

Dear everyone,

On the 16th of this month in 1995, Iqbal Masih, a 12-year-old boy, was assassinated in Pakistan. "Assassinated?" you might ask. "Who was he?"

You can read about him here (<https://worldschildrensprize.org/iqbalstory>), but his death anniversary was an apt occasion to think about Child Leaders like Iqbal Masih, Rekha Kalindi (<https://www.humanium.org/en/rekha-kalindis-story-she-who-said-no-to-forced-marriage-2/>), Amina from Afghanistan and Sokha Chen from Cambodia (<https://girlrising.org/documentaries/girl-rising/meet-girls>).



Iqbal Masih



Rekha Kalindi



Amina



Sokha Chen

I will talk only about Iqbal here. What is very remarkable about Iqbal is his pluck, belief in himself, the hunger for a better quality of life and not thinking only about himself but dedicating his life for others who were like him but not as lucky / privileged. Those are sterling qualities that all of us can emulate. More importantly (and pertinently for this Newsletter!) is that we make our children / students emulate heroes like Iqbal Masih. If a poor ten-year-old child can dare to dream and then rise against overwhelming odds, what can't our children / students do?

What is powerfully moving is that in the teeth of overwhelming poverty, stifling gender injustice or an oppressive and insensitive societal structure, a child lifts himself / herself by his / her bootstraps, sustains fire in the belly to fight for a better quality of life for oneself and then go on to make sure that others are inspired and assisted in breaking free of shackles / a sordid existence.

These are just four of many stories that tell us what gold dust we are made of and how we transform our world and that of others by finding ourselves and fulfilling a powerful destiny that each of us can *create*. As we begin a new academic year, may we as parents and teachers be able to help our students and children do just that.

Warm regards,

C P Joseph

PRINCIPAL

EVENT UPDATES

I. Talent Show (Grades 1, 2 and 3)

“Adults are always asking little kids what they want to be when they grow up, because they are looking for ideas!” says the American stand-up comedian and author, Paula Poundstone. The talented students of Grades 1, 2 and 3 left their teachers and peers wonderstruck as they presented their performances – be it dancing, singing, role plays, monologues, art, reciting poems, tongue twisters or even displaying magic tricks!



II. World Book Day Celebration (Grades 4 and 5)

Grades 4 and 5 students participated with enthusiasm in the celebration of the World Book Day. “What is reading but a silent conversation?” The eager ones of Grades 4 and 5 experienced the bliss of silent reading with their peers and teachers under the cool shade of a tree in school. Hearing the Guest speaker, Mr. William Gans, talk about the importance of reading and throwing light on how we all are heroes of our own stories on this journey of life, was insightful. The young 4th graders worked in teams to spread the awareness of reading and the significance of this day across the school. The thought that the 5th graders put in to make presentations on the different genres of literature was commendable! The entire school

participated enthusiastically to finally end the celebration by taking a pledge to read!



III. VOICES – Students’ Edition (Grades 6 to 10)



“I have a VOICE.” It’s not easy to say this, let alone be the voice to your own feelings, expressions, fears, aspirations and thoughts. Hearing these teens talk candidly about things like overcoming the loss of a loved one, gratitude, discipline, parenting and much more, was very inspirational and heartwarming. We saw young, adolescent, confident individuals up

there on stage, ready to address their emotions and showcase strong life skills with their feet strong on the ground. TGS hosted this event in the presence of esteemed personalities with Mr. Prajyot Mainkar as the Chief Guest and Mr. Prakash Periera as the Guest of Honour. It was truly a privilege for the TGS community to hear them share their insights and snippets from their own journey.

IV. Investiture Ceremony

We just need 'U' to make the Student Council!

A new dawn at The Gera School! The formal function of the Investiture Ceremony was held at TGS on the 29th of April wherein the members of the Student Council took their oath to fulfil their roles and responsibilities as leaders for the Academic Year 2022- 2023. Hereafter, as members of the council, they will work unitedly – so that, in the years to come, as they take their place in the sun outside the portals of our school, the world will look up to them as beacons of light that will shine for their own fulfilment and that of others.



PRIMARY UPDATES

NEWS FROM THE SPECIALISTS

I. CIRCLE TIME/ LEADERSHIP CURRICULUM

Grade 3: The learners of Grade 3 had some fun with designing the talking stick for their class and then went on to focus on themselves as individuals. The first month of Circle Time and Leadership Curriculum classes was spent getting comfortable with themselves and focussing

on getting their books to reflect themselves and think of themselves as (unique) individuals. They also focused on presentation skills as they presented their work to their peers.



Grade 4: The learners of Grade 4 have been busy getting their communication skills developed and improved. As they got into the new academic year, they focused their attention inward, towards themselves. It was nice to see them excited to introduce themselves and to witness their enthusiasm to present their work. As they grow older, there are more ways in which they will express themselves. Their imagination was also piqued with the assignment for them to draw themselves as superheroes. Our Grade 4 learners are all set for a super-duper year.

Grade 5: The learners of Grade 5 are gearing up for a year of maturity and responsibility and are getting to the point where they can be self-reliant in their actions and clear in their thoughts. As they got comfortable with their new-found responsibilities, they also seem to be getting to be more confident communicators. They were assigned the task of presenting to their peers about themselves and they did so with a lot of characteristics of good public communicators. Another important skill in communication is giving and receiving feedback and our learners are becoming very adept there too.



