



Germainite

St Germain Academy Newsletter - December 2021

OUR TRIUMPHS THROUGH TRIALS

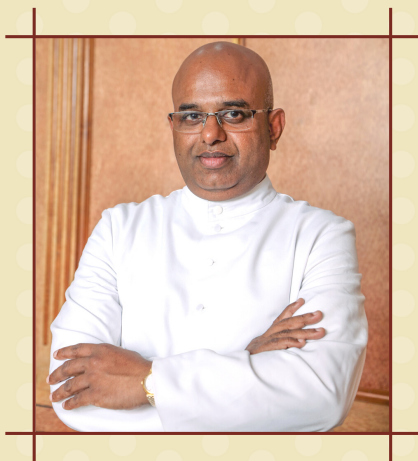
A Pandemic Special Edition



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The Director's Message



Greetings to every member of the Germainite family.

As you will read in this issue of *Germainite*, Ms Maria Briggs retired early due to pressing matters at home. We were able to gather in the Auditorium to bid her a formal farewell and to give her some tokens of our love and appreciation for her years of service. Her retirement reminds us that nothing stands still in life; people come and go and we need to adapt to the passing years – we need to be nimble in our approach. It gives me immense pleasure to welcome Mrs Monica Anthony to the Germainite fold as our new Principal.

We have all experienced in different ways and to different levels, the adaptation required in view of the pandemic. Preparations have been significant for us here at St Germain. However the saying *Deus providebit* (translation: God will provide) has very much been true in these past months and, alongside the generous collaboration of our teachers to adapt to new pedagogy and didactic skills that have come at just the right time, we are in their debt, not least due the salary deductions they endured with generosity. If we needed to be taught a lesson on adaptation, then, the past 20 months have certainly been a crash-course. Through all of this Mrs Miriam Angelo, the Dean of the Academy has been a “strength and stay” as she has responded with wisdom and generosity to the myriad calls on her time, her organisational skills and her patience. She has been stalwart in her service of the Academy and that needs to be noted with gratitude.

The roll-out of the Covid vaccine here in Bangalore was at the outset very slow, but then picked up pace. We thankfully found a way of organising numerous vaccination camps within the campus to ensure all our teachers, support staff, some parents and neighbours are fully vaccinated. The pandemic has touched all of us in inconceivable ways. Loss, fear and worry dominated the better part of our lives in the last two years. But, it is a testament to the spirit of humanity, compassion and faith that we continue to hope. We hope for a better tomorrow, for the health and safety of our loved ones and for a day where the pandemic becomes a distant memory.

To use Emily Dickinson’s words, “*Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tune without the words and never stops at all.*”

It is this hope that has helped St Germain ‘**triumph through the trials**’, with the lockdowns. The school transitioned to online classes to keep our children safe. While the school building remained empty, the spirit of St Germain School thrived in the homes and computers of every Germainite. Classes progressed in a clockwork fashion, tests and exams were conducted on schedule and significant days were celebrated. St Germain Academy also revived its NCC wing in the year 2020. The inaugural event was presided over by Wing Commander Jaideep Kumar and Colonel Kumar was the Chief Guest. I wish to place on record his assistance in securing the platoon for the school. The khaki uniform was reintroduced in the school, to the delight of the students and Staff.

With the lockdowns being lifted, St Germain Academy underwent a technological upgrade so the teachers could continue their online classes from their classrooms. Strict SoPs regarding Covid appropriate behaviour were introduced and are followed till today. As the students of the High School return to campus, sounds of joy reverberate within the portals of the institution. I hope that this laughter and joy echoes into the New Year.

The emphasis at St Germain Academy is not only on academics but also on the holistic development of every single child. The Assembly, Cultural and Literary Clubs function with a renewed vigour to ensure students shine in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities.

St Germain Sports Academy has also resumed coaching in Football, Basketball and Hockey for, most of the students have also been physically inactive in the last two years. The goal is to ensure that every Germainite has the opportunity to explore his/her potential so as to be equipped to face the world.

As we emerge from the restrictions of the pandemic, I think we can be legitimately proud of the way in which St Germain has continued its core mission throughout this time of disruption. The adaptations and changes which we have had to implement over these past months will stand us in good stead for years which lie ahead of us. The threat of the Omicron variant looms in the horizon, I suggest we continue to practice caution, wear our masks, maintain social distancing and take care of ourselves and the people around us. Our faith and hope will see us through trials.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rev Dr Christopher Vimalraj H
Director, St Germain Academy

From the Dean's Desk



Greetings to every member of the Germainite family!

I begin by thanking the Almighty for all the blessings He has showered upon us, in order to keep us healthy and safe in the past year.

The pandemic has left us all reeling one way or the other. Events that we did not expect overtook us and upset the regular functioning of the school. However, amidst all the turmoil, the one feature that was both redeeming and heartening was our ability to adapt.

Our Director, Rev Dr Christopher Vimalraj, with his qualities of leadership and guidance, has always encouraged his staff to lead from the front with a spirit of innovation, flexibility and freedom, to give their best to the students and the institution. Our teachers, defined by their untiring dedication, in no time equipped themselves with the knowledge required to ensure that learning continued undisturbed, over online classes. To ensure a smooth transition from physical to virtual classes, technical support to the staff was stepped up so they could confidently handle their online classes in school, seated in their own classrooms. In spite of reduction in the number of classes conducted, the teachers ensured that the academic schedule for the year was not disrupted. This is evident from the fact that classes went on smoothly and the ICSE results in the last academic year were better than expected.

The Management, to the best of its ability, took it upon itself to introduce a sizeable cut in the fees to ease the financial burden faced by our parents, brought on by loss of jobs and unexpected medical expenses.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge and appreciate the support of our parents who have wholeheartedly supported the teachers by assisting their wards with their online classes whenever required.

The school which had, for several months, missed the pitter patter of children's footsteps and the sounds of their excited laughter echoing in the corridors is gradually getting back to normal with physical classes reopening for classes seven to ten.

Life has once again returned to the school with strict emphasis being laid on the wearing of masks and social distancing besides other SOPs. Moreover, classes have been further divided in order to reduce the number of students seated in a class.

The Germainite family, following the school motto "**Ad Augusta Per Angusta: Triumph through Trials**", stood tall together all the while, making the best of an impossible situation and exhibited its ability to adapt, in order to ensure continuing holistic education.

As the year draws to a close, we thank the Almighty for all the blessings that He has bestowed on us. We continue to pray that He keeps each and every one of us healthy and safe in the New Year.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to one and all!

Mrs Miriam Angelo
Dean, St Germain Academy

Change of Guard



Ms Briggs' Farewell

This academic year, we bid farewell to Ms Maria Briggs who served as the Headmistress of St Germain High School since 2013.

Mrs Monica Anthony has taken charge as the Principal of St Germain Academy from September 2021.

The Principal Speaks



Greetings.

It gives me immense pleasure to become a part of the Germainite family. I thank all those who were before me and contributed in the building of the academy. Your family is now part of an exceptional learning community. Here, you will find a place to belong, to grow and connect.

The pandemic has left us shaken a bit. But we are more than conquerors. Every challenge has made us stronger. With intellectual curiosity, creativity and problem solving skills, we will prepare our children for a rapidly changing future. The American journalist Sydney J Harris once said, **“The purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.”** We at St Germain promise to provide opportunities to turn the mirrors into windows.

Dear children, remember, someone said:

“Only as high as I reach can I grow
Only as far as I seek can I go
Only as deep as I look can I see
Only as much as I dream can I be”

Work hard to transform your dreams into reality, thoughts into ideas and ideas into action. God bless you all.

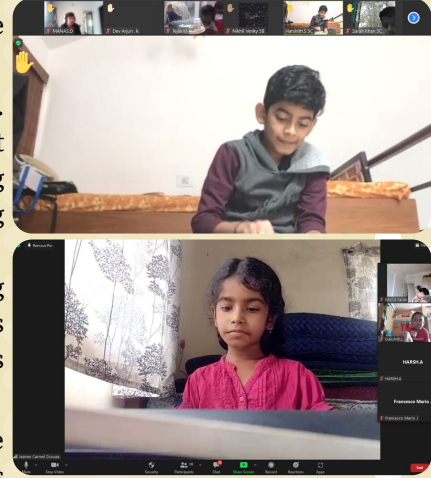
Mrs Monica Anthony
Principal, St Germain Academy

St Germain Academy - Through the Pandemic

The pandemic changed the world in ways unimaginable. Life altered in ways unheard of and “new normal” came into existence. For us at St Germain, Zoom ids and passwords became the norm over night. Blackboards and pieces of chalk were replaced by MS Word and PowerPoint presentations. Online classes provided a sense of safety that was needed for the time, but left us with a sense of loss, as the classrooms were bereft of children.

For teachers, it was a test of our determination, passion and adaptability. Becoming tech savvy was no longer optional. Our personal motivations, the constant support from the Management, the immense efforts of the IT department in training every member of the staff ensured that each of our children could continue attending classes seamlessly. However, technology was only one facet of it. Every teacher at St Germain adapted his/her style to suit the virtual mode of teaching. Keeping children motivated and interested in the learning process through computer screens was a challenge. We are immensely grateful to the parents who became our partners in the child’s everyday learning journey, be it in a virtual classroom or an online test.

The dedication of the teachers, the encouragement from the Management and the support from the parents has meant that the academic year 2020-21 and 2021-22 has been progressing seamlessly, keeping up with the ICSE Board’s calendar. The Class X results of the previous academic year, despite the anxieties of the pandemic, stand testament to St Germain’s indomitable spirit.



ICSE STD X Results, 2020-21

Number of Students Appeared: 92
Number of Students Passed: 92
Pass Percentage: 100%
Above 90%: 18
Distinctions: 62
I Class: 30

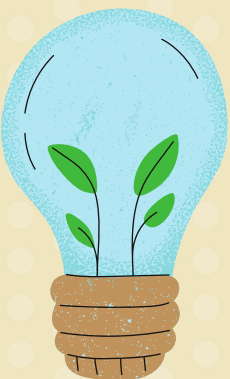
SCHOOL TOPPERS

Karthik K Adiga	95.17%
Anas Mohammed L	94.33%
Ibaad Samiulla	93.80%
Vansh Nandhwana	93.67%
Kevin Joseph	93.50%



Other Activities of the School

For the children, school goes beyond academics. It is the space where life-long friendships are made, communities are formed, joys are shared and emotions are processed. Any child would beautifully summarise the entire experience with just one word, “Friends”. As educators, we call it Social-Emotional learning. It is through this process that we become conscientious, empathetic individuals. At St Germain, we ensured that this aspect of learning was not compromised on, despite online classes. Classroom discussions and debates, extra-curricular activities, anything that would build the spirit of the school and togetherness were adapted for the online medium. In this regard, we at St Germain celebrated the following programs:



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

The world that we live in is a host of interconnected beings of which we are a small part. However, the impact of human development on climate and ecology has been catastrophic. Everyday we take steps towards being greener. To commemorate World Environment Day on June 5, the students of St Germain, despite the limitations of online classes, came together virtually to learn about and discuss the impact of humans on the environment.

ST GERMAIN DAY

A day to honour our roots, St Germain Day was celebrated on 31 July. On this day, we remember and show our gratitude to Rev Fr Saint-Germain, after whom the school has been named. We remind ourselves of the vision and mission of the school, as we continue working towards building leaders who will be empathetic and strong, and make the world a better place. It is a day we celebrated the triumphs of the school spirit over the trials of the pandemic.

[Click here to watch St Germain Day 2021](#)



INDEPENDENCE DAY

We define ourselves by our uniqueness and diversity, yet stand together as a nation. Since the Freedom Struggle till the COVID outbreak, we, the people of this nation have stood together in the face of crisis, in support of one another. We honoured this spirit on Independence Day. Wing Commander Nestor Joseph De Conceicao, an alumnus of St Germain Academy hoisted the national flag on the school campus.

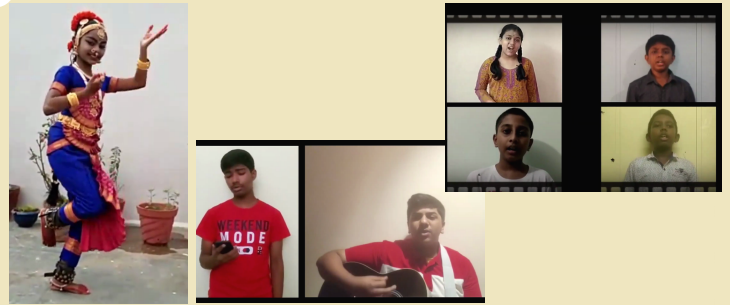
[Click here to watch Independence Day Celebration 2021](#)



TEACHERS' DAY

The contributions of teachers to society is immense. On September 5, in honour of the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the students of St Germain put together a program for their teachers. Heartfelt speeches, soulful music and vibrant dances made this a day a cultural extravaganza, despite being online.

[Click here to watch Teachers' Day Celebration](#)



VALEDICTORY PROGRAMME

In honour of the students who graduated high school in April-May 2021, a valedictory programme was held on September 11 to bid them a fond farewell. Following COVID safety protocols, the students had a reason to return to the campus and bid adieu in person. For the graduating batch, it was a moment of normalcy and nostalgia amidst the anxieties of the pandemic. Rev Msgr Jayanathan, former Director, St Germain Academy graced this occasion and inspired the students with his words and well wishes.

[Click here to watch the Valedictory Programme](#)

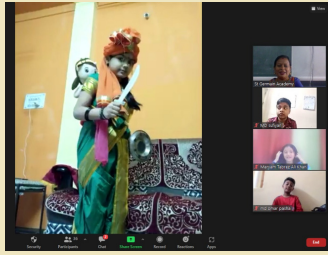


KANNADA RAJYOTSAVA AND DIWALI CELEBRATION

Situated in Bangalore, St Germain Academy is proud to have rooted itself in the southern state of Karnataka and its culture. The school celebrated Karnataka Rajyotