

Food for thought

EARTH

The earth is lovely
But pollution is making it ugly
Let us take a test
And make our earth the best
Earth is our home
Don't make it plastic foam
We are not free to cut a tree
But we are free to plant new
Earth is in pain
Don't hurt it again
God has given us nature
But we are selfish creatures
We are destroying earth badly
It's dying very sadly

Rashi Jain, 5F, AIS Gur 46

INSIDE




Facing the interview, pg 3



Dil, Dosti, etc., pg 7



Power of Press, pg 10



When you feel sad and be-
trayed
Who can you count on every
single day?
When you feel lost and alone...
Who will be there for you in
every way?
When you've made mistakes
and bad decisions,
Who can you count on to tell
you you're wrong?
When you feel you can't go
on..
Who will be there with a feel-
better song?

Look into your heart and you
will find...
That person you can trust is not
far away.
Look deep into yourself, don't
give up,
For if you do, it's yourself
you'll betray.
When you're looking for
answers
To all your questions and
dreams,
There is one person you can
count on,
It's impossible, I know,
it seems.
But take a few moments to
look deeper inside.
Look into your heart and there
you will see.
You'll be surprised when you
find out
That you've been looking
at 'ME.'

Aanchal Jain, IX C
AIS Vasundhara

As the month of August, laced with the friendship flavour embraced one and all, *The Global Times* checks out the legendary friendships - mythical, comical, reel and real that continue to inspire...



Dosti Ka Dum

Krishna-Sudama: Status no bar

“*Dheeraj, Dharam, Mitrr aru Nari, Aapad, kaal parikey chari*” quoted in Ramayana explains: The credibility of patience, values, friends and wife is tested during tough times. The friendship of Krishna and Sudama truly fulfils the parameters of friendship thus defined. The friendship of Krishna and Sudama is not only unique but exemplary as well. It defines that friendship is independent of economic status, caste, colour and creed. The over-whelming response of Krishna who rushes bare-footed from his palace to receive his poor Brahmin friend and offers his throne to sit as he washes his feet, defines the intensity of this friendship. Lord Krishna snatches the ‘meagre rice’ from a hesitant Sudama, and eats it instantly. Thus Krishna honours his friend who was shying from giving him the gift he had got.



Krishna futhur extends financial support to Sudama, thus showing everyone what the term ‘friendship’ means. Since ages, their friendship has been an epitome and inspiration and shall continue to be. Kudos to their legendary friendship! ●

Simranjeet Singh, IX, AIMC Manesar

Archie-Jughead: Crazy Chemistry

Archie and Jughead are the wackiest, craziest and hilarious duo one has ever seen! Though dissimilar in so many ways, they are almost inseparable. Archie loves to hang around with the girls while Jughead is wholeheartedly devoted to Pop Tate’s burgers. But both understand each other well and their unquestionable faith in each other keeps their friendship ticking. While their funny fights entertain the



readers, they never disrupt their friendship. The sleepwalking Jughead doesn’t let go off an opportunity to leave the clumsy Archie in dire straights. What friends! Though they disagree many times whenever the backbiting Reggie is around, they act as a team and thwart his evil plans. We love this odd pair of friends and accept that friendship can exist between dissimilar individuals. When together, they usually brew up a lot of trouble which leaves the children in splits. One can only wish for a friendship like theirs, but it’s hard to find. I do hope this Friendship’s Day we understand the importance of true friendship and strengthen our bonds not just by tying friendship bands but also by being there for each other. ●

Shantanu Chandra (V A), Ketaki Mathur (V B), Manasvi Srivastava (V B) and Upasana (X-A) of AIS Mayur Vihar

Duryodhana-Karna: Immaculate Commitment

A popular Jewish saying goes like this, “Who finds a faithful friend, finds a treasure.” Duryodhana found one in Karna. The greatest epic of all time, Mahabharata, produced two of the world’s best of friends, Karna and Duryodhana. Though they were worlds apart, literally, their tales of friendship are still reminisced by Grandmas and Grandpas. Who knew that the emperor of Anga, one of the most powerful kingdoms of the time, would offer his kingdom to the son of a charioteer? Duryodhana defended Karna at a martial exhibition when Karna was mocked upon for challenging Arjuna to fight him, something an inferior could not really ask a Kshatriya to do. Duryodhana at once made him The King - so that he’d be regarded as Arjuna’s equal. And so began their life-long commitment of friendship that blossomed into a bond so intense, that Karna eventually sacrificed his life for Duryodhana. Even though Karna’s dexterity was far more immaculate than Arjuna’s, Karna knew that Arjuna could not be defeated in the Kurukshetra



War, for he was protected by Lord Krishna. But he fought to keep Duryodhana’s promise, to live up to his hope for victory. Could this sort of friendship exist today? I don’t think so. Friendship today means catching up with friends on the phone or at the nearest mall-not dying for them or offering them everything that we possibly have! Nonetheless, it’s always great to have friends around who can keep even our deepest, darkest of secrets! Why die FOR them, when you can spend your whole life WITH them? ●

Chitra Jain, AIS Vasundhara

Jai-Veeru: Jodi No 1

“*Main apni jaan dene ja raha hoon Jai, tu mujhe mat rok.....*” Do we need any second thoughts to guess the speaker? Not at all! At least, I cannot forget the super hit classic *Sholay* and the unforgettable ‘Jai-Veeru’ Jodi. As I think of friendship day, I think of this superhit *jodi* and their small antique ‘scooter’ on which they sang *Ye dosti hum nahi todege....* The world surely cannot forget the nostalgia of this cult film. Their unique bond of friendship symbolises loyalty and steadfastness through thick and thin. ●

Shefali (IX-C) AIS Gur-43





Hail the King!

Tulika Banerji

Each evening, as I make my way back home, it’s hard to miss the sight and smell of the luscious yellow fruits. Bright and full of pulp vigour, they rest ostensibly on carts, as if broadcasting “Here comes the King of fruits!” The endless rows of yellow, green and orangish swollen ladies on proud display by vendors make me smile. Rows of voluptuous, full bodied golden fruits lay there day after day, ogling at passersby. More like the ‘Queen’, eh! Those who are amply lured, fondle the pretty ladies to check

them out a little more closely. Happy with their odour, they’re allowed to hop into bags eagerly held out by customers. *Langda, Chausa, Dashehri* and *Sindoori*, are not nicknames of village folks, but mangoes! Whoever has grown up on his/her variety of mangoes, simply can’t help bragging about them. And

Mangoes (A)muse

curiously enough, any other kinds just can’t match up to ‘that’ taste! While *UP-ites* can’t understand the *Delhiites’* fetish for local mangoes, *Biharis* will not sample anything but their own ‘gaachi’ ones. For the more experimental ones like me,

the very thought of mangoes, any kind, is enough to tickle my taste buds into action. Guess, to each, her own. As I ponder over nature’s best gift to mankind after savouring my fill, it’s late in the night and I walk my dog on the pavement. The rhythmic pitter-patter of raindrops signals the herald of monsoons. On a lone cart, the King lies, old and tired; wrinkles crisscross his squeezed out face and his courtiers are conspicuous by their absence. Is the King ready for his throne to be usurped by other torrential fruits? Wait till the next summers knock, the King will be back with a bang! ●

Celestial Sighting

Prapti Alok, VIII-A, AIS Vasundhara

In the early hours of 22nd July’09, over 200 children alongwith school principal Ms. Shashi Ranjan, coordinator Ms. Meenu Mathur Jha and 8 teachers gathered in the school playground to witness the celestial event of the history-the longest solar eclipse of the century. Solar goggles were distributed and 2 telescopes were placed so that no harm was caused to the eyes. As the cloud cover played spoil sport initially, we told the scientific reason for occurrence of solar eclipse. This helped in eroding supersti-

tions and doubts which frequently come to one’s mind. The collective prayers of the students bore fruit and the cloud cover dissipated giving a marvellous glimpse of solar eclipse. The joy of watching a rare phenomenon was evident from their eager, shining faces. The teachers narrated incidents from Mahabharata to make it evident that solar eclipse is a natural phenomenon and has been occurring from times immemorial. The teachers’ refreshing take on solar eclipse made it amply clear that solar eclipse is not a time to shut ourselves at home, but to watch nature’s in one of its most beautiful *avatar*.●



AIS Noida: Astronomy Club organised a Solar Eclipse watch for the longest eclipse of the century. It made use of techniques such as Telescopic Projection and Pinhole Camera. Students carried out many experiments such as variation of light intensity, wind speed, temperature and obscuration percentage during the eclipse. Though clouds blocked the view for

most of the time, they miraculously cleared off just in time to reveal a breathtaking view of crescent sun on the telescopic projection screen during maximum eclipse. The gathering comprising 70-80 students, 60 parents, 15 teachers and US foreign exchange students showed a lot of enthusiasm. Myths associated with Eclipse like not eating and staying indoors were defied.



Mighty Metro Mess

Anantdeep Singh
AIS Noida

If Delhi were a palace, Sheila Dixit would have been its queen and Delhi Metro - her golden crown. The Delhi Metro is an eco-friendly, cheap, secure and rapid mode of commuting. The man made marvel is an engineering masterpiece capable of creating history by bringing Ms Dixit back to power for the third time in a row. But a number of recent incidents appear to have revealed that everything that glitters is not gold. A day after a Metro bridge collapsed causing six deaths in South Delhi, a launcher turned upside down, leaving another six persons injured on July 13. If you feel that this is a rare case of procedural blunder, reconsider. The construction of 11.5 km stretch of Phase 2 has injured 56 people and left 11 families sans their sole bread earners. A detailed study of this 76.7 km trans-

portation backbone of Delhi reveals what has been the cause of this howler. The idea of metro was formalised in 1960, and DMRC was constituted in 1995 to turn this idea into a reality. It was an independent organisation, to save it from political delays and could hire/fire workers at its will. The physical construction started in 1998 for the 65.11 km Phase 1 and was completed in December 2005, almost 3 years before the scheduled time. Surprised by this feat the Delhi Government launched it’s plan of completing the 127 km of Phase 2 construction by 2010 - a mere 3.5 years. The rain of disasters that followed have affected its image negatively. Taking responsibility, E Sreedharan offered to resign only to be refused by the CM. While efforts have been stepped-up to avoid any such re-occurrence, her faith in the project leadership shall ensure its successful completion. ●

Hurrah for Dr Shahrukh Khan!

