

THE MONTHLY ASSENT

(August-October issue)

PROUD TO BE AN ASCENDITE!

BY SAMVITA AMLADI

On 29th of August disaster struck and the 'horrible rainstorm of 2017' hit Mumbai. Countless had reached home safely, however many had to seek refuge in shops, restaurants and cars. Many groups of people and religious centres were offering food and shelter for free to the needy. Bus loads of children were stranded on buses without food and their mums with only a bus attendant and driver for hours together. Not to mention many adults seemed to have gone missing! They were seen wading through high waters. Some of those roads had open manholes and terrible pot-holes that made it even more frightful. The unmerciful rains made a few students and fellow peers get stuck in my school, Ascend International.

Thankfully I wasn't one of them, but a part of me really wanted to be there! The daring teachers turned this situation into a sleepover (one of the best I've ever seen) with brightly coloured pillows and vibrant looking comforters, bedtime stories and board games including a tummy filling dinner which was provided by volunteering, kind parents. A few parents went into school just to help and give whatever support they could offer. Parents were worried and scared for their children because they were so far away from the comfort of their homes. But I was told that there was one particular super parent who went around taking videos of all that was happening, posting them on the Ascend parent's group chat, reassuring the many parents that their children were being well taken care of. The children were seen playing, reading, being told stories and many were just seen to be running happily around! A whole bunch of us who were home were envious, but not jealous, of all the fun that was being organised and arranged for the kids. It takes a great deal of love for all this to be thought of! This is the only school I know which would do that! Parents knew that they could trust this amazing school because of the close bond every specialist and classroom teacher has with their child! Were the teachers and parents the only ones responsible? No, of course they organised everything and made sure that it was smooth sailing but we must not forget the helpful housekeeping staff who work behind the scenes to make a lot happen. We appreciate their readiness to help and we are thankful to have them.

The fierceness of the rains had caused some initial chaos, that had many parents doubting the safety of their child, but I think that it was unquestionable that the Ascend staff are the masters of improv and quick thinking!

The teachers, housekeeping staff, volunteering parents of Ascend, the principal (Ms. Meg Rood) and most of all the founder (Mr. Aditya Patil) are all responsible for making this an unforgettable experience and get all the credit.

The events of that strange and eventful day proved one thing for sure; sometimes the best part of our human nature comes out when the worst that nature has to offer unfolds.



I interviewed a few teachers who were witnesses for the unfortunate incident. I asked them the same question because I wanted to know what happened through the perspective of different teachers (Disclaimer: the people I interviewed were not the only ones contributing many teachers have been named but that does not mean the others didn't).

Did you feel any pressure with the kids on your hands?

"No, I just put the kids needs before mine, got them changed, got them where they needed to be and made sure they were safe and just took the fear out of the kids, made them feel at home!" ~ Ms. Rachel

Was there any havoc caused?

"No, we improvised and did activities with the students, everybody contributed. Mr. Kory and Ms. Rachel lead a game of dodgeball, Ms. Eva took kids into the library and had a story session, I also did some art activities in the art room, watched movies and kept the kids occupied, made sure they were comfortable and safe". ~ Mr. Matt

"What happened in school on the day of the rain floods?"

"As a community we were surprised by a near typhoon and as a community we came together to take care of our school family". ~ Ms. Eva

What is the biggest thing you took away from the experience?

"I just learned about how lucky I am to be part of such an amazing community. I learned that I am more than just a teacher at this school, but part of a family". ~ Ms. Rachel



VICTORY FOR THE UNDER 10 FOOTBALL TEAM!

This year our special under 10 team, the rising stars from Ascend, led by Siddarth Piramal and Aarav Mehta won the 3rd place award in the SSE league. The under 10 team played the SSE tigers and they won 3-0. The stunning goals were scored by; Siddarth Piramal, Aarav Mehta and Trivik Hariharan. The players that played for our team were; Dheer Jain, Kabir Singh, Trivik Hariharan, Kabir Saluja, Aarav Mehta, Vir Kamath, Siddarth Piramal, and Aarez Zaidi.

I believe our team's collaboration that was the main reason behind the win. It was a big win against the SSE tigers and we were happy to come third. It was a very fun experience for the kids of the under 10 team and we are hoping to see them shine as stars in their next tournament. We grow together as champions.

HINDI DIWAS

On a chilly school morning, it would be a normal sight to see students carrying their backpacks slung across their shoulders into the lift and off to their floor. And so their day would progress as usual. However it was a different story altogether a few days ago. As one would enter the gate they might notice something different about the atmosphere. Children were buzzing around the campus with excitement. It was almost as if one could sense the energy in the air. The reason was all too obvious: it was Hindi Diwas.

Hindi Diwas was celebrated with a bang at Ascend International School on Monday 18th of September. The students, all dressed in traditional wear from Kurtas to Sarees, watched intently as many performances took place on stage in the Multi Purpose Hall first thing in the morning. The performance kick-started with loads of energy as the Grade 7 students did an amazing presentation on how this event came into being. It was then followed by the song "Sare Jaahan Se Achcha, Hindustan Hamara" composed by Pandit Ravi Shankar, which was enthusiastically sung by the 3rd and the 4th Graders. Then came on stage the kids of grade 5, who had worked hard on a wonderful play. Next were the 6th graders who presented their well written poems. And to top it all off were the 8th graders with their wonderfully choreographed dance of two Bollywood songs.

It was indeed a mesmerising event, with the energy level up to the maximum. The crowd also enjoyed this wonderful occasion that celebrates our national language a lot. Hours of hard work done by both the teachers and the students was the only reason why this was such a successful event that was loved by the audience.

Hindi Diwas is actually celebrated on the 14th of September. It was on this day in the year 1949 that the Constituent Assembly of India had adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as its official language. To this date, it is celebrated in schools, colleges, government offices and other institutions with many fun filled performances and activities. Hindi is the fourth most spoken language all over the world, with more than 25 million people able to speak it. It comes right behind English. The president of India also gives away special awards on this day.

All in all it was a fun filled day with loads of energy that will be remembered in the time to come. A big thank you needs to be given to some of the organisers including Ms Renu and Ms Shweta from the Hindi department. The Ascend Family eagerly awaits the next Hindi Diwas.