II. P.E.

Grades 3 to 5

During this month, learners of grades 3, 4 and 5 were involved in various fun-loving games to make their P.E. class interesting. As regular physical activities builds healthy bones and muscles and decreases obesity, our focus in P.E. class was to introduce warm-up exercises and to learn new terminology (like *increased heart rate* and *raise the body temperature*), upper body exercises (front and back half neck rotation, bending the neck laterally, arms circumduction, elbows in and out, torso twist, front half & back half hip rotation) and lower body exercises- (alternate toe touches, 4 touches and ankle up and down) and understanding the sequence of exercises from top to bottom of the body and identification of various warm-up exercises to improve the joint mobility. The learners were engaged in outdoor warm-up exercises in game form, 'passing the ball'. Learners were involved in team building games 'building the castle' and in improving HRPF components i.e. cardiovascular endurance in game form: sharks and menus, builders and bulldozers and tiger-tiger what's the time.



III. DANCE

Grade 3, 4 and 5

Learners of Grade 3 were introduced to my 'Happy Hat' covered in smiley faces and infused with the ability to give anyone blazing confidence to stand in the spotlight, introduce themselves and dance. Grades 4 and 5 began their first dance class of the new academic year with our regular warm up with special attention paid to the learners joining us for the first time. This was followed by a vigorous and energetic Zumba dance track to get our blood pumping and then the class was introduced to dance exercises that are meant to help them

understand and improve their rhythm. This strong regular, repeated pattern of movement and sound looked easy at first but a few of the learners struggled with it; so, we followed it up with a different exercise in the next class with the endeavour to really build this super important backbone of dance ability.



MUSIC Grade 3 to 5

- I.** The learners were introduced to the new song 'Three little birds' by Bob Marley. The learners were given a chance to perform their songs.



II. I.C.T

GRADE 3

The learners of grade 3 revised all that they had learnt in grade 1 and 2. They learnt about how computers work using input process and output mechanism, which is the IPO cycle.

GRADE 4

Within the confines of the classroom and learning environment, computers can be both beneficial and problematic for learners. We discussed the pros and cons of computers, as well as solutions for potential challenges. The learners of grade 4 revised the basics of



computer. A quick revision of the basics of computer, followed by a lesson about the brain of the computer i.e . the Microprocessor was done this month.

III. ART



Grade 3 learners have been learning how to use basic shapes to draw complex ones; for instance using circles and rectangles to draw a Lion. The learners also applied their understanding of proportions in these drawings. Grade 3 also created patterns and textures for the Lion’s mane and body.

The **Grade 4** learners have created fantastic renditions of a ‘I am grateful for’ chart. They have created interesting diagrams, charts and designs of the same, filled with detailed illustrations and symbols representing their content. They have also included written text which describes their information. This activity helps in recording experiences and information visually, which may otherwise go unnoticed.

Grade 5 Bookmarks For World Book Day

Learners made different bookmarks as souvenirs for World Book Day. They developed combinations of lines, shapes and techniques to create unique bookmarks.



Types of lines, creating pattern - The artists of grade 5 learnt different types of lines and created an impressive masterpiece of Cacti. Their main purpose was to revise the possible lines and use them to create designs.

IV. FRENCH

Grade 3 and 4

The learners of Grade 3 and 4 are acquiring knowledge of the French culture and civilization. They are now able to identify the popular monuments, food, major rivers and the national symbols of France.



In the combined class, they watched a story based on relationship and communication skills and reflected on this.



Grade 5

The French learners of Grade 5 were enthusiastically welcomed to school. Learners introduced themselves to their new peers with a circle time activity and continued to talk a little bit about themselves in French: *je m'appelle Praveena. J'habite à Porvorim. J'aime la glace. J'ai dix ans* etc. In the last two weeks, learners worked with simple French topics such as *les couleurs, les nombres, les jours de la semaine, les mois de l'année*, thereby creating a basic vocabulary base to build on in the coming months. Learners were also able to use their cognitive skills and solve riddles based on *les jours de la semaine et les mois de l'année*. Learners also worked with numbers from 1-29 and honed their listening skills as well.

V. HINDI

Grade 3

The right introduction can solidify your name and purpose for the person you're speaking to, so you can make a positive impression. That's what Grade 3 learners are aiming at. They learnt how to introduce themselves in Hindi and also started the chapter 'Mehnat Ka Dhan'.



Grade 4

Activity based dialogue plays a key role in developing the critical and creative mind of learners. That's what Grade 4 learners are aiming at. They learnt to introduce themselves in Hindi and started reading and understanding the chapter 'Patton Ka Khel'.



Grade-5

Activity-based learning is rooted in the idea that children are active learners rather than passive recipients of information. That's why Grade 5 learners made a presentation on Suryodaya and Suryasat and also learnt the names of the week.



VI. DRAMA

Grades 3 to 5:

The new academic year got off to a fun start with warm up activities like FINGERS TO FEET and ENERGY BALL. Some of the other activities



we enjoyed were EXPRESSIONS OF SUMMER, where-in children had to mime on thing we eat in summer (Many ate ice-creams) and one thing we do in summer (Most went swimming.) We also had a bit of poetry and monologues being presented.

NEWS FROM EACH GRADE

GRADE 3

English

Tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today! Back to school and routines are something learners are now getting comfortable with. Learners had fun listening to stories, and acquainting themselves to subject specific vocabulary. Learners can confidently explain the features of fiction and nonfiction text and sort books according to purpose.

While listening to the story of 'Sylvester and the magic pebble' they learnt the importance of informing parents about our plans. One of the most valuable lessons a person can learn is the importance of being honest. 'The Empty Pot' tells the story of a young Chinese boy named Chen, whose honesty helped him become the next emperor of China.

Mathematics

Revising what you have studied makes you more thorough in any subject. Revising gives us an opportunity to reflect on what we have learnt. In Mathematics learners revised their conceptual knowledge and thereafter, working with numbers, learners recalled the concepts of place value and face value. Using this concept, they learnt to compose and decompose different numbers using digit cards.

Science

Our senses are the windows to the outside world. To understand how the body works as an unit it is important to understand how organisms respond to stimuli. Learners actively discussed the difference between senses, sense organs and how our senses keep us safe.

Global Perspectives

Grade 3 has been learning about Ecosystems as we start a new topic 'Saving Planet Earth'. We have learnt about Flora, Fauna and Microbes and are now looking at deforestation and its effects. We have been asking questions like "Why do camels ONLY live in deserts?" or "What would happen if we didn't have any spiders?" Moving forward, we will be looking to answer questions like- "How delicate is an ecosystem?" We are positive we will know how to help our planet by the end of this topic.



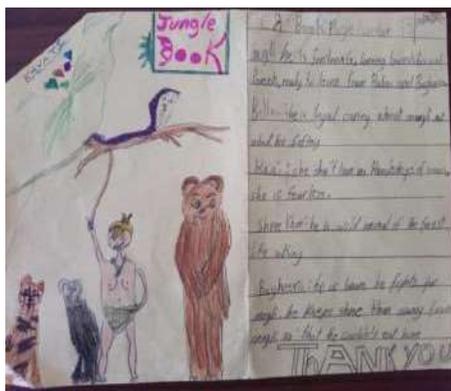
GRADE 4

English

We began the new academic year in Grade 4 English with a unit on Classic Literature. The first story is *The Jungle Book*. The learners read excerpts from the book and answered questions based on underlying meanings of the text. We looked at the language of the novel and then examined how it differs from language today. The learners also drew and wrote a character profile of Mowgli.

The next part delved more into Classic Literature. The learners listened to an audio of two people explaining the basics of Classic Literature. A discussion soon ensued on why classic literature stands the test of time and its universal nature. Learners mentioned examples of other classic works such as *Oliver Twist*, *Tom Sawyer*, *Black Beauty*, etc. Sometimes, classic literature doesn't always appeal to readers however, it is important for us to be

exposed to classic literature for a number of reasons. The learners were explained



that these stories are ones that are read in every generation, irrespective of how many years ago it was written because of their language, message, characters and themes that appeal to all ages. Next, we compared two versions of the same text- a playscript and a novel extract. We looked at how they are structured, the language and writing of both as well. The learners then role played a short script.



Math

Pluto said, "Numbers are the highest degree of knowledge. It is knowledge itself." In keeping with this, Grade 4 explored place value and value of whole numbers up to a hundred thousand. They were able to decompose numbers. The learners worked on a diagnostic test to check for consolidation of previous learning and gaps. The school year has started with gusto. We hope to keep to the pace and enthusiasm with varied activities, catering to every kind of learner.

Science

If we could see the miracle of a single flower clearly our whole life would change. This is true of Grade 4 who are seeing the beauty in nature, especially in flowers. The learners are learning about flowering and non-flowering plants after having completed a science picture diagnostic. They are also looking at functions of different parts of a plant. They did

a bird watch using a pair of binoculars. Learners were excited to visit the science lab to try out the chromatography experiments. The learners sent in their flower collages listing their favourite flowers and stating why.



Global Perspectives

Grade 4 has started a brand new topic called “Energy”. We’ve learnt about the differences between renewable and non-renewable sources of energy. We learnt about how atoms are split in reactors to make power and compared the chain reaction of fission to Pop-its. We also discovered how waste can be used to power homes and make energy in rural areas by using dried cow dung cakes! In future



classes we are going to also learn about why we need petroleum and explore places on the world and Indian map where we can get harvest different kinds of renewable energy. We even made graphic organisers to see what kinds of energy are used at our school, and were able to find out that the science lab uses a gas connection, and our classrooms use electricity. We have also drawn a chart of renewable and non-renewable energy types so we can differentiate between its types better.

GRADE 5

English

Children's stories are a wonderful way to kick-start the academic year in the English classroom. The learners were introduced to a prologue, its features and functions as well as the concepts of flashbacks and foreshadowing as narrative techniques. We read the



prologue of the novel *East* by Edith Pattou. We discussed how the writer has used flashbacks in the text to rouse suspense in the reader.

In the second week, we began with the topic of affixes and root words. We looked at prefixes and suffixes and how they help to extend our vocabulary. We watched videos on the topics above and took our learning on to paper. The learners answered a worksheet and some writing challenges too. Affixes and roots seem like a very simple topic that is taught because it has to be. However, the learners were explained that knowledge of prefixes, suffixes and root words has manifold benefits. If while reading we come across an unfamiliar word, we can use prefixes and suffixes to try and identify the meaning of the word. Secondly, we can use roots to extend vocabulary by continually adding to it to create new words. These small elements shape our vocabulary and help us to understand the language better.



Science

We wake up every morning and carry out our routine and daily life. We also enjoy a holiday. How many of us do some exercise? Do we consciously take care of our bodies that support us through each day? In order to do that, we must have some idea of how our bodies work. Firstly there are important internal organs that perform important vital functions for our body to survive. We began this session with a revision of the important internal organs of the human body and the body systems that they belonged to. Learners did a worksheet to identify and label the important body organs in the human body. After that we went on to learn about the parts of human heart and how it functions as a part of the circulatory system. We also did an experiment to see how the human heart pumps blood. Learners learned about heart and pulse beats. They enjoyed counting their own pulse beats per minute, before and after exercise and recording the data. Learners also studied a 3D model of the human heart and drew a labelled diagram of the same.

Math

Place value! How important is it to know your home and your place of residence! Learners began this academic session with a fun activity of creating their hand prints out of paint on paper for the door display showing that they belonged to Grade 5! They went on to learn the place value or the home of each digit in a five- or six-digit number up to a million and down to two decimal places. After that they practised multiplying and dividing decimal numbers by 10's, 100's

and 1000's. They could read and recognize 6-digit numbers with two decimal places, order them in ascending or descending order and recognize which ones were greater than others. They enjoyed practising this by using number cards and ordering them. They also learned rounding of numbers according to the place value.



Global Perspectives

Families are major parts of our world, our societies and our daily lives. This was an opening statement made by one of the learners when we unfolded the unit – Family And Demographic Change. Some learners even cited that a family is the fundamental social unit on which all of society is built with contributions made by every individual and roles and responsibilities shared by all.

MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATES

NEWS FROM THE SPECIALISTS

I. DANCE

With the influx of new students in Grades 6 and 7, we made sure that everyone was brought up to speed with the regular routines of our dance class; namely the generic warm up and stretching that we do at the start of every class and to that I have now added one fun Zumba dance routine that immediately raises the energy levels of everyone involved. To begin the year, we are learning about 'Rhythm' in dance and how devoid of it, a movement cannot be classified as dance. The students have been instructed through several Exercises in Rhythm and it was observed how when there is a lack of rhythm, everything turns to chaos.



Students can be seen here jumping through the hoops in a pre-determined pattern to a steady rhythm.

Grade 8 students had a lesson in dancing the Salsa and the Merengue. We began with our general warm up and stretching, followed by a breakdown of the foot work for both Latin dances. We started with the Merengue first as it is known as the easier of the two styles. The hip movement was the most challenging bit of the dances to learn and students said it gave them a proper workout.



II. PE

Now that the learners have resumed back to regular schooling, their PE classes has been happier and more engaging. Learners have started taking more of physical fitness activities to assess their individual fitness levels along with undertaking 9min/12min Run-Walk fitness test to assess their current levels of cardiovascular endurance. Fitness testing will be a regular and ongoing process to assess various components of fitness; this will in turn keep them prepared for the fitness demands from different sports and activities which they undertake.

Learners are also provided with free play opportunities by getting them to play different sport activities which in many ways helps them to develop skills and sportsmanship abilities. They have also been undertaking structured sports, training in various sports disciplines like Martial Arts, Table Tennis and Football to develop their skills and preparing them for competitive avenues.

III. DRAMA

Summertime is here but we were happy to be indoors, enjoying fun activities and warmups such as ENERGY BALL and LYRIC MONOLOGUES.

Sometimes when we soak up the sun, it brings out our creative side as shown by the Grade 9 kids. We started off with MIME A RHYME followed by INDIVIDUAL MONOLOGUES.



IV. MUSIC

Grades 6, 7 and 8

The new songs, 'Don't worry be happy' and 'Blowing in the wind' were introduced and the students were given a chance to perform their songs.



NEWS FROM EACH GRADE

GRADE 6

ENGLISH

Primary education lays the foundation for language learning. To make the transition smoother for Grade 6, a quick recap of the various parts of speech was conducted. Following this, the practice of understanding and identifying implied and direct meanings in a passage was undertaken by the students with the help of a non-fiction extract taken from Adam Weymouth's *Kings of Yukon: An Alaskan River Journey* as it is essential to build on one's comprehension skills. The student ended the last week by learning about the different kinds of essays (descriptive, narrative, argumentative, persuasive) as they begin to write essays of their own.

HINDI

They had undertaken the speaking activity -they introduced themselves in Hindi and also, spoke on the chosen topic confidently. They focused on public speaking skills. Learners also solved word puzzles and framed sentences with those words. They were able to apply their learnings. They learnt a song '*Hum Honge kaamyab*' and sang it for the assembly.



FRENCH

Recapitulation! The learners are revising the grammatical concepts in French. Their reading and writing skills were enhanced while completing different tasks given individually.

CHEMISTRY

The students observed the boiling point of water. The students learnt that water boils at 100 degrees Celsius and, beyond that, turns to water vapour. The students observed condensation taking place in the beaker. The students noted down the readings on the board and plotted a graph accordingly.

Students watched a video a video on reactivity and flammability of Sodium. They stated their observations and differentiated between reactivity and flammability. They discussed the

reactivity of Sodium and why it is stored in kerosene (because it reacts with oxygen in the environment)

BIOLOGY

Students compared living and non-living things. The students outlined why plant is a living being by stating the seven life processes.

The students questioned if movement is a life process observed in plants. A student justified the plant images projected, proved that plants can change position based on the position of light (sun). The students questioned if plants were sensitive. The touch-me-not and insectivorous plant was stated as examples.



MATHS

Learners recollected the place values and solved the numerical based on them. Students figured out the false statement from the given option pertaining to place values. Learners solved the multiplication and



division of whole numbers and decimals by 10, 100 and 1000. Learners recollected the scale factors for conversion of units and changing to the same units.

ICT

Learners of Grade 6 revised Excel management systems and worked on validating data entries into a system.

Package code	Pick up from	Deliver to	Weight (grams)	Count	Delivered
PA0001	Head office	Train Station	500	Auto	Yes
PA0002	Airport	Head office	750	Phone	Yes
PA0003	Head office	Train Station	2000	Mobile	Yes
PA0004	Law centre	Bank	250	Desk	Yes
PA0005	Holding agency	Head office	250	Mobile	Yes
PA0006	Warehouse	Shop	100	Mobile	Yes
PA0007	Law centre	Train Station	2000	Auto	No
PA0008	Head office	Law Centre	500	Phone	No
PA0009	Airport	Bank	500	Mobile	No
PA0010	Train Station	Head office	1000	Auto	No
PA0011	Warehouse	Shop	1500	Mobile	No
PA0012	Law centre	Bank	250	Mobile	No

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

Students are currently engaged in an interesting discussion about the relationship between our belief and belief systems.

GEOGRAPHY

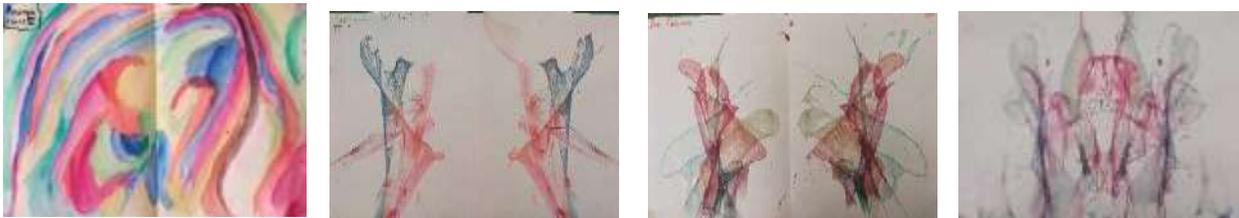
We are exploring the amazing world of Geography and how it directly and indirectly impacts other walks of life.

HISTORY

Students are enthusiastically making connections with our past and its impact on our present. They are also amazed how history is impacted by its geography.

ART

The students of Grade 6 have been experimenting with watercolour painting. This enabled them to try different techniques including wet-on-wet technique and wax-resist technique. The students also learnt a new fun technique “Pulled Thread Painting” They had a blast and enjoyed the little surprises each time they pulled the thread to form a new design. The results are an array of vibrant colours and intricate vein-like designs.



LIBRARY

World Book Day was celebrated on April 21st. As a feature of this, we invited Lucius De Almeida from Class 10, our school Head Boy, as a guest speaker.

Lucius gave a few experiences into the books he authored and the book he intends to write next. He conversed with the class about reading and writing, and how it helped him with accomplishing his goals. He additionally responded to the queries that the 6th graders posed to him.



GRADE 7

English

We started off this Term by diving into textual analysis. We looked at Unit 1.1 and on reading the extract, answered the associated questions. The students really livened up the Unit by postulating various theories as to what happened before and after the extract! This creativity

is a wonderful asset to have and I look forward to having the students use this in their future writing as well! A similar activity was done for Unit 2.1 and it was heartening to see that students knew a lot about technology and the associated topic of self-driving cars. Such displays of general knowledge made the class interesting and interactive and the blog discussion went beyond the basic questions and answers to be covered.

The students have been taught the PEA method (Point, Evidence and Analyze) to answer questions. They worked on questions for class work as well as home work. Their ability to analyze is very good and we are now working on honing the translation of such analyses into answers. Students worked in groups or pairs and they had a lot of fun collaborating on their work. We have also started the Unit on character development by looking at the extract on Dracula. Even though the students didn't get scared with the horror aspect of the story, their theories regarding Dracula's life were very interesting to note and this shows that the students have a lot of capability to imagine and express themselves.

History

We have started off the Term with the French Revolution. So far, we have looked at the various causes of the French Revolution. We had a lot of discussions and discussed the causes in depth. The students outdid themselves by using their critical and analytical thinking skills to dive into the causes, especially the aspect of social and economic inequalities. We had an impromptu role play too while looking at the Estate Generales (structure of society) to make them understand the importance of representation.

Hindi

Students participated in a speaking activity wherein they spoke about a given topic individually. They focused on thinking and communication skills. Learners wrote a story as a group activity. The learners then presented the same to their peers. They focussed on collaboration, respecting each other's view and communication skills. They learnt the concept 'Samvad lekhan'. As a part of application of knowledge, they wrote samvad individually and in group on a given topic, then presented it to the class. Students focused on collaboration and respecting each other's view.



French

The French learners of Grade 7 were enthusiastically welcomed to school. During the induction days, the learners practiced introducing themselves and talking about their peers, their likes, dislikes, age etc.



The learners started a new unit on *En ville*, talking about the different places in a city, the shops, etc. Learners also revised different food items that they had previously done and worked with affirmative and negative sentences.

Students also read short *bandes dessinées* and were able to comprehend the overall meaning of the texts.



Art

The students of Grade 7 are learning about the art and techniques of mosaic art, but this time with a twist. Rather than the traditional “Tiled” mosaics, the students are creating Water colour mosaic designs which resemble the traditional ones yet without using actual tiles. This activity enabled them to think creatively and visualize nature and forms through a mosaic lens.

ICT

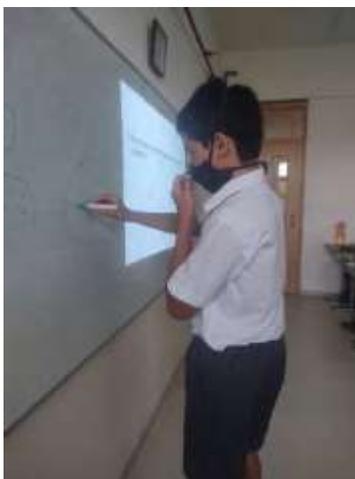
Learners of Grade 7 are in the process of revising the Python concepts in the previous year, after which they will try working on some complex coding algorithms.

CT

The learners of Grade 7 have been gearing up for ‘Voices’, The Gera School initiative to provide a stage for public speaking. In the process of developing these skills, they viewed videos of speakers they could draw inspiration from. Along with auditions, scripting and working together in the planning of the event, Grade 7 has had an eventful month. Besides that, the learners have also had the opportunity to go deeper and understand a bit more about themselves. They focussed on their innate talents, goals and challenges through the month of April.

Biology

The students hypothesized and planned an experiment to investigate the changes in beats per minute (bpm), after jogging and jumping jacks. The students predicted the outcome before performing the activity and present their data in tabular form followed by conclusions. They concluded that physical activity increases the beats per minute as the demand for oxygen for aerobic respiration increases.



Chemistry

A student demonstrated how an atom is held together despite like charges found in a nucleus and the atom and the electromagnetic force in an atom. They understood that like charges repel while opposite charges attract. The students worked with bar, ring and U-shaped magnets to understand how the forces in an atom between the electrons in orbits and positively charged nucleus work.



Physics

Learners were introduced to Forces. They found out the forces acting on the object. Students grouped scalar and vector quantities.



Math

Learners learnt about negative numbers, powers and roots. Once students were comfortable with the topic, they had a game in class – each group of students were given a set of cards, and they played the 'Power snap game' - All cards face down, one at a time, beginning to the dealer's left.

The goal is to win all of the cards. This activity made for a lot of fun and enthusiasm in the class.



GP

It has been a rewarding week of realisations as the students connect dots between human activities and loss of biodiversity.

Geography

Students are currently exploring Topographical Maps and its usefulness and similarity to Google Maps.

GRADE 8

Math

After completing the brush-up chapter on Powers and Roots, the Grade 8 students have now started working on Polygons. Students were given an investigation activity, to use prior knowledge and extend it further for more complex problems. The questions posed to learners were – ‘Is there a relationship between a polygon and the sum of its interior angles?’ and ‘Is there a relationship between a polygon and the sum of its exterior angles?’. Learners used their knowledge of triangles, and applied that knowledge to polygons of more than three sides, using craft paper, to come up with conjectures to answer these questions.



CT/LC

Over the first month of the academic year, the learners dived head first into the auditions, selection process and the practices for ‘Voices’, the school’s initiative to give the children a platform to enhance their public speaking skills and the opportunity to reflect and express themselves. As our learners watched other speakers and witnessed the intricacies of what onstage presence is, they got into the groove of an event that would kick start the academic year with a bang.

English

We started off this Term by diving into textual analysis. We read Unit 1.1 and answered the associated questions. The students really livened up the Unit by postulating various theories as to what happened before and after the extract! Since the theme of the extract was science fiction, the students enjoyed discussing with their partners the various facets of this genre that they enjoy.

The students have been taught the PEA method (Point, Evidence and Analyze) to answer questions. They worked on questions for class work. On correction, it was heartening to see that most students comprehended the questions asked of them and could successfully use the PEA method to answer. We have also started the Unit on description wherein students look at character, setting and the importance of paragraph breaks. Working in pairs or groups has really helped them enjoy the Units more and I look forward to more collaboration through the year!

History

We have started off the Term with the Suffragette movement. We looked at the various acts of the Suffragettes and analyzed the sources in the Text Book to see which ones were credible. This is where the analytical and critical thinking skills of the students really came to the fore. On discussing the death of Emily Davison, a staunch supporter of the suffragette movement, the students went beyond the two options of suicide and accident and even added murder to the list! They were all able to justify their viewpoints and watched the

videoclip thoroughly and were fully immersed in the discussion. They were also able to link the aspect of propaganda to the same.

Hindi



Learners did role play and created their own dialogues. In the role-play they included muhavarein, Visheshan and shared that bullying is not good; everyone's thoughts changed through role play. This improved their creativity, thinking skills, collaboration and public speaking skills. They did the revision of Sangya, sarvanaam and kriya via different activities such as dumb charades. They framed sentences using grammar concepts learnt and read it in front of their peers confidently.

ICT

Grade 8 learners revised the MS Word concepts along with the designing aspects available, and worked on designing brochures on various different topics using the software.

FRENCH

The French learners of Grade 8 were enthusiastically welcomed to school. During the induction days, learners were able to use the language in a variety of real-life situations, such as directing each other in school, playing Pictionary, French hangman etc.

French learners completed their unit on *En voyage* finding their way into and out of a railway station, reading French signboards etc. Integrating History with French, learners also read short extracts about the The Battle of Hastings and William the Conqueror. Learners also wrote short post cards for their peers and talked about a short holiday that they had taken.

Art/Craft & Design



The students of **Grade 8** have worked on a Goal Mandala. They thought hard about what their goals for the year are and created designs that elaborated the theme and topic. At first, they were reluctant as they found it difficult to list down any goals; but with a little bit of motivation and some deep thinking, they came up with sufficient goals. Their designs are coming along nicely and they are applying their past knowledge of Mandala drawing to create beautiful artwork.



Physics

Learners learnt about the energy and how the potential energy is converted to kinetic energy. Students applied the law of conservation of energy in that.



Biology

Testing the presence of starch in leaves. The students know that plants store energy in the form of starch and an experiment was demonstrated in the laboratory taking all the necessary precautions. The



students observed how leaves turn black in colour when iodine is added thus proving that starch produced through photosynthesis is stored in leaves. The students compared the starch found in variegated leaves.

Students observed the change in colour of iodine when added to potato (source of starch), the students understand the brown coloured iodine changes to blue black colour due to starch found in potato.



Chemistry

Atomic structure has electrons, protons and neutrons. Using beans the students assembled the atomic structure models proposed by JJ Thomson, Rutherford and the present day model.

The students competed with each other to complete a worksheet on Martin King Luther using the symbols of the elements using the periodic table. The students learned to use a periodic table and write their symbols appropriately simultaneously getting familiarised with Martin Luther King.

Grade 9

Hindi

Learners did Anuched Lekhan (Paragraph writing) on a given topic. They had to choose any one topic and write about it such as *Agar mai Pradhan mantri hota to Samudra tat par ek shaam, Mera Priy khel, Agar mai raja hota*, etc. In this activity they worked on thinking and presenting it in front of peers.

Students also did a role play on their choice of topic .They focused on speaking and thinking skills. They wrote their own dialogues and presented their role play to their peers. They learnt Kaal 'Tense'. They learnt how sentences change in different types of Kaal. They analysed given sentences and changed according to the given instruction. Students worked in groups and wrote a story with application of Kaal concept and presented it in front of their peers.

French

The French learners of Grade 9 were enthusiastically welcomed to school. During the induction days, learners were able to use the language in a variety of real-life situations, e.g.: travelling in France, using simple idiomatic expressions, making their way on the French map etc.



Learners completed their unit on directions and practiced giving each other directions and guiding their peers in school while being blindfolded. Learners also practiced writing about their vacations and what all they did.



As the week's progresses, the learners revised describing their peers, talked about where they'd like to do an internship and honed their speaking and listening skills.



Math

Bringing in the new academic year with fun and games, learners were introduced to NERDLE, a Math game where learners were tasked to put together a set of numbers and mathematical symbols into a calculation. They were then alerted on which numbers and symbols are in the puzzle and have been correctly positioned! It is pretty much Wordle for math wizards.

Physics

Learners measured and found out the volume of the book. They learn to measure the volume of the irregular object. Learners were introduced with the meniscus to read the measurements on a measuring beaker. Students use the water displacement method to find the volume of different stones.



History

Students looked at the situation of the world post World War 1 and the peace treaties that would come to be, with a special focus on the Treaty of Versailles



and the reactions of the German people to it. The students were exposed to the various powerful world leaders at the time namely, Woodrow Wilson (USA), David Lloyd George (Britain) and George Clemenceau (France) along with the variables that influenced the decision- making process about the various peace treaties.

Chemistry

With the commencement of the IGCSE course for Chemistry, learners spent some time in the laboratory getting familiarized with the various equipment they would use over the next two years. Understanding how measurements are taken with accuracy is a skill developed during the course. Apart from that, this exercise also helps learners prepare for Paper 6 (Alternative to Practical). The first unit, 'Nature of matter' was started where the learners, through a simulation, were acquainted to how various factors can cause a change in the state of matter of an object. Methods of separation were also covered with the students testing food colour impurities using the 'chromatography' method. This method is used in detecting impurities



in food items and also in forensic Sciences.

Biology

The microscope, an important equipment for Biologists.



Learners kicked off the new academic year by exploring the parts of a microscope and learning the function of each part. They observed permanent slides by adjusting the lenses themselves. 'Characteristics and classification', the first unit for the term was started with the learners identifying the kingdoms based on their traits. They also learnt how a

'dichotomous key' is used to identify organisms based on their description in the key. Learners were asked to choose four leaves from the school garden and prepared a key for the same.

Circle Time/Leadership Curriculum

Besides preparing for 'Voices', the learners of Grade 9 were asked to delve deeper into themselves and gear up for a year that would focus on the development of characteristics that are important to be stable and thoughtful leaders. In the first month, they were encouraged to work on their individual presence and to work through their thoughts on who they are as individuals.

GRADE 10

ENGLISH

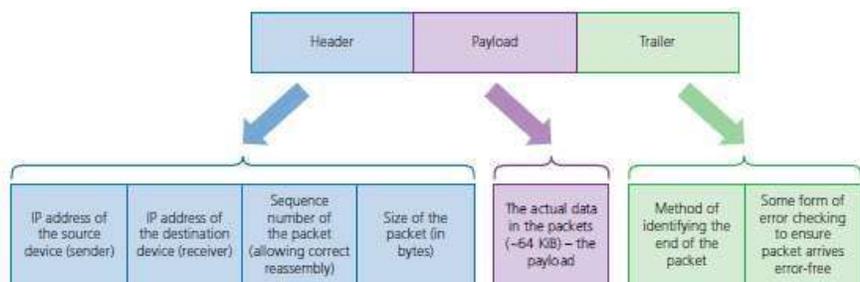
Learning to identify emotion and explain the effect writers have on readers is a skill the students have been working to develop over the past year. Exposure to different types of stories and passages have helped them enhance their ability to identify and explain such emotions.

One of the major skills of being a leader is the ability to speak. They say, the one who can move the crowd and stir them up, makes for the best leaders. The students of Grade 10 used Brutus and Antony's speech from Shakespeare's Julius Caesar as an exemplar to understand the features of speech writing.



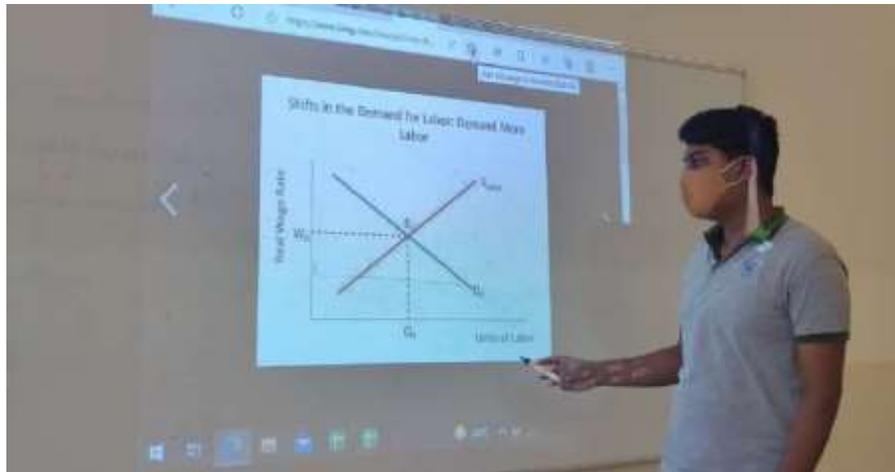
COMPUTER STUDIES

Grade 10 learners were introduced to the concept of packet structures, packet switching methodology, and data encryption techniques.



ECONOMICS

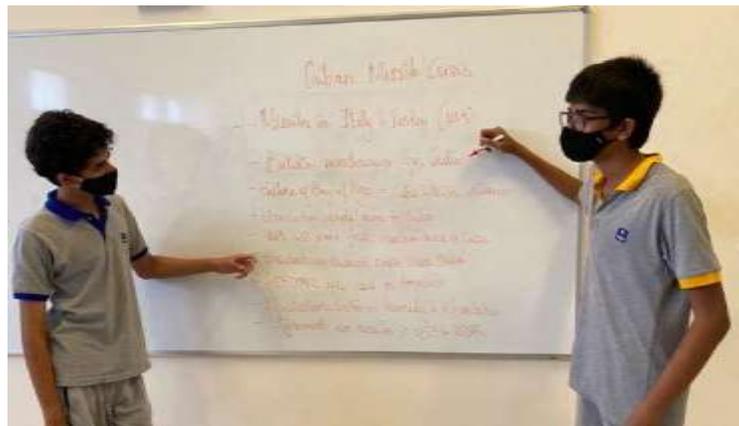
Learners examined the different factors based on which households make borrowing decisions. They also examined the various factors influencing the choice of occupation by workers. With their prior knowledge regarding the operation of market forces in the goods market, learners were



able to decide the determinants of equilibrium in the labour market and thus could draw the graphical representation of the labour market without much assistance.

HISTORY

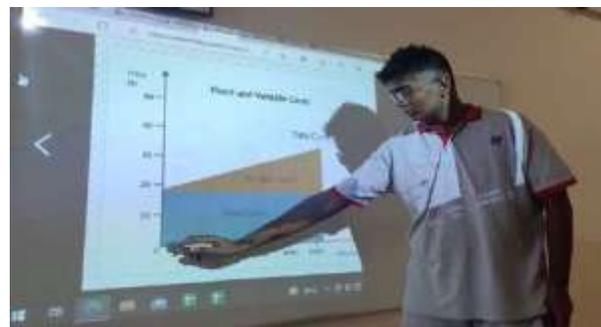
The Korean War and the Cuban Missile Crisis were the highlight of the Cold War between the USA and the USSR. While one was fought on foreign land over ideological disputes, the other was fought closer to home, with tension riding high in both parts of the world. The fact that both Kennedy and Khrushchev were ready for a full-blown attack, it was good for the world that they



managed to handle things diplomatically. Grade 10 were taken through both cases to understand how leaders will go through any extent to keep to their interests and ideologies.

BUSINESS STUDIES

To learn to classify and compute costs is vital to break-even analysis in Business. Learners were introduced to fixed costs, variable costs, total costs and average costs. They did many activities which enhanced their ability to distinguish between fixed costs and variable costs. Students also learned to solve data-based numerical problems to arrive at cost figures in different cases. They also learned to substantiate the argument that it need not be always appropriate to stop production every time there is a loss.



MATHEMATICS

Learners are currently learning Mensuration – to find the Area, Volume and Perimeter of 2D and 3D objects. These concepts are used widely in the fields of Engineering and Architecture. Learners were encouraged to use their knowledge of the area and perimeter of 2D figures, and extend it to work out the volume, curved surface area, and total surface area of 3D figures. For example, a 3D Cone is formed by cutting out a small segment of a 2D circle. Learners were enthusiastic to investigate such concepts on their own, to think and work mathematically.



CHEMISTRY

As we completed the last topics of the unit 'Quantitative Chemistry', learners found out the molarity of the given acid by titrating it with a suitable alkali. Titration is one of the methods to obtain salt by using an acid and alkali and the learners thoroughly enjoyed it. After this, the new unit was started where learners were introduced to how heat is given out in certain reactions whereas heat is absorbed in certain others. With the help of an atomic model, learners understood how bonds break



between molecules for the atoms to combine and form new compounds.

BIOLOGY



With the start of a new term, learners were familiarized with another important system in their body, the excretory system. Along with studying about the parts and function of the system, learners also learnt how we can survive with only one kidney making sure certain precautions are taken. We discussed about organ donors and the black market created for the sale of kidneys. The fact that the organs of lower class patients is removed sometimes without their knowledge was discussed as being a reality not many are aware about. Learners then moved on to the next unit where they were introduced to the nervous system. They were introduced to the structure of a neuron and learnt how an electrical impulse carries messages around the body.

PHYSICS



Learners recollected the concepts of magnetism and poles. They figured out the reason for the magnetic



compass to turn the North Pole all the time. Students learnt about the magnetic lines and magnetic field. Learners drew the mind map for static electricity from their previous knowledge, and they compared the mind map and summarized the topics and presented it well .



HINDI

They worked in a group and created story by using Muhavarein and Visheshan words and presented in front of their peers. Learners had a listening activity wherein they listened to the audio and solved questions and answers based on it. They had learnt the chapter ‘*Yun pareshan hua Norway ka ek gauv*’ and learnt words such as *sailani, niwasi, prasidh, Adhikari, doorbin, lokpriy, sira, tang, sthit ,dainik*, etc. Through this chapter they learnt that we always don’t have to be dependent on Google, we can use signboards while driving or travelling. They researched on nearby tourist spots around their home and prepared a PowerPoint

presentation. Presentations included introduction of the place, speciality, old and modern changes and why the place was famous.

FRENCH

The French learners of Grade 10 were enthusiastically welcomed to school. During the induction days, learners were able to use the language in a variety of real-life situations, eg: travelling in France, buying and renting property in the game Monopoly etc.

Learners started a new Unit on *Ca m'intéresse* talking about the different sports they like and what activities they do during their free time. Learners also honed their listening and writing skills during this Unit. They were even able to present a recent meal that they had.



With that we end the 1st edition of the Newsletter this year. We look forward to the rest of the Academic Year 2022 – 2023 being eventful and successful!

Happy holidays to all the readers! Time will no doubt fly we will be with you soon.

Regards

The Gera School