Tanvi Sethi, VIII D
AIS Gurgaon 46

King of Bollywood, superstar Shah Rukh Khan, after being conferred the Malaysian title of ‘Datuk’ (equivalent of British Knighthood) last year, has recently received an honorary doctorate in arts and culture from Britain's University of Bedfordshire. This doctorate had been given to SRK on July 10, 2009. Routes to Roots, a member of the World Association of Non-Governmental Organization (WANGO) is a non-government organisation that works across the SAARC region to bring South Asian people together. Tina Vachani, co-founder of Routes to Roots says, “Shah Rukh Khan was selected by us after a careful study since he has his head and heart at the right place in spite of being crowned the king of Bollywood. The superstar has done immense work for the underprivileged and downtrodden and has always come forward for charities in case of natural disasters.” However, there are many people who are totally against this doctorate being given to SRK. Some people, especially from the academia feel that a doctorate should be earned with hard work and actual labour. Suparna Bakshi, a PhD student in Delhi University, resents the award, "I've been slogging these last few years and they hand it to an actor on a platter! It makes my blood boil!" Others opine that it is just a gesture to acknowledge the work of artistes from the Asian community. Pankaj Sharma, from Shriram School says, “As a nation, we should feel proud that one of our actors has been recognized and honoured by the British University especially from among the SAARC nations.” According to Sonam Sahni, a

B.Tech(biotechnology) student, “I wish the honour had gone to somebody more deserving than ShahRukh Khan. People like Late Gangubai Hangal, Shyam Benegal, Pt. Zakhir Husain have contributed immensely to Indian art and culture and actually deserve this prestigious degree.” ●



“If I were a cloud, then my colour would be Blue and I would have rained where there is drought and when people feel very hot .” Ayush Aggarwal, Nur-A, AIS Pushp Vihar

Facing the Interview Board

Shivali Sharma

Lecturer, AIBAS, AU Lucknow

For most of us, appearing for an interview is nerve wracking. Taking a written exam is much easier as we are not being judged at the moment. However, interview is an almost inevitable situation for those seeking admissions in reputed colleges or looking for a job. As walk-in interviews have become a trend today, proper guidelines are needed for cracking them. It is impossible even for the most experienced people to tell exactly what would be asked; the candidate's attitude and confidence while answering the questions is the key mantra. Most of the interviews are structured and the interviewers are trained individuals but sometimes, when these interviews are unstructured, the best way to deal is to steer the direction of the questions in your favour. Interviews are all about highlighting your strength in a subtle and modest manner.

Some useful tips

- Be punctual. Wish the interviewer/panel as soon as you enter.
- First impression really counts. Create a magic in the first few minutes as they make a lasting impression.
- Sell your professional self. Prepare key points to highlight your personality.
- Bookish knowledge is not impressive, so be innovative and spontaneous.
- Practice writing responses to frequently asked questions before appearing as it helps to solidify effective answers.
- Expect common personal questions to the most technical ones.
- Be aware of the latest in your field.



- Do some research on the institute/company in which you apply.
- Develop your communication skills.
- Be crisp while answering questions.
- Be honest about your weaknesses and admit them in a dignified manner.
- Make eye contact while you speak.
- Body language should be appropriate and reflect confidence.
- Stand straight and sit slightly forward in your chair.

- Hand shakes should be firm and leave a positive impression.
- Dressing up for the interview**
- Formal dresses like single breasted suits with proper tie and conservative dark shoes are most appropriate. Colour of the socks should match with the suit. Belts and shoes should be of the same colour. Females can also dress in crisp cotton/silk sarees. The clothes should be clean and properly ironed. Footwear

should be polished and laces should not be broken. It is still very dicey to predict what would appeal to the interviewers as there are always individual differences but most of them focus on the confidence, creativity, conscientiousness, resilience, leadership qualities and knowledge of the candidate. Your attitude should reflect that you are different and the best possible choice for them.●

Counsel's Korner

How can I help my child deal with peer pressure without making the peer group seem like the devil? Please illustrate.

-Parent of a VIth grader



Akansha Shah
Counsellor, AIS Vasundhara

Generally, the attitude and behaviour of children are to a great extent influenced by their peers. Parents need to understand and sensitise them about it. Communicate to your child the value of a good peer and have a dialogue regularly to dilute the wrong effects of peer pressure. Children who feel good about themselves are less likely to give in to pressure. When parents show children that they value their opinions, their self-confidence grows. Help your child see that she is capable of making good judgements then she will be less likely to be blindly swayed by peer pressure. Parents have to help children become responsible about important issues. Teach your child how to say "no." Help your child role play a situation in which he says, "No, thanks" pleasantly—but firmly. ●

Scholastic alerts August 2009

Institute/Exam: National Defence and Naval Academy
Course/Discipline: Defence
Entrance Exam: NDA Exams
Website: www.upsc.gov.in

Imaging : Pankaj Mallik

How effective is Holiday Homework?

Sukriti, VII B

AIS Gur 46

As summer holidays began, we all were in a euphoric state. Wow! No school - no getting up early in the morning – no fixed schedule – no going to bed early! There was only one nightmare among all sweet dreams – holiday homework! Jokes apart, while I did my fair share, let's track what other schools were up to...

Innovative IT: I made power point presentations and a web page in IT whereas my friends Nidhi (Salwan Public School, Gurgaon) and Arti (DPS Gurgaon) just practiced their lessons as they had no IT home work.

Socially conscious: While I prepared a project on comparative weather conditions of major cities for SST, Arti imagined herself as a Jhum cultivator living in the 19th century. My other pal collected newspaper clippings on road accidents, fire and earth quakes.

Mathe-magic: I threw a dice 50 times and recorded the data to draw a bar graph. I challenged myself to 10 higher rated sudokus, located the parts of a triangle, practiced sums and observed pat-



Search Engine

terns. While Arti made a PPT on quadrilaterals, Nidhi had no Maths home work. **Sci-fi:** I became Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit as I learnt formulas to change the temperature. I had to run, walk, cycle and go by car to the nearest temple to calculate my speed and learnt about cyclones for my Physics homework. I observed leaves and parasitic plants for Biology. In Salwan, students were given one subject out of science and in DPS, they made magical toys and collected information from petrol pumps.

Lingo-bingo: I enhanced my Hindi skills writing about Sania Mirza and wrote 10 muhavras (idioms). While Arti made a magazine, Nidhi had no home work in the languages. Arti collected some information about French culture cuisine and sports as she has opted French as her third language.

Interest zone: For the first time in my life, I interviewed a person on social issues, Nidhi wrote an adventure story with her classmates and Arti penned down diary entries for 10 weeks. All, thanks to holiday homework. Nidhi, SPS Gurgaon avers, "Holiday homework is effective as long as it is limited; it brings about competition and enhances our leader ship qualities." So echoes Arti, DPS Gurgaon, "It's interesting and is something new which we have never done before. In our school, the scholar badge holders have a choice to attempt an extra question in our unit tests instead of completing our holiday homework!" Holiday homework is effective when there are activities other than routine studies, which help us explore the world. They help develop our IQ and creativity and serve as the foundation for future challenges. ●



The environment a citizen's responsibility

AIS Gur 43 speaks @ My Voice, Youth Power

As citizens of our country, it is our responsibility to care for the environment. We must reduce the use of plastic bags at our own level. Water used for washing vegetables, rice, etc. should be used for watering plants. Only when individuals make efforts, can we bring about a change.

Mitali Mathur, VIII A

It is the environment that has granted us survival on this Earth. So it is our duty to preserve it. A casual approach to the environment will surely lead to widespread destruction.

K Varsha, VIII D

Caring for the environment is ultimately caring for ourselves. The youth should raise their voice. If we take the first step, the world will follow us embracing our unique path.

Saksham Agarwal, VIII A

Our earth is lying on the verge of extinction and it is our responsibility to conserve it. Cutting trees that have taken fifteen years to grow will drive us back to the past. To the youth, I have only one thing to say-Keep Mother Earth clean, grow more trees and breathe free.

Procheta Chattaraj, X B

AIS Gur 46	SPS Gurgaon	DPS Gurgaon
Homework in all the subjects + extra activities.	Homework in 4 subjects only: English, Science, SST and French..	Homework in all subjects.
It's quantity is too much but it gives an opportunity to learn different things.	Quantity too less but gives enough time to practice for UTs and enjoy vacations.	Quantity neither too much nor too less; helps increase IQ level.
Mostly project work & experiments charts; information easily available on internet.	They have to cut newspaper clippings, and make files and folders.	They make projects, charts, experiments and hand made magazines.

"If I were a cloud, I would be God's messenger & inform him about the miseries and sorrows of people around me and request the Almighty to solve all their problems." Pranjali Singhal, II A, AIS Saket

Let us make some green peace

One single woman stood for saving and planting trees in her neighbourhood in Africa. Wangari Maathai's Green Belt Movement became a national one. Three decades later, she went on to become a Nobel Peace laureate. If she can, you can too...

Green appeal

Maheep Tripathi
AIS, Noida

When was the last time you heard the chirping of birds while sipping morning tea in your balcony? Or when was the last time you even saw a pigeon or a sparrow soaring in the sky? Remember your childhood days when you used to catch fireflies in jars, climb up huge spreading mango trees to pluck mangoes and plunge into crystal-clear ponds? What has happened to all that? Have you ever questioned yourself about this? If you haven't, it's high time you did, because I have often pondered upon these thoughts, and it surely makes me sick with worry for our planet. Confucius once said, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." That's why I have decided to

t a k e
some action,
and my friends and I
have started at domestic
level by improving envi-
ronmental conditions in our
community.
Authorities cut trees to re-
duce accidents due to entan-
glement of electric wires in
the tree branches, instead of
just trimming them. Too
much of electricity is wasted
as the streetlights and flood-
lights remain 'on' even dur-
ing daytime.
Unfortunately, there is ample
supply of water in my locality. Why
I am calling it unfortunate is because
people tend to take it for granted. For
example, my neighbours have a very
beautiful terrace garden, but often
while watering it, they leave the tap
running and also shy away from
using sprinklers instead of a
hosepipe.
Sewers and drains in my locality
emit pungent smells as they are un-
covered despite repeated appeals to
authorities. Due to this, unwanted
materials such as leaves, cricket
balls, mounds of dust and dirt fall
into them. To add to that, people
dumped garbage in the drains and the
entire neighbourhood would reek of
a strong stench. Whenever it would
rain, the drains would choke and
overflow and the rainwater would
seep through the garbage dumps,
contaminating the groundwater. But

now after convincing our locality
president, garbage is collected daily
by paid rag pickers and deposited at
the nearest waste disposal site reli-
giously.
Every year end, my friends and I, go
around in our locality asking families
to hand over their old and useless
newspapers and magazines and sell
them to co-operatives and *kabadi-
walas* who recycle the paper. In this
way, we help in saving resources as
well as earn ourselves some money
too! We have been doing this since
the last couple of years.
Every evening, before hammering
the stumps into the ground, we make
sure that the plants and trees in our
park are watered by keeping the
hosepipe near them and never forget
to switch off the floodlight before
setting off to our houses, hence sav-
ing trees from drying as well as con-
serving electricity. I clearly
remember not being able to sleep a
few years back on the eve of Diwali
- as crackers would burst even after
midnight. But since awareness about
their detrimental effects on the envi-
ronment has spread, all of my friends
and I burst minimum fireworks, cre-
ating less noise and air pollution.
Just like a good businessman works
hard, respects his resources and will-
ingly takes on responsibility in order
to enjoy profits, we must take on the
responsibility of protecting the envi-
ronment as good citizens in order to
enjoy nature's gifts.
It is our earth, our home, the only one
we know. So, let's pledge together to
make our earth a better place to live
in, for me and for you.●

GK Quiz

What when how

Neha Jain
AIS, Vasundhra

1. Where was the inter-national committee of Red Cross founded?
a) Geneva, Switzerland
b) New York, U.S.A
c) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2. What is the capital of Switzerland?
a) Geneva *b)* Berne
c) Zurich

3. When did Mauritius attain independence?
a) 1958 *b)* 1966
c) 1968

4. What is the official language of Mauritius?
a) English, *b)* French
c) Mauritius Creole

5. This name was given to Hawaiian Islands by Captain James cook on his discovery of which islands?
a) Maui Islands
b) Sandwich Islands
c) Magic Isle

6. The currency of Malaysia is ...
a) Malaysian Rupees
b) Malaysian Dinar
c) Ringgit

Answers: 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-A, 5-B, 6-C

Giant Panda

No Hope for Emblem of Hope!