A poem for Hindi Diwas by Tejas Chakrabarti, Grade 6 Student

नन्हें सा बच्चा हूँ मैं.
मन का बहुत सच्चा हूँ मैं.
खेल कूद है मुझ को भाता
पढ़ाई में भी मज़ा है आता
दिलि सो करता मैं काम
गाने सुनता सुबह शाम
दूसरों के बारे में मैं सोचता
तेजस है मेरा नाम



The 8th grade students, before the Hindi Diwas show on Monday 18th of September.

Report by
Tejas Chakrabarti

A TRIP TO DHARAVI: VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES

Interview of Mr. Matt

What are you doing in this project?

"Basically what I am trying to do is I love art and I feel like it's a very powerful influence on people and especially children and I need to share it with them. I also think that since it is such a big influence the children in Dharavi don't really experience it that much."

Who are you working with to make this happen?

"So I work with a group that helps children in Dharavi and gives them a better opportunity to learn. They teach art, music and drama. They give children an opportunity that they will cherish for life and help them in achieve their goals in life."

Interview of 3/4 grade teacher

"Well they made little pieces in their books of the trip, like for example Tarana in 3rd grade made a piece of the trees and how they treat them and how their system is of treating them so it's all amazing the exposure that their getting and how they get to understand these systems in life at such a young age and also Dharavi was a great place to learn!"

End of Interviews

The kids are learning about systems in their class. They are focusing on the systems around them and Dharavi was an example on how systems are outside compared to school. Dharavi is the biggest slum in the world and is known by millions. Since it is the biggest slum in the world they have lots of systems with coping and staying alive with very little food and water and the difference between our school and homes and the way we live vs Dharavi is drastic. It's amazing how Ascend kids are studying this because it is a very interesting topic and to see them comparing and realizing how different we all are is an amazing thing to do at such a young age. We here at Ascend believe that everyone is equal and there is no difference between two people let alone an entire school, no matter what system they use in life.

Mr. Matt is not really looking on this point of view though. What he is doing is not really looking on the system side of things but more on the educational side of things. He is trying to get the kids in Dharavi to see what it is like for other people and make them experience art which he said is a very strong influence and make the kids there get an insider on art. The group he works with does a lot with that and he feels like he can help as well. He is not really making anything or doing any art work but instead trying to help kids learn the importance of art because that is his passion and something he does really well.

written by Arshia Saboo

MUNNING: AT HOME AND BEYOND

by Mihika Kapoor

MUN stands for “Model United Nations.” Students from all age categories take part in MUNs and represent a delegation given to them while solving an international or national problem.

The 8th graders were made to represent twelve members of the prestigious United Nations security council. These 12 countries were the USA, Russia, U.K, France, China, Italy, Sweden, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Egypt, Ukraine and Japan. The most influential delegates were the 5 permanent members of the security council: US, Russia, U.K, France and China. They represented their individual countries while discussing the possible solutions for creating political stability and mitigation of the further loss to human life, dignity and property in the Syrian civil war. The 8th graders had to write a position paper which would declare their country’s stance on the situation along with a speech.

Each delegate put in great effort into this MUN and performed very well. They were extremely courageous when delivering their speeches to the council and teachers present. The council was divided into two main sides. On the one side you had US, France and UK and on the other you had Russia and China. Russia and China believed the current legitimate government should govern the country while the other permanent members disagreed and wanted the people of Syria to be governed by a different government. The remaining countries had to pick sides based on their beliefs, hence dividing the council.

Many valid points were brought up by the delegates and they performed exceptionally well for first time MUNners. They backed their arguments with reliable sources and valid points. Each delegate did weeks of detailed research in order to present their countries beliefs and to create a mutually beneficial agreement for the two major sides. They managed to write two resolutions, the first was sponsored by United States, France, Sweden, Italy and Ukraine, but his was vetoed by China and Russia as it went against their beliefs. With a lot of thought and persuasion the two major sides put aside their differences and agreed to sign the resolution written by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Bolivia and Egypt. The 8th graders successfully passed a resolution which the US and Russia agreed to.

The 8th graders agree that MUN was very stressful but when they worked together they supported each other and made it a memorable bonding experience.

A spectator of our MUN was Miss Ann, this is what she said, “The 8th grade model United nations debate was an excellent demonstration of student investment in understanding of critical current events in the world. I was so impressed by the level of maturity and pride the students took in the positions they researched for their countries.”

Dea Mashru who was Delegate of the UK stated, “It was an amazing learning experience as it was a lot of fun and we put in a lot of hard work! I hope we do something like this again soon.”

The country of Bolivia was represented by Anish Ratan, “It was great because we worked together and helped each other. I am very happy to have had an opportunity to take part in a MUN.”

Nayantara Piramal who represented Italy said, “The MUN was one of the most complicated and intense projects I have ever worked on! It made me put in a huge amount of work but I learnt a great deal about the UN and MUN, which encouraged me to go to my first very inter-school event- the ABMUN, which was an experience I will never forget.”

The 8th graders believe that without each other’s support they wouldn’t have been able to follow the procedure so confidently and would truly cherish the memory of their first MUN as a class. In order to celebrate they decided to have cupcakes the next day, after all of that effort they truly deserved that!

With the support of teachers and their peers they went ahead and represented our school in the ABMUN of 2k17. The AB MUN of 2k17 was a three day conference in which each student was made to attend their assigned committee. There were 4 committees in total. The committees were: Artificial Intelligence, League of Nations, Anonymous, Kashmir Summit and UNIDO. Each committee was challenging and it pushed our delegates to exceed their previous goals. Other school’s delegations were given a month to prepare however our students were only given two weeks.

With only two weeks for this interschool event our delegates started to feel the heat however they had each other’s back. Our new MUNners worked exceptionally hard spent countless hours researching and clarifying their doubts. Our teachers continuously offered their guidance and suggested points which would make our arguments/speeches stronger.

Our 8th graders were the youngest and least experienced MUN-ners in comparison to the college and high school students, but they confidently debated and presented their country’s point of view.

