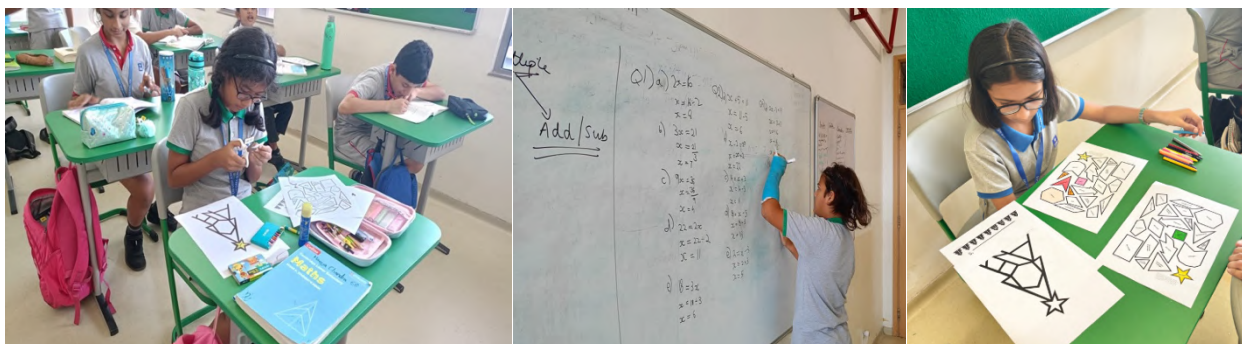
Our Grade 6 learners dived into speech writing and also presented the same. They took to the stage with confidence! It was fun to see them don the role of the Principal of their school, as they spoke with command and authority. We also looked at the next set of chapters of *Black Beauty*. It was heartening to see the students discuss themes of empathy and courage with maturity and sensitivity. We also channelled our inner Christmas spirit by working on a few writing pieces with the same theme.



MATH

Grade 6 students enjoyed a festive "GeomeTREE" activity that combined creativity with geometry. Using a sheet of 2D polygons, including triangles, squares, pentagons, and hexagons, they identified and cut out shapes to construct a tree outline printed on two sheets. After assembling the tree, they decorated it with colourful paper, markers, or crayons, adding a personal touch.

In addition to this activity, students explored different methods of solving equations, including the trial-and-error method, systematic method, and transposition method. They also discussed real-life applications of equations, such as calculating budgets, determining



distances, and solving problems involving speed and time, enhancing their problem-solving skills and mathematical understanding.

PHYSICS

The Grade 6 Physics class embarked on an exciting journey through space as they explored the fascinating *Solar System*. Students delved into the classification of planets, learning to



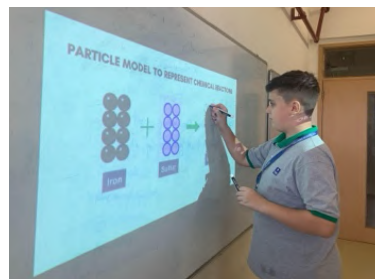
distinguish between inner and outer planets based on their composition and proximity to the Sun. They also expanded their knowledge about *asteroids, meteors, and meteorites*, discovering their unique characteristics and roles within our cosmic neighbourhood.

A highlight of the week was understanding the *life cycle of a star*, starting from its birth in a stellar nebula to the various stages of its evolution. This captivating topic sparked curiosity and inspired thoughtful questions about the universe's mysteries.

The hands-on activity of *Solar System model making* brought creativity to the classroom. Students showcased innovative designs and ideas, vividly representing planets, moons, and the Sun. The activity culminated in engaging presentations where students shared fascinating facts about the Solar System, demonstrating their understanding and enthusiasm. This enriching week allowed students to blend scientific learning with creativity, fostering a deeper appreciation for the cosmos and its wonders.

CHEMISTRY

This term, Grade 6 students embarked on an exciting journey into the world of chemistry. They learnt about compounds, writing word equations, and understanding the particle model. They also learned to identify chemical reactions and conducted hands-on experiments to test for hydrogen, oxygen, and carbon dioxide. Exploring precipitation reactions and even modelling how precipitates form added a fun, interactive twist to their learning experience!



BIOLOGY

Grade 6 students delved into the fascinating world of classifying living things this term. They explored the five kingdoms of life, learned to distinguish between vertebrates and



invertebrates, and even discovered what makes hybrids so unique. A particularly intriguing topic was understanding why viruses don't fit neatly into the classification system – sparking curiosity and lively discussions in class.

G.P.

Grade 6 students worked to enhance their analytical, reasoning, and critical thinking skills by exploring how the digital world affects daily life, including its benefits and challenges. Divided into groups, they were given scenarios to analyse. Each group answered a common set of questions: What is happening in the situation? What are the potential consequences? What



actions can be taken to address the issue? After completing their analysis, the groups presented their perspectives to the class, fostering discussion and collaborative learning.

HISTORY

Students studied the differences between the Early Vedic and Later Vedic civilizations, analyzing key changes in family, social, and political life. They learned about the shift from a tribal society to a more structured society with complex governance systems. The evolution of occupations, including the rise of new professions like artisans and traders,



was also explored. Additionally, students examined the transformation of the Gurukul system of learning, from an informal approach to a more organized educational structure, highlighting its impact on society. This study provided students with a deeper understanding of the dynamic changes during the Vedic period.

GEOGRAPHY

Grade 6 students explored the Earth's rotation and revolution, focusing on how these movements influence the planet's seasons and life. They learned that the Earth's rotation causes day and night, while its revolution around the sun, combined with the tilt of its axis, results in the changing seasons. Through demonstrations, students gained a hands-on understanding of the winter and summer solstices, recognizing how the tilt affects sunlight distribution. These activities helped students connect the Earth's movements with real-life phenomena, deepening their understanding of seasonal changes and their impact on life on Earth.



GRADE 7 **ENGLISH**

Our Grade 7 learners have dived into wonderful textual extracts based on the themes of heroism and fables about kindness. This focus on comprehension has helped strengthen their base so that they are well-equipped to answer implicit and explicit questions and focus on figurative language as well. The students also thoroughly enjoyed coming up with their conspiracy theories for the next set of chapters for *The Hound of the Baskervilles*!

We also read a beautiful poem 'Abou Ben Adhem' that captured the essence of 'Love for man can be equated with love for God.'

MATH

Grade 7 students recently showcased their creativity through a project focused on designing a sustainable city park. Guided by key principles of urban planning, students crafted 2D layouts incorporating eco-friendly elements. Their designs featured walking paths, central green spaces, water features, and recreational areas such as playgrounds. Using graph paper, they meticulously sketched their layouts, ensuring practical use of

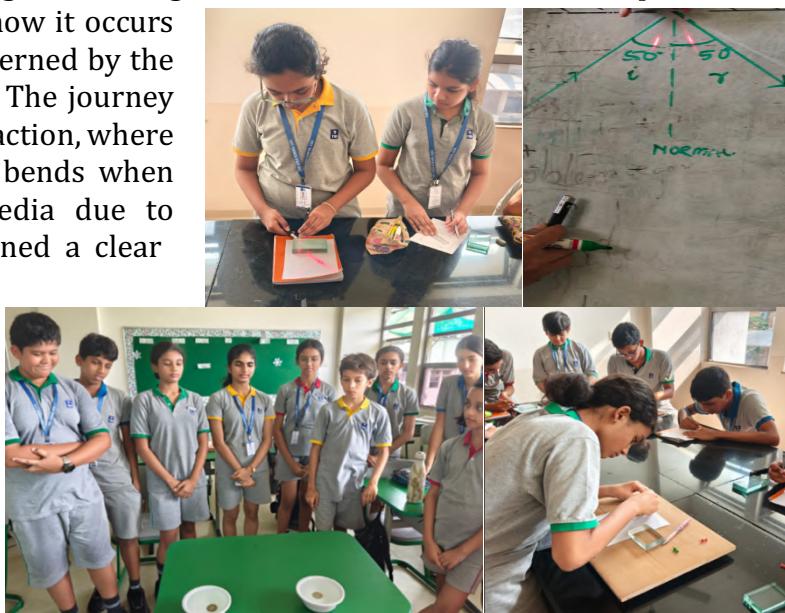


space while prioritizing environmental sustainability. This activity fostered an understanding of spatial planning, geometry, and real-world problem-solving. The students' enthusiasm and innovation highlighted the importance of sustainable design in creating greener urban spaces for future generations.

PHYSICS

Grade 7 dived into the intriguing world of light and its behaviour. Students explored the concept of reflection, learning how it occurs on different surfaces and is governed by the fundamental laws of reflection. The journey continued with the study of refraction, where students discovered how light bends when transitioning between two media due to changes in its speed. They gained a clear understanding of the causes of refraction and its practical implications in everyday phenomena.

A hands-on activity in the Physics lab added a spark of excitement to the learning process. Students traced the path of a ray of light passing through a glass slab and investigated the relationship between the angle of incidence and the angle of emergence. This experiment reinforced theoretical concepts and allowed students to observe the principles of refraction in action. This engaging week helped students grasp the fundamental properties of light while fostering curiosity and analytical thinking.



CHEMISTRY

In Chemistry, Grade 7 students explored the reactivity series and observed how metals interact with water, dilute acids, and oxygen through engaging demonstrations. They also honed their skills in writing word equations and illustrating particle diagrams, bringing Chemistry concepts to life in a fun and visual way.



BIOLOGY



Grade 7 students studied habitats and ecosystems this term, gaining hands-on experience with the quadrat method to sample plants in the school grounds. They showcased their findings with detailed graphs, connecting classroom concepts to real-world data. Revisiting food chains and food webs brought a deeper understanding of how energy flows through ecosystems, making science both interactive and engaging!

G.P.

As part of their study on the topic of 'Employment,' Grade 7 students explored various strategies governments could adopt to address the challenges and opportunities posed by automation and AI in the workforce. Individually, they examined key options available to governments, including: Investing in education and training, strengthening social safety nets, encouraging innovation and promoting collaboration. Each student shared their unique perspectives with the class, fostering a deeper understanding through collective discussion.



HISTORY

Our Grade 7 learners have started a wonderful and fascinating journey into Goan History. We explored the various names of Goa and even had a look at the 12 talukas. The class quiz on various places in the talukas brought out their competitive spirit. We also plotted the

concentration of students across various talukas using a map. Additionally, we explored various origin theories, tribal composition and dynasties that occupied Goa.



GEOGRAPHY



This fortnight, students learned about various industries and the factors that influence their establishment. They explored how location, resources, technology, labour, and market demand affect the growth and success of different sectors. To deepen their understanding, students were assigned a project where they created their own business, selecting an industry of their choice. This hands-on venture allowed students to apply their knowledge of real-life factors such as competition, cost, and consumer needs, helping them gain practical insights into what it takes to start and sustain a successful business in today's economy.

GRADE 8 ENGLISH

Grade 8 were exposed to Robert Browning's *The Patriot*. This poem is important because it introduces students to themes of human



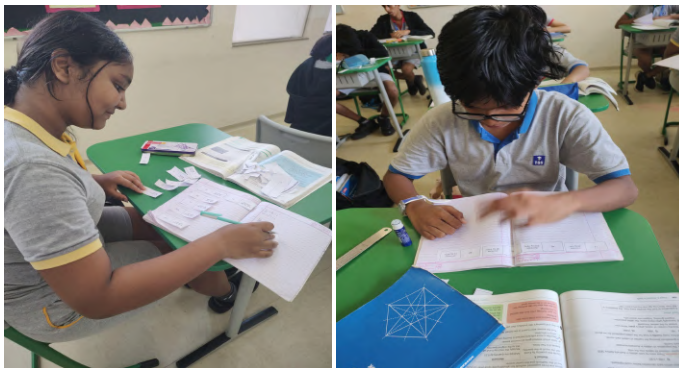
fickleness, the fleeting nature of fame, and moral redemption. Through Browning's dramatic monologue, students learn how poetry can vividly depict the speaker's emotions and personal journey. It enhances their understanding of literary devices such as symbolism, imagery, and contrast, fostering critical thinking and analytical skills. The poem also provides a historical and moral perspective, helping students reflect on societal attitudes and the idea of divine justice. Learning phrasal verbs is crucial as they are widely used in everyday English, enhancing fluency and comprehension. They help students

understand idiomatic expressions and communicate more naturally. To make learning engaging, we use creative methods like the game of Taboo, where students describe a phrasal verb without using specific related words. This activity encourages critical thinking, teamwork, and vocabulary recall in a fun, interactive way.

MATH

Grade 8 Students Master Percentage Changes with a Domino Challenge

Grade 8 students recently participated in a dynamic activity to reinforce their understanding of percentage changes. Using a set of “dominoes” featuring percentage questions and answers, students matched each question with its correct answer to form a complete loop. This interactive task not only solidified their mathematical skills but also fostered critical life skills such as logical reasoning, problem-solving, and perseverance. Working individually and collaboratively, students honed their ability to analyse and connect information while staying focused on achieving the goal. The activity showcased how learning math can be both engaging and practical, preparing students for real-world applications.



PHYSICS

Grade 8 students tuned into the fascinating topic of Sound. They explored how frequency and amplitude influence the pitch and loudness of a sound wave, enhancing their understanding of the properties of sound. Through interactive discussions, they successfully identified and differentiated between low-pitched and high-pitched sounds from a diverse mix of audio samples.

Students also delved into the range of hearing, discovering the limits of human perception and learning about infrasonic and ultrasonic sounds. The class was captivated by the real-world applications of ultrasonic sound in the medical field, such as ultrasound imaging, and its use in various industrial processes.

Test high pitch or low-pitched sound



CHEMISTRY

Grade 8 students sharpened their Chemistry skills by learning to write both word and symbol equations, along with understanding how to write chemical formulae. They

explored the reactions of acids with metals and acids with carbonates, bringing their lessons to life through engaging experiments and discussions.



BIOLOGY



Grade 8 students delved into the fascinating topics of fertilization and inheritance this term. They explored sexual reproduction and fertilization in humans, gaining insights into human chromosomes and how sex is determined. The journey continued with learning about foetal growth and development, along with meaningful discussions on healthy eating and the impact of drugs during pregnancy.

G. P.

Under the topic 'Human Rights,' Grade 8 students engaged in a class presentation focused on the universal applicability of Human Rights. They examined various cases of Human Rights violations, both national and international, analysing their causes and implications. Working in pairs, the students shared their viewpoints with the class, highlighting the importance of protecting human rights and proposing ways to address violations. This activity fostered critical thinking and encouraged a deeper understanding of the global significance of Human Rights.



HISTORY

The Grade 8 students were very excited as we started with World War Two. Using games and quizzes, we did a quick recap and started with the Second-Italo-Ethiopian War, the Spanish Civil War and the Sino-Japanese War as causes of World War Two. Trying to

understand how these global conflicts drew in so many countries was both fascinating and challenging for the students but they gave it their best shot - explaining how the League of Nations failed to do their job and how various events in World War Two unfolded.



GEOGRAPHY

Students used the map of India to explain why some physical divisions experienced certain Climatic conditions. They analysed why it was cooler in the north and how rain bearing monsoon winds were responsible for India experiencing a monsoon type of climate .

GRADE 9 **ENGLISH**



The Grade 9 students worked on interview writing. They were paired with a partner and they had to script an interview between a Business Studies student and Biz Stone. The students had a lot of fun, donning the 2 roles. They did find it challenging to make their performances engaging. They honed their body language usage and understood how vocal nuances too made a difference to their presentations.

MATH

Exploring Trigonometry Through Real-World Application

Grade 9 students recently engaged in a hands-on activity to calculate the height of their school building, using



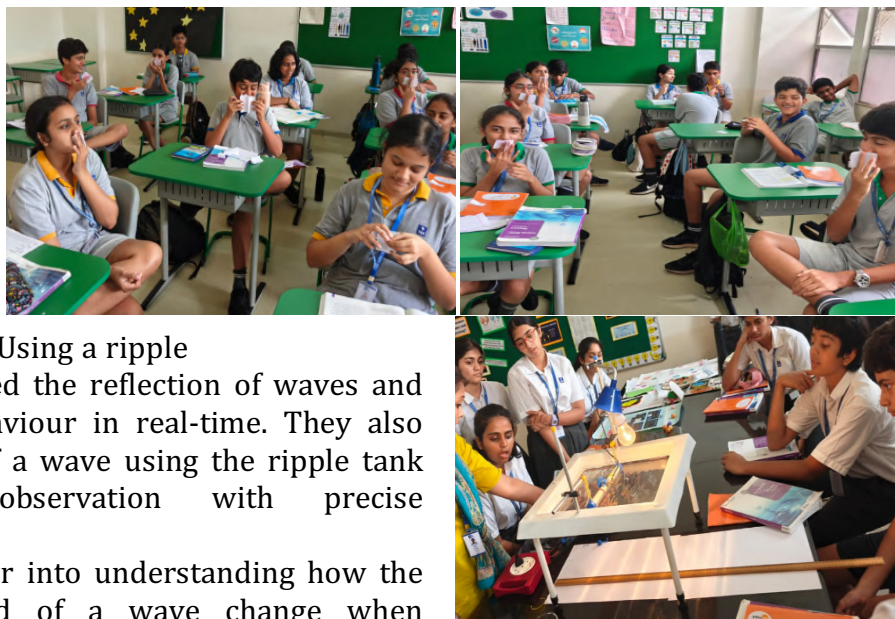
self-made clinometers to measure angles of elevation and metre scales for distances. Working in pairs, they collaborated to collect accurate data, swapped roles for

thoroughness, and applied trigonometric ratios back in the classroom. This practical exercise connected math to real-world problem-solving, enhancing teamwork, analytical thinking, and logical reasoning. By demonstrating the everyday relevance of trigonometry, the activity not only reinforced classroom concepts but also fostered essential life skills like collaboration, precision, and critical thinking.

PHYSICS

Grade 9 students embarked on an exciting exploration of Waves. They studied the two primary types of waves (longitudinal and transverse) and learned how these waves differ in their motion and properties. Using a ripple tank, students visualized the reflection of waves and investigated their behaviour in real-time. They also calculated the speed of a wave using the ripple tank setup, combining observation with precise measurement.

The class delved deeper into understanding how the wavelength and speed of a wave change when transitioning between shallow and deep water, and vice versa. Additionally, they analyzed and drew wave patterns as waves passed through a gap, exploring the fascinating concept of diffraction.



CHEMISTRY

Grade 9 students delved into the world of chemical reactions. They began by differentiating between physical and chemical changes, supporting their understanding with relevant

examples. Next, the students explored the various factors that influence reaction rates. They gained insight into how aspects such as surface area, temperature, pressure, catalysts, and concentration can either enhance or hinder the speed of reactions. Through specific examples of chemical reactions, they were able to connect theoretical concepts with real-world applications.



The students were introduced to reversible reactions. They learned about the significance of these reactions in industrial contexts, particularly focusing on two key processes: the Haber process for ammonia production and the Contact process for sulfuric acid manufacture. They examined how optimizing reaction conditions can lead to increased yields, highlighting the practical implications of their studies in chemistry.

BIOLOGY

Grade 9 students commenced their exploration of the transport systems in plants, beginning with an examination of cross sections of various plant parts, including leaves, stems, and roots. During this phase, they learned to recognize and identify key components such as



the vascular bundles, which consist of xylem and phloem, as well as the epidermis and pith. Following this identification, students outlined the specific functions of each component. The topic then transitioned to a more focused study on vascular bundles, where students revisited the roles of xylem and phloem in plant transport. They engaged in a deeper analysis of the structure of both xylem and phloem, enhancing their understanding of how these tissues function. The unit progressed to cover the process of transpiration, where students learned how water moves through plants and the various factors that influence the rate of transpiration, such as temperature, humidity, and wind speed. This comprehensive study culminated in a discussion of translocation, the process by which sucrose is transported through the phloem, illustrating the vital role of these transport systems in plant physiology.

G.P

As part of a Group Discussion activity, Grade 9 students explored the topic of 'Changing Community' in pairs. They reasoned through the question, 'What makes your community unique?' by examining key drivers of change, including urbanisation and population growth, technological advancements, economic shifts (like industries closing or tourism growth), environmental factors such as natural disasters and climate change, as well as migration and cultural integration. The discussions encouraged insightful reflections on how these factors shape and transform communities over time.



HISTORY

We learnt about the Berlin blockade and how Truman and the Allies refused to let Stalin dictate matters in Berlin. We then finished the study of the origin of the Cold War and the formation of NATO and the Warsaw Pact. The students also started on a revision of Paper 2 nature and style of questions; they were shown an exemplar of answers for one question and then asked to write on the same lines for another question.

This brings us to the end of this Newsletter. The next Newsletter will be for the period 6th – 25th January 2025.

Regards

The Gera School