Surbhi Gupta
AIS PV

The giant Panda is universally loved, and has a special significance for WWF as it has been the organization's symbol since it was formed in 1961. Today, the giant panda's future remains uncertain. This peaceful, bamboo-eating member of the bear family faces a number of threats. Its forest habitat, in the mountainous areas of southwest China, is fragmented and giant panda populations are small and

isolated from each other. Meanwhile, poaching remains an ever-present threat. By mid-2005, the Chinese government had established over 50 panda reserves, protecting more than 4,000 square miles and over 45 percent of remaining giant panda habitat. However, habitat destruction continues to pose a threat to the many pandas living outside these areas, and poaching is a further problem. Today, only around 61 percent of the population, or about 980 pandas, are under protection in reserves. As China's economy continues its rapid

development, it is more important than ever to ensure the giant panda's survival. WWF has been active in giant panda conservation since 1980, when it supported US scientist Dr George Schaller and his Chinese colleagues in field studies in the Wolong Nature Reserve. WWF was the first international conservation organization to work in China at the Chinese Government's invitation. More recently, WWF has been helping the government of China to undertake its National Conservation Program for the giant panda and its habitat. This programme has made significant progress. Reserves for this species cover more than 6,000 square miles of forest in and around their habitat. The latest survey (released in 2004) revealed that there are 1,600 individuals estimated to remain in the wild. Panda habitat is found at the top of the Yangtze Basin, an ecoregion shared by both pandas and millions of people whose ancestors have utilized the region's natural resources for millennia. The Basin is the geographic and economic heart of China, and is one of the critical regions for biodiversity conservation in the world. Its diverse habitats contain many rare, endemic and endangered animal and plant species, the best known being the giant panda. Economic benefits derived from the Yangtze Basin include tourism, subsistence fisheries and agriculture, transport, hydropower and water resources The survival of the Panda and the protection of its habitat will ensure that people living in the region continue to reap ecosystem benefits for many generations. ●

Imaging : Pankaj Mallik

Sustainable Living

Asha Rani
TGT (Geography), Vasundhara

With increasing population, the demand for resources is also increasing thus leading to their depletion. Therefore, there is an urgent need for sustainable living so that besides satisfying the need of the present generation, we preserve the resources for the future generation. The school is an ideal place to make children understand the way of sustainable living by providing them eco-education and incorporating it into designing a sustainable school.

Few of the parameters for sustainable school are:

(a) The school building should be designed in such a way that every room gets 100% diffused sunlight. It not only keeps the eyes healthy but also helps in increasing the concentration level of the students.

(b) Emphasis on the use of CFL lights as they consume less electricity. Use of sensors in fans and electrical fittings as they consume electricity efficiently.

(c) Recycling and waste water management to reduce the school wastage.

(d) Use of solar street lights in the school pathways to save electricity.

(e) Noise pollution in the class rooms can be reduced by equipping them with Venation Blinds and pinup Board.

(f) Roof gardening on the school building roof can help in reducing the heat absorption and reflection of the top floor.

(g) Installing of rainwater harvesting can be useful in recharging the water table of the school.

(h) Most important is increasing the green cover in the school premises to trap the heat.

Researchers have proved that the students studying in sustainable schools learn more and perform better. Thus sustainable schools not only helps in effective learning but also in conserving the resources. ●

East meets West



Pen Friends

Amity Vasundhara took yet another step forward to make the world a more beautiful place to live in. In the month of February, Amity Vasundhara volunteered to be the part of Oriental Occidental Exchange, as a part of the partnership programme running under DFID (Department for International Development) conducted by the British Council. Under this programme, about 71 letters were exchanged between children of Amity Vasundhara and Brewood Middle School, Stafford, Staffordshire, UK, wherein children showed interest in introducing themselves, sharing their hobbies, their family, their school, their



favourite food, subject, weather, etc. They seemed to be quite curious to know about the Indian culture, and our students responded with equal interest and zeal. Amity Vasundhara proved that letters are no more 'archaic' in the age of Internet. Our heart still pounds with excitement

when a letter from across is received by us. It all began with 'India Day' celebration in Brewood School in the month of February, wherein students were shown a PowerPoint presentation on the journey of tri-colour prepared by us. Just to give a feel of what Amity culture is like, various photographs exhibiting a number of activities conducted in school were also sent across to them. Some of their students showed special interest in photographs of our young ACC cadets asking, 'What were you doing in that uniform?' Amitians at Vasundhara have proved that East and West can beautifully meet because love knows no bounds.●



Priceless gift of quality time

Mahima Bhatia, AIS Gur 46

We all agree that life has become very mechanical. Our parents are working hard to provide us with the comforts and material goods that make us happy but only temporarily. Today 'quality time' has become a precious commodity. It is the gift of good 'quality time' that kids cherish. Quality time is the time that we spend together with one another, discussing and sharing each others experiences. It's the time when the entire family (parents, grandparents and children) strikes a conversation in a free flow atmosphere, listening to one another and

accommodating and appreciating each others opinions. In this respect, I have been very fortunate. My parents spend good quality time with me. This has instilled good values in me which we all need to grow up with. I have learnt to respect elders and listen to their thoughts with a sense of care and compassion. And that respect goes a long way in maintaining healthy relations. I'm sure, my friends who have had similar experiences, will agree with me. With the confidence of being the most important member of the family, I would appeal to all parents to spend "quality time" with their children to enable them grow as responsible citizens.●

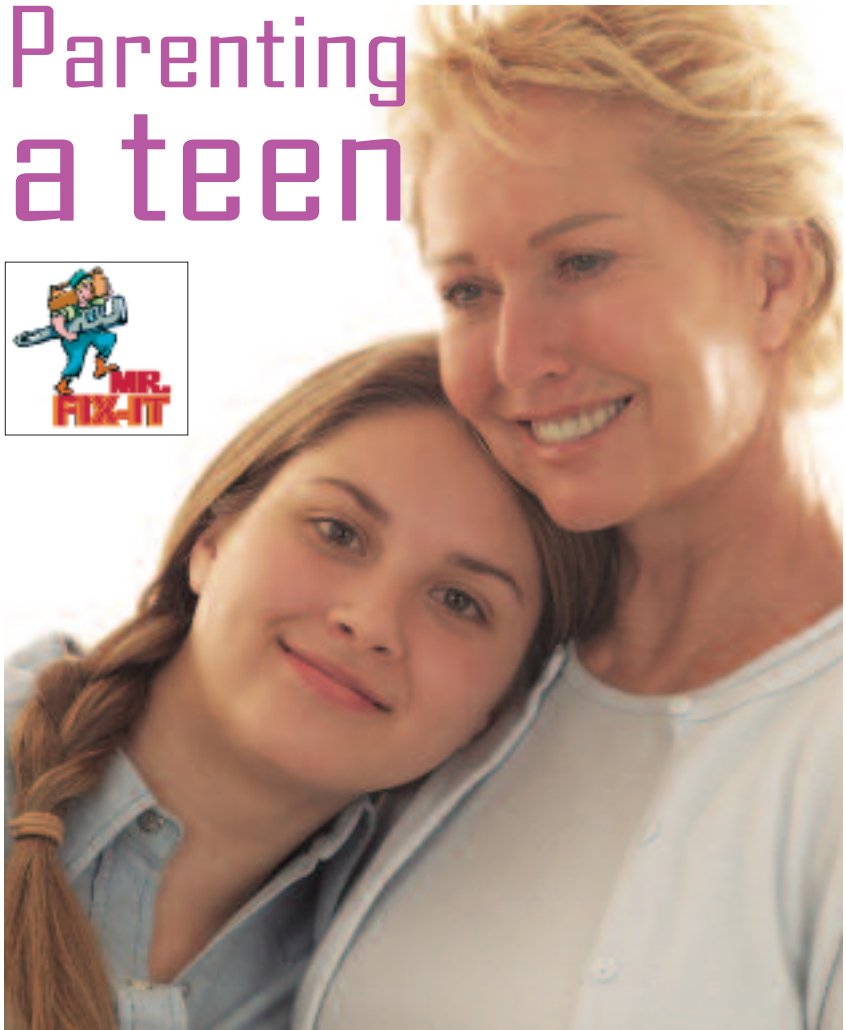
Day today

Isha Chauhan
Alumnus, AIS Noida



Waking up in the morning, you realize that fog is emulating your life. The fog makes it difficult to look 10 feet ahead of you and you wander around banging into things. In between worrying about missing the school bus and wondering why your dog is so happy in the mornings (which is something that you haven't managed in the past 16 years of your life), you drink your warm milk which only puts you back to sleep. As you reach school, you worry whether teachers will believe your alibi for not completing your homework and wonder when the government will pass the bill to abolish the pointless chore. Walking through the long winding corridors of your school, you wish life was as simple as good versus evil with a clear distinction between black and white, rather than everything being infused with shades of grey. And then, you see that grey surrounding you like a wall and you realize that you've managed to trip over your own feet. That grey is nothing but the uniform of your friends as they try to help you. You reach home to the naggings of your mother to clean your room, study, walk the dog, study, etc. It seems that your life has a cliché stamped all over it. Around midnight, when you feel that your skull's been beaten with a cricket bat, your head hits the pillow and you realize that you're actually grateful that you have a bed to sleep in.

Parenting a teen



Shipra Kukreja
AIS Gur 43

Teenagers want independence and be treated like an adult but often lack the necessary maturity, which only comes through experience. Giving them freedom of choice in some matters will help them to mature, yet won't seriously harm them or others. Teens need a lot of healthy eating and they also need a lot of positive inputs to grow emotionally and intellectually. It is important for parents to establish positive communication when their kids are younger and keep it up as they get older.

Then, they will be more likely to receive direction from their parents during the tough teen years. Parents should help their teens grow into adults by teaching them to put responsibility before having fun. Let them flap their wings within reasonable limits but make sure they know you are always there for them. Help teens set their goals that are challenging and attainable. Parents may not be able to understand any better than the teens understand themselves. Teen's friends have good or bad influence, so get to know them and try to bring out the best in them. If both try, parents and teens can have a healthy relationship. ●

Freedom Power



Dr. Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

“Freedom and power bring responsibility. The responsibility rests upon this Assembly, a sovereign body representing the sovereign people of India. Before the birth of freedom we have endured all the pains of labor and our hearts are heavy with the memory of the sorrow. Some of those pains continue even now. Nevertheless, the past is over and it is the future that beckons to us now”—Jawaharlal Nehru

The memorable speech of Jawaharlal Nehru given in the midnight hours of Aug 14, 1947, announcing the dawn of India’s freedom to the world, remains etched in our minds as we celebrated its 62nd anniversary.

His note worthy speech underlines a very pertinent principle that once implemented cannot stop India from becoming a superpower nation, one day. ‘Freedom’ is the right of every individual. ‘Duties’ and ‘responsibilities’ follow. Behind the freedom we enjoy today, lies years of struggle and sacrifice.

Every perseverance bears fruit. And to savour any success, it’s important to put in the required labor. This Independence day, envision India 2020. There lies an immense wealth of opportunities, waiting to be explored and achieved. Embrace the rich legacy of India, draw strength from its diversity and give shape to your dreams. The dream of India that is free of pollution, war, terror and gender disparity.

Our ancestors gave us the freedom. It’s our turn now. As India stands together to sing the national anthem on August 15, lets unite to build the India ‘that cannot be divided by narrow fragmented wall. An India “where the mind is without fear and the head is held high....into that India let my country awake. ●

Friends, Dil Se



Vira Sharma

The month of August has many moods. It’s a month full of festivals and friendship. This issue, we bring the special friendships revered, shared, quoted and envied. It’s a relationship one can build anytime and anywhere. Regardless of age, time and boundaries, it’s a relationship that makes you feel younger and stronger.

In the last two years, I have realised what friends mean. Being a member of every alumnus (school, university, club, social networking group, hostel, previous organisation I worked with) has been a process of self discovery. Their ability to act as philosophers, friends and guides in every step I took, ensured that I moved on in life. The ability to laugh at skeletons falling from closets during informal chats serve as therapeutic healing in today’s stressful lifestyle. It’s a group that shares your interests and participates in them, without any expectation.

In this issue, we bring a special story on ‘social networking’ and ‘pen-friends’. Thanks to e-services, friendship circles have only evolved. While they help to connect with like-minded groups and experience the euphoria of locating ‘lost and found’ friends, the medium of pen-friends continues to be alive and exciting. In fact, when it comes to friends, channels don’t matter. It is the need for bonding that needs to be fulfilled. Someone said, “Count your age not by the years but by the number of friends you made.” On reflection, today I feel that I am still in my teens. That’s what friends make you feel. Down the memory lane, one can still share all the pranks and gossip, experience the emotions, make confessions, thank and forgive, feel the freedom. I am blessed to be ageless. Let’s be friends. The Global Times is now on Facebook. Are u? ●

Printed by: HT Media Ltd, B-2, Sec 63, Noida (UP).
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Venerable citizens of yesterday

Ashish Magoo, AIS Saket

“And your family, did they not think even once before leaving you in the lurch?”

“Family, they were no family... to them I was no less than tumbledown furniture. I was but a senile, barmy old codger...who took an extra plate of food everyday. An absolutely redundant fellow, with no work, but to give useless moral lectures to my grandchildren... Their coldness benumbed the pulse of my life; their unfeeling insensitivity choked me every day.”

I still remember, as if it was yesterday, how every line on that wrinkled, old face recalled a tale of woe. When AIS Saket organised a visit to an old-age home in Delhi, my heart ripped itself. And from the remnants emanated a promise, I made to myself – the echo of the pain and misery that tortures every vein of our aged and senior citizens shall never ever reverberate from today. I would vacuum out all airs of indifference and apathy witnessed by today’s society towards the aged, to the best of my abilities.

Even now as I put words to this tear-jerking memory which has become an inalienable part of my soul, my heart brims with profound grief, dolour and empathy for the inmates. As the sight of the senior citizens, crestfallen and sad in the old-age home, hovers before my eyes, now and then... my heart sings a plaintive number, the lyrics of which have been woven by the touching trauma that the inmates of the old-age home had witnessed. It was indeed heart-rending to see, to hearken, to know, how fiendishly and callously, the family members of the inmates had disowned them.

Evidently, having undergone step-motherly treatment at their ‘home’, if they could call it ‘home’, many senior citizens of our society are now coerced



to take refuge at such philanthropic institutions, which unfortunately give no respite to them. For even after establishing themselves at the old-age homes, the aged and senior citizens live a non-existent life with the onerous weight of bitter memories on their shattered soul.

To unload this weight from their souls, one of my friends, once had the most blissful and the most agonising opportunity; that of visiting an old age home. As we confabulated, she said “their children threw them out of ‘their’ house because they felt that accommodating them was very cumbersome. The petty expenses of their parents, on medicines and other stuff were getting on their nerves. They thought the most practical solution was to get rid of them.” It was then when I understood why the visit was ‘most agonising’ for her.

Isn’t it ironical that those parents, who not only give

their children a room in their house, but also in their hearts, are accredited with a note of dismissal? Well, when it comes to paying the tribute, we are cajoled to snap all our attachment with the past. And who else cajoles us but materialism?

‘It is not who we are born as, but who we grow up to be’. However, we forget that had it not been these ‘venerable citizens of yesterday’, none of us here would have been engendered and nurtured and looked after with caressing smiles and unconditional love. But when we grow up, the tide of lucrative offers inundate our memories and we, in our bid for greener notes, forget each of those sweet smiles and every act of love, unconditional and peerless, that our parents fed us with. Thus, we’re born as heirs of our parents, heirs of their principles and heirs of their traditions, we grow up only to be inheritors of their property.

Let us ask ourselves – are we so ruthless and so callous to flog are own grandparents with the whip of hardhearted coldness? Are we so merciless to cast wounds upon them, which even time might never be able to salve?

Have we, in our burning desire and craving for materialism, extinguished the light of our conscience? If yes, then we should brace ourselves as one day, the darkness of evil ‘karma’ shall befall upon us and it shall be as pitiless as we had been. And then we shall grope in the darkness and writhe with the indomitable fire of remorse burning our insides. We shall curse our darned deeds and with our snivelling apologies, die a death every day.

The clarion today hails the beacon of conscience to guide us on the path of righteousness, humility and morality. On this pious note, we must promise ourselves that we shall respect our elders, be caring, loving and affectionate to them, and before the indelible sands of time become a spectator of our moral turpitude, we shall all turn over a new leaf.●

Where there’s love, there’s hope

MZ Zulfi
BJMC, AU, Rajasthan

Where is the hope? This is something that is rumbling in my mind from the last so many years. It is a voice of a distressed and dejected mind; its heart full of loathing. Since a very long time, I have been searching and trying hard to fill this blank. I take a thorough look around and find that it is just a four letter word that has left with a lost meaning. Humanity has fallen into materialism, ‘love’ is for worldly possessions, we live in a time of puzzlement where evil is good, where darkness is considered as light, where sinners are praised. Fulfillment of ambition, contentment and satisfaction are all artificial. Hidden behind the smiling mask, is a heart which is empty and sad.

The world in which we live today is one where we generally do not have time for each other; it is full of hatred, fear, doubts, jealousy, pain and killing. We still go on living our lives hoping things will become better one day. I have been witnessing terror and violence since my childhood, I have always made myself believe that the situation in my state (J & K) will improve; but with each passing day, hope is diminishing. For how long can somebody sleep with a false hope? When things are not happening the way we want, when the spaces are too empty, that is the time when

we feel not even a single crumb of hope exits in our life. We live our lives believing in our dreams that we hope will come alive and mostly, we end up disappointed; we curse ourselves, and feel as if we are going about it in a wrong way. Believing in miracles is necessary for our happiness, but then this can just be an inexplicable miracle that can wither our soul and tear us into pieces.

Even after so many dejections and hurtful cries, we still expect something good from our life. “Hope is the last thing that dies in a man,” was said by some great author; even if it takes us to the dark corners of life, one thing that will always remain with us is the Hope. I remember some lines written by one of my favourite authors Paulo Coelho,



I’m thankful to your team for creating such a nice and powerful newspaper – The Global Times. I truly believe that it is an influential source not only for me but thousands of other young school goers. Global Times, to me is a successful way of making my views known to other Amitians. It is not only a way to share my thoughts but also a way to know others’ views. It provides a platform for young students like me to come and share their opinions, thoughts, ideas, actions, knowledge, creativity, etc with thousands of other kids. The Global Times has a vast number of articles on varied topics. While some of them make you



laugh, some put you in deep thoughts. It provides kids the opportunity to express their views, something which is not very commonly provided to the people of my age group. It’s really fascinating to read what kids of my age feel. Since all of this is written by children, I can actually relate to it. It’s also a great way to get to know

what Amitians all over are achieving. The various activities included in each month’s edition provide an outlet for our creative side. It helps us discover us. It’s great to be able to experience the feeling of working for a newspaper this early in our lives. One thing I really like about the Global Times is the fact that it doesn’t restrict itself to studies or education related topics but also openly discusses various other issues. Each month, I eagerly wait for the new edition and will keep on looking forward to it as long as it’s published. It’s a really great job that you are doing and keep up the good work!
Shubhi Dangi, IX A, AIS Gur– 46

“Despite the fact that everything contradicts, despite my sadness and my feelings, despite being almost convinced at this moment that nothing ever will get better, I cannot lose the one thing that keeps me alive: hope – that word treated with such irony by pseudo-intellects, who consider it a synonym of ‘deceit’. The word so manipulated by governments, who make promises they know they will not keep and thus inflict even more wounds on peoples’ hearts. The word that so often rises with us in the morning gets sorely wounded as the day progresses, dies at nightfall, and is reborn with the new day.”

But is there any hope of ‘hope’ itself? As the saying goes, ‘Where there is life there is hope. Where there is life there is love and where there is love there is hope.’

What we all have to realise is that this world does not need more visions of desperation - it requires an abundance of love, to heal and to restore the beauty contained in every moment and above all, to keep the word hope alive. As Barbara Kingsolver puts it, “The very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof.” Let’s hope miracles take place. So keep hoping and hope, only for the best.●

Pearls of wisdom

Friendship

- Who finds a faithful friend, finds a treasure.
- The best way to destroy your enemy is to make him your friend.
- One who looks for friends without faults will have none.
- Do not walk in front of me, I may not follow. Do not walk behind me, I may not lead. Just walk beside me and be my friend.
- A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.

Anubhuti Rustogi

VIII B, AIS Sec 46, Gurgaon

Dil, Dosti, etc.



Crazy kiya re: Aakanksha's gang

My gang : We are 15 in all- Mrida-fun loving and chirpy, Srishti-confident and dynamic, Apula-beautiful and tender, Arushi-the sweet little one, Kanika-holds us together, Rohan and Aditya-always cracking jokes, Sidhant-crazy about music, Mayank-the mathematician, Akshay-intelligent and witty, Abhishek-the entertainer, Naman-the problem solver, Salil, Anirudh and me.

USP: We've stuck together ever since we learnt the meaning of the word-'friendship'.

Friends forever: It's been 5 years since we've been together, and as we're approaching the end of our school days, my heart is filled with pain and nostalgia. I want to make the last Friendship Day in school really special for my friends who have been by my side, friends who brought the best in me, who taught me the difference between right and wrong, friends whom I have badly fought with, friends who have forgiven me for all my mistakes.

Fond memory: From playing *antakshari* in free periods to watching movies, playing football in the sun to jumping in puddles, dancing at the jam session to eating out, birthday parties to rock concerts, unit tests to pre-boards, those invaluable days are an important part in the journey of my life. When I think about those mystical days, my eyes start pouring. Wishing everyone everlasting friendships!

Sanskriti Srivastava, XII A, AIS Saket

My gang: Vallari, Apoorva, Asmita, Bhavya, Abhinav, Nadeem, Siddhant, Vaibhav, Viraj, Ashwin, Mayank, Uttkarsh, Ishaan and me.

USP: Remember the gang from 'Jaane Tu Ya Jaane Na'? We are similar, just a wee bit crazier.

Friends forever: Our friendship is a year old, but it is one that will last *forever*. It's true that friends do fight sometimes. I've fought with my friends a fair number of times too. There is a saying, "Never take a person for granted. Hold every person close to your heart, because you might wake up one day and realise that you've lost a diamond while you were too busy collecting stones."

Fond memory: The funniest moments were when all of us went to the junior playground and ran around doing silly things-imitated movie stars, sang on top of our voices, cracked jokes and laughed till our stomachs hurt.

Aakanksha Gupta, IX-H, AIS Noida

My gang: Yo! Buddies-Sonakshi Gupta-class VII, Nidhi Sharma-class VIII and me.

USP: We live in the same society, so it's great fun. We usually meet in the evenings and sometimes have sleepovers also. My room is where we meet and plan for other exciting happenings. During vacations, we complete our holiday homework together though we are in different schools.



Mischief mongers: Sakshi and group

"Be courteous to all, but intimate with few, and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence. True friendship is a plant of slow growth, and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity before it is entitled to the appellation," said George Washington. With **Friendship Day** just gone by, GT checks out the coolest friends in Amity...



Sticking together: Sanskriti & gang

Imaging : Pankaj Mallik

Friends forever: We are friends since two years and are the coolest and most awesome buddies.

Fond memory: We organize festivals and awareness programmes in our society collecting money from those who attend and donate the amount to a charitable trust. Besides that, we have picnics and parties in the vacations too.

Prabhpreet Bajaj, VIII D, AIS Gur 43

My gang: 'G-11' which stands for the eleven guns of AIMC. We are cadets Nipun Shrivastava, Nitish, Karan, Anupam and Tanay.

USP: Each one of us is blessed with a special trait which makes us different from the rest. We crave for challenges as they make us click.

Friends forever: Sometimes we laugh, sometimes we cry, sometimes we fight and sometimes we console each other but we don't let any disputes overshadow our relationship. We have been friends for five years.

Fond memory: During summer vacation, we went to Shimla. In the mall road, we saw a worried couple who had lost their three year old daughter. Although it was 10 O'clock and we were getting late, we decided to help. We asked the name and appearance of the girl and rushed in different directions. After some time, one of us-Nitish Bhardwaj found the girl wailing. We all were so happy to find the child. Her father thanked us profusely and offered Rs 500 as reward. But we politely refused to take it as it was against the spirit of our *samskars*.

Nipun Srivastava, X, AIMC Manesar



Fabulous 4: Ria's gang

My gang: We are 4- Sarang and Akshat, the footballers; Bhaarat has the best sense of humour, Aastha is the dancer and I am the studious one.

USP: We are a group that loves mischief and fun. We are always there for each other; no matter what. The best part is that we are always able to strike a balance between fun and studies.

Friends forever: We've been friends since a year now and know each other's likes/dislikes quite well. The day even one of us is missing, school suddenly seems boring.

Fond memory: We all went to a mall together and it was the best hangout I've had! I had heard of friendships that were cool and yet true, but had never thought that even I'd have friends like that.

Sakshi Goel, VIII A, AIS Gur-43

My gang: My 'Toli of gundas' comprises Aastha Jain (Micro- Mini); Abhinav-'Bhanod'; another Abhinav; Harshit (Chauvan); Ishita (Ishhh); Kaniksha (Devdas); Love (Lovey boy); Nischay (Maali); Shikhar (Shikhsi); Shraya (Tully); Shubhi (Sabzi) and Vivek ('Sadhu- Sant').

USP: All of us are crack- minded, love funky ideas and their 'dangerous' after effects. We all are so informal with each other that people are confused, whether we are friends or foes.

Friends forever: We don't remember ourselves, when it all started. It just happened and we were soon a part of it.

Fond memory: There were times when we got tired of each other and wished the sections would change. That was exactly what happened and we all cried the whole night hoping it was a nightmare.



Rock on! Shivangi's group



G-11: Nipun's group

Everyone fights, who doesn't? That's normal, but then we go and apologize till the other is ready to forgive us. That's what is called friendship.

Shubhi Singh, VIII C, AIS Vasundhara

My gang: Smart Devils-Yash, Animesh, Surbhit and Ansh

USP: We all love computer games, cycling, watching cartoon on TV and chitchatting away to glory.

Friends forever: We are friends since Class KG.

Fond memory: We had a great time on our Mane-sar trip. We kept talking about scary stories in the night till late with all kinds of scary voices!

Yash Mehrotra, III - A, AIS Saket

My gang: Vaibhav Uppal, Antara Sen and me.

USP: We enjoy all the games we play and can just beat anyone in the class when we play as a team.

Fond memory: We had a very nice time on my birthday dancing together, jumping on bouncy and having junk food. In fact, we enjoyed playing some video games together on that day and just didn't want to go back home. I wish that we remain friends throughout school.

Ishita Mullick, III A, AIS Saket

My gang: 'Fabulous 4'- Vrinda Malik of Birla Vidya Niketan, Tanishka Chawla of AIS Pushp Vihar, my sister Sanjana Chopra and me.

USP: We are there for each other through the ups and downs of life. Each of us tries to understand each others' needs and problems.

Friends forever: We have known each other since our childhood days- that is for over ten years.

Fond memory: Recently, we all went with our mothers to see 'Ice Age 3- Dawn of the Dinosaurs' and had a lot of fun. Each Friendship Day, we have a small party and celebrate one more year of our wonderful friendship.

Ria Chopra, V-A, AIS Saket

My gang: Me, the rocking Shivani Gulati, most intelligent Sowmya B, the cool boy Bhaarat Pannu, the cute one Siddhant Mukherjee, the science wizard Sanchit Darbari, the smart girl Simran Gupta and sweet girl Nandini Gupta.

USP: Lots of *masti*, *shararat* and loads of love.

Friends forever: FRIENDS: F = few, R = relationships, I = in, E = earth, N = never, D = die.

Fond memory: We love our school a lot as it is the place where we have so many memories. On our senior annual day, we got a chance to know each other better. The coolest thing about our gang is that we love each other equally and we want to be best friends forever. ●

Shivani Gulati, VIII B, Gur 43



We are the best: Ishita and friends

The Freedom Flight

Vira Sharma

Rich and poor, old and young, cutting across national boundaries, the sport of ‘Kite flying’ finds a mention everywhere. Adorning the sky with colourful hues, ‘kites’ have found mention in novels and poems, featured in festivals, adorned as decorative items and fought with strings firmly clasped on the ground, gazing up at the sky. For centuries it has sewn people into one string cutting across the boundaries of caste, colour, religion, and even nationality, into limitless blue skies. The Sport of Kite Flying, claimed to be invented in the 5th century by Chinese philosopher – Mozi and Lu Ban, is said to have come to India from China. It was established as a sport during the Mughal period and found patronage among some kite enthusiasts. This inexpensive sport soon gained a lot of popularity among the people. In India, flying kites is associated with different festivals. People turn out in large numbers to fly kites on Makar Sankranti celebrated on January 14 every year and during Basant Panchami. The day also marks the biggest international festival of kites held in India at Jaipur and Ahmedabad. Come August, and the clean blue skies suddenly fill once again with kites during Independence day, Janmashtmi and Raksha Bandhan. The nawabs of Lucknow, relish kite flying as a tradition, a day after Diwali. Associated with the feeling of ‘freedom’, Kites enliven the sky on August 15, as a tribute to India’s Freedom Spirit. Tricolour kites bloom the market place and the red light at all crossings. Local kite



flying competitions finds huge audience as one and all join this festival, lying dormant otherwise through the year. Says *Siddhant Ghosh (IVA/WB)* of *AIS Noida*, “Flying a kite is fun and flying it on August 15, is a completely different feeling. It fills me with a complete sense of independence.” Freedom did not come easy and so did the art of flying a kite. He continues, “Learning to fly a kite requires special skills. While it is easy to throw the kite in the sky, steering and maneuvering the same, pulling down the other kites and sustain to sail in the sky to the end is no child’s play.” According to *Tanvi Sethi* of *AIS-46 Gurgaon*, flying a kite in the free sky of Independence day is a symbolic representation of proud Indians living in a free and independent nation. Reflecting on the gradual decline of this sport, she comments, “Unfortunately, changing lifestyles in the cities have led to a reduction in the charming sport of kite flying. However, smaller towns and old established localities still enjoy the leisurely sport and the sky is full of colourful kites on the 15th of August. We should make efforts to keep the fervour of nationalism alive on this day so that the kites keep soaring higher and higher in our free, happy skies.” When Khaled Hosseini titled his novel *Kite Runner*, he actually summed up his complete life. The Kite Flying sport in pre-war Kabul brings out the best and worst in him. He fights with it all his life, trying to live a normal life, only to be drawn to his past once again. He seeks solace in flying kite, as he attempts to free himself. That’s the power of Kite. ●

Kite Lingo

Patang/ guddi: kite	Dheel: by letting out line
Pench larana: kite fighting	Khainch: pulling the string tightly
Charkha: the roll	Patangbaazi: refers to the kite flying competition
Manjha: thread coated with a mix of glue and ground glass	

- Kites can be used to pull people and vehicles downwind. The German company SkySails has developed ship-pulling kites as a supplement power source for cargo ships, first tested in January 2008 on the ship MS Beluga Skysails.
- Research is being done to investigate the use of kites in harnessing high altitude wind currents to

Kite Bytes

- generate electricity.
- Kites can be used for radio purposes, by kites carrying antennas for MF, LF or VLF-transmitters.
- Kites have been used for military uses in the past

- for signaling.
- In Vietnam, kites have small flutes attached to it that make a musical ‘humming’ sound when flying in the wind.
- Weifang, Shandong, China are considered as the kite capital of the world with the largest kite museum in the world.



Rajshree Sancheti
AIS Gur-46

Despite being anointed India’s national game, hockey lags far behind cricket and other games in popularity. When Indian sports persons, from other fields, are rapidly asserting themselves in the world, India’s hockey fortune is plummeting to an abyss in the international forum. We’re all aware of the sincere, dedicated efforts of the great players like Dhyan Chand, Dhanraj Pillay etc who have brought fame and glory to the game. Our current

hockey team (both women and men) are capable and deserving players and I am proud of them, but it seems that the youth of today is not! Let us honour the memory and contribution of a renowned Indian Hockey Player, the late Major Dhyan Chand Singh (August 29, 1905 – December 3, 1979). He was part of the Gold winning Indian team in three Olympic Games (1928 Amsterdam, 1932 Los Angeles, 1936 Berlin). He was awarded the Padma Bhushan, India’s third highest civilian honour, in 1956. He got the title Chand or Moon from his first coach,

Pankaj Gupta, who had predicted that he would one day shine like a Chand or Moon. Even today Dhyan Chand is the only Indian sports person who can lay claim to be the unchallenged master of a sport. When our nation is capable of producing a great personality, like him, I am disappointed with today’s youth that they don’t give proper respect and importance to the players and the game. I request all the people to: “Love other sports, but love hockey the most, because it’s our national game! We all together can return its respect, name and fame.”●

My favourite sport



The cricket fever

Like many others, my favourite sport is Cricket. I feel playing cricket makes us energetic and keeps us physically fit. There are three types of roles that each player plays. These are batter, fielder and the batsman. I like to ball and field because I think that I can do it very well. I am good at catching and throwing the ball. I cannot hold the bat properly and hit the ball. I need to improve on my batting skills. Cricket is played between two teams on a large ground. Each team has eleven players. Cricket is played with a leather ball, six wickets, four bales and a cricket bat. The player also wears pads, gloves, helmet or cap. My role model in cricket is Mahendra Singh Dhoni. I like him the way he bats and make runs quickly. He is also the captain of our Indian cricket team. He is a very good wicket keeper. India has won many matches including T-20 World Cup under his captain ship and made us proud. I like cricket because cricket is a team game and it teaches us team work and how to work with team spirit. ●

Anant Jain, V-E/W B, AIS Noida

The in-door games I indulge in usually are playing drums or games on the laptop. Outdoor games I play are cricket, football and swimming. My favourite game is Cricket. I enjoy playing Cricket. It is played on a round or oval ground. In between the ground there is a pitch of 22 yards. In Cricket each team has 11 players. This summer vacation, I had joined a Cricket summer camp too! During practice, we first did some running followed by exercise. In the end, we used play a match to improve our skills. Once or twice a week, we have an Inter School Match too. When playing, I can bat as well as bowl. So I am an all-rounder. I like cricket because I enjoy opening in batting and sometimes I bowl too! I also like to watch cricket on television or in the stadium. Sometimes, I remain awake till 11 or 12 at night to watch a cricket match! My mother often scolds me because then, I sleep so late. I feel that test matches are boring so I don’t watch them much. I love to watch and play T20 matches. My role model is Sachin Tendulkar because he is also an all-rounder! ●

Aman Agarwal, VI B, AIS Noida

“If I were a cloud, I would give shade to people and animals from the hot sun. I would fly over the world and see hills, forests, sea, etc.”-Kunwarjyot Singh Narula, III C, AIS Pushp Vihar

The Jovial man

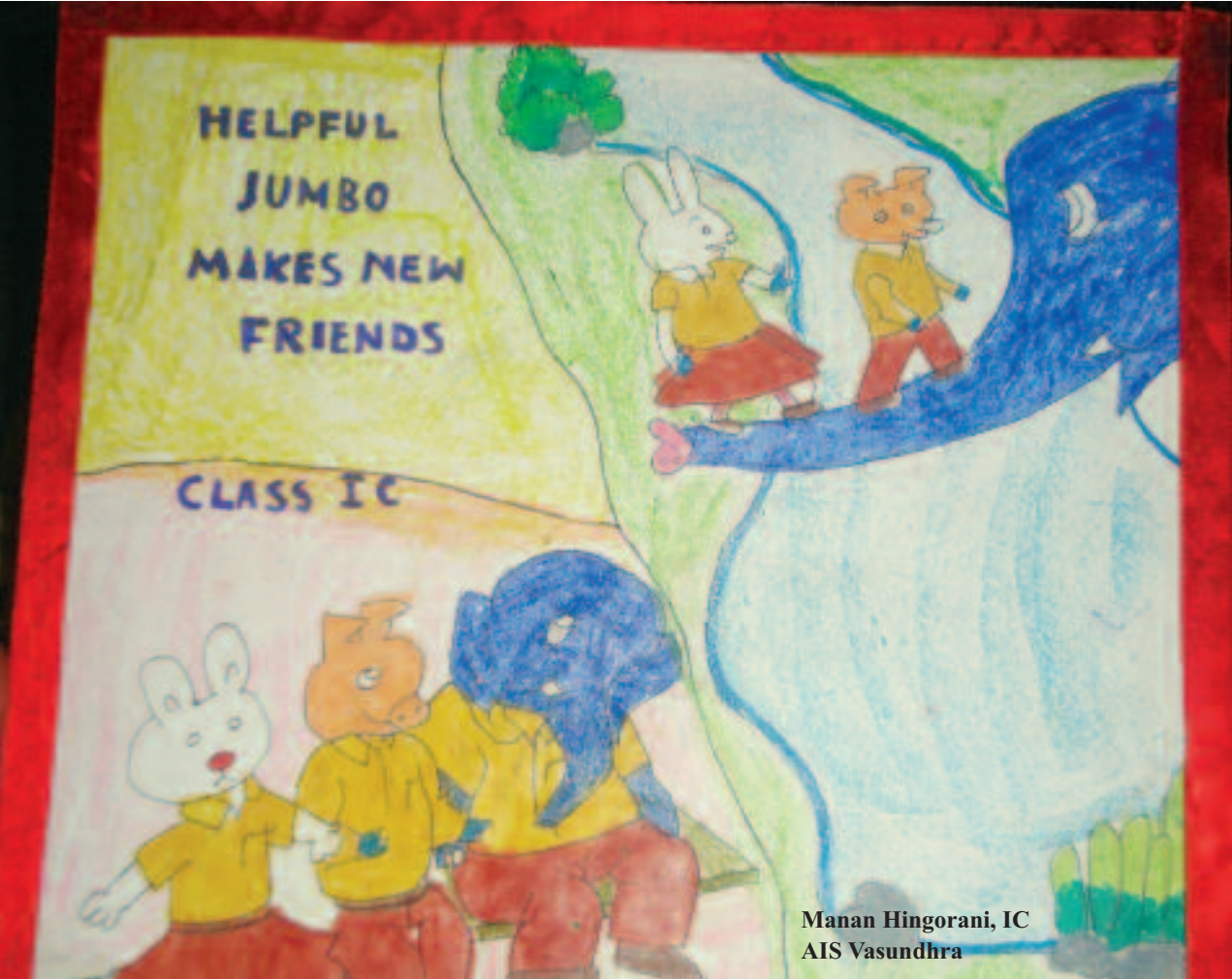
Ananya Rajvanshi, VI-F,
AIS, Noida

Long, long ago, there lived a man named Vikram. He was an ace sword fighter and a champion rider. He was noble too. He always helped the poor and the needy and protected the weak. Naturally, people loved



him, admired him and respected him. Vikram, however, had a secret which was not known to most of the people, not even to his close friends. He was

quite bald. He wore a wig to cover his bald head. The wig was so perfect and fitted his head so well that no one could make out that he was bald. One day Vikram and some of his friends went hunting. As they were riding along on their horses, a strong gust of wind blew off Vikram's hat along with his wig. Sudden discovery of Vikram's baldness amused his friends. They never knew that their jovial friend was bald. They laughed at him and said, "Why, you are as bald as an egg. You always posed yourself as a young man and fooled us." "Yes, I always tried to hide my baldness. But at the same time, I was sure that my secret would be out some day. After all, when my own hair did not stay with me, how could I expect someone else's to stay with me forever?" said Vikram and laughed heartily. When the friends saw Vikram laughing at himself, they felt sorry for laughing at him. They said, "You are really a great sport." **Moral:** He who can laugh at himself will never become a laughing stock.●



Where does all the Phlegm come from?

Nihal S Majithia
AIS, Pushp Vihar

It starts at 6 in the morning, when I'm putting on my running shoes. That is when I hear it, the sound of phlegm, coming out from the throat, a sound I am sure all of us are familiar with. It's a sound that somebody's servant who lives right behind our house is making. I head for my jog, then again I hear the same sound, this time it was the *chawki-daar* of my neighbour who uses the road as his washbasin and rear-view mirror of his employer's Bentley as a bathroom mirror. Then I enter the park and to my surprise, I find a gentleman – who appeared to be disciplined as he would come for his walks everyday like me – committing the same offence that I have been witnessing in the last few minutes. Al-

though disgruntled, I start my walk. But walking on Indian roads or footpaths is not easy either. I mean when I'm walking or jogging I continuously have to dodge spit, cow dung, and animal exc-



reta. In fact I am so good at it now that if they made this a sport at the Olympics I'm quite sure I would win at least one silver medal! Anyway I finally get dressed to go to school and get picked up by my cab at around 7.25am. It takes me 35 minutes to get to school and the entire route just seems to be a large canvas waiting to be painted with different colours of nasal and oral discharge. And don't even get me started on the *Autowallahs* of Delhi. Has anyone noticed how often they spit here and there? Once I interrupted an auto driver (in whose auto I was plying) who in 15mins spat 9 times – that why can't they keep the roads clean. So he retorted, "So should I keep it in my mouth?" I got so disgusted and asked myself, "Where, oh where does all the phlegm come from?"●

Zoozoo Talk

Do you know any concept of Mathamity?

Huh! Maybe the speed at which the ball comes hurling at your ice cream!

Or maybe the speed at which you come up with such silly concepts!

Winners: 1st-Ris Chopra, V A, AIS Saket; 11th-Ritik Rahul Jethi, IV C, AIS Gur 46; 11th-Shravanik Rawal, V A/W A, AIS Noida & Sanjaya Singh, V B, AIS Saket

THE GLOBAL TIMES CONTEST

1. Expand AUP.

2. Why is 'Krishna-Sudama' friendship legendary?

3. Name the University that has honored Shahrukh Khan with a doctorate degree.

4.Name 2 countries with which Amity has Exchange Programs.

5. Who is Taylor Swift?

To submit your answers, log on to www.theglobaltimes.in
(Postal/courier entries will not accepted.
Last date: August 15, 2009)

Who is a friend?

Prabhpreet Bajaj
VIII D, AIS Gur 43

A friend is a companion, who is very friendly.
A friend is a dictionary, who helps me in difficulty.
A friend is a mirror, who understands my feeling.
A friend is everything for me, who teaches me loving.

Braids

Tanya Singh & Gurkiran Kaur
IX A, AIS Gur-43

Maybe it had just been yesterday
20th December or the 8th of May

When we indolently braided each others' mane
Along intertwined cordiality to reign

A murmur here and a rumour there
Nonetheless we didn't care
Together we sailed happily
On the cruise of friendship for all to see

A sob here and a sniffle there
Like wiping tissues we surely bare
Round the clock we wouldn't leave
Till a smile on each others faces wouldn't weave

Time would race, seasons would change
People will move, revolutions to arrange

But something in the sunshine would still freeze
Our four year old camaraderie singing in the breeze...



Brother and sister

Shashank Aggarwal, VIII A,
AIS Gur - 43

To dazzling heights from one small seed
In the fertile soil of distress sown.

From where love came,
we cannot see: perhaps,

Respect rises up so far above
The pettiness of separate view

within us, born and bred,

Differences bow before a love
And friendship that is blood-bound, too.

Or taught to us at parent's knee,
Or instilled by God in heart and head.

May the bond between us stronger grow,
May I prove the fondness I confess,
Which my hand's service cannot show'
Nor my simple words ever express.

Perhaps it sprang from some kind deed,
Which, long forgotten, yet has grown

Sudoku-1

8			9	3				2
		9					4	
7		2	1			9	6	
2							9	
	6						7	
	7				6			5
	2	7			8	4		6
	3					5		
5				6	2			8



It was teachers' turn to learn afresh

Amity Institute of Education (AIE), jointly with Maastricht School of Management (MSM), Netherlands started a two-week Refresher Course titled 'Training the Trainers in Executive Education' from July 13-23, at Amity University, Noida. The course is funded by NUFFIC (Netherlands Universities Foundation for International Cooperation), a non-profit professional organisation for making ed-

ucation accessible, especially in countries where the educational infrastructure is under-resourced. The course aims to improve the efficiency of the trainers, equipping them with a wide array of skills and tools so that they can further impart training and education with more analytical, technical and managerial insight. Welcoming the 20 participants from India and other Asian counties like Bhutan, Indonesia,

Nepal and Sri-Lanka, Dr. Ranjana Bhatia, Director, AIE, said that the participants will learn immensely during the course with components of teacher training at all levels like secondary, elementary, nursery and pre-nursery. Sharing her views, Ms. Miriam J G Fijns, Consultant and Trainer, MSM said, "Due to globalisation the boundaries between different countries are receding, but unfortunately, education

worldwide is not keeping up with the pace which brings forth the need of short term refresher courses for trainers." One of the participants Ms. Munu Giri, Data Manager, District Administration, Thimpu, Bhutan said that the course will immensely help her in benefitting her organisation by training the human resources. It will improve the way they work, thereby improving the output of the resources.●



Amity in Tribal Village

MC Sekhar,
Amity Bhubaneswar, Orissa

To fulfill the desire of our beloved Founder President Dr. Ashok K. Chauhan, Amity Humanity Foundation is working in remote tribal villages of Koraput district in Orissa to increase their income level. With sponsorship of DST, Amity has undertaken Niger Cultivation in five villages of Semiliguda block of the district. Dr. C. Satapathy, Director and Mr. N.K.Rath, scientist visited these adopted villages and interacted with 200 tribal farmers for three consecutive days. They visited the field, collected farmers' feedback on Niger Technology and prepared a plan for growing Niger in the coming season. Use of breeder seed, fertiliser, cultural operation and line sowing were discussed. Niger varieties like Deomali, Bisra 1 and 2, Kalinga 1 and 2 were decided to be tried in farmer's field. ●

Learning from Ms Obama's mentor



Charles S. Steve Dawson, President and CEO of Princeton Diversity Partners along with Dr. Surat Singh, renowned International Lawyer visited Amity University Campus Sector-125 Noida on June 29, 2009. Mr. Dawson was the mentor of Mrs. Michelle Obama, First Lady of USA when she was studying Sociology at Princeton University. He talked about his mentoring days with Mrs. Obama and said that three of her greatest strengths complementing President Barack Obama are:
1. *Perceptive person* - She can detect the true nature of people meeting the President. 2. She can help bring out in him, his true potential. 3. Is genuinely concerned for people's happiness. Mr. Dawson answered queries ranging from Indo-US take on nuclear deal, Indo-Pak conflict, to solar energy application in India with Indo-US efforts, etc. Dr. Surat Singh, Harvard classmate of President Obama described in detail his long lasting friendship with President Obama. Dr. Ashok K. Chauhan, Founder President, RBEF thanked the dignitaries Mr. Charles S. Steve Dawson and Dr. Surat Singh for gracing the occasion at Amity University.●

AUP redefines the Power of Press

Shweta Jain

Amity University Press (AUP) that was envisaged by Founder President Dr Ashok K Chauhan and realised by Mr Raghu Ramakrishnan Aiyar is fast climbing the popularity ladder with its renowned text books publishing.

Birth of AUP: The brainchild of Mr Atul Chauhan, Chancellor, Amity University UP, and blessed by Founder President Dr Ashok K Chauhan, AUP has come a long way since its inception. Born under the tutelage of Mr Atul Chauhan who took a keen interest in the quality of books, scanning through each book, AUP is today a leading publishing house. Mr Raghu Ramakrishnan Aiyar, Senior Vice President, AUP shares, "AUP was running even before I joined in as Senior Vice President in 2003. In the first year, I was the editorial person during the day and a courier person, printing person, etc, all rolled into one in the evening. I didn't feel out of place as I had enough grounding with Macmillan, where I worked for 15 years covering South-East countries."

Text book publishing is a highly isolated industry with good investments, where returns follow much later. Two years later, AUP started expanding. The competition was tough. But AUP clients are primarily prestigious institutions that belong to the old school of thought that still values quality consciousness. Aiyar elaborates, "We went ahead in a very systematic way. We deliberately chose new authors for our books, people with fertile mind and good track records in school. And the experiment proved a great success. All those authors are now successful and earning huge royalties for their own books." **About the Books:** AUP publishes over 130 titles for schools, from pre-primary to class 8. This includes English Language Teaching Series, Environmental Studies Series, Cursive Writing Series, Maths series, Hindi series, AUP Worksheets, Retold Classics, Value Education Series, etc. **Going beyond Amity:** AUP's books present in 18 states and have a strong distribution network. They are also sold in competitive areas like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, J&K, Haryana, UP, Andamans & Kerala. Today, 75 percent of the business comes from other institutions, elsewhere in India, while Amity constitutes 25 percent. Six years back it was the other way round. The press that commenced with the printing of 3,000-5,000 copies, increased to more than ten times within a span of 6-7 years, selling over 50,000 copies today. Aiyar remarks, "It's foolish to have dead stocks and we are effectively controlling that." **Future Plans:** Expanding its arena, AUP, proposes to go into

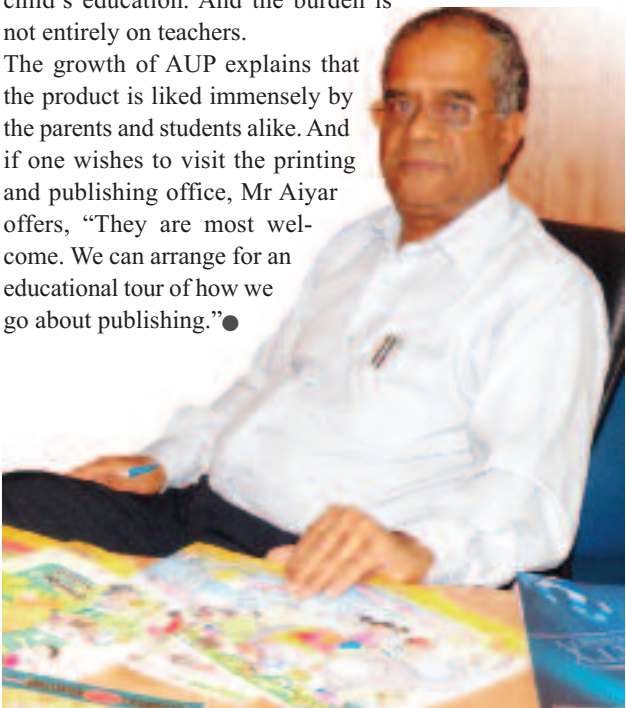
publishing books for higher classes reference books, regional language books, translation books, low-cost-print books, etc. And there are talks of hitting the overseas market soon. **USP-Quality and Pricing:** Rupa Gupta, Senior Editor, AUP confirms, "The USP of AUP books is most positively its high production value and well researched content development. High quality paper is used for printing and text books go in for reviews before actual printing. And that's why we are getting business inquiries not only from all over India, but abroad too. We work in close co-ordination with our illustrators, re-designing concepts over and again till we achieve perfection. The contents are revised at various levels and subsequently corrected to ensure an optimum standardisation. There's a strict quality control exercise happening at all levels."

Text book publishing - a career option: Young people with good command over written and spoken English, abundance of common sense, flexible mind, and who can do anything from writing, drawing, editing to marketing, etc are suited for this profession.

Nowadays many people are pursuing a course in publishing and the awareness

and opportunities are many more.

Response from the parents and teachers: Excellent so far! The books are designed in such a way that there are activities and exercises for parents also, so that they get involved in their child's education. And the burden is not entirely on teachers. The growth of AUP explains that the product is liked immensely by the parents and students alike. And if one wishes to visit the printing and publishing office, Mr Aiyar offers, "They are most welcome. We can arrange for an educational tour of how we go about publishing."●



Pix: Shweta Jain



See it before Tsunami hits

Dr. Shailesh Nayak, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India and Former Director, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, delivered lecture on "Space Technology for Tsunami Warning" at Amity University, Noida. This was the 119th lecture under the Amity International Centre (AIC) Lecture Series. He discussed about the use of Space Technology in predicting Tsunami at specific location and issuing warning to the concerned areas so that its impact doesn't affect the lives of people. He explained that Tsumani is a natural phenomenon and can occur due to movement of earth layers beneath the ocean. It follows after an earthquake in oceans, which can be read by the Space Satellites. Dr. Ashok K. Chauhan, Founder President, Ritnand Balved Education Foundation said "We all have seen the disaster that took place in coastal areas of India and neighbouring countries. If the government gets early warning for Tsunami through use of space technology, then the impact of disaster can be brought down and thus precious human lives can be saved."●

Experiencing the Land of Rising Sun



Aman Chhabra & Aditya Negi
AIS Vasundhara

Summer 2009 has been our most exciting vacation. We got a life time opportunity to visit Japan as part of the student exchange programme (JENESYS). An educationally enriching experience, the visit provided us with huge exposure, and show

our Japanese language skills which we had been learning for the three years. In Tokyo, we visited places like the Tokyo Edo museum, the Kagaku Miraikan (the museum of emerging innovations and technology), Akihabara (the electronic city of Japan), and the Indian embassy. Our group was divided in many sub-groups. Our group visited Hiroshima

and Hokkaido. At Sapporo Hokuto High School, we experienced camping. Hokkaido, the northern most island of Japan is very beautiful. In Hiroshima, we visited Takehara Historic Preservation Area, experienced student exchange program in Kamo high school and the Ikutsushima shrine in Miyajima Island. We also had the privilege to stay with Japanese families and got a

glimpse of Japanese traditions. We also attended various lectures and workshops on Japanese way of life, culture and economy. The purpose of the program was to deepen mutual understanding among young people who will assume an important role in the next generation. Being a student of Japanese language, the visit to Japan was a dream come true.●

AIS Noida goes international in Chess

Shramik Rawal, a student of class V, A/W A, AIS Noida participated in 7th Delhi International Open Grand Masters Chess tournament and grabbed three points while managing a draw with Cheks Browzagoch from Kazakhstan. More than 400 participants from Asia and Europe took part in the grand event. Shramik has been playing chess from the tender age of five and has won many laurels in national and state level tournaments.

Talent unlimited



Rishika Gupta of KG, AIS Saket made us proud by obtaining Appreciation Award at National Level in All India Camlin colour contest. The journey on the path of success was a difficult one for Rishika and began with sending entries from the school with paintings on the theme 'Me and My Favourite Toy'. The combination of her vision, talent, creative appeal and mixture of colouring technique brought out an exemplary piece which was highly applauded. The contest began at the school level and the winning entries competed at the regional level. The shortlisted entries were finally considered for the National Level. Rishika has an inborn talent and her paintings are appealing and creative. ●

A healthy initiative

A special assembly was conducted at AIS Gur 46 in which the Principal addressed the students of middle and senior school regarding the epidemic of Swine Flu. She reassured the students that the situation was under control. The school doctor also provided a lot of in-

formation about the disease. A student of class IX, D S L Amulya, who is also a member of the Interact Club, took the initiative to draft out a circular for her school mates. Her contribution was highly appreciated and she was asked to present it to the entire school. An extraxt from the circular..



Let's Prevent Swine Flu

DSL Amulya
IX - C, AIS Gur 46

Signs and Symptoms

Fever (100.5 degrees F or higher), cough, sore throat, body ache (muscle ache), diarrhea, vomiting, headache, chills, etc.
Fatigue: When diarrhea and vomiting are present, see your doctor immediately as severe cases have progressed to pneumonia, respiratory failure and ultimately lead to deaths.

Key measures to prevent Swine Flu
Washing Hands: Washing your hands frequently (especially before and after eating) can help to keep yourselves from catching the swine flu at school. It's important for hands to be washed thoroughly; using soap and hot water.
Covering Sneezes: Carry clean tissues and use them to cover sneezes, coughs, etc. in order to minimize infection, and prevent an outbreak of swine flu at school. Throw them away after use. This

keeps the germs in an out-of-the-way place, preventing them from spreading everywhere. Wiping your desks, lunch tables, shared pencils, pens and the covers of schoolbooks, etc. before use can kill the swine flu germs, and prevent infection. Avoid eating foods such as *chats* from street stalls. Avoiding face-touching. Do not to touch your face or rub your eyes, mouth, nose and ears. Stay away from people who are sick. Carry your own lunch and water. Avoid sharing them. If you get sick, stay home so you won't pass it on to anyone else. ●

A memorable camp

Shreya Sahni, VIII C
AIS Pushp Vihar

On 15th March, I woke up at 6.30 am, without any tantrums for the ensuing 7-day ACC Camp at Manesar. With much excitement, our flock of seven students boarded the bus from school.

Day 1: The Camp site wore a cantonment look with arrays of tents for the visiting cadets. While the complex was vast and well guarded, cadets were to sweep their own tents and surroundings to maintain cleanliness. We were told about the rules and regulations and how we had to behave like responsible and attentive cadets. Lunch was followed by a fire-fighting lecture and a nature walk to Amity Herbal Garden, dog show and a documentary about NCC.

Day 2: We were taught how to remain tight-lipped when a senior was talking and how a cadet was expected to be disciplined. Rigorous training and marching session ensued. I was selected as the Commander of my group and decorated with Commander Badge to mark my 'promotion.' Later, we had a detailed lecture on 'fire fighting.' We were given a demo about enemy camps.

Day 3: It was no different, except that I got a sore throat which got cured by 'KUKA' cough syrup. The documentary movie 'Border' was shown. That



evening we played games like basketball, football, etc.

Day 4: It was a day of thrill and adventure. We did rappelling, rock climbing, rope climbing, shooting, etc.

Day 5: It was the annual result declaration at school; while reports were being distributed, we were camping away. We had butterflies in our stomach and mine ended while I was para-sailing and my mom called saying I had achieved 1st rank! I was on cloud 9 'literally.'

Day 6: Our parents had been invited to watch our drill. By 3:30 pm we all were neatly dressed in our ACC uniform. Guest of Honor General Bopanna presided over the event. We were about to wrap up when a massive dust storm blew over. Despite the storm, we had a Pizza Party in our tent. The camp provided an exposure to students who are willing to join the services. It taught us to complete a task in a time bound manner and groomed our personality. ●

Caught in the Social N@t



Graphics : Pankaj Mallik

They tweet, they write virtual graffiti on walls, they put up their ‘gang’s’ pictures and simultaneously they educate themselves. Today, children as young as 11 and 12 years are hooked on to websites such as Hi-5, Orkut, Facebook, Twitter, Myspace, Ibibo, etc. Social networking is no longer restricted to grown ups. **Shweta Jain, Asst Editor, The Global Times** speaks to students about their take on social networking...

Waste of time : Chiraag Aggarwal, (VIII C) of AIS Gurgaon- 46 feels it’s a sheer waste of time. “I feel networking with your friends over the internet definitely amounts to waste of time. I would rather talk to them over phone. Most of my friends are on Facebook, Orkut, etc. They often try to convince me too, but I don’t like being on such sites,” opines Chirag.

Kanchan Joneja, (IX) of AIS, Noida agrees, “Problem arise when people overuse or misuse this fun technology. Many of my friends are ad-

dicted to chatting and uploading every picture and personal information. I am not. And I don’t entertain friends request from strangers.”

JLT: While many are not open to the world of virtual friendships, others like Archana Harinayayanan (VII) of AIS, Gurgaon Sec 43, is an off-&-on visitor. “I have been on Hi-5 since a few months and sometimes chat through this with my friends. But I am not addicted to it. I don’t open my account everyday because you meet the same people every day and there’s not much to talk. Also, I don’t believe in making friends with strangers,” she says. Point, well taken. You should know how to strike a balance.

Socially connected : Talking of justified usage of social networking sites, Kanchan enjoys chatting with friends as it helps her to stay connected with near and dear ones. “I am a regular on Facebook. It’s a convenient way to search for your long lost friends, to keep in touch with your present group and also to interact with your friends and relatives who live abroad. Every time you cannot physically meet every-

one, so you meet virtually,” she explains.

Enliven Academics : Now who would think that something meant for ‘social’ connections can be wisely used for academics? Not only students, even teachers are busy putting up notes for their students. Shares Kanchan, “Our Maths teacher puts all sorts of assignments for us on Facebook walls. All of us enjoy working on Maths through Facebook.”

Knowledge Source : These sites also come across as a great platform for healthy discussions and source of knowledge. Kanchan shares her experience of going on Facebook forums to learn more about ‘Illuminati’ society that she stumbled upon while reading *Angels and Demons*, “I found a forum on the Facebook on this subject and participated in the discussions. It was quite informative and fun too.” Besides, we all would agree, that Social Networking sites are the best way to remember special occasions like birthdays and anniversaries where most of these children have made their own personal calendars. ●

Books are our friends

Mehak Gautam, AIS Gurgaon-43



Books are our never failing friends. Books, like true friends, stand by us through thick and thin. Our friends desert us but books never leave us alone even in our hard times and some even inspire us to rise up and work hard. As appetite is vetted by food, craving for knowledge is satisfied by books. Books enshrine noble thoughts and the spirit of peace and humanity. Books uphold values and encourage us when we feel sad. Books are our long lasting teachers. Nothing and no one can take the place of books in our lives. ●

It’s Britney’s circus!

Siddharth Sharma, XII-G
AIS Saket



Music Review

Pop diva Britney Spears’ latest offering, *Circus*, certainly redefines the meaning of ‘pop at its best!’ A truly spectacular collection of songs, *Circus* has solidified Britney’s return to the spotlight after two years of a much publicised breakdown. Possibly her most anticipated album to date, *Circus* debuted at No.1 on the Billboard Hot 200 albums chart and has sold more than 3 million copies worldwide within three months of its release! From the blaring sirens of ‘Womanizer’, to the regretful, achespurring ‘Blur’, *Circus* has a song for everyone. A personal favourite is the melodic, glowing ‘Unusual You’, a truly beautiful ballad. Another ballad, ‘Out From Under’, surely touches one’s heart and leaves one mesmerised. Of the other songs, ‘If U Seek Amy’ is a saucy swinging standout, while the paparazzi-taunting ‘Kill the Lights’ recalls the synth-crush of her previous album, *Blackout*. ‘Mmm Papi’ is a very danceable track, which will make all music lovers sway to its beats. Those looking for something different will find the songs ‘Mannequin’, ‘Shattered Glass’ and ‘Radar’. *Circus* also includes a song, ‘My Baby’, which Britney has dedicated to her two sons. Last, but definitely not the least, is the title track ‘Circus’. This is a ram-paging monster of a song, with massive thudding electronic beats and an excellent chorus. *Circus* is one album I would recommend to all lovers of pop music. ●

Teardrops on my guitar



Ruchismita Bhattacharjee
AIS Vasundhara

In this era of upcoming teen popstars like Miley cyrus & Johnas Brothers, yet another teen has surfaced with her hit songs. Moreover, 19-year-old Taylor Swift’s Love Story from her second album *Fearless* has already taken the place of the top English song on the radio! Just tune in to Hit 95 FM for the

top 8 at eight pm, and you will know what I mean. Love Story has been on the top for more than two weeks now! Taylor started writing her own songs from the age of 12 and also composing them. Earlier, she had launched some singles and a self titled album, which included the well known song, ‘Teardrops on my guitar.’ But Love Story was exceptional and soon became a hit among teens. Just tune into Zee Café between

shows and you will get to see its video! After gaining such huge amount of popularity, she also got a chance to perform in the GRAMMYS along side her friend Miley Cyrus. Together they sang a number ‘fifteen.’ Taylor Swift is also a wonderful role model for kids. She abstains from savage parties with strangers and instead hangs out with her friends. She is very focused and passionate about her work. ●

My Jamun plant

Harshita N, VIII-D AIS Gurgaon-43

A couple of years back, our neighbour sent us a carton of juicy and delicious blackberries from their farm. After eating the luscious berries, without a second thought, my brother and I flicked the seeds of the fruit into the moist soil in our garden. A few weeks later, after a heavy downpour, I started observing a change in the seeds and noticed that they were growing into tiny saplings. But, since, our garden was inadequate for all the seedlings to grow, we, with the help of our gardener, planted the saplings in our neighborhood within empty tree guards and told the

person living near it to take care of it and nurture it. But, much to my disappointment, I realised that this plant turned out to be a source of meal for the cattle. After realising this, I completely lost hope in seeing the baby plants survive. But, then the gardener working for us had the bright idea of tying thick fiber ropes around the tree guards, which were not quite in a good shape to serve as protection for the saplings. After that the person living close to the plants, keeping their word, gave water and nourishment to the plants. Now, after a year or so the plants are taller than me and the entire neighborhood is waiting for them to yield delicious fruits! ●