The names of these 8th grader MUNners were: Aakanksha Advani, Siya Aggarwal, Dea Mashru, Khushi Jhunjunwala, Mihika Kapoor, Nayantara Piramal and Shayaan Calcuttawala.



Aakanksha Advani represented the country of Switzerland in the League of Nations. Khushi Jhunjunwala and Dea Mashru participated in the Kashmir Summit. Siya Agarwal played the role of an investor in UNIDO, while Nayantara Piramal and Shayaan Calcuttawala in the Artificial Intelligence. Mihika Kapoor was an the Anon representative of the anons is Tunisia. She took part in the Anonymous committee.

The committees spent hours discussing points and thinking of solutions. These 8th graders racked their brains thinking of new approaches and creative and original thoughts. They stuck with their arguments and weren’t intimidated by the other older delegates. Their ability to think calmly and strategically in stressful situations earned them the respect of the more experienced delegates. Thousands of memorable memories were made at that MUN, and new friendships blossomed. After three days of detailed debates and speeches, ABMUN 2k17 finally concluded. The delegates and their respective teachers were really proud of performance as first time MUN-ners.

KAIFANI AND BOB

By Manavi Nag

Once upon a time lived a lion. Not just any lion, this was the most strong, flamboyant, famous and handsome lion in the whole Savannah. His name was Kaifani. He roamed the open grasslands sauntering with pride and his glossy mane shining in the glistening sun. Kaifani believed that he was the one that everyone worshipped, he thought he was the most superb lion that ever roamed on the grass of Koblane. He lived where there was the most succulent food: like millet, shrubs and juicy veggies; and feasted on it in front of the poor animals of Koblane, silently taunting them. Kaifani knew that all the animals wanted to be him and envied him. He would prowl around Koblane all day with his nose up and eyes looking down at all the other animals like he wasn't even one of them. Nobody knew about his family, where they were, and why Kaifani never visited them or they never visited him. Some believed that his sister told him he had become too conceited, so he bit her neck. In defence she scratched his left cheek, which caused the egoistic Kaifani to banish her. They think that's why Kaifani has a mysterious scar on his left cheek. Kaifani also had 10 servants. These servants usually varied from mice to zebras. Anyone who needed a home and some food and had good cleaning skills could apply for this job personally to Kaifani. Many sometimes only applied so that they could see Kaifani in person. Kaifani held these interviews once a year and you had to apply a year maybe even two in advance. It was this time of year now. Summer. Hundreds and hundreds of animals from all walks of life would line up at Kaifani's home. Meanwhile Kaifani would trudge into the open field to be greeted by hundreds of animals screaming and crying his name. It was 9:00 AM. The interviews were just about to start. He saw mice, zebras and bulls. He loved being Kaifani. It was time.

"First up" screamed Kaifani "Bob the cheetah." And Kaifani led Bob into a little corner to start the interview.

"So, Bob why would like to work for me" asked Kaifani examining Bob closely.

"Umm.... I have great cleaning skills and I enjoy doing what I'm told. I also really love to help people and learn new things."

"Can you show me commitment and dedication?"

"Yes, I can but I will need to visit my family because I need to visit my kids."

"Oh isn't that cute... Well guess what Bob, I need full commitment; meaning holidays only on Iwolani Day."

"Sir please I need to visit my children Sir, they are so small."

"Well then Bob I guess that you're FIRED!!"

"Please sir"

"GET OUT!!"

"I will get you back... just you watch you conceited little lion. I will get you back!"

"Ok, Ok, bye-bye." dismissed Kaifani, in an uninterested way.

It continued like that through the whole day. He argued with mice, zebras, elephants and so many other creatures but none even dared to threaten him like the cheetah. Finally he found a suitable applicant. A small but efficient meerkat that had no family so was fine with the holidays. For many months this meerkat was great and Kaifani even let him have a little extra shrubs when he was really good.

One day Meerkat came jolting to Kaifani. "Sir... Zebra told me that in two moons there will be a huge race. All the fastest creatures will be there. The winner gets 500 juicy shrubs."

"Oh yes, thank you meerkat, I'm going to win this thing. Tell me, have you met anyone faster than me?"

The meerkat shook his head obediently, "no sir, you are the fastest in the whole land!"

The rest of the day all that Kaifani did was train. He would run and run like nothing you would ever see in your life. He knew that he would win the race and so did everyone else. That's why no one dared to race against him because there was no chance any other leopard, cheetah or zebra could beat him. The day of the race came. The hundreds of animals came to watch this one sided race near the glistening pond. Kaifani's hair looked extra glossy today in the bright sun. His skin dazzled all the spectators. So far no one was next to him which meant he had no competitors. Then a beautiful cheetah came strutting into the lane beside Kaifani. Kaifani knew this cheetah looked familiar.

"What is your name, Cheetah?"

"Bob, Bob the Cheetah."

It came back to Kaifani in a flash, like a lightning bolt. Bob the cheetah applied for the job and then threatened Kaifani boldly because of his unjust holidays. He was astonished. He was scared.

"Are you that Bob that applied for the job and threatened me boldly?"

"Yes, I'm the Bob that applied for the job and threatened you boldly. I told you I would get my revenge, didn't I?"

In his shock, Kaifani hadn't realised that it was time to start. "On your marks, get set, go!!"

They were off, both of their hind legs running like nothing you have ever seen before. To everyone's shock, Bob was madly fast. At one point Kaifani was in front and then Bob caught up and it continued like that for the whole time. They were reaching the end. Kaifani was in the lead. But then like a bolt of lightning Bob ran past Kaifani and reached the finish line. Bob won the race. **BOB HAD WON THE RACE.** "Told you I would get my revenge" taunted Bob slyly. The crowd were shocked.

And then like nothing you have ever seen Kaifani let out the most thundering, earsplitting roar you would never believe. Kaifani was so angry. He was bursting with emotions. The world was rolling. He screamed and bellowed. Suddenly the floor started to shake and tremble. All the animals were being lifted as something was coming out of the soil. A huge round ball. And all the animals were on it. Even though they were on a big ball everything was flat. No one could make sense of it. Then the ground started trembling again. Two small shapes popped out of the soil. "We are humans" said the shapes "And we will be living here." The animals were surprised but none protested, not even Kaifani. "We will be living where Kaifani lives and we will multiply before you know it" The animals all knew, even Kaifani, that these animals had far more power than them. Always remember, never underestimate anyone or anything however big or small it is. Else you will become like Kaifani, who had to give up his lavish life because of the new animals he accidentally awoke.

WRITER'S (UN)BLOCK

फुटबॉल वन

“फुटबॉल वन मे वन टीम का फाइनल मैच था। जरिफ कीपर , हाथी हत्तोडा ,हप्पो कप्तान ,चालक चीता ओर उड़ता ईगल मैच के लयि तैयार था। उनका सामना खतरनाक पानी टीम से था जनिकी योजना धोका देना था। दोनों टीम में दुश्मनी थी । पांच मनिट में उनका मैच था। हप्पो कप्तान ने टीम को योजना बताया । अब दोनों टीम तैयार थी , गेम शुरू हुआ । हप्पो कप्तान ने बॉल लेकर पास कयिा हाथी हतोड़ा को ओर वह भगा। हाथी हतोड़ा का सामना पानी टीम के कप्तान महा मगरमछ से हुआ। उसने हाथी को गरिा दयिा और लड़ाई शुरू हो गयी और फरि हथोड़ा को लाल कागज़ दखिाया और हप्पो कप्तान ने रेफ्रू से बात की और फरि उसे लड़ाई के वजह से जाना पढा। पानी टीम का फ्री ककि मलिा और उसको मछली कप्तान ने लयिा, और ये गोल जरिफ कीपर के हाथ से बॉल छूटा और गोल के अंदर गया। उड़ता ईगल ने चालक चीता को पास कयिा और एक गोल। दोनों एक एक पर थे तभी हप्पो कप्तान को एक योजना आयी की अगर वह गोल नहीं देंगे तो वह गोल के लयिा लालची होंगे और वह गलत चाल खेलेंगे और फरि मौका छोड़ेंगे वह मौका पर हमें गोल मरना हे। मैच शुरू हुआ पर दस मनिट तक पानी टीम को एक भी गोल नहीं मलिा। प्लान के मुताबकि पानी टीम गोल के लयिा उतावली हो रहे थी और उन्होने गलत चाल खेली। वह सब आगे आ गये और गोल को खुला छोड़ दयिा पर सरिफ पन्द्र सेकंड बाकी थे। जरिफ कीपर ने दौड़ते हुए बॉल पास कयिा वहाँ घडी बोलता जा रहा था दस सेकंड बाकी थे, हप्पो कप्तान को यह लगा की यह गेम वह हर जायेंगे , पांच चार उड़ता ईगल ने शॉट लयिा और गोल में कोड़ नहीं था एक और कया गोल!!!! आखरी पल पर यह बढ़यिा गोल वन टीम का। यह साल का फुटबॉल वन कप जीतलयिा वन टीम ने। वह सब खुशी के मारे झूम रहे थे। पानी टीम उदास थी और रोने लगे। इस के सात वन टीम ने कप उठाया और हसने लगे।

The Girl
By Anya Daftary

There she stood
Her hair dancing in the wind
Her brown locks of hair falling till her knees
She gazed at the shore
Tears in her eyes
Dreaming about the loneliness
The dark and sorrowfull nights
She lived alone
But yet everything felt perfect
No one around
No one saw no one cared
She fell to her knees begging , crying
The water splashed around her furiously
She waited for a sign a thought that could hold her
warm her
and through the trees she saw a shadow
She made her way through and found what she lost
it was right there holding her loving her guiding her
As stood there alone
Learning
She waited and yet she couldnt be with anyone
She had to much and yet too little
There she stood , her hair dancing on the wind sur-
rounded by love and yet throbbing with sorrow

The Girl

IPad Catastrophe

I swiped my time limit away
My happy fingers freeze
The music in my ears has gone
Neon colours have faded away
I'm a basketball that has stopped bouncing
It's gone!
GIVE IT BACK

By Keya Advani

BFF'S FOREVER

Like fire to the plain
like water to the rain
like blue to the sky
You and i will stick it up
for each other it's our time
nothings going to break us apart
we will always be two half's of the same heart
even though we don't fit in the crowd
we stand proud BFF'S FOREVER
By Sufia Calcuttawala

NEWSROOM

HOW WILL INDIA BENEFIT FROM THE ANNUAL INDIA JAPAN SUMMIT?

By Tejas Chakravarti

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe signed deals for the development of both countries at the India-Japan Annual Summit. The effect of this treaty can be seen in the development of the Financial Status of India. The number of Japanese companies working in India has steadily gone up since the deal was signed. The Central Government of India has also been spending heavily on the improvement of infrastructure in our country. This year the focus was on the betterment of the rail network between Mumbai and Ahmadabad. A high-speed Rail network is going to be built between the two cities. On this track a Japanese Bullet train (Shinkansen) will operate whose construction will begin in a short while. Along with this, a training institute will also be created. Next was the development of the Japanese Industrial townships. An Industrial township gives way to the improvement of Infrastructure and creation of multiple industries. This also provides people with newer Job Opportunities. India has many Prospective Industrialists. For this project, four sites across the country have been chosen. The sites are: Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Next is the co-operation of the two nations in the Auto Mobile Industry. The Suzuki Motor Corporation is a Japanese automobile manufacturer which has laid down the foundation of the Lithium-Ion Battery, a Battery that will be used in making Hybrid cars in the near future. At last, there is the Human Resource Development through Japan-India Institutes of Manufacturing. They will be developed by Japanese Companies. They will be developed in the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The Union Home Ministry signed another deal with the Japanese government for assistance in Disaster management. PM Modi has also asked for the betterment of Infrastructure towards the North East of India to be done efficiently. Japan will also provide India with nuclear power and will also fund India for the creation of multiple nuclear facilities. They have also proposed to help India with Nuclear waste management. This will be one of the Key elements in the Indo-Japan strategic partnership. With this, the two countries have achieved newer heights. India has also moved up in the ease of doing business index that was introduced by the World Bank. India's enormous manpower and huge potential is something that will prove to be an invaluable asset for Japan in order to improve.



SYRIA: A COLLAPSE OF HUMANITY?

By Dea Mashru and Siya Aggarwal

The Syrian War has impacted a lot of people in different ways. It may have impacted us in ways we may not even know. The uprising of the civil war was in March 2011 which was a year and a half after the 'Arab Spring'. By then the rebel movement had started protests against the restrictions on their rights and the lack of government transparency. During this time the harsh Syrian government led by Bashar al-Assad was filled with corruption and attempted to stifle the rebels. This conflict has devastated everyone in Syria. It has the largest refugee displacement in our time. This war is supported by surrounding countries in the Middle East and Asia in the form of weapons and propaganda, involving countries such as Russia, Iran, China and Lebanon. Syrian families and children have witnessed unspeakable violence while watching hundreds of thousands of people die. The Dictator Bashar al-Assad has shut down healthcare, schools, and water sanitation systems, creating a huge setback in the national standard of living. This war struck the city of Aleppo with many having to flee the country to Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, North Africa, Iraq, United Kingdom and a few more places. This war is about Bashar al-Assad against Sunni and left-wing rebels, I.S.I.S and the Kurds. Some rules of the game have changed since the transfer of power in the U.S especially when it comes to taking refugees, as the US upped its role. Recently the United States of America had an Air Strike in Syria.

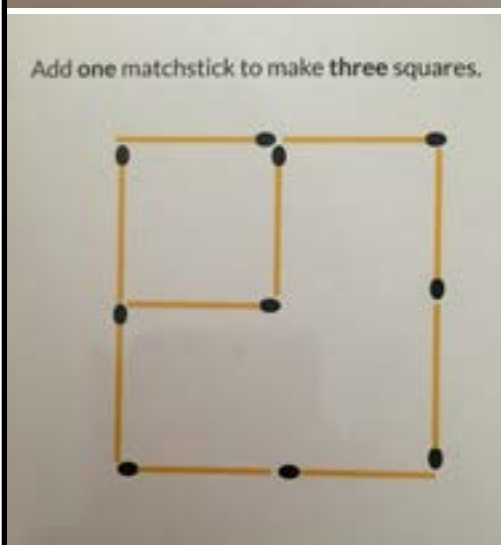
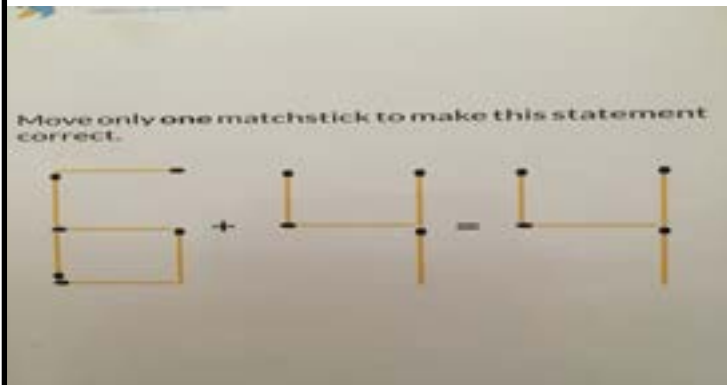
Conditions confronting civilians in Syria continue to deteriorate, particularly for children and youth. The crisis has left more than 465,000 Syrians dead, more than a million injured and over 12 million Syrians - half the country's population - have been displaced from their homes. War and violence have interrupted the Syrian economic activity for six years. The conflict has imposed huge costs on economies, including massive destruction of infrastructure, architecture and housing, disruption of trade, transport and production, not to mention the loss of lives and widespread human suffering. The estimated cost of the damages is \$200-300 billion to make the country back to what it was in the early 20th century. Until then The United Nations (UN) identified 4,863,684 registered refugees. The Assad government continues to violate UN Security Council resolutions and international humanitarian law by deliberately and wantonly attacking civilians and civilian infrastructure, including homes, markets, schools and hospitals. Consequently Bashar-Al-Assad has been recommended for trial against the International Court of Justice various times, but China and Russia have vetoed these resolutions in the Security Council numerous times.

Some people are calling the situation in Syria and the treatment of Syrians around the world a collapse of humanity.



#Puzzles

#Comics



#Shoutouts

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Shoutout to Mr.Christopher for helping us on this journey and helping us make this paper! Shout out to all the brave contributors who decided to share their work for the first edition of the monthly assent- we appreciate your support!

Help Mr. Matt raise funds for a Dharavi Art Project (see page 2). Use the following link-

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The Monthly Assent

Frank- einstein

Earthquake in Mexico

The city of Juchitan, at the south Pacific Coast of Mexico was hit by a huge earthquake with a magnitude of 8.2 on the richter scale on September seventh. Mexico's history has been filled with many seismic events but none as deadly as this one in recent times. It surpassed the Great Mexico city quake of 1985 and has become Mexico's strongest earthquake after the invention of modern seismic measuring tools. 100 people from the Oaxaca are known to be dead and the toll keeps rising as the locals try to dig some of the buried people from beneath the rubble. Also the location of the quake seems to hav

taken seismologists by surprise. A few weeks before the quake, scientists deemed the region of Oaxaca as an aseismic gap.

In other words, the scientists thought it unlikely that this region may suffer an earthquake.

The region has actually never suffered a major earthquake ever. This type of region is also called a triple-junction zone, meaning that the boundaries of three tectonic plates intersect at this one point in this case the cocos, North America, and the Caribbean plates. Each of these plates moves at its own pace and in its own direction and that is why predicting and detecting seismic activity is really challenging.



The Cocos plate slid under the North American continental plate and this was the rupture northwest. In fact the magnitude was so much that it revived some of the minor faults. To the people the aftershocks seemed endless as the energy accumulated over all these decades was all released in one go. Some of the aftershocks were at a magnitude of 5.5, tremendous enough to be significant earthquakes themselves. The quake had a peculiar way of travelling. In normal cases the earthquake has one epicentre and then it spreads in all directions, however this one began at the south east and travelled towards the north west. Also the quakes were weakest at some points at the centre, where it normally should be the strongest. One other very important question still remains unanswered: has all the seismic stress at this point been released or will it happen again in the near future?

We may never know what is to come in some time but there is one thing we know for sure. It did come and may come once again. International bodies and other countries blame this disaster on “ the reckless work of the seismological department”.

One other such event was the earthquake at Tohoku, Japan in the year 2011. Its magnitude was 9.1 on the Richter scale. This particular earthquake also caused a tsunami that was 40.5 metres (133 feet) high. Casualties included: 15,894 deaths; 6152 injured; 2562 people missing. The earthquakes will continue to happen and there is no stopping them, however newer science and technology helps us to be better prepared for them. Different nations are combining forces together in order to understand and combat natural disasters better.

CUT DOWN FEWER TREES, PLEASE by Pritha Nag

The environment is in us, not just outside of us. The trees are in our lungs, the river is our bloodstream so why do we cut down trees?! Trees are such an important thing in our universe but we still cut them down. I believe cutting down trees, is possibly the worst thing that happens to the world, and so we need to stop it. The reason i so strongly believe in this is because animal's homes will be destroyed, TREES HAVE LIVES TOO! Most importantly our oxygen comes from trees. Why do we take away trees? In this essay, i will tell you more.

Firstly and most importantly trees help give us oxygen. It is easy to cut down trees but it's not easy to restore what you have cut down. Plants create the majority of the oxygen we breathe through a process called photosynthesis and use carbon dioxide, sunlight, and water to create energy. Last but not least they release oxygen into the atmosphere which we use to breathe. I feel and I think much more people feel the same way but trees had once made a beautiful world, but now because we cut them down, our world is polluted, and not as beautiful as it was once. The world without trees a world where we can't breathe.

As Mahatma Gandhi once said, “The greatness of a nation and a moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.” By cutting down trees we are not only taking away oxygen we are taking away animals' innocent lives and making them homeless. Years of research show that majority of the animals homes which are cut down either suffer death or have to live somewhere where they don't belong. Half of the Earth's global forest land has already been lost due to trees being cut down. The destruction of the wildlife has taken away most of the global forest, which means by 2317 we would have run out of trees! Thinking we will take away animals innocent lives just makes me feel horrible. We can save animals lives making them live the life that they all dream of living. If we didn't cut down trees they would have a safe home and we would not have animals getting endangered or extinct. As a result of them losing their homes, they don't have food to eat or a place to sleep. It's really almost like being homeless.

Moreover, in their own ways, trees talk, hear, feel and smell. So when we cut them down they feel it. Imagine if someone came up to you and then just cut you down for medicine, wood, and many more things. This is extremely harmful to the environment and to the trees. By cutting down trees we are losing are our rainforests; already 80 percent of the world's rainforest have been lost. ut what can we do to save the world's rainforest that's up to you. I strongly feel that we should only cut down trees that have already been dropped or cut by accident. 7 billion trees are cut each year but only 1.6 billion are planted each year. One seed makes a big change.

All things considered, we should all make the change the environment is longing us to. As John F Kennedy once said “Ask not what your country can do for you ask what you can do for your country.” Personally, I think by cutting down trees we will face consequences we don't want to face. Like not being able to get pure oxygen or not having animals in our beautiful world. Imagine how appalling that would be. Now the next time you see a tree think about what we would lose if we cut it down.

Beyond The Cave

SHOULD GIRLS GO TO SCHOOL? By : Samvita Amladi

There are two viewpoints on this issue supported by different groups. The first group says Malala fought for girls education. She pushed the Taliban's rules when she was only eleven years old by writing under the name of Gul Makai. But according to the second viewpoint, girls that go to school will be uneducated in the field of motherhood; they won't be good wives or good women. Apparently, some women in the world regret that they had even gone to school or applied to college or university.

View:

Malala Yousafzai, aged 17, Nobel Peace Prize winner and Activist. At 11 years of age she began pushing the Taliban's rules. She became disheartened after they closed the girls school and started writing and protesting under the name of " Gul Makai ". Lots of people were inspired by Malala's writings. When she was fifteen, the Taliban attempted to silence her forever: On October, 9th, 2012 a man from the taliban shot 3 bullets to her head, The news spread like wildfire, and finally the doctors managed to save her life. Except for the gender difference, girls and boys, women and men aren't very different. The government prevents there from being any discrimination whatsoever, especially about girls not going to school. People who believe that girls should go to school know that every gender should be equal. So let's do some justice to Malala of all the pressure and pain she's been through: girls should definitely go to school.

Counter-view:

People are forcing women to go to school, Half the population of women don't want to go to school. Women should concentrate on their families and work on mastering motherhood as well as take care of the house. It was all set as god set it out for us Women are supposed to provide for her family: cook clean, learn the ways of life. God calls women to use their talents, school for them will just make it worse and distract. Without school girls will blossom into caring mothers, good housekeepers and loving wives. A man's job is to earn for the family, it is only when Autumn makes the leaves of the tree fall that winter can take over, it is the same with husband and wife. Women will marry and have children , she is gifted by God with the natural ability to nurture. With all these responsibilities of a woman, school in this case is really not the right way to go.



Synthesis:

Even if girls have to become mothers or wives, they need a certain level of experience in life of by observing, understanding, reflecting. Those are developed by learning in school. The things you learn in school you will benefit from later in life, which includes being a mother. You also learn how to buy/run a house. How? By learning about math. You learn how to tell really good bedtime stories by learning literature. You can also learn how to cook: by learning nutrition, physics and chemistry. And it is hard to overlook that everyone is equal, whether you're a boy or a girl, so everyone should go to school.

ANIMALS HAVE RIGHTS By Ayanna.puri

Only 1 out of 10 Dogs born will find good homes! Do we really need shark fin soup? Is it necessary for animals to be tortured for beauty products? Shouldn't we care about all those poor animals that are unhappy because of us!? Let us be the voice for those who can themselves not speak! The earth was made for all beings not just human beings. I am advocating for how animals should be treated humanely. Let us look at different aspects of this.

First let me discuss stray animals. Did you know homeless animals outnumber homeless people 5 to 1. Strays are not even taken care of the don't have people to love them, they don't have food, water or happiness. Someone said "standing up for strays requires courage ignoring them requires nothing" If you're thinking of getting a pet why not a stray animal: you don't need to get your pet from a pet store.

My second reason is where people are killing animal for profit. They kill snakes for bags, lions, tigers, elephants etc just for carpets, trophies and their skin (leather). Animals are not just toys; they have a life and they don't want to be killed just for profit. People just kill sharks for their fins then throw the rest of the shark in back in the sea! There are so many animals that are endangered because of hunting such as elephants, rhinos, tigers, turtles, gorillas and so many more! When you're killing animals it's like killing a person, and you would not kill a person. Animals also have feelings and they also feel hurt! Instead of killing animals, we could use an already dead animal for its skin. Don't just kill them for profit.

My third reason is animal families having to split up. Imagine someone just came to your house and took you or someone in your family away. How would you feel? Well, if you didn't know, animals also have feelings and they also care and love. Just as human mothers bond tightly with their newborn children, so do farm animals. When this bond is broken, it causes unimaginable grief to both mother and baby. They become instantly distressed when they can no longer see each other, and this intense and desperate feeling worsens over time. Many farmers admit that they have seen sheep and cows bellowing for their stolen babies for days. Animals are also getting products tested on them, unfortunately. We should be using less chemicals on them. Do animals really need to suffer because of products! Ricky Gervais said " WARNING: Wearing makeup that was tested by torturing a beautiful, innocent creature makes the world an mean place!" The first thing to go to space was a dog. Couldn't we have put a plant or ourselves?



In conclusion animals should be treated humanely. They should not be tested on, separated from their families, killed just for profit and not be taken care of. As Marilyn Monroe said, dogs don't bite but humans do. If people keep doing what they are doing, these animals would be extinct in a couple years. The future of animals is in our hands: lets save them.

कलTture

A room without a view By Amit Bhanot

It's hard to believe that nearly three months have passed since my arrival in Mumbai. When I landed at the international airport in early July it was with a lot of baggage, containing most of my worldly possessions and a mixture of emotions that included excitement, trepidation and also some sadness. I was leaving behind most of my close family in England, including my parents, sisters and my grandmother and also my good friends who were akin to my extended family. I had lived abroad before for work, but only briefly, and this was the longest period of time that I would be spending away from all of them. I had no idea what life would be like living and working in a bustling vibrant Indian city like Mumbai, as my previous two trips had just been for a few days at a time. It was a culture that I had some insights into due to my parents Indian heritage, mainly through the medium of movies and music, but one that was still very different to what I had experienced growing up and living in England. My nerves were heightened by the uncertainty of how my students at school would take to me, if at all, and what my colleagues would be like.

Fortunately within the space of a few weeks all my fears were allayed as I met my fellow teachers and was introduced to my students, all of whom were friendly and amiable. My daughter had also just arrived from London a few days before the start of school, after completing her last weeks of term there. We both started our new school experience together, the first time I was teaching at the same school as her. I was keeping my fingers crossed that she would quickly settle into school and her new life. From experience the test was how soon she would stop talking about her previous school and friends. Fortunately it did not take her long to make the adjustment and within a week she had already stopped recalling her life in London, informing me that she really liked her new school. At that moment I breathed a huge sigh of relief.

Things were going well and I was now on the search for the final piece of the jigsaw for us, a nice spacious apartment close to school. In my haste to find something suitable I chose an apartment which on the surface seemed to tick all the boxes and I went through my mental checklist as I looked around; spacious bedrooms check, multiple bathrooms check, furniture check, white goods check, working air conditioners check and cable/wi fi check. Everything seemed to be perfect. After moving in all our belongings and feeling satisfied about completing the process I decided to open up the windows and take a look outside to see what the view was like.

I started with the bedrooms and it didn't look good. To my bemusement both bedrooms had a view only of the high walls surrounding our building. At least there was the living room and the kitchen left. Alas there was no improvement and in fact things got only worse as the view from my living room balcony was of a man who lived in the adjoining building and who was looking straight back at me. His was an 'outside bedroom' though, a bed, wardrobe, table and other items under the roof of the ground floor and I felt intrusive just by looking outside. I quickly shut the balcony doors. But there was another surprise that lay in the last room, for the view from my kitchen window was of the small car park. I saw the building watchman smiling and waving at me as he merrily cleaned one of the cars that was parked there. There were no more rooms and I was left without a view, my enthusiasm for living there had already been dampened. At that moment I heard a voice behind me; 'Daddy are we going to stay here forever?' I turned around to see my seven year old daughter looking quite serious; 'Hmm, I'm not sure about that' I replied.



The Monthly Assent IN AND OUT

OUT

Once seat of the powerful and prosperous Rajput Kingdom of Mewar, Udaipur lay slumbering in the memory of its former glory the morning we reached the town. This memory is etched all over the town: from the tiny antique shops to the palace-museums, and from handicraft stores to reflections of temples shimmering on the lakes, Udaipur's medieval glory lives on, despite the honking cars and the hipster cafes which crowd its narrow streets.



I was both nervous and excited about this trip; it was a trip of many firsts. It was not my first time in Udaipur, since I had been there as a child. But it was the first time I was travelling by a sleeper bus, and staying at an air b'n'b. And it would also be the first time I tried gatte ki sabji, dal bhati churma, and other Mewari delicacies.

The homestay was a quaint little place: the walls of the living room were lined by local embroidered patchwork tapestry (I would get one for myself later). Little wooden alcoves were built into the bedroom walls, with tiny bell shaped windows that peeped into the busy street below. The sheets on the bed were designed with colorful horses and camels, and it was placed on a low jute cot, similar to the furniture in the living room. By the bed, previous visitors had left postcards and thank you notes: Brazil, France, Washington State: the room had seen the likes of everyone.

It wasn't tourist season yet, so I thankfully found myself standing in short queues. Boating around Lake Pichola was first on the list. We circled around The Taj, which stands in the middle of the lake, and then docked briefly at the Jagmandir for a royal cup of tea. After the boating, the City palace was next. That tour took me through throne rooms and private quarters, giving me a peek into that Royal Mewari lifestyle. Beautiful frescoes and paintings adorned the palace walls, and there was also a special exhibit on musical instruments and religious sculptures from around India. The day ended with a lake side snack, and a view of boats being tucked around Pichola's waters. A session of pigeon shooting was happening on the roof of the Taj, and the birds were scattering and swirling around the orange sky.

The next day we rose early to trek up to the Monsoon Palace, hoping to catch panoramic views of the town in the morning sun. After kachoris and chai with auto-drivers at the local corner shop, we left to reach the entrance of the state park, whose hills the palace was tucked into. The walk took us about an hour or so. While the palace was not as grand as the City Palace, its heights offered a breathtaking view of Udaipur. The rest of the afternoon was spent frolicking around the city. On the walk back to my room, I was greeted by the Ram Rewari festival at the Jagdish temple, where a crowd had gathered around drummers and fire breathers

Udaipur had a lot more to offer: from botanical gardens like Sahelion ki Bari (the former queens' bath) and the Nehru Garden, to the puppet show at Bharatiya Lok Kala Mandal (a museum for folk art). The city lets you gulp down its natural beauty, while serving you scoopfuls of a rich cultural heritage. Needless to say, I left the city having satisfied my appetite for travel.

IN

Why should you adopt Stray Dogs

“When I needed a hand I found your Paw”

Stray dogs are as important as well-bred dogs, but, stray dogs need you more than well-bred dogs. I think if you're planning to get a dog get a stray. First of all, you can save a lot of money, secondly it will reduce the number of stray dogs on the road radically and finally at the end of the adoption, you will be very happy that you are saving someone's life which is a big deal.

Dog prices can start at \$300 and can go up to \$1.5 million which can be a lot. So why get a purebred dog which can be hundreds of more dollars when you can just get a good, loyal, stray for free? Adopting a stray dog is free not including a vaccination and a dog's need, which only costs \$15 to \$20 dollars. Normal dogs need a lot of taking care. This is not the case with stray dogs because for a portion of their lives they lived on the roads taking care of themselves, in other words, they are more independent so the prices are less. You can save so much money!

Adopting stray dogs will reduce the dog's littered all over the city. In India, there are about 20,000 stray dogs per annum which is a lot. Don't you feel miserable at the thought that so many lives are not cared for? Well, I certainly do. We need to change this, and the only way we can stop this is by adopting stray dogs. In Fact, we have the power to change this. The Humane Society of the United States estimates that 3-4 million dogs and cats are euthanized each year in the US because of a lack of homes. The problem is the dogs are reproducing too fast and that is why the number keeps on expanding. One option is to stop them from reproducing, but how would you feel if somebody did that to you. So the only other option is to adopt them and the best thing is, it works! Just think about a whole city without any uncared for and homeless dogs, only a dream!!!

Finally Just think about how you would feel after you take home a stray dog. You will probably feel proud and extremely happy. Proud because you have now just contributed to not only giving a dog a family but helping your home city get cleaner. You will also probably feel happy because you know have your own dog!

A steadily growing number of research studies are showing that dogs not only make great companions but also improve the quality of life of their owners.

What happens if you already have a dog but you still want to help?
There are so many things you can do, here are some of the top ones:

One thing you can do to help is as easy as spreading the word to other family or friends who may just be planning to get a dog. But some bigger things you can do can be making your own organizations or awareness, that's a big thing. You never know maybe later you might get another dog. As a bonus since they have a lower risk of having purebred genetics that lead to getting diseases, they are healthier than other dogs.

So in conclusion getting a stray dog instead of buying one is a much better option in so many ways. It is a great deal in terms of money, it will help the environment and you will feel great having a new dog. So I hope this essay helped convince you to adopt a dog instead of buying one and remember, if you don't get a stray dog the consequences in the future can be pretty rough. This includes dogs all over the place and their poop sand they also might search in all the trashcans and dustbins for food making the city you live in even more dirtier. So I hope this essay help convince you to adopt a stray dog instead of a purebred dog!

Stray dogs need you, their future is in your hands, so change their future today!



Written by,
Tanvi Mittal



Kick Off

Cricket

India Brutally Defeat Sri Lanka 9-0 In 5 ODIS, 3 TESTS, 1T20S
Some days back India Defeated Australia in Chennai by 26 runs, then they defeated Australia in Kolkata by 50 runs, to win the series India won their third match by 5 wickets. They won the series, but hoped to whitewash Australia as they did to Sri Lanka.
The India team will want to win the series 5-0 , but they won it 4-1. They will want to win the T20 series 3-0, and if you believe they will. #ONETEAM #ONEDREAM #PLAYBOLD.



Football

Two main transfers have happened in football in this month. One of Barcelona's main players, Neymar, left and he signed a contract with Paris Saint Germain. Luckily for France a new rising star named Dembele, joined Barcelona. This is the new era of Dembele, Messi, and Suarez and we hope to see milestones come true from them. They won recently against Espanyol 5-0 and against Juventus 3-0 Then they won against Getafe on 16th 2-1 against Getafe. Sadly Dembele got injured but the good news is he will return in 4 months.
Then they played Eibar to win 6-1, the most recent was against Girona 3-0, Hope to see MSD after 4 months and see them shine which as a talented



Neymar da silva santos Junior vs. Edinson Roberto Cavani Gomez

By Trivik Hariharan
Grade 5



On 18th September, 2017 two of France's top sides clashed in the Ligue 1 (Paris Saint Germain and Olympique Lyonnais). In this game 2 of PSG's top players, Neymar and Cavani fought over taking a penalty. First Neymar asked Cavani if he could take the penalty, Cavani's first response was "not everyone is Messi, go away!". When Cavani said that Neymar obediently walked away. The result of the penalty was a goal, but when Cavani celebrated, Neymar did not celebrate with him. Later on in the game PSG won a freekick, Cavani really wanted to take this free kick since it was just on the edge of the box, but Neymar's friend Dani Alves refused and told Cavani that Neymar should take it because you already took the Penalty, Cavani could not disagree because then his gaffer would sell him to a different club, the result of the free kick was a save by the Olympique Lyonnais goalkeeper, Lopes.

From the free kick to the 80th minute of the game PSG had scored two through Cavani and Mbappe. In the 80th minute PSG won another penalty, Neymar wanted to take it, but Cavani told him that he already took the free kick and to go away, but Karma struck and Cavani missed the Penalty and therefore the fight between Cavani and Neymar.