

MERAKI

BY CANDOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
2025 EDITION

ECHOES OF CHANGE



ADMIN NOTES

Honoring our journey - embracing what's next

Chairman- Founder Dr. Suresh Reddy



Candor International School has come a long way since its inception in 2011. The school has won many awards over the past 15 years and has been ranked among the top 3 international schools in the state and the country.

These accolades have been made possible with the support of the entire school community—staff, students, and parents. I would like to thank the staff and students for another great year full of achievements in academics and co-curricular activities. It is heartening to see that students, with the support of teachers, are taking initiatives to promote mental health, cybersecurity, TEDx talks, and other community outreach programs. This year has indeed been rich in achievements in sports and inter-school competitions as well. Candor School has always encouraged students to explore new opportunities and showcase their learning. I am happy and proud to see that students are growing and developing through the years at Candor. As you move forward, I encourage you to embrace challenges, pursue your passions, and never stop learning.

That being said, I truly believe Meraki captures the very essence of what Candor stands for, passion, creativity, and heart. It is more than just a magazine; it is a reflection of the voices, talents, and spirit of our students. Every page is a testament to the vibrant and dynamic learning environment we foster here at Candor. My grateful thanks to all the parents of Candor, to our faculty and students for dreaming big and achieving greater.

ADMIN NOTES

Honoring our journey - embracing what's next.

Principal- Dr. Aninda Chatterjee

Curiosity about life in all of its aspects, I think, is still the secret of great creative people." These words by Leo Burnett beautifully echo the spirit of Meraki — a platform where our students explore, express, and evolve through creativity and reflection. At Candor, we believe that creativity is not just a talent; it is a mindset, born from curiosity and shaped by courage.

Each year, Meraki becomes a canvas for our students to question the world around them and to voice their thoughts in ways that are bold, honest, and deeply personal. Whether through poetry, prose, photography, or performance, they paint their stories across the pages of this magazine, reminding us that the power to create lies within us all.

As Vincent van Gogh once said, "If you hear a voice within you say, 'You cannot paint,' then by all means paint. That voice will be silenced." This issue of Meraki is full of such moments — where students silenced doubt, overcame hesitation, and chose to believe in their vision. Srishtie, or creation, is not just an act — it is a journey.

It is the journey of each learner finding the confidence to be a creator, and the pride that follows when they realize their voice matters. At the heart of education lies transformation. And transformation requires a deep trust in the process of learning and unlearning. As the ancient Brihadaranyaka Upanishad guides us:

"From ignorance, lead me to truth;

From darkness, lead me to light."

This call to enlightenment is what we strive for — to nurture not just informed minds, but empowered spirits. It is our hope that each student who contributes to Meraki discovers that the real change begins from within.

Nothing is impossible if we are willing to learn, to grow, and to be led by curiosity and purpose. The power within each child has the potential to shape a world far beyond what we can imagine — and this magazine is a small, powerful testament to that truth.

Let the echoes of change begin here



Vice Principal- Dr. Gourab Das Sharma

Meraki is more than just an annual magazine; it is a vibrant reflection of the creativity, achievements, and spirit that define the Candor community. This year's edition captures the essence of our school's vision by encouraging students to reflect upon aspects of change and the role they play as catalysts of change.

It has been a pleasure to watch the excitement around this edition of Meraki, and I would like to offer my congratulations to all the students who have taken time out to contribute to the magazine by sharing their creative outputs. The sheer variety on display—poetry, short stories, essays, artwork, etc.—is evidence of the talent, imagination, and resilience of our students.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the members of our editorial team, led by Mihika and Sheetal, and our teacher mentors—Ms. Madhusmita and Ms. Tasneem. This magazine is a testament to your hard work and dedication, and I am sure that everyone will enjoy reading Meraki 2025.



Dean of Administration- Mr. Sridhar

It is a great pleasure to share a few words for this edition of Meraki, the magazine of Candor International

School. This publication is not just a collection of articles, poems, and achievements—it is a reflection of the vibrant spirit, creativity, and hard work of our school community.

Each edition of the magazine stands as a milestone, capturing the growth, imagination, and vibrant spirit of our students, while giving voice to their thoughts, dreams, and aspirations. This showcases a diverse range of creative talents, including writing, editing, and magazine design.

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the contributors and the editorial team for their effort and enthusiasm in bringing this magazine to life. May this issue inspire all readers and motivate our young minds to dream bigger, think deeper, and achieve more.

You make a difference, and your work enriches our school experiences.



Message From The Teachers



Ms. Tasneem Ahmed

“The youth of today are the voices of tomorrow — when they speak, the world listens.” Candor’s Meraki 2025 — “Echoes of Change” captures the very best of our students’ passion, insights, reflections on societal shifts, and visions for the future. As one of the teachers guiding the Meraki team, it fills me with immense hope to witness how our students voice their thoughts through diverse modes of expression.

If one chose poetry, another chose action. Through verse, a student laid bare the harshness of the world and the quiet resilience of a struggling soul. Another offered a powerful reminder that even a simple, silent act of defiance — like Rosa Parks’ — can spark a movement and awaken courage within us all. One student penned a tender farewell to school — the only place that ever truly felt like home — where memories were born, comfort was found, and the soul still longs to stay. This edition also shines a light on gender equality. The boys took a bold step in challenging patriarchal norms by cooking a meal for the girls in their class. In response, the girls wrote a moving poem critiquing systemic gender inequality — urging recognition, respect, and true freedom for women beyond the roles imposed upon them.

These collective expressions of emotion and thought are at the heart of Candor’s Meraki 2025 — Echoes of Change. I am truly overwhelmed and inspired to see these young minds navigating adolescence while shaping themselves into strong, thoughtful individuals of tomorrow.

To our students — never stop speaking your truth, sharing your light, and standing up for what matters. The Candor community walks beside you, cheering you on every step of the way. Humbled and full of gratitude for having been given the opportunity to be part of Meraki and contribute to something so meaningful.

Ms. Madhusmitha Agarwalla

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” — Eleanor Roosevelt
It has been a true privilege to work with a team of deeply motivated students. As a teacher-in-charge of Meraki, Candor International School’s newsletter, I have learned so much through this enriching journey. From debating about the cover page designs to finalizing themes and curating stories and articles, every discussion was filled with passion and purpose. I am immensely grateful to my enthusiastic team, whose creativity, commitment, and seamless coordination have brought this edition to life so beautifully.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our ever-supportive Principal, Dr. Aninda Chatterji, whose constant encouragement, insightful guidance, and brilliant suggestions kept us inspired throughout the process.

I sincerely hope Meraki continues to resonate with its readers for years to come. The memories of its creation will remain a cherished part of my teaching journey.



Notes From The Editors



Mihika Jalistagi (Editor)

"Things change and that's the way it is" - 2Pac

Dear Readers,

As I sit down to write this note, I find myself at a rare loss for words, an unexpected moment for someone who is usually never short of them. How does one capture the challenges our team has faced or the profound sense of fulfillment I now feel? How can the countless hours of work, dedication, and thoughtful revision that went into this magazine be articulated on a single page? I suspect that no matter how carefully I write, I may fall short of fully expressing what this journey has meant.

Every aspect of this edition has been crafted with intention, from the selection of pieces to even the editors' picks. It is my sincere hope that our efforts resonate with you, even if only for a moment.

Change, a fundamental part of life, seemed only suitable as the life force of this year's Meraki. Our words and actions leave lasting imprints, and within these pages, I believe you will discover compelling works that affirm just that. It has been our mission to celebrate and showcase the immense talent within the Candor community, and we hope we have done it justice.

Creating this volume alongside such a committed and passionate team has been an honor. Though the journey was not without its difficulties, it has led us to this final product, a culmination of resilience, collaboration, and creativity.

To our readers: thank you for taking the time to engage with this magazine. May it inspire you to reflect, to dream, and to remember that you hold the power to shape the future. The ability to create change lies within you.

With that, I leave you with Meraki 2025–2026.

Yours Truly,
Mihika Jalistagi
Editor-in-Chief



Sheetal Prasad (Sub-Editor)

As I sit down to pen this note, I'm filled with an overwhelming sense of enthusiasm and gratitude.

Creating this edition of our school magazine has been nothing short of a wholesome experience, one that brought laughter, learning, late-night brainstorming, and an immense sense of pride.

This journey taught me more than I ever expected about storytelling, leadership, time management, and most importantly, about working with others who share the same passion. From debating over fonts to celebrating every accepted piece, I've come to appreciate the behind-the-scenes effort that shapes something so meaningful. This magazine is not merely a collection of pages; it's a reflection of the voices, visions, and talents within our school community.

It carries with it the countless conversations, careful edits, and steady effort that brought it all together, and certainly every moment of growth. I'm deeply thankful to the entire editorial team for their dedication, to every contributor who brought heart and originality, and to the school for trusting us with this opportunity. It's been a learning experience I'll always value.

To everyone reading, we hope this magazine speaks to you, stays with you, and reflects the spirit of our school in the best way.

Thank You.

Meet The Editorial Board!



Madhura Awasthi



Yashas Acharya



Kabir Wadhwa



Maya Valluvan



Abigail Blessen



Meet The Design Team!



Natasha Chowkhawala



Tanvita Bhemesetty



Editor's Piece

Iran's Unfinished Revolution - Echoes of Change Across Time

"Chin-ha-ye ma ra beshkanim!"

We will break all the chains!

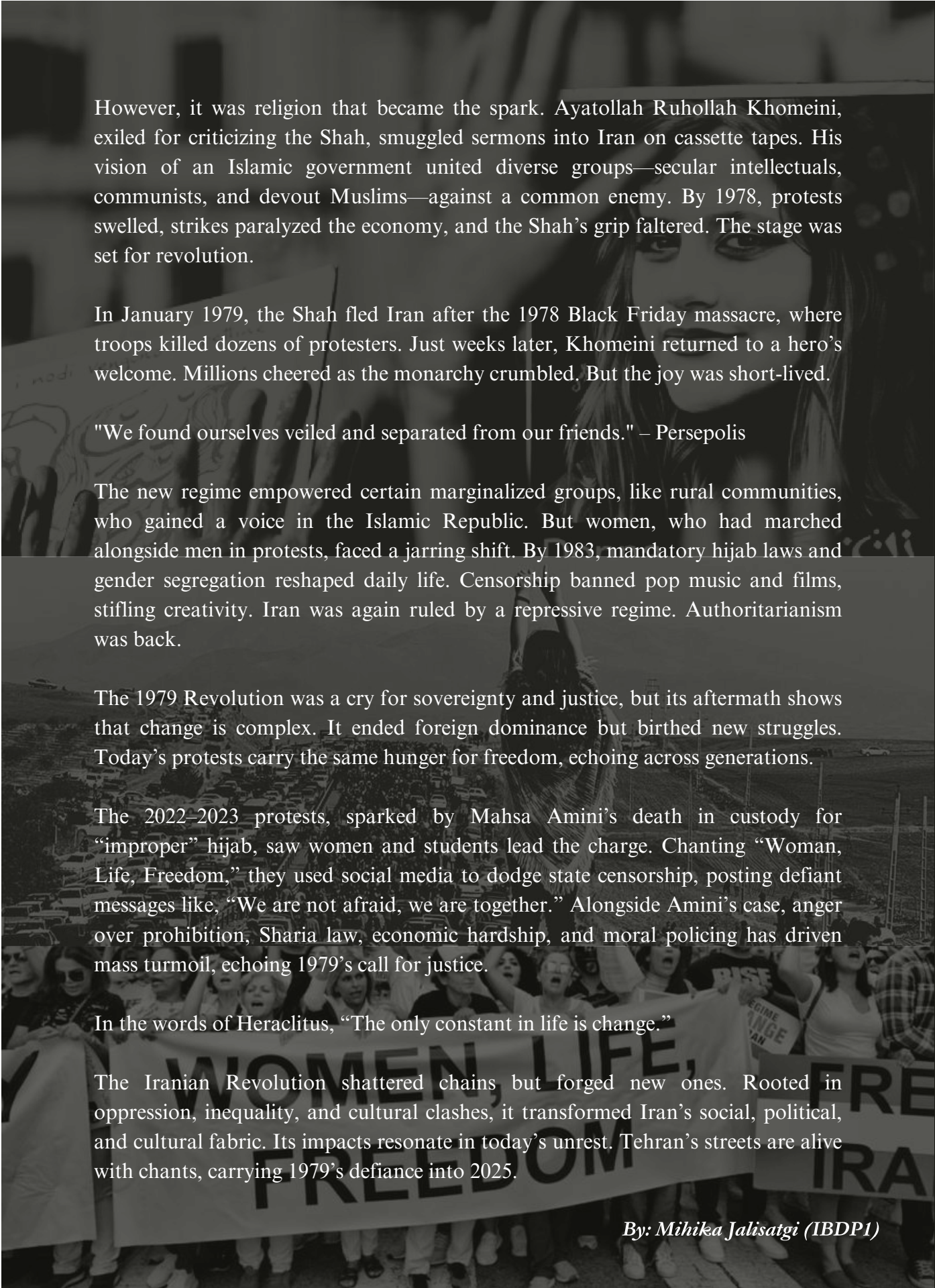
The slogan rumbled throughout Tehran's streets in 1979—the landmark year that saw an autocracy overturned.

The 1979 Iranian Revolution marked the end of a 2,500-year monarchy and was replaced by an Islamic Republic. This change, initially a beacon of hope, later sparked mass revolts and struggles that still ripple through Iran today.

Like most revolutions, the Iranian Revolution stemmed from widespread vehemence within the commoners of the nation. Driven by discontent with Western influence, political oppression, socio-economic disparities, and religious fervor, the revolution was a seismic shift—socially, politically, and culturally. Its echoes resonate in modern Iran, where people still fight for freedom, proving that change is never silent.

The seeds of the 1979 revolution were sown through the emergence of the former leader of Iran, Reza Shah Pahlavi, as the head of state. His path back to power was paved by a CIA-backed coup in 1953, and his policies displayed apparent alignment with American interests thereafter. Through reforms such as the 'White Revolution', Iran was modernized, but many saw this as an attack on the traditional Iranian identity and an adoption of Western culture.

Politically, the Shah's regime was suffocating. His secret police, SAVAK, arrested and tortured dissenters, from students to clerics. Censorship silenced voices, but whispers of rebellion grew louder. Economically, rapid urbanization created stark divides. While Tehran's elites flaunted wealth, rural farmers and urban workers struggled with unemployment and rising costs. "The Shah lives in a palace, but we can't afford bread," a protester once recounted.



However, it was religion that became the spark. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, exiled for criticizing the Shah, smuggled sermons into Iran on cassette tapes. His vision of an Islamic government united diverse groups—secular intellectuals, communists, and devout Muslims—against a common enemy. By 1978, protests swelled, strikes paralyzed the economy, and the Shah’s grip faltered. The stage was set for revolution.

In January 1979, the Shah fled Iran after the 1978 Black Friday massacre, where troops killed dozens of protesters. Just weeks later, Khomeini returned to a hero’s welcome. Millions cheered as the monarchy crumbled. But the joy was short-lived.

"We found ourselves veiled and separated from our friends." – Persepolis

The new regime empowered certain marginalized groups, like rural communities, who gained a voice in the Islamic Republic. But women, who had marched alongside men in protests, faced a jarring shift. By 1983, mandatory hijab laws and gender segregation reshaped daily life. Censorship banned pop music and films, stifling creativity. Iran was again ruled by a repressive regime. Authoritarianism was back.

The 1979 Revolution was a cry for sovereignty and justice, but its aftermath shows that change is complex. It ended foreign dominance but birthed new struggles. Today’s protests carry the same hunger for freedom, echoing across generations.

The 2022–2023 protests, sparked by Mahsa Amini’s death in custody for “improper” hijab, saw women and students lead the charge. Chanting “Woman, Life, Freedom,” they used social media to dodge state censorship, posting defiant messages like, “We are not afraid, we are together.” Alongside Amini’s case, anger over prohibition, Sharia law, economic hardship, and moral policing has driven mass turmoil, echoing 1979’s call for justice.

In the words of Heraclitus, “The only constant in life is change.”

The Iranian Revolution shattered chains but forged new ones. Rooted in oppression, inequality, and cultural clashes, it transformed Iran’s social, political, and cultural fabric. Its impacts resonate in today’s unrest. Tehran’s streets are alive with chants, carrying 1979’s defiance into 2025.

By: Mihika Jalisatgi (IBDP1)

Sub-Editor's Piece

Law May Falter, But Rebellion Reclaims Justice

Picture a time when the laws weren't just unfair—they were draconian and downright harmful. People suffered punishment for circumstances beyond their control, their lives shattered by systems that falsely claimed justice. Breaking the law—disobeying what was once considered the highest authority—became the ultimate act of morality. But how can that be? Aren't laws supposed to protect us?

Let's rewind to a medical disaster that rocked the world: the infamous lobotomy procedures. In the mid-20th century, physicians performed lobotomies—a procedure that involved slicing connections in the brain in the name of treating mental illness. Sound wild? Well, it was. Thousands of patients, many of them perfectly healthy, were subjected to this barbaric practice—all in the name of "treatment." The law at the time supported it. But was it right?

Then enter rebels—doctors, patients, and activists—who violated the law in their own ways to expose the horrors happening. One of the most notable examples is Dr. Walter Freeman, the surgeon behind the lobotomy craze. He was following the law, but the question was: is it truly ethical? As a multitude of patients suffered permanent damage, valiant voices like journalist Albert Q. Maisel began speaking out, leading to public outcry and pushing for a re-evaluation of this "legal" procedure.

Now, fast forward to today. Laws may change, but sometimes they still reflect outdated systems that need a makeover. Take Rosa Parks, the woman who sat in the "whites-only" section of a bus in 1955. Breaking the law for equality, Parks set off a domino effect that led to the end of segregation in the U.S. This single act of rebellion sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which became a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement. Parks became an icon of civil disobedience, an individual who bravely challenged an unjust system.

See how breaking a law is the stepping stone for change. History has shown that legality does not always equate to morality. From the horrors of lobotomies to the fight against segregation, change has often come from those willing to defy unjust laws. These acts of defiance are not mere rebellions—they are the catalysts that challenge outdated systems and redefine justice. As society continues to evolve, it is crucial to question, challenge, and, when necessary, resist laws that uphold injustice. After all, progress is like a spark—one act of defiance can ignite a movement that reshapes the future.

By: Sheetal Prasad (AS Level)



Table of Contents

Aspects of Change: 12-20

This section contains various pieces from the Meraki editorial board, touching upon the different facets of the theme

PYP Pieces: 21-26

This section includes activities & projects conducted by our PYP batch

Student Pieces: 27-34

This section contains wonderfully written poems, short stories, and more by our very own students

Teacher Pieces: 35-37

This section contains beautiful pieces from our very own teachers

Student Spotlight: 38-40

This section showcases the many diverse talents of our students

Student Council: 41-46

This section introduces our student council and their goals

Interviews: 47-48


This section includes interviews that give student and teacher insights about the school

Editors' Choice: 49-54

This section includes the interests of the editorial board

Games: 55-56

Self Explanatory! Have Fun!



Coverpage by- Jai Shaker,
Shresht Moongadi Sunilm

Aspects of Change

An Immigrant Socialist Who Could Lead NYC: Zohran Mamdani's Radical Vision

Every four years, New York City prepares for its leadership race, following the presidential elections. But this year, the usual political rhythm has been interrupted by something far more urgent and exhilarating. A man with a plan to cut through the city's cacophony of inequality and to give rise to a community that embodies utter financial tranquility. That man is Zohran Mamdani.

So, who exactly is this bold figure being accentuated across every borough? He is a proud immigrant, a former rapper, a democratic socialist, and potentially, the first Muslim and Indian American mayor of New York City. But more than his identity, it is his message that is capturing imaginations. He is the architect of Zohranomics — a people-first vision rooted in radical empathy, affordability, and social equity.

Zohranomics: A Blueprint to Ameliorate Life in NYC

At the core of Mamdani's vision is one simple word — affordable. This singular idea is built to lift financial burdens off working class and low-income families and to ameliorate the daily struggles that have made living in New York nearly unendurable for so many.

He aims to raise the city's wage floor to thirty dollars an hour by the year 2030. It is a bold proposal, but one that would definitely uplift a myriad of individuals from poverty, nourish economic growth, and close the city's deep income gap.

On housing, he intends to freeze rent for residents in rent-stabilized units and construct two hundred thousand new publicly funded, union-built homes. These homes would not only be cost effective, but



also more secure and dignified. Mamdani also vows to elevate the issue of deed theft in vulnerable neighborhoods and to fix a property tax system that disproportionately favors the wealthy.

Additionally, a simple yet revolutionary idea of city-owned grocery stores. By eliminating rent and property taxes, these stores could offer food at wholesale prices, easing the grocery burden for families who struggle every week to put meals on the table.

Public transit would also be modified. Mamdani promises permanent fare-free buses and quicker routes through dedicated lanes. In his vision, the city becomes more serene and more unified. Not just in transport, but in spirit. And this is only the beginning. His plans also include no-cost childcare, higher taxes for corporations and the top one percent, the creation of a new Department of Community Safety focused on care rather than force, and securing immigrants and LGBTQIA communities. In a way he calls "Trump-proofing" the city.

The People's Politician: From Kampala to Queens to City Hall?

Born in Kampala, Uganda to Indian filmmaker Mira Nair and acclaimed academic Mahmood Mamdani, Zohran moved to New York at the age of just seven. Before stepping into politics, he performed under the name Young Cardamom, blending music with activism. But what truly

Aspects of Change

distinguishes him is not his story, but his way of connecting with others.

His campaign thrives at the grassroots. No lavish fundraisers. Hardly any corporate donors. Just conversations in corner stores, school gymnasiums, and community parks. He strolls the streets of Queens and Brooklyn not as a distant politician, but as a neighbor. His social media is filled with calm, clear explanations of complex policies. His tone remains honest and grounded, even in the most chaotic political moments.

There is a contentment to the way he speaks about justice, and earnestness to the hope he brings.

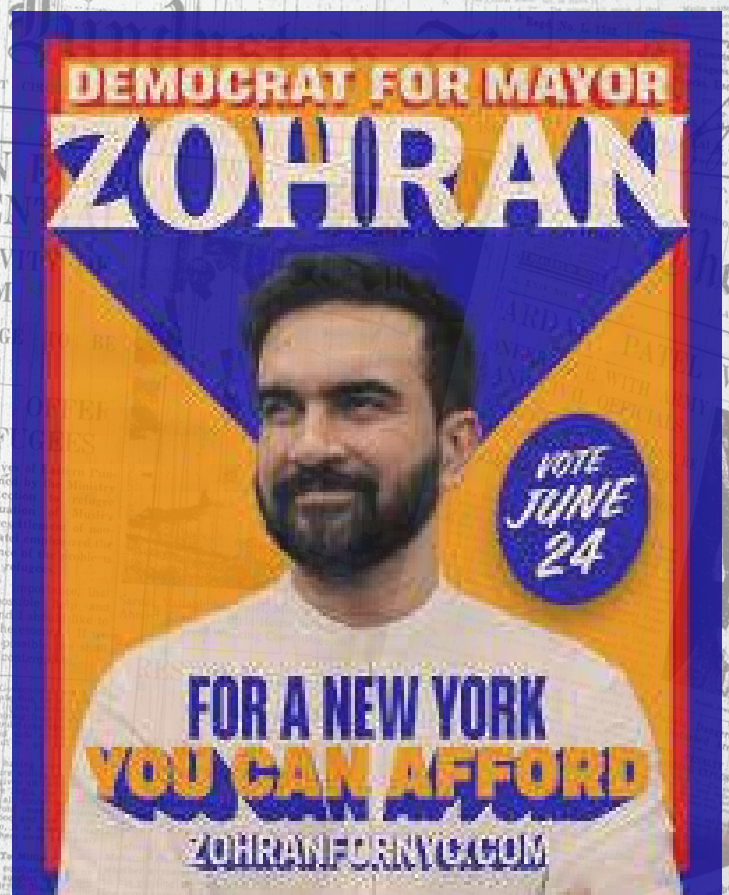
A Reckoning or a Revolution?

Nonetheless, it is prudent to know not everyone is ready to embrace Zohranomics. Critics argue that his proposals are exorbitant for a city already in financial distress. They question whether state approval will hinder much of what he promises. And the word “socialist” continues to spark fear in wealthy and conservative circles. Yet for many New Yorkers, precisely renters, students, immigrants, artists, and dreamers, Mamdani feels like the first politician in a long time who genuinely sees them. Not as voters, but as people. He represents the possibility of a calmer, fairer, more balanced city.

A place where the daily struggle is not romanticized, but relieved. A place where the raucous voices of inequality finally gives way to something more relieved.

So now the question remains. Will Zohran Mamdani be the one to transform this city's mayhem to solace? Will his reassuring kindness and focused vision turn into real change? Or will New York prove, once again, that even the Big Apple cannot bite off more than it can chew?

Maya Valluvan (Gr9)



Aspects of Change



A Sustainable Future- Malachite's Journey

Imagine a world spiraling toward irrecoverable environmental ruin.

Raging wildfires, dying oceans, and collapsing ecosystems forecast a bleak future—if there is to be one at all.

Profit-driven firms and governments sacrifice the future for their greedy wants. Forests vanish, water sources dry up, and landfills overflow as humanity drowns in its waste. And yet, real action remains mostly negligible. In defiance of the overwhelming warnings, the world continues to march mindlessly toward an inevitable end.

Unfortunately, this is a situation we do not need to imagine. It is our reality.

However, in light of the alarming signals of environmental deterioration, countries around the world have come together to mitigate.

The United Nations (UN), for example, created the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—a plan to achieve 17 goals, coined the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), by the year 2030. These goals not only promote a 'green' future but also address issues of equity and human welfare.

Inspired by these goals and similar international agreements, a group of five highly fervent and enthusiastic 9th-grade students was motivated to create further change, starting with their local community. A simple idea snowballed into a youth organization, and would you believe the impact they have made?

Malachite Nonprofit would go on to accomplish the following, sparking a student movement for the creation of a sustainable future:

- Addressed, through various events, 10 different UNSDGs:
 - No Poverty (1)
 - Zero Hunger (2)
 - Good Health and Well-Being (3)
 - Quality Education (4)
 - Gender Equality (5)
 - Clean Water and Sanitation (6)
 - Affordable and Clean Energy (7)
 - Decent Work and Economic Growth (8)
 - Reduced Inequalities (10)
 - Life on Land (15)
- Organized a food drive for an orphanage with over 100 donations, helping around 200 children
- Recycled over 75 kg of paper
- Planted over 100 trees
- Raised over 40,000 INR
- Initiated Project Ignite—an initiative to tutor and sponsor the education of underprivileged children
- Started The Merida Initiative—teaching self-defense to vulnerable children and young girls

Through these initiatives, Malachite has helped more than 500 individuals and has established a path for future generations to help revolutionize society. It only takes the ambition of a few to fuel change. If a few ordinary high schoolers can, so can you.



By: Malachite Nonprofit –

Mihika Jalisatgi (Founder & President), Rikhil Ksheersagar (Head of Human Resources), Kanishk Tiwari (Head of Operations)

Aspects of Change

The Game of Change

Some athletes don't just dominate the game—they reshape it. Their talent exceeds borders, their impact cascades through generations, and their legacy becomes woven into the very fabric of global sport.

Michael Jordan redefined basketball with a unique blend of skill and scoring prowess. His reign with the Chicago Bulls during the 1990s set new standards for excellence and played a pivotal role in catapulting the NBA onto the global stage.

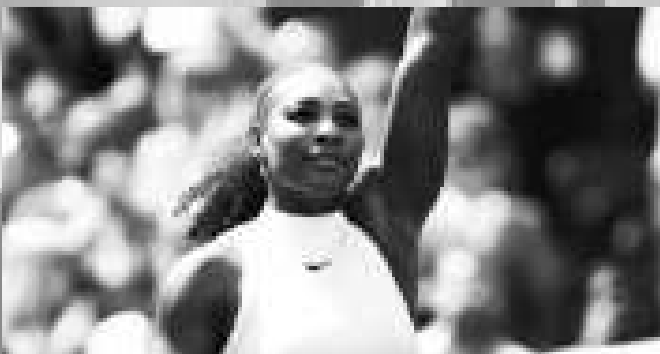
In the world of football, Pelé dazzled fans with his vision, technique, and clinical finishing. A three-time World Cup champion, he didn't just win matches—he introduced Brazil's beautiful, attacking style of play to the world and made football a universal language.

Serena Williams, with her 23 Grand Slam titles, shattered records and reinvented what was possible in women's tennis. Her power, resilience, and dominance not only elevated the sport but also broke barriers for both Black and female athletes around the globe.

Cricket found its modern-day icon in Sachin Tendulkar, whose consistency and elegance at the crease made him the highest run-scorer in international history. With each century, he inspired generations and helped bring the game to new audiences across continents.

These athletes didn't just play—they changed the game, rewrote the rules, and left an indelible mark on the world.

Kabir Wadhwa (AS Level)



Aspects of Change



The Evolution of AI

Introduction

As time passes and the future draws closer, technology advances further, reshaping our lives. In our current timeline, artificial intelligence (AI) is a rapidly evolving element of technology. This powerful tool is changing how we do things, from simple tasks to big discoveries. Machines that can learn and adapt are no longer just a fragment of a child's imagination; they are being used and implemented everywhere.

You can find them in hospitals where AI helps doctors find sickness sooner; in schools, where AI makes learning new things easier; and you can even find them in our homes, where it is behind the voices that answer our questions. The sudden advancement of AI has opened up many opportunities. It serves as an effective tool for humans to finish tasks. As a matter of fact, about 55 percent of organizations have adopted AI to varying degrees. The ability of AI to quickly analyze vast amounts of data and convert its findings into organized visual formats has proven to be highly convenient for these organizations. Instead of spending endless hours parsing through these massive amounts of data manually, people are starting to save major time by asking AI to do it for them.

Echoes of Change

The influence of AI extends beyond its present-day applications, sending echoes of change throughout society. These advancements do not just cause temporary change; they resonate across time, reshaping how we live and work in ways that continue to unfold. For instance, the efficiency gained in the various examples throughout society reflects a positive shift in productivity. For example, AI automation has streamlined production processes, and, for many, has made accessing relevant information and learning much simpler. This enhances convenience and allows individuals to complete their tasks quickly while maintaining high quality. However, this prompts the question: is a speed and efficient focused lifestyle necessary? Will there ever be a point where the efficiency is adequate?

Though AI presents substantial benefits, change is not always positive. These echoes also carry doubt towards ethics, welfare, and growth. Ethically, AI's reliance on datasets raises concerns about privacy and fairness. For instance, AI systems used in hiring may assess only quantitative aspects and unintentionally favor certain groups, leading to unfair outcomes. In other words, it may determine that a person with more years of experience is better than a person with fewer years of experience, disregarding the quality of the experience itself. From a welfare perspective, automation can reduce jobs in fields like retail by requiring training programs to help workers adapt to new roles. This presents economic challenges, as the supply of jobs may fail to meet demand. Additionally, the energy demands of advanced AI systems raise questions about environmental sustainability. It is reported that "A mid-sized data center uses about 300,000 gallons of water per day for cooling, roughly equivalent to the water use of 1,000 homes" (The Joyce Foundation). So, although AI generates positive echoes of change, these echoes also reverberate with negative consequences throughout society. In order to combat this, society as a whole must set ethical guidelines to prevent AI from feeding on our obsession with an "efficient life". Though it may sound alluring, cutting down on time spent may not always mean wasteful time. It may also mean cutting down experiences, such as the experience of finally finding what you were scrounging through the Internet for. It may take away pieces of life that were taken for granted and lead to a tedious lifestyle instead.



By: CS256 – Aryaman Mittal (President)

Aspects of Change

Vorfreude

You idiot kid.
Your foolish facade feigns you alone,
your ignorant hubris honed.
Just ask your ma on your cellular phone,
that cost a month's meal, or an abhorrently
under-paid worker's sweat,
just how much she'd be willing to bet
on your chances of surviving this world
of morbid money-minting masochists.
And she'll tell you that time, it hits like a
blitz-
-kreig, that responsibilities unassumingly
unfurled
will surmount the atmospheres on Earth.
You were doomed at birth,
boy.
This life's a funny bid.

Yet.
The songs you sing.
The nights you cry
yourself to sleep till sunrise.
The words that sting.
The words that ring in your head,
that wring your heart till the damn thing's
dead.
The masks you've worn,
mascara adorned.
The men of scorn
and vows torn
asunder, you wonder
how much you've taken of what this life has
to give
and how much you've left to take, to live.

Yashas Acharya (IBDP1)

Aspects of Change

Seeking Refuge

If you were to ask someone to describe me today, they'd probably say I'm loud, lively, and bursting with energy. But when I look back I see the girl who walked into Candor three years ago—quiet, unsure, and tightly braided. A shy soul who spent most lunch breaks in empty classrooms with her only friend, dreaming up stories for the book they were going to write. A girl who missed her old life, her friends, and felt like she'd never belong among the fast-paced, big city kids.

A lot has changed since then. I may not have grown taller (though my forehead might disagree), but I've grown in every way that matters. Today, I stand more confident, more outspoken, and more energetic than I ever imagined I could be. And while I owe much of that to the incredible people around me—my friends, my teachers—it was the beat of the music that truly transformed me.

It was music that made me feel at home. Music that let me dance away loneliness and shake off the feeling of being out of place. From singing One Direction in my first 8th-grade band performance to dancing with my seniors during their farewell, the rhythm of Candor's cultural spirit became the heartbeat of my journey here.

Music became more than a hobby—it became my anchor, my form of expression, my way of saying, I belong. Every time I stepped onto that stage, even when the speakers crackled or the spotlight flickered, I felt a surge of joy. Every clap, every cheer, every echo of my name through the school mics reminded me that I was exactly where I was meant to be.

To me, this is what belonging looks like: not just being in a place, but feeling seen, heard, and fully alive in it. I call it seeking refuge—finding agency in the spaces that allow you to be your most authentic self. For me, that's the stage, the studio, the dance room, or any corner where I can move, create, and feel free. Eventually, I realized belonging wasn't tied to a physical location; it was something I carried within me. Whether I was choreographing routines in the garden outside our hostel or humming lyrics in a literature class, the feeling stayed the same.

Winning Alethia with the dance team or singing Night Changes as we bid farewell to our seniors—these weren't just events, they were affirmations of the community we built. In every synchronized step and heartfelt note, I found home.

No matter where I go from here—onstage, in a classroom, or under the open sky—the rhythm of my passion will always guide me. Because in the end, belonging isn't just about where you are; it's about being free to express, create, and simply be yourself.

Madhura Awasthi (IBDP1)

Aspects of Change

A Seat for Change

As Rosa Parks sat,
and history changed,
Her simple act,
THE whole world rearranged.

She said one word "No" on that bus one day,
And paved freedom's way.

Her quiet strength, a whispered roar,
She stood for rights and so much more.

Because she sat, we learned to see,
The path to justice, wild and free.

Her story, told in every class,
A lesson that true courage lasts.

From one small act, a movement grew.

The next Rosa Parks is you!



Abigail Blessen (Gr9)



Aspects of Change

The Business of Learning: How Profit is Reshaping Indian Education

Education inflation in India, driven by escalating primary and high school fees, undermines the not-for-profit mandate of educational institutions registered as charitable entities. The Supreme Court's ruling in *Unnikrishnan v. State of Andhra Pradesh* (1993) prohibits profiteering. Yet, *T.M.A. Pai v. State of Karnataka* (2002) allows a "reasonable surplus" for growth—a loophole exploited due to its vague definition. Private tuition fees have surged at 10% annually between 2012 and 2020, far exceeding the 5–6% CPI inflation rate. This surge is fueled by high demand for quality education, limited supply, and rising operational costs like infrastructure, technology, and teacher salaries. Regulatory gaps permit fee hikes masked as "development," while parents' willingness to pay premiums for perceived quality and inadequate public school alternatives amplify the trend. This market-like dynamic—where fees reflect demand and cost pressures rather than mere cost recovery—strains families, deepening inequality as education grows less affordable.

Despite the charitable framework, schools reinvest surpluses, blurring the line between non-profit intent and profit-driven behavior. Mitigating this requires tighter oversight, clearer fee regulations, and a bolstered public education system to reduce dependence on expensive private options, ensuring education remains accessible rather than a privilege for the affluent.

Access to quality education is a fundamental human right that much of India's population currently lacks. Hence, it is up to the future voices, voters, and lawmakers to create change for the betterment of Indian society. A strong social movement is what we need to regain justice and equality for all.

Yashas Acharya (IBDP1)

Our Future, Our Vision- A Heartwarming Activity by K1

In a heartwarming and creative classroom activity, young learners took a moment to imagine their future and express it through art. Each student created a drawing that reflected their aspirations—what they want to be when they grow up and the change they hope to bring to the world.

This activity beautifully aligned with the personal facet of their learning journey, encouraging self-reflection and vision-building. It reminded us that every child, with their unique perspective, holds the potential to shape the future in meaningful ways.

As their dreams evolve, one thing remains certain: their ideas and aspirations have the power to change the world.



Pre-K Learners Explore Landscape Art

As part of our continued exploration of culture, Pre-K learners participated in a collaborative landscape art project. This hands-on activity provided them with an opportunity to express their creativity while developing a deeper appreciation for cultural diversity. This interactive process encouraged learners to experiment with colors, textures, and artistic tools, enhancing their fine motor skills and creative confidence. Beyond artistic expression, this experience reinforced important Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills, particularly social and communication skills. As learners worked together, they shared ideas, discussed their artistic choices, and supported one another, fostering collaboration and teamwork.



Handprints of Hope- An Activity by K2

In a heartwarming display of creativity and optimism, our young learners came together to create a unique poster titled "Handprints of Hope." Each child dipped their hands in vibrant paint, leaving their colorful marks on the canvas. But these were no ordinary handprints—each one carried a dream, a wish, or a vision of the world they want to see when they grow up.

As these little hands grow, so too will their dreams. And perhaps, one day, they will look back at this poster and realize that their dreams began right here —with a simple handprint and a big idea.



Antiverse-The Cleaning Robot: A Project by Gr1

Our young innovators took on the challenge of turning **recyclable waste into wonder!** As part of a **collaborative group activity**, learners designed and built **Antiverse – The Cleaning Robot** using recyclable materials. Inspired by their understanding of sustainability and responsibility, they envisioned a robot that **picks up trash** and helps keep the environment clean.

This hands-on experience not only encouraged creativity but also fostered teamwork and problem-solving skills. Antiverse stands as a testament to their imagination and commitment to making the world a better place—one piece of trash at a time!



Snow City – A Winter Wonderland: A Project by Gr1

Our young architects brought winter to life by creating **Snow City!** Through teamwork and creativity, they designed a magical world filled with snowy landscapes and icy adventures. This collaborative project encouraged imagination, problem-solving, and a love for exploration!



The Underwater Restaurant: A Project by Gr1

Our young explorers dived into creativity to design an Underwater Restaurant! Using their imagination and teamwork, they built a unique dining space beneath the sea, bringing marine life and innovation together. This collaborative project sparked curiosity, problem-solving, and a deep appreciation for the wonders of the ocean!

The Robot and Its Pet Dog: A Project by Gr1

Our young innovators designed a **robot and its pet robot dog**, showcasing their creativity and teamwork! This futuristic duo represents their imagination, problem-solving skills, and excitement for technology. A perfect blend of innovation and fun!



Role Models: An Activity by Gr2

Students wrote a few lines about whom they looked up to and why, allowing them to reflect on how people had influenced their lives and how they could apply these lessons in the future.

Students wrote a few lines about whom they looked up to and why, allowing them to reflect on how people had influenced their lives and how they could apply these lessons in the future.

Learners used the Question Pencil strategy to reflect on the statement, “Only famous people can be role models.”



Poets of Change- An Activity by Gr4

Grade 4 learners engaged in a collaborative poetry writing experience, crafting sequential poems on the theme "Echoes of Change." Working in small groups, they demonstrated **communication and social skills** as they shared ideas, built on each other's creativity, and refined their compositions. Through this process, they applied **thinking skills** to structure their poems effectively, ensuring coherence and flow. Additionally, they strengthened their **language skills** by experimenting with vocabulary, rhythm, and literary devices to convey emotions and perspectives. This experience not only deepened their understanding of poetic expression but also fostered teamwork, creativity, and reflective thinking.

A Work of Fiction- An Activity by Gr 3

The brilliant minds of Grade 3 embarked on an exciting brainstorming journey, sparking a wave of creativity. Their imaginative ideas transformed into extraordinary fictional stories, transporting them to different time periods and realms. Without a doubt, we have budding authors brimming with creativity and vision—future storytellers who will truly become *The Echoes of Change*.



Unleashing Creativity: Exploring Abstract Art Through the Bindu- A Grade 4 Activity

Grade 4 learners have deepened their understanding of abstract art by exploring **S.H. Raza's Bindu**, a powerful symbol of **creation and existence**. Through **Thinking and Research skills**, they analyzed artistic themes, asked insightful questions, and made meaningful connections to their own work. Inspired by Raza's use of **bold colors and geometric patterns**, they created their own **Bindu-inspired artworks**, reflecting on **universal themes**.

A **gallery walk and peer review session** encouraged them to **articulate their creative choices** and appreciate **diverse interpretations**. This unit not only fostered **artistic expression** but also strengthened their understanding of **symbolism, emotion, and personal creativity in art**.

Empowering the Future: Young 4th Grader ICT Star Shines in a Competition

We are proud to celebrate the remarkable achievement of our Grade 4 student, Vihaan Hatti, who secured third place in the prestigious "To the Point" competition, hosted by Sharanya Narayani International School.

With the theme "Empowering the Future", the competition focused on education, technology, and innovation. Participants were challenged to create a compelling presentation on a given topic on the spot, testing their ability to think critically, structure information effectively, and present with confidence. Vihaan impressed the judges with his well-researched content, engaging visuals, and articulate delivery, standing out among talented students from various schools.

This competition provided an excellent platform for students to enhance their digital literacy, creativity, and communication skills—crucial for shaping the future of technology-driven education. We are incredibly proud of Vihaan's achievement and look forward to seeing him continue to innovate and inspire. Congratulations, Vihaan! Keep reaching for the stars!



Connecting Art Across Time: Exploring Styles & Artstyles- An Activity by Grade 5

Grade 5 learners embarked on an enriching journey to explore the world of artists, both Western and Indian, discovering how personal experiences and historical events shape artistic expression. While researching, they examined **different artistic styles and techniques**, gaining insight into how artists across time share common ideas but express them in unique ways.

Through this inquiry, learners **analyzed connections** between their **own artwork** and that of **historical or contemporary artists**, strengthening their **critical thinking skills**. They also engaged in **creative thinking**, developing original ideas by exploring new perspectives and experimenting with elements from different artistic styles and periods. This experience deepened their understanding of how art serves as a powerful form of storytelling, innovation, and cultural expression.



Exploring Colour to Express & Create- An Activity by Grade 5

Grade 5 learners explored **color theory** and **color value** by investigating **primary, secondary, and tertiary colors** and experimenting with **color mixing**. They deepened their understanding by creating **tints** (adding white), **shades** (adding black), and **tones** (adding gray) to alter a color's value.

Through **hands-on inquiry**, learners practiced **blending**, creating **gradients**, and distinguishing between **warm and cool colors**. They analyzed **complementary and analogous color schemes**, applying these concepts to enhance their artistic expression. This unit empowered learners to make **intentional creative choices**, developing their ability to use **color strategically** in visual communication.

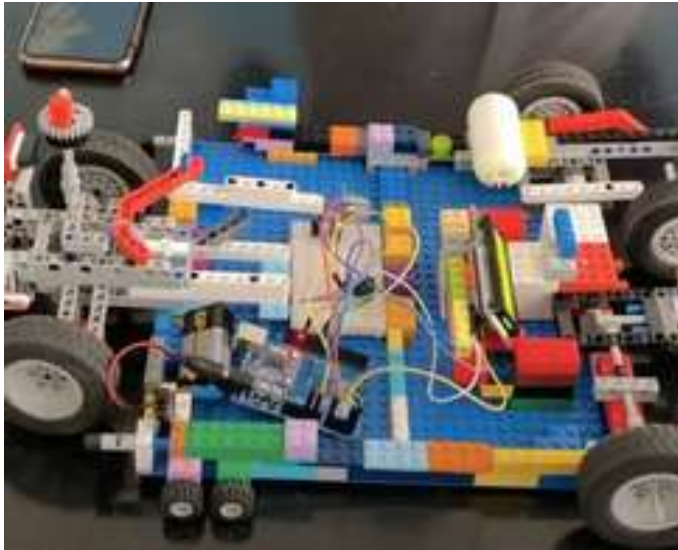




The PYP Exhibition 2025 **Ecolibrium** was a remarkable journey of inquiry, action, and reflection for our Grade 5 learners. As the culmination of their IB Primary Years Programmed learning, learners explored real-world issues and opportunities with passion and dedication.

Throughout the process, they embodied the IB elements, using Specified and Additional Concepts to frame their inquiries, applying Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills to research and collaborate, and demonstrating the **Learner Profile Attributes** in their work. Many learners reflected on their growth—few of them shared how they became **Risk-Takers** while interviewing experts, others highlighted how Research Skills helped them see different perspectives, and many found purpose in **Taking Action** through spreading awareness through videos, posters and websites on issues & opportunities highlighting sustainable solutions.





Environmentally Friendly Prototype

Every year, millions of people suffer from the emission of poisonous gases. The lives of hundreds are lost in widespread fires, major gas leaks, and poisonous gases running through the air we breathe. This was a fact that had devastated me internally. I couldn't live peacefully...

Technology is rapidly advancing, smartphones are becoming more intelligent year by year, and AI is proving to take a big leap ahead, so why are injuries due to fires and gas leaks still on the rise, and why are effective gas leakage systems still not installed in rural and remote areas?

ROBP-133 has been designed for this very reason; it is a modern supermachine with the ability to identify the presence of harmful and toxic gases in the atmosphere. The system is based on an Arduino UNO board and consists of an LCD, DC motors, and an MQ-2 sensor.

The device is designed to move around or through a large area of land, identifying harmful and poisonous gases present in the atmosphere. The system can identify these gases and alert surrounding individuals, as well as call for emergency assistance, saving lives.

The system works by mapping out an area of land, or in this case, a rural village, which consists of 6 wheels allowing it to pass through the harsh and rocky paths present in a small town. The motor uses a wheel-lock mechanism, allowing it to move 4 of the 6 wheels using just 2 DC motors attached to a 9-volt power cell. Its battery life can vary based on the size of the battery, but it can last around a week with a 4000 mAh Lithium-Ion power cell.

The system currently uses wifi to connect to the home base, but in the future, this can connect to satellites and can even contain a solar panel, allowing it to recharge while on the go. The prototype currently contains just one MQ-2 gas sensor, and a single Ultrasonic sensor but with a little more budget can contain even more sensors with the ability to identify very specific gases in great detail and have a greater object detection system.

This device can allow for greater safety measures in small villages and remote rural towns on a budget.

This is my version of a beginning to an evolved and safer world, saving the lives of millions.

Vihaan Gupta (Gr9)

Hidden Power, Silent Truth

If one can make a person enlight,
If one can change from dark to bright,
Then one has a chance to change the
fray,
To tranquil people enjoying each day.

If one can make one feel harassed,
If one can tell the tales of the past,
Then one may tell one what they
claimed,
About the sanguinary world to be
blamed.

If one can make the scrap to soar,
If one can handle the tragedy of war,
Then one can handle the peace and
calm,
The harmony in the potential of our
palm.

If one can find joy from a screen,
If one can destroy the last of green,
Then one can destroy the pessimism
we had,
And bring back the innocence like
ones of a lad.

If one can kill a lion by prying,
If one can give a shot to lying,
Then one can at least have a shot,
To take some time, and give it a
thought.

Etash Tiwari (Gr8)

Stuck

How does one cope
With fleeting days and restless nights;
When your own voice goes unheard in the unforgiving chaos
A lost cause beyond hope
All for the “freedom” of oblivion

Why does the river of time never seem to cease its flow
To run from the dust of memory?
Run towards tomorrow’s uncertain promises?
Or to just not stay stuck?

Too old to be happy
Too young to be at peace
For all I can crave is incessant action
Fleeing from the fading desire to be seen

Maybe *time* can understand my plight
Always too much
Never too little
Just never enough right?

Maybe time is constant
As a result of its flow
Endless, yet indifferent to all it holds
Because what is purpose
If not the oblivion that came before?

Sanjana Narayan (Gr9)



A Capture

While dining at a restaurant, a unique light illuminating the delicate and intricate branching of a dried plant silhouette against a textured background caught my eye.

The image resonates with the theme of “Echoes of Change” as it is a reflection of transformation, growth, and the passage of time. The still, stark branches serve us as a reminder that even in stillness, change is inevitable. It leaves behind echoes of what once was and shaping is yet to come.

Adya Kote (IBDP1)



Challenging Patriarchy: A Lesson from the Kitchen (Class 8C)

Men claim supremacy over women based on an aspect they aren't even responsible for—physical strength. Fine! Let us all bow down in reverence! Let's all hail in unison! But I fail to decipher this puzzle. The great man, as he claims, so physically powerful, is devoid of the most basic skill needed to survive—cooking. He needs a woman to feed him? Isn't it ironic that, despite all the physical strength he boasts, he cannot even feed himself?

To break this age-old tradition, the boys of Grade 8C recently took the initiative to challenge patriarchal norms, not as an act of rebellion but as a statement of equality, an echo of change. They stepped into the kitchen, prepared meals for the girls in their class, served them with pride, and, most significantly, demonstrated that the ability to nourish oneself knows no gender boundaries.



Equality Begins in the Kitchen

Kian, the enthusiastic speaker of 8C, emphasized the importance of shared responsibilities: *"Equality starts in the kitchen. If we expect women to step into workplaces, why shouldn't men step into the kitchen?"* His perspective reiterates the reality that true gender equality can only be achieved when both men and women share domestic and professional spaces equally. He further added, *"The most honorable individual in the room is the one who treats everyone with equal respect, regardless of gender."* These words serve as a reminder that respect and fairness should be the foundation of every interaction, whether in the kitchen or beyond.

Harvansh, the empathetic speaker of 8C, views the kitchen not as a place of division but as one of unity and self-reliance. He says, *"The kitchen isn't a battlefield for gender roles—it's a space for creativity, care, and self-sufficiency."* His belief in gender equality makes cooking not just merely a duty but also an artistic expression of love and responsibility toward oneself and others.

From Words to Actions

Ganesh, the eloquent speaker and curious mind, as his teacher calls him, took the conversation beyond rhetoric, stressing the need for action: *"Respect isn't just saying, 'I support gender equality'—it's proving it by sharing responsibilities, and cooking is one of them."* His strong mindset resonates with the idea that gender equality is not just about ideology but about practice. It is about making tangible changes in daily life, ensuring that men and women share both professional and household duties.

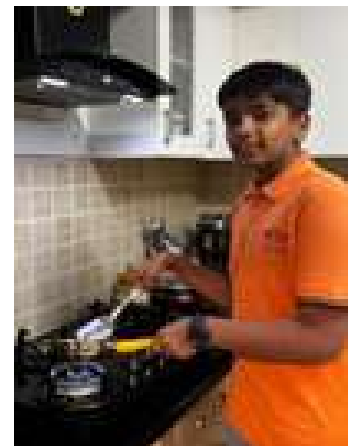
Rayyan summed up the essence of the activity with a powerful statement: *"Cooking is a basic life skill for survival. How can men ignore something so essential? It's the simplest way to nourish ourselves—why should we depend on someone else to do it?"* His words serve as a call to action, urging boys and men to recognize the importance of self-sufficiency and break free from outdated societal expectations.



A Step Towards Change

This initiative was more than just a cooking activity—it was a lesson in equality, independence, and breaking stereotypes. These young boys did not just prepare meals; they served a message loud and clear: the kitchen belongs to everyone.

As society continues to evolve, it is through such small yet significant acts that lasting change is achieved. After all, true equality begins at home, one meal at a time.



Échos du changement Révolutions et Réformes sociales en France et en Inde

Le changement est inévitable et fait partie intégrante de la vie. Prenons l'exemple de l'Inde et de la France. Dans les deux pays, les révolutions et les transformations jouent un grand rôle dans le façonnement de leur histoire et leur culture.

La Révolution française de 1789 peut être comparée avec le mouvement Indépendantiste indien. Les deux mouvements étaient dirigés par les peuples dans le but d'abolir la monarchie en France et le règne britannique en Inde. Cela nous montre l'importance du changement et comment la révolution a transformé la façon dont la France était gouvernée. C'était un nouveau chapitre pour la France, une France de l'égalité, de la fraternité, et de la liberté. De même, après avoir obtenu l'Indépendance, les Indiens ont décidé de créer une constitution démocratique, pour les peuples par les peuples.

Cependant, tous les changements ne sont pas bons. Depuis longtemps, nous observons les échos silencieux de la terre sous la forme du changement climatique, mais comment le combattre. Il faut que nous suivions l'état d'esprit de notre génération précédente. Notre planète a besoin de plus en plus de gens qui sont prêts à adopter des valeurs envers le développement durable.

Le développement durable est une priorité pour la France et grâce à ses citoyens, elle compte de nombreuses organisations qui promeuvent ce but. Même l'Inde est en train d'aller vers le développement durable en accordant des subventions pour la production de véhicules électriques. C'est une étape importante pour atteindre un avenir vert.

Comme le disait Héraclite, «Le changement est la seule constante». Une révolution n'a jamais de fin et, nous devrions toujours être ouverts aux nouvelles idées. En plus, nous, la génération actuelle, avons des responsabilités environnementales et il est primordial que nous nous adaptions pour les générations suivantes.

Bhargava Gandikota (IBDP1)



Where Rivers Remember

Rain echoing my spirit,
Carrying murmurs of memories.
Shadows waltz where past crumbles,
Leaving timeless echoes.

Time moves slow, then slips astray,
Like rivers paving out their way,
But in peace, I still endure,
A hope, loud and clear.

Echoes call, unbound and free,
Through light and night, they carry me.
No more pain, no past to vain,
Only flames of hope to gain.

Time flies, lost to wind,
Like rivers paving unpinned,
But in the peace, I still endure,
A hope, loud and clear.

Echoes call, unbound and free,
Through fire and storm, they carry me.
No more agon, no past sign,
Only flames of hope remain.

Rain echoing my spirit,
Clinking tales of time's embrace,
Echoes wane, but I remain,
Stronger through the echoes of change.

Chandrika Ellanti (IBDP1)

Why is Everything Changing

The place I called home,
Where I believed everything would be fine—
As long as I could return.
The place that caressed me,
That anchored me when life fell apart.
The place that gave me courage,
That comforted me,
The place I always looked forward to,
The place that watched me grow.

Home that sheltered me,
Wrapped me in warmth,
A canvas of countless memories.
Not perfect, but perfect to me.
Home that held me close when I was hurt,
Where my laughter drowned out my cries.
Home that raised me gently,
So gently, I forgot the world's cruelty.

Now I am growing older,
Letting go of the past,
Stepping into new beginnings.
But was my last visit to you...
A goodbye?

But how can I let you go,
When every wall holds whispers of my laughter,
When every corner cradles a piece of my soul?
When you kept me safe through the crash of thunder?
I don't want to leave,
To walk away from the warmth of your embrace.
But safety calls,
And time demands I move forward.
Though my heart clings to you,
I know I must let go.



You were my first real home—
The place where my memories first began to bloom,
Where my best friend and I giggled past midnight,
Where Mom's friends crowded every corner with laughter and stories.
You were the world through my young eyes,
So big, so magical, so endlessly kind.
How do I walk away from you now,
When every moment with you still feels alive?

You were my first real home—
The only one I remember,
The place my mind clings to as the start of everything.
I was still a child, too young to recall the houses before you,
But with you, I truly felt myself.
Your cozy embrace wrapped me in warmth,
Your walls held my secrets, my laughter, my tears.
Your wooden flooring kept socks away during winter.
You were where I felt safe,
Where I could dream without fear, without judgment.
Where I first learned what it means to belong.

And now, I will meet an unfamiliar home—
A place that doesn't know me,
And that I don't know.
It won't greet me with the warmth you did,
Won't hold my memories within its walls.
It will feel like a stop on a journey,
A vacation, not a home.

But you—
You always welcomed me with open arms,
Knowing me, and letting me know you.
How do I step into the unknown,
When the child in me thinks of you as family?

Will you be okay with letting strangers know you...

Shikha Hiremath (Gr10)

Cogs of Change

As always, the rain poured down over the city.

KH10 sighed, steam clouding from her throat. Why did it always start raining during this part of her hard-coded routine? The tea was delightful at this hour, but she always forgot to download the waterproof module. So, as usual, the poor android went without her cup of oil tea.

Annoyed, she thought, *Why does this always happen?*

Her creator's words echoed in her mind: *"The world operates on one single formula. Things change, but those changes are irrelevant to the loop that plagues our world... and there is nothing you can do about it."*

She reached the end of the alleyway. The pattering of rain grew louder. Then—suddenly—something shoved her backward into the shadows. A young boy darted past, clutching a strange pocket watch. Behind him, a security guard gave chase.

"GET BACK HERE! HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS?" the guard shouted.

"Isn't it common knowledge?" the boy shot back, fiddling with the watch's hands. KH10 found that ridiculous, what did he think he was doing?

But this wasn't the first time something strange had happened in the city. So, as always, she joined the pursuit, slipping down an alternate path to intercept the so-called criminal.

Now cornered and with two in pursuit, the boy twisted the watch again. With every turn, it began to glow, faintly at first, then blindingly bright.

KH10 caught him just as the watch erupted in a golden flash.

Was she going to die? The thought startled her, not because of fear, but because of how *strangely* she felt it. Could death really be this bright?

She opened her eyes. The boy was still in her grasp, screaming. The city around them shimmered, distorted, as if unraveling.

Moments later, they were back. Back at the spot in the alleyway before the explosion. The world had rewound.

"Ah! That was close!" the boy cheered, slipping free of her grip, celebrating, until he noticed the android woman had returned with him.

"Uh... this wasn't supposed to happen," he muttered. "Please go back to your daily routine! I don't have time to explain anything."

KH10's metal hand closed around his shoulder again, stopping him. "Oh no," she said, with something close to amusement. "I think you've got plenty of time on your hands. Now, tell me, what is this phenomenon?"

Her voice trembled slightly, not with malfunction, but with curiosity. At last... something different.

The boy sighed. "In ten hours," he said, "something bad will happen. Something big. It'll end everything."

He paused, adjusting the watch. "My name's Warfarin. And I've found the perfect path to stop it."

KH10 was still. Something sparked inside her, a long-dormant feeling she couldn't name. "May I join you in this quest?" she asked, pain lacing her words like rust on old metal.

Warfarin hesitated. "Sorry," he said. "This plan needs just me. Just remember my name, alright?"

He ran.

KH10 stood in silence, golden drops of rain glistening on her frame. She felt... not anger. Not despair.

Something else.

Hope.

After years of accepting decay, of believing in the inevitability of loops and code and monotony, this rude, chaotic boy had left her with something new.

If even a metal heart could feel hope... maybe the world could be better.

KH10 turned and walked into the sunset, shedding decadence with each step.

Agnetha Varnasi (Gr10)



Transformation

Oh how the days go by,
pretty wings fluttering in the sky, some
dotted all over, some with spots to cover.
I stand there, my tiny stature flailing
in the mighty winds, the same mighty winds
that gave the butterflies flight.

Not long ago, they gave me company
and warmth, showered me in camaraderie.
My whole eternal life I have spent away
from my motherland, fighting alongside
my brothers, the scrawny caterpillars.
Every moment war, everyday a struggle.
Those, who accepted me regardless of the
fact that I am a lowly ant. To them, I
remain eternally grateful.

Eventually, their limbs slow and
they grow tired. The time has come.
They shell off from the world, ready
to turn into beautiful beasts for all
of humanity to gaze in awe.

I look across the ginormous leaf that
I call abode, and see the tiny larvae
sprawled across, ready to turn
into my company. The golden light
from the sun trickled like honey
from the gaps between the leaves, illuminating
the alluring grandeur of my old, but now winged friends.
I stand, infinitely grateful, ready for the cycle to repeat.

Aanya Soni (IBDP1)

Whispers of Change

We see change as a misfortune,
Aware of the fierce storm ahead.
In hopes of staying safe,
Wishing upon possibilities, praying we don't get swept away.

It's a path unknown,
Swathed in fear,
Heart weighed down, a thorn's embrace,
Yearning to be coaxed and guided.

Yet, what if change is a whispered promise?
The sun must set for stars to gleam.
A cocoon must be torn apart to fly.
Only through the storm...do rainbows rise.

Only those who've braved the storm's embrace,
Can truly know love, can savor its grace.

Shikha Hiremath (Gr10)

Why Can't Women Expect Respect?

From youth, we are taught to know our place.
To smile, be quiet and show some grace.
Forced to like what they expect.
Yet never taught to expect respect.

Why must we live in fear?
Even when no one is near.
Each day we pray to make it through.
Hoping the world will change its view.

Why must we say she is someone's wife;
a sister, mother- part of life?
Is she not worthy on her own,
For empathy to be shown?

Girls worldwide, so bright.
Ready to soar like a kite.
A right so clear, yet still a fight.
To learn, to grow, to see the light.

Why are we still stuck in time?
Why is freedom such a crime?

Anika Sairam (Gr8)

Dear Future Me

Dear future me,
I have a few requests to plead,
I hope you understand and see,
That I've done my best to succeed.

As days pass and unfold,
I know you will get caught up in life,
As you endure warm and cold,
I know you will forget youth's serenity and strife.

So here are a few tokens from the past,
As well as my advice
For prosperity and peace to last,
In the chaos, don't forget your value or price

In the darkness, find the light,
Pave your own path, in your journey there's no wrong or right.
Choose your people with care,
Your laughter and tears they will share.

Forgive those who have wronged you,
You've made mistakes too,
At the same time, remember your worth,
And never let pain define your path.

Keep a little bit of your inner child,
Think recklessly, live free and wild.
Don't hound money, chase dreams,
Life isn't as long as it seems.

Kushi Sinha (Gr10)

Springtime of Life

“Life taught me to roll with the punches”

Growing up back in 80s and 90s was convivial. No! We weren't equipped with knee pads, cycling helmets, google or AI. We were far more worth our salt. It was nature's bounty that made us -- robust, dauntless and indefatigable.

Joy permeated our childhood, it was in the soil when we did gardening with our grandparents, in the water when we splashed in neighboring ponds, in the footprints of our tiny feet upon the sand, the soft green meadow, the vast expanse of clear blue sky and plenty of playmates.

We didn't have counselors or counselling sessions- Our parent's admonition kept us on our toes.

Boredom made us creative. We learnt to master failure as everything we did be it project, performances or art was self-made. We are self-made.

Ms. Sangeeta Karnakar

बदलाव की प्रतिनिधि

एक पौधा

हरे रंग का खूबसूरत

अभी चार पत्तियाँ हैं उसमें

आपस में बातें करती हैं

हिल मिल कर रहती हैं

पानी मिलता है जड़ों को

पौधे का कण कण हर्षित हो जाता है

और हां पत्तियाँ भी

वही चार पत्तियाँ

अचानक एक पत्ती सूखने लगती है

बाकी तीन फिर भी

हँसती हैं, बातें करती हैं

पर धीरे धीरे समय के साथ

एक एक कर सभी पत्तियाँ

सूखती हैं और

होने लगती हैं पौधे से अलग

आखिरी पत्ती भी सूख रही है

लेकिन अपने गर्व में कुछ लिए है

अपनी आखिरी साँस तक

उसको अपने अंदर सँजोए है

आज उसकी भी साँस रुक गई

लेकिन उसके गर्व से अंकित

नई मुस्कान, नई हरी पत्ती

कुछ दिन में लहराई पत्ती

पौधा अभी भी जिंदा है

क्योंकि बदलाव सुंदर है, अटल है, आवश्यक है!

तनमय अवस्थी

Ms. Tanmay Awasthi



Smile Despite Everything

She knows the power of a smile. She even knows how it can change her own pain when she receives a reciprocal smile. She always has a smile for her sisters, friends, family, and even her colleagues, as a smile brightens her own soul. She always says, *A smile can calm any ache.*

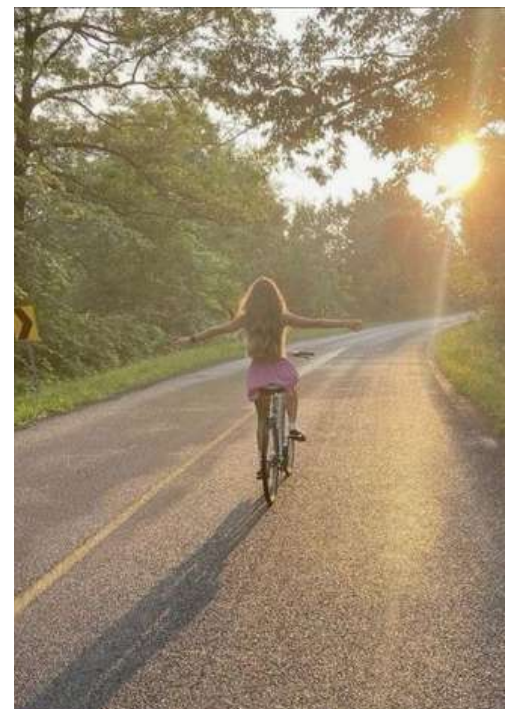
Her smile always presents itself as her best card. It is her identification. What people don't know is how much it has cost her to preserve her smile, and how much it has cost her to rise again and again from the ashes. She has built her smile from the same tears that were her nightly companions time and time again. But ironically, her sadness has helped her see better.

People think she is strong, and she definitely is, but no one knows all the battles, won and lost, that she has lived through—her inner battles, struggles with food and weight, fights with cultural differences and self-acceptance. She has fought internal battles with her family, endured humiliations that agonized her. She has swallowed sadness and the inability to direct her own destiny. She has accepted that cultural differences exist, even in the country that she has tried to make her home for a long time. She has felt isolated because her native language was different, and has accepted being excluded and taken out of groups for being a foreigner. Fortunately, there is always someone who lends a hand, and there is always someone who reminds her to bring her smile and joy back.

All those moments when she wants to receive a rose but instead gets a hard time or angry words have cost her tears at night. But even in those moments, she has continued to build her smile. Being resilient seems like just a nice word in the dictionary, easy to explain, but so difficult to live daily, but she is trying her best.

Her smile, it's a smile painted with colors, emotions, and lived experiences, and at the same time, with positivity and joy. Because despite everything, she keeps teaching me that life is beautiful and we must keep smiling at it. And as they say, a day without a smile is a lost day.

Ms. Claudia Cardenas





Daughters of Discovery

Imagine a world so vast,
With secrets deep and a veiled cast,
Knowledge found within it deep,
Ours to seek, find, and keep.

We reach out to see in a lab,
To many, seemingly drab,
Beneath the lights so pale,
Behind the coats lie the details.

A place so sacred, with silent hums,
With math and calculator sums,
Organized in rows of glass and steel,
Waiting for the big reveal.

Pipettes, solutions, beakers, and chemicals,
We look at them with immense potential,
Posing questions, taking steps,
Awaiting the colour change for the next reps.

A place of quiet dreams,
Through prisms, microscopes, and data streams,
A place of patience, a place of sparks,
A beacon of shining light in the dark.

She walks where some have walked before,
Searching for results more and galore,
Crashing glass ceilings, high and bright,
Even though they said she couldn't, despite.

From Curie's glow, still everlasting,
She is forever working on adapting,
To dream, to seek, and to find,
To place her mark upon your mind.

We are, all but women in science,

In memory of hidden figures, and pioneers of defiance, Carving
niches and discovering what's true, Where knowledge and
science spark anew.

Dr. Soumya Ravikumar

Re-In-State

I have lost track of time
I feel I am long out of my prime
Oh! This Lockdown is killing me
Inside the dingy-dusty sack that holds me
I crave for the warmth of sun
And for a look at my fellows and brethren
The attic is where we are now
In the damp, dusty and lonely trove

What do I hear?
Someone coming up the stairs
I feel a waft of air
As the light filters through
I look up and see a familiar face
My mistress much younger than her age

I am now stacked up by the window sill
With my long lost friends by my side
Oh! it's a joy to meet you again Uruli
And say hi to you too Sevanazhi,
We meet again Varpu and Thavi,
Kalchatti, Puttu Kutti, and my friend Kindi

We all get a scrub
After a long, long time
Being washed and dried in the sun
Has always been fun
lovely is the feel of Puli on me
It gives me the shine exactly how I used to be

Back in the kitchen
To the pleasant sound of the metal against me
We meet up again
The Klin and me
Nothing can beat the joy of being back at work
We whip up a fresh batch
of Unniyappam and Coffee

Ms. Nandhini Karuvelamkula





Sustain our Sustainer

'A tree which has lost its head will never recover it again, and will survive only as a monument of the ignorance and folly of its Tormentor.'- George William Curtis

As I trudge along this unique parcel of land, known for its pristine wilderness in the Sundarbans, absorbing the phytoncides emanated from the trees, my heart melts upon the whispering mangroves standing outstretched - disarmed and susceptible. I hear them crying out to me! 'Hurt me and I cry, cut me and I will bleed.' Unfortunately, because this cry is an ultrasonic sound, too high for us to hear, it goes unheard.

However, for a 'Dendrophile' like me, this whispering becomes eminent as I feel one with them.

'One in their vulnerability' as an Indian woman.

Statistics show that 15 million trees are lost every year in the name of development.

If Man doesn't listen to the cries of these trees, trees will get tired of crying and will cry no more and thus will start man's agony... A tree-less environment comprising disrupted ecosystems, water crisis, shortage of food, oxygen, fresh air and the list will go on never ending.

There is an urgent need to stiffen laws and policies for the protection of this important resource. Active participation from the government stakeholders and citizens in the conservation and management of trees is mandatory. I therefore urge each one of you to plant one tree at least this winter, there is definitely a need for collective effort but, *"If they answer not to thy call walk alone."* Famous lines from the song 'ekla cholo re' by eminent polymath Rabindranath Tagore.

I start walking again, feeling mesmerized by their beauty and bounty, absorbing the tree wisdom, the positivity that permeates my consciousness. They help me heal... I listen closely to my intuition and the wild edges of my instinctive self.

I continue my awe-inspiring grand Canopy Walk...

Ms. Sangeeta Karnakar





Naren (A Level)- Basketball

Naren Rajesh Shankar is the captain of the senior school basketball team. Working with his fellow Candorians has been nothing but rewarding - his team accolades range from winning 2nd place at BGS NPS's inter-school competition to taking home the gold at Candor's very own Aletheia.

But more than any trophy, what Naren appreciates the most is the indisputable impact his teammates have had on him. Basketball used to be just a sport, like any other; however, working with the rest of the team helped him realize how much the game meant to him. Leading his team to several victories helped Naren hone his leadership and decision-making skills. As for his impact? It is safe to say that the Candor boys' senior basketball team would not be the same without him. Naren taught the group how to work with each other through thick and thin, overcoming any obstacles that came their way. But most of all, he helped create an everlasting bond and camaraderie within the team.



Arman (IBDP2)- Academics

When I joined this school, I was the most innocent kid to ever set foot in Candor, with the sole goal of studying. However, that mindset lasted only a few weeks—staying motivated proved far more challenging. While the occasional motivational reel helped, it could never be a permanent source of motivation.

Things began to change thanks to two unexpected influences: volleyball and, by a stroke of luck, the NASA HERC team, where I met some of the most brilliant minds I've ever encountered. They taught me to enjoy life and take breaks when overwhelmed. People often ask how I study for long stretches; I've never had a simple answer. But I realise, it's all about surrounding yourself with those who teach you and push you to your absolute limits—not just academically but also as a person.



Arsh (Gr9)-Robotics

Throughout the event, Arsh's team had a fantastic time learning about the mechanics of how a prosthetic must function, what it requires, and how difficult it is to make one. As a group, they put in all their effort, finishing their presentation and 3D printing of the model just in the nick of time. The group enjoyed sharing ideas with each other and even more so during their time at LUMICON, a robotics event held at Harrow International School.

Arsh's model was designed using a 3D printer at Candor's robotics lab and was made purely out of their team's research and design skills. They came up with brilliant ideas such as portable prosthetics for quick and diverse uses, as well as easier maintenance. Arsh and his team certainly endured various difficulties, but they are grateful for the invaluable experience and the lessons they learned through it.



Surya (Gr5)-Sports

From a young age, sports have truly been the heartbeat of Surya's life! Whether he's kicking a ball, sinking a basket, or building incredible Lego creations, his energy and enthusiasm shine through in everything he does. Surya's athletic journey kicked off early on, teaching him invaluable lessons about teamwork, hard work, and commitment—qualities that are shaping him into a remarkable athlete.

As he grew, his passion for track and field blossomed. Winning his first trophy in K2 during the annual sports day was just the beginning of many exciting achievements. Since then, he has actively pursued after-school sports programs, joining various leagues and competing in multiple inter-school competitions.

In a nutshell, Surya is not just a talented player; he's a beacon of dedication and inspiration! His unwavering teamwork and determination to reach incredible goals make him stand out as a truly exceptional athlete. Surya's dream is to motivate his classmates and teammates to follow their own dreams with the same passion and spirit!

Vivek (IBDP1)-Football

Vivek Baskar's soccer journey began at the age of ten when he joined Kickstart FC. Initially, he had little interest, but his brother's passion for the game gradually drew him in, and soon they were playing together every day. Gradually, he started to improve, and nearly a year later, Vivek played his first professional match. As his journey continued, Vivek traveled across India, competing in cities like Chennai, Belgaum, and more - he was even honored to represent his state in national tournaments. In 2024, Vivek trained with Osie Aibangbee, Tottenham Hotspur's Youth Development Director, followed by a training stint with ex-Newcastle coach, Danny Olson, and the Newcastle U19 college team.

Looking back, Vivek realizes he didn't find soccer—it found him. He thrives on the adrenaline of playing against strong teams and believes college soccer is the perfect platform to showcase his talent and dedication. He plans to refine his skills and pursue his dream of going professional. Soccer has become more than just a game—it's a passion that drives Vivek to push his limits every day.



Tanvita (Gr9)-Taekwondo

Tanvita Bhimesetty has a 2nd level poom black belt in taekwondo. Taekwondo has had the biggest impact on her life, shaping her personality in more ways than one, and even teaching her a bit about Korean culture. Learning taekwondo ever since she was 6 years old, Tanvita has committed to the sport for about 9 years now. She believes that taekwondo has made her more disciplined, less short-tempered, and a stronger individual.

Not only has she gained physical strength through more developed muscles, but she has grown mentally, becoming more patient and calmer.

Taekwondo has given Tanvita newfound confidence, and it is a passion she hopes to continue in the future. She believes the sport will not only aid her in self-defense but will also give her qualities that will last forever. Most of all, she believes practicing taekwondo will open doors filled with new possibilities. Tanvita cannot imagine her life without martial arts - she is grateful to have had the opportunity to learn it.



Hardik (IBDP2)-Basketball

Hardik, a rising player of the senior boys' basketball team in Candor, feels proud and thankful as he thinks back on his time with the team. To him, the accomplishments of the group, which include first place in Aletheia, second place at BGSNPS, and third place at Neev Academy, are evidence of the group's commitment and cooperation. Hardik has learned so much about strategy and coordination from leading and being a part of the team. It has shown him that teamwork is just as important to success as individual talent.

Hardik notes that the basketball team is more than just a group of players; it's a family that supports and uplifts each other. Through their victories and setbacks, they have learned to communicate effectively, trust each other, and grow together. These experiences have not only sharpened Hardik's skills on the court but also shaped him into a more confident and collaborative individual. The bond the team shares is unbreakable, and he is forever grateful for the friendships and memories they have created together.



Vrinda (Gr6)-Rifle Shooting

Meet Vrinda, a gifted 10-meter air rifle shooter whose journey began at just 9.5 years old. A true rising star, Vrinda has already accumulated an impressive collection of medals. Her dedication shone brightly in February 2025, securing three individual silver medals at the 2nd Nagraj Rao Jagdale championships in Karnataka.

Her journey has been far from easy. Pursuing this sport has taken immense time, dedication, and effort, not to mention perseverance through various setbacks. However, Vrinda is incredibly grateful to have taken up this hobby, as it has become something she cannot imagine her life without.

Driven by passion and talent, Vrinda is now setting her sights higher. Her ultimate dream is to stand on the podium at major international events, aiming for glory at the Shooting World Cup, Asian Games, and the pinnacle of sporting achievement, the Olympics. Vrinda's journey inspires us all!



Malaika (Gr5)-Football

Malaika, a young, passionate football player, sparked off at age five, has chiseled her character in many ways.

Representing the Candor PYP girls' football team, she dominated school tournaments from grade three, conquering fields at TISB, Ambitus, and One World International. Her athletic prowess extends beyond football, securing multiple first-place finishes in 100m sprints and relays. At the club level, Malaika has played 2 seasons in the DPDL league and has won 2 "Player of the Match" awards, which holds proof of her dedication.

Football has forged Malaika's tenacious spirit. It instilled a deep understanding of teamwork, collaboration, and communication. Her "never give up" attitude, coupled with a humble leadership style, reflects a mature perspective. She embraces mistakes as learning opportunities, fostering a supportive environment. This sport has transformed her into a collaborative individual, ready to face any challenge.



Yashodhar (Gr6)-Athletics

Athletics at Candor International has been amazing for Yashodhar. He says, "At Candor we have coaches that are supportive and encouraging to us students. They invest their time for us to get better at what sport we play." All his life, Yashodhar has dreamt of being able to play and excel at all sports. Candor brings him closer to that dream.

The school is sponsored by La Liga for Football and Junior NBA for Basketball. They have coaches from Spain and other parts of the world to help them achieve their goals.

Yashodhar's favourite sport is football and he has always wanted to be the best. Through the years, Candor has helped him and nurtured him to be great at this sport. Even now, Yashodhar learns a lot from his coaches. He tries learning all the sports since it's possible at Candor International.



Shivansh (AS Level)-Football

Shivansh Raina's journey to becoming a national-level footballer started unexpectedly. As an ardent cricket lover, he barely knew football existed—until he played for the first time. His journey began in Grade 1 at Candor's Gameday Arts Workshop, where Coach Ryeesh recognized his potential. Initially hesitant, Shivansh soon found his passion after scoring his first goal—an invigorating moment that changed everything.

Inspired by Lionel Messi in 2014, he worked strenuously, earning the Top Goal Scorer title in the Double Pass Development League (DPDL). He competed in major events like Adidas Uprising (2016), trained with FCBU, and also played in KSFA before joining Bengaluru FC (BFC) Soccer School. His dedication paved his path to the BFC Academy at 15, where he played in the National League. Now training with BFC's reserve team, Shivansh continues to push his limits, with his sights set on playing at the highest level—one day donning the Indian National Team Jersey.



Jaison (IBDP1)-MMA

Jaison Pandian is a formidable force MMA fighter with a professional record of 26 wins and 1 loss. Competing across multiple weight classes, he has fought against larger opponents, proving that skill and technique can overcome size. With expertise in Krav Maga, kickboxing, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, wrestling, and more, Jaison has dominated in various tournaments, showcasing his adaptability and precision inside the octagon, truly earning the title "The Notorious".

But more than any victory, what Jaison values most is the confidence and resilience MMA has given him. Once a victim of bullying, he turned to martial arts not just as a sport, but as a way to reclaim his strength both physically and mentally. Overcoming adversity in the octagon sharpened his strategy, composure, and self-belief. As for his impact? It is undeniable that the MMA world would not be the same without him. Jaison has inspired others to rise above their struggles, proving that perseverance triumphs over fear. But most of all, he has built a culture of strength and respect, empowering those around him to stand tall, both in and out of the octagon.

Meet the Student Council 2025-26!



Anshul Nair (School Captain 2024-25)

My impact at Candor wasn't just about winning inter-school events or organizing Aletheia.



I was committed to putting our school on the map—diplomatically amplifying its presence across multiple platforms and fostering Aletheia from a mere concept into a prominent event. Watching it evolve from zero to one has been one of the most gratifying experiences of my time here.

Another achievement I take immense pride in is cultivating a culture of student entrepreneurship at Candor. When I founded my personal brand, StyleforCulture, it wasn't just about carving a niche for myself—it was about demonstrating that initiative and creative ambition can excel even within the structure of school life. Through this, I hope I've inspired my peers to embrace their own entrepreneurial and artistic pursuits beyond the horizons of a classroom.

Perhaps the most earnest lesson I've learned—and one I hope to have imparted—is that leadership isn't synonymous with perfection. There exists a common misunderstanding that a leader must be an all-rounder, excelling in every domain. But to me, true leadership has been about creating opportunities, setting a precedent, and evolving through challenges. I wasn't always the quintessential academic role model, but my role as school captain evolved my perspective on learning, responsibility, and the essence of paving the path for others. More importantly, I have strived to be a mentor to those following in my footsteps—not by embodying perfection, but by showing that growth, resilience, and a willingness to take risks define a leader far more than flawlessness ever could.

I know there's always more that could have been done, and I've embraced the lessons from my mistakes. But if my time here has, in any way, empowered even one student to acknowledge their own potential—to believe that their ideas, their voice, and their dreams matter—then I'd consider that my greatest success.

Ankith KJ (School Captain 2025-26)

Leadership isn't about a title; it's about making a real difference. As school captain, I want to create an environment where



every student feels heard, valued, and confident enough to step up. Too often, we hold back our ideas because we're afraid of judgment or failing. Imagine Candor, where everyone feels safe speaking up and where sharing your thoughts is encouraged. That's the kind of culture I want to help build.

I truly believe leadership isn't something you're born with—it's something you grow into. It starts with small steps: speaking up in class, helping a friend, or organizing an event. These moments build confidence, and with confidence comes action. When students are given the chance to take the lead, they learn to solve problems, work together, and adapt. These skills are what will help them long after they leave school.

But leadership isn't just about individual success; it's about lifting each other up. When one person takes a step forward, it inspires others to do the same. A school that encourages leadership creates a ripple effect, where older students guide younger ones, and that spirit of leadership gets passed down. Change becomes something lasting, something that sticks with us.

I want every event we organize to be more than just an activity—it should be an experience. I want students to feel empowered, to take ownership of projects, and to know their ideas matter. Together, we'll tackle problems one step at a time, always pushing ourselves to improve. By the end of the year, I hope everyone feels like they've grown, not just as individuals, but as part of a school that's shaping the leaders of tomorrow.



Rikhil Ksheersagar (School Vice Captain 2025-26)



As School Vice Captain, I strive to uplift this school and its student fraternity to their highest potential

I will ensure that I hear everyone's voice and effectively incorporate their feedback to establish an open-minded environment where everyone is included. My fellow student council members and I will leave behind a legacy in the school whose name we shall carry with pride.

embrace their skills with confidence and provide opportunities for them to shine. Through this journey, I also hope to discover more about myself: who I am and what I am capable of. Most importantly, I want to build a space where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and empowered.

Mukta Manjunath (Sports Captain 2025-26)



As the sports captain, I am incredibly honored to lead such a dedicated and talented team of athletes. This year, my goal is to elevate sports at Candor by fostering teamwork, perseverance, and passion. Whether we're celebrating victories or growing from setbacks, the true spirit of sports lies in our shared moments and dedication. To me, true leadership is about valuing every voice and cultivating an environment where everyone feels heard and appreciated. From the athletes on the field to the supporters in the stands, our collective enthusiasm and encouragement unite us. Here's to a year of pushing boundaries, overcoming challenges, learning from failures, and celebrating every success!

Maya Anjolie (Cultural Captain 2025-26)



Hey, I'm Maya Anjolie, your Cultural Captain for 2025-26!

I'm beyond grateful to be representing the insane talent of

Candor. This year, my biggest promise is to ensure every creative voice gets the space to be heard — not just the loudest ones. I want to create spaces where people can experiment without fear, collaborate across different art forms, and bring ideas to life

Let's make this year one where everyone feels like they belong to Candor's culture, not just a part of it.

Can't wait to work with every single one of you—on stage, off stage, and everywhere in between.

Naisha Shashidhar (Sports Vice Captain 2025-26)



As Sports Vice-Captain, I am committed to growth for every student who steps on the field, court, or track. Sports at Candor have always been a source of pride, unity, and relentless determination, and I aim to elevate our sporting culture even further.

This role is about more than winning trophies—it's about leaving behind a culture that continues to inspire long after my time in office ends. I hope to create an environment that keeps students engaged and motivated.

I promise to be a role model and lead by example. With dedication, teamwork, and the collective spirit of Candor, I am confident that we can make

Ruchitha Raj (Cultural Vice Captain 2025-26)



As the Cultural Vice Captain, my goal this year is to foster the diverse talents of our school

while ensuring that everyone gets their moment in the spotlight. I believe each person has something special that deserves recognition, and I aim to create an environment where individuality is celebrated. I want to encourage students to

this year one of the most memorable and transformative in our school's sporting history. Let's step up, play hard, push forward, and make an impact—together.

Adya Kote (Oak House Captain 2025-26)

As this year's Oak House Captain, I strive to strengthen our sense of unity and enthusiasm. My goal is to ensure that every member feels heard, valued, and supported. Through the introduction of more interactive activities, I will focus on fostering a sense of community amongst each person in the house and make sure every voice is heard. This year, Oak House won't just compete; we will stand out.



been a place where ambition meets purpose, and I am committed to ensuring that every student feels heard, valued, and empowered. Leadership, to me, is about service—uplifting those around me, creating opportunities for student voices to be amplified, and leading by example. Together, we will make Aspen not just a house, but a legacy of inspiration and achievement.

Kanishk Tiwari (Aspen House Vice Captain 2025-26)

As the Aspen House Vice Captain, I aim to empower each and every house member to the best of their potential. I will ensure that all of my house members get the opportunity to represent the house and build on any feedback to foster a better environment in Aspen. I hope to inspire change and leave a lasting impact on this house through my leadership.



Anya Reddy (Oak House Vice Captain 2025-26)

As Vice Captain of Oak House, I am committed to fostering a culture of unity, resilience, and excellence. My goal is to inspire every member to push their limits, support one another, and embrace both victories and challenges with determination. I hope to create an environment where everyone feels valued and motivated to contribute to our house's success. Leadership is about teamwork, and I feel like together, we can achieve greatness.



Eshaan Nambudiri (Maple House Captain 2025-26)

Being Captain of Maple House is a privilege and an honor. I look forward to instilling team spirit

and ensuring that everybody feels valued. I believe that leadership is about standing up for people, and I hope to create an environment where everyone will be encouraged to do their best. With teamwork, dedication, and a winning mindset, Maple House will easily win the trophy.



Mavis Carroll (Aspen House Captain 2025-26)

As the Aspen School Captain for 2025-2026, my vision is to foster a school environment that thrives on unity, growth, and excellence. Aspen has always



Praneel Thaneeru (Maple House Vice Captain 2025-26)

As Vice Captain of Red House, I am determined to lead our house with energy, dedication, and unity. My goal is to see Red House rise to the top — not just in competitions, but in spirit and collaboration. I will encourage every member to participate wholeheartedly, building strong connections and a sense of pride within our house. As part of the student council, I'm committed to representing our school with integrity and teamwork. Above all, I will give my best to every responsibility entrusted to me and strive to make this a memorable year for us all.

Aryaman Mittal (Cedar House Captain 2025-26)

As Cedar House Captain, I aim to bring our house to the top while sparking unity and enthusiasm among all house members. I aim to lead by example, encouraging everyone to participate in house events and forging meaningful connections among Cedar House members. Furthermore, I will be a dedicated student council member, representing our school with my peers. Above everything, I will ensure that I give my all to every student council responsibility.



Vignesh Ramesh (Cedar House Vice Captain 2025-26)

As the Cedar House Vice Captain, I will work towards encouraging my fellow peers to actively participate in school events and build a sense of unity among the students. I aspire to support my house in achieving success and shall organise diverse events to prevent anyone feel left out. My goal is to create an environment that includes everyone, where everyone feels valued to work towards their best.



Mihika Jalisatgi (Editor-Meraki 2025-26)

"Words are where most change begins." — Brandon Sanderson

As the Meraki Editor of 2025-2026, I hope to inspire change

through the words and works of Candorians. Not only will I make Meraki a platform for students to express their views, but I, as a member of the Candor Student Council, will also do my best to ensure the school environment is welcoming, pensive, and above all, remarkable. Akin to the Gandhian principles, I will be the change I want to see in this school and the world.



Sheetal Prasad (Sub Editor-Meraki 2025-26)

As the Meraki Sub-Editor, I aim to spark meaningful change by amplifying the voices of my

fellow Candorians. Through student writing and shared stories, I hope to make our publication a space for creativity and thought. As part of the Student Council, I'm committed to helping shape a school environment that is inclusive, reflective, and truly inspiring.



Richa Kuruvilla (Editor-Yearbook 2025-26)

As the Yearbook Editor, my goal this year is to create a more inclusive environment in Candor

by showcasing students' success. I will ensure everyone is represented in school events and the yearbook. I hope to bring unique ideas and leave a lasting impact through the yearbook.



Kshipra Kavatkar (Sub Editor- Yearbook 2025-26)

As the Yearbook Sub-Editor, I aim to capture the spirit of our school year, preserving memories that students will cherish for years to come. I will ensure that every achievement and milestone is preserved in a way that is both meaningful and creative, bringing each memory to life. I hope to bring fresh ideas, refine content, and leave a timeless reminder of the moments that made this year unforgettable.



Leah Aradhya (Girls' Boarding Prefect 2025-26)

As the Girls' Boarding House Prefect, I aim to help create a positive, respectful, and supportive environment for everyone. I'm here to listen, offer guidance, and make sure everyone feels included and at home.

Adritha Kadambi (Alumni Outreach 2025-26)

As the Head of Alumni Outreach, my goal is to foster a stronger connection between Candor's past and present. I want to create opportunities for alumni to share their experiences and wisdom with the current cohort. By showcasing the achievements and stories of our alumni, I hope to inspire and motivate students to strive for excellence. Through outreach initiatives and events, I look forward to building a more inclusive and supportive Candor community that extends beyond graduation.



Nakshay Naveen (Boys' Boarding Prefect-2025-26)

*"A lock is only as strong as the
person who holds the key"-
unknown*

As Boarding Captain, my role is more than enforcing rules—it's about creating a home away from home. I want to build a space where everyone feels safe, valued, and connected. My goal is to bring people together, encourage respect and teamwork, and help others grow into confident individuals.





How has the Hostel become your Home? - Manav Patel

"The Boarding community in Candor has become my home, where friendships and memories thrive. Shared laughter, late-night conversations, and supportive roommates create a sense of belonging. Despite being away from family, it feels like a place where I truly belong and find comfort."

What Values has Candor Instilled in you that you think will be useful for the Future? - Eva Simhan

"I joined Candor almost three and a half years ago, and so far, I've learnt a lot about respect and boundaries between people. I appreciate that here at Candor, it is quite easy to speak to the

people around, and I think it has to do with the environment and atmosphere of this school. The people at Candor, faculty and students, have grown to be approachable and effortless to speak to. I think this will help a lot of us in the future, because being able to speak to someone without being frightened and to hold a conversation with someone who comes up to you is a good life skill, in my opinion. I understand that isn't necessarily a value, but I strongly feel it has impacted me positively."



How has teaching in Candor impacted you? - Ms. Jennifer

"Teaching at Candor has been an enriching experience for me. It has deepened my passion for education, challenged me to grow professionally, and allowed me to connect meaningfully with everyone. The collaborative environment and student-centered approach have improved my teaching methods and reinforced my commitment to lifelong learning."



What Change do you try to bring into your Students' Lives? - Mr. Nathan

"I aim to help students develop an interest in History and an appreciation for the myriad ways that it manifests itself in our lives. I try to encourage learners to reflect on global events through the lens of their historical context and past events. I find that this provides a deeper understanding of current geopolitical affairs and a more holistic and well-rounded understanding of the world around us."

What is one lesson that you have learnt that'll stay with you Forever?- Shorya Vats

"People don't care about you as much as you think. The moment you start thinking about what you want over what others want, you'll be a completely different person - you'll have more freedom, less stress, and you'll start being you. So stop focusing on pleasing other people and start focusing on yourself."

What advice would you give to your juniors?- Neil Johnathon Paul

"School life is like musical improvisation. You try to stay within the diatonic boundaries, and once in a while, you're either too sharp or flat. But what matters is the notes you play next, which determine if the previous note was right or 'wrong' (Davis, 1984). So embrace every sharp and flat.... and remember to always cite your sources (Kanye West, 2003)."

How do you think Candor has prepared you for life?- Dhruv Bhardwaj

"Candor, through its rigour and challenges, has taught me how to face the struggles that I will inevitably meet down the road. Though each one of us is unique, a concrete fact in everyone's life is that it doesn't come without its hurdles; what defines us is how we deal with them. With Candor, through constant guidance from teachers and loyal companionship from my friends, I have become someone who is ready to deal with life's challenges."

Which Teacher/Staff Member has had the Biggest Impact on your Journey?- Parmita Vijay

"It's quite a thin line between a teacher and a friend. Why must there be a line, though? A teacher/friend is the best combination there could be. The most impactful in my journey. I've had quite a few teacher/friends in my high school journey. But not a single one of them could hold a candle to Dr Soumya. The funniest, smartest, kindest teacher I've ever met, lucky enough to encounter, much less learn under. There are no limitations to our thoughts in her class, no barriers to our learning, and no frustrations with a hard concept. She brings so much to a classroom, it cannot possibly fit on a smart board. Our never-ending inside jokes did not once come in between the seriousness of her learning; in fact, it made it all the more enjoyable. Biology stopped being words in a textbook; it became a language we all spoke. A language we'll never forget how to speak. My highest extent of gratitude goes forth to Miss Soumya, for the impact her words have on us extends far beyond the horizons. With her, this journey is far from bleak."



How do you think the Hostel has Prepared you for the Future? - Aditi Kulgod



"Living in a hostel for the past four years has fostered a sense of independence and taught me essential life skills. Adaptability was a long and tiresome journey, but I was able to take on the challenges and emerge untethered and self-sufficient. The friendly and supportive environment nurtured loyalty and emotional resilience in me, and interacting with diverse cultures prepared me well for my future endeavors."

Editorial Board - Submissions

Books & Quotes

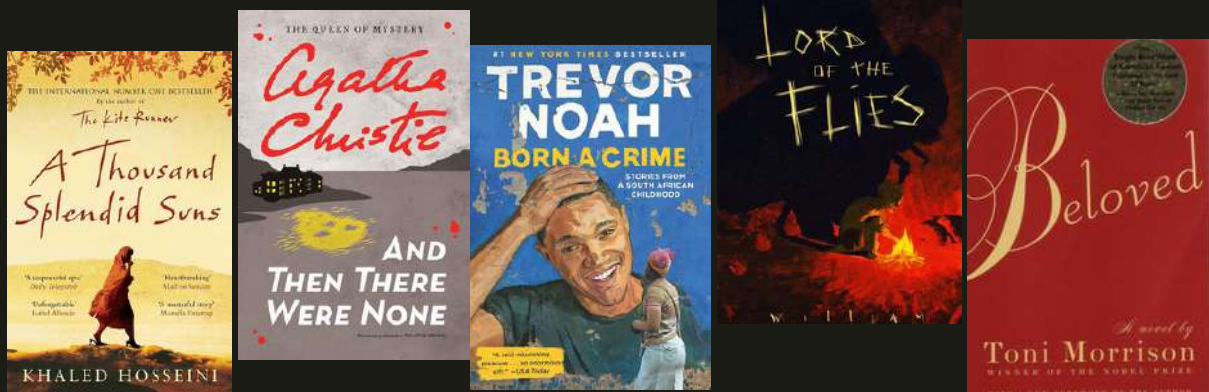
Mihika Jalisatgi

"Whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the freeness of speech." - Benjamin Franklin



Sheetal Prasad

"To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all." - Oscar Wilde



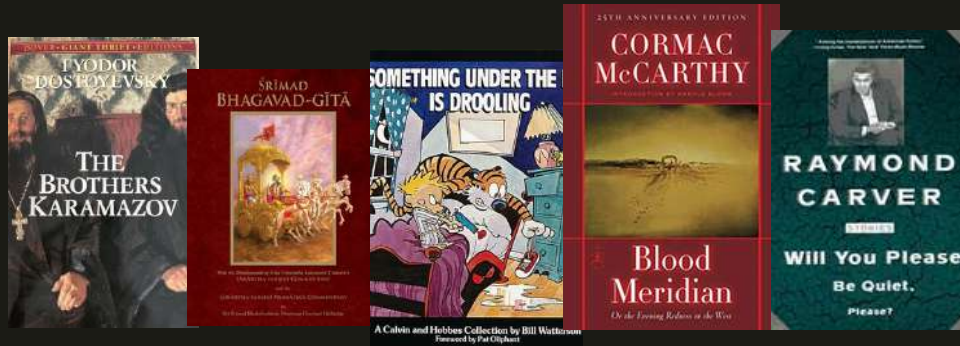
Madhura Awasthi

"The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination" - Albert Einstein



Yashas Acharya

"Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell." - Edward Abbey



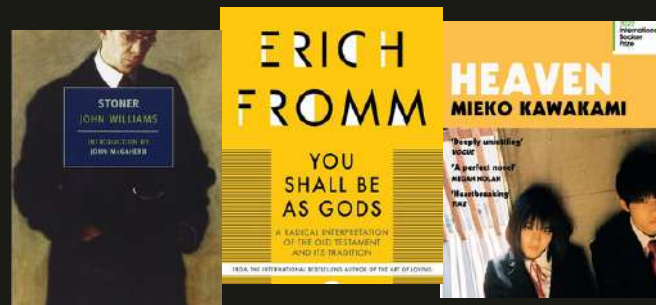
Kabir Wadhwa

"The proper function of a man is to live, not exist" - Jack London



Maya Valluvan

"Why do we fall, Master Bruce? So that we can learn to pick ourselves back up." - Batman Begins (2005)



Abigail Blessen

"If fear cannot be articulated, it cannot be conquered." - Stephen King



Editorial Board - Submissions

Films & Shows

Mihika Jalisatgi



Sheetal Prasad



Madhura Awasthi



Yashas Acharya



Kabir Wadhwa



Maya Valluvan



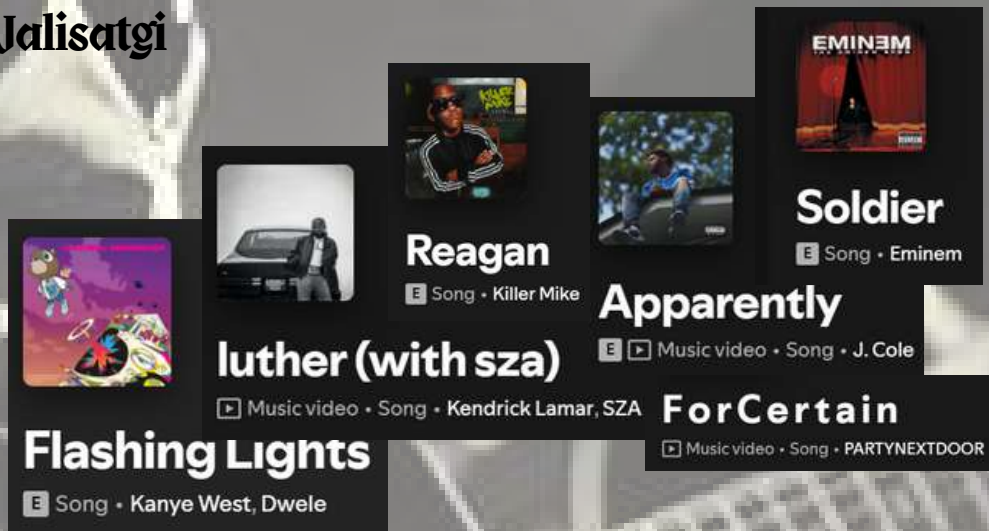
Abigail Blessen



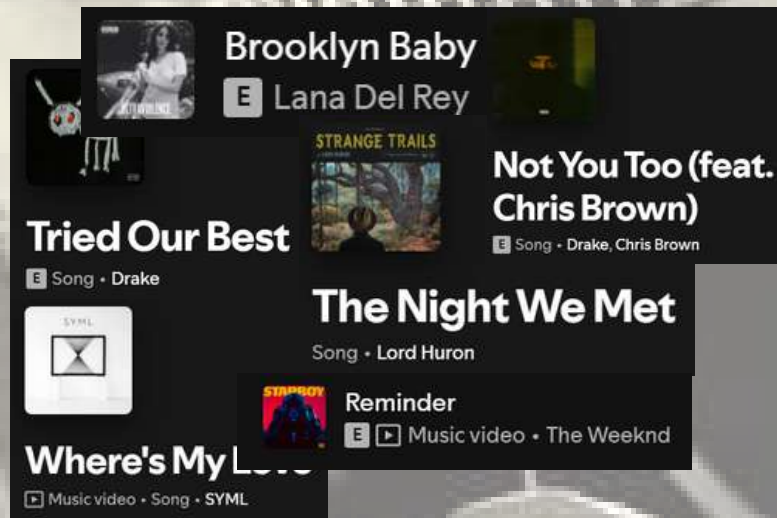
Editorial Board - Submissions

Music

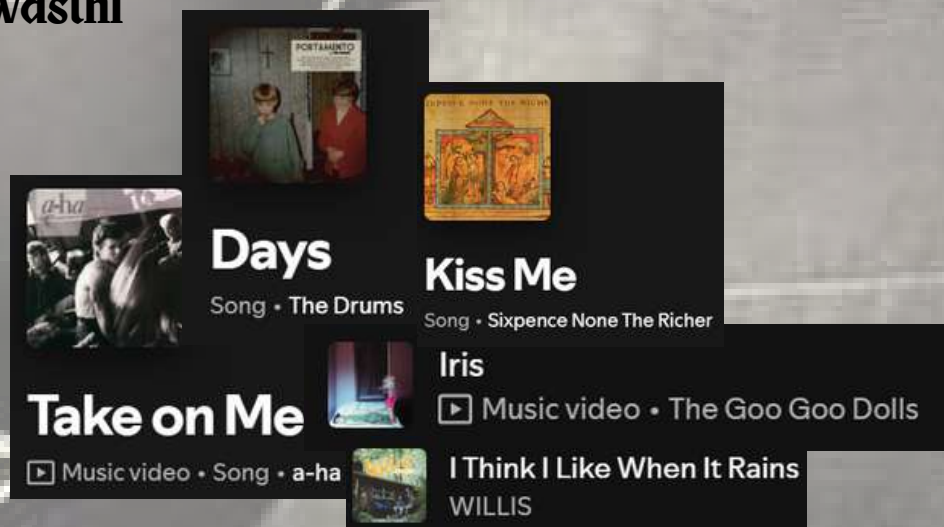
Mihika Jalisatgi



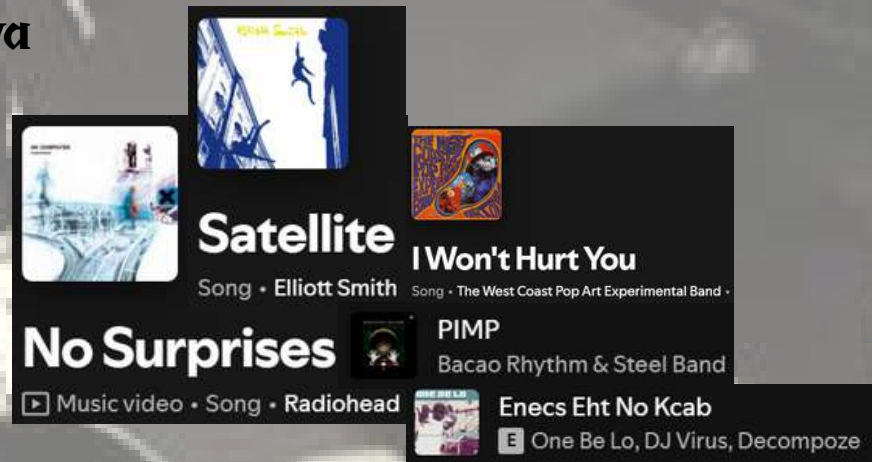
Sheetal Prasad



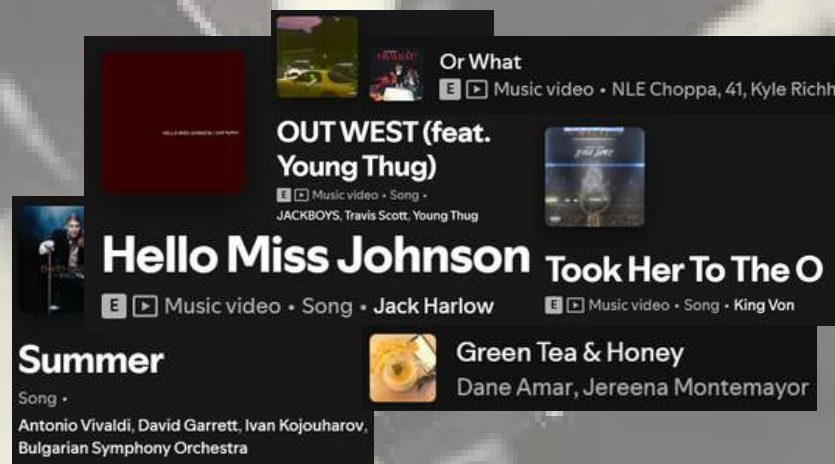
Madhura Awasthi



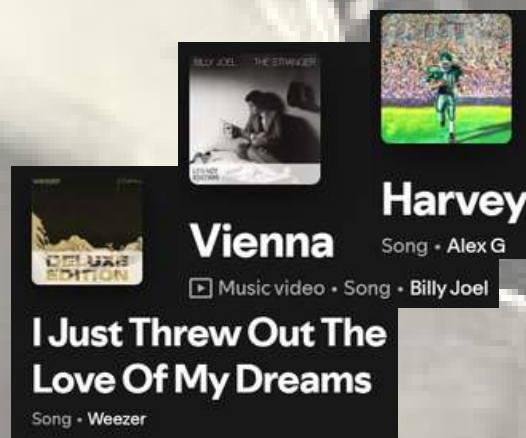
Yashas Acharya



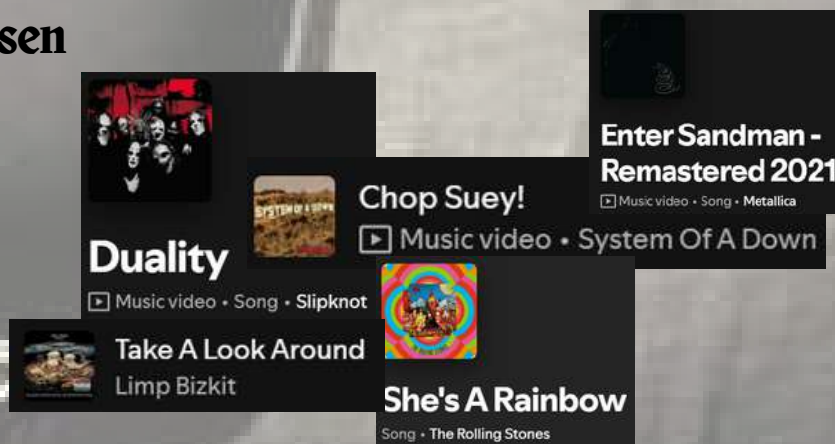
Kabir Wadhwa



Maya Valluvan



Abigail Blessen



Games

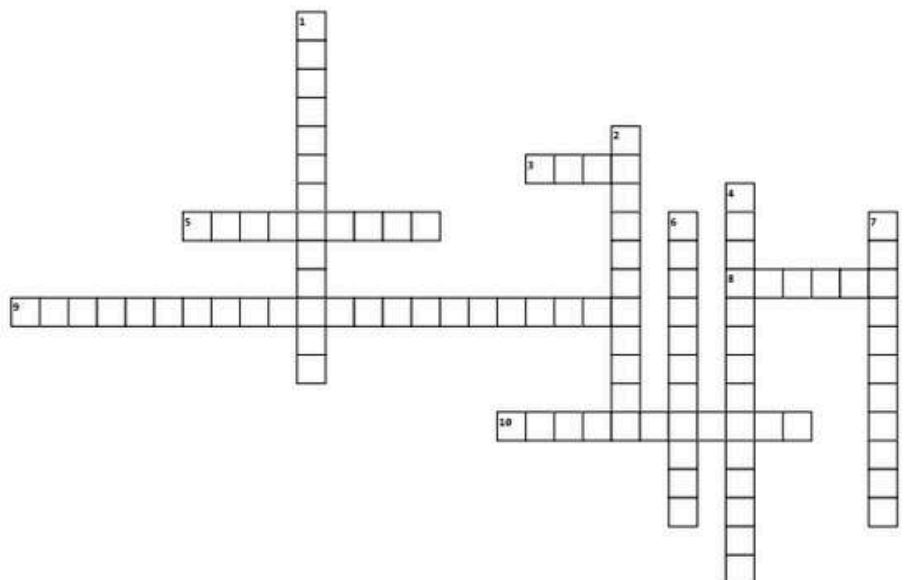


Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

TRANSFORMATION
METAMORPHOSIS
ENLIGHTENMENT
BREAKTHROUGH
RENAISSANCE
INNOVATION
REVOLUTION

AWAKENING
EPIPHANY
PROGRESS
FUTURE
LEGACY
REFORM
RIPPLE

IMPACT
ADAPT
CLOCK
ECHO



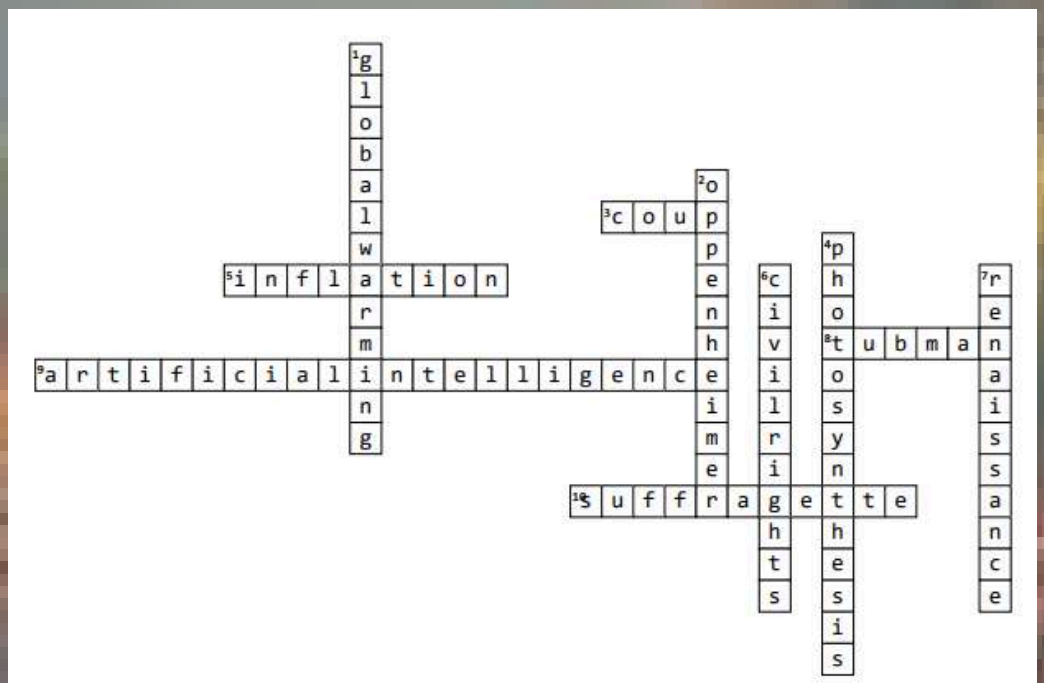
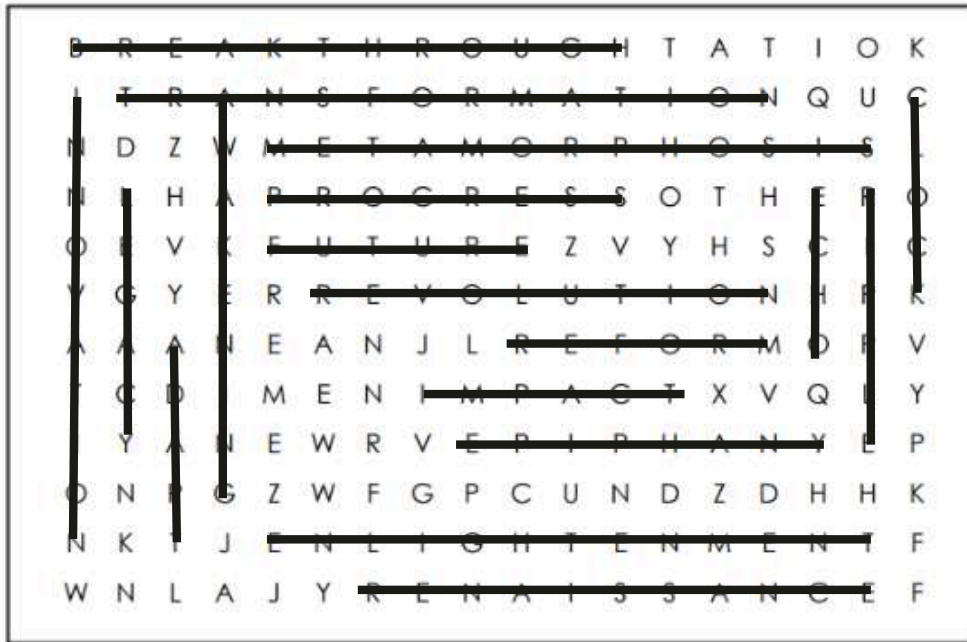
Across

3. A forcible takeover of leadership or power
5. Sustained increase in general price levels
8. Person most famously known for leading the Underground Railroad
9. Technology with human-like problem-solving
10. Movement for women's voting rights

Down

1. Effect of greenhouse gases
2. 'father of the atomic bomb'
4. carbon dioxide + water --> glucose + oxygen
6. Movement to abolish racial discrimination
7. Cultural revolution meaning 'rebirth' in French

Answers



meraki

{verb.} *Greek* • [may-rah-kee]

to do something with soul, creativity,
or love; to put something of yourself
into your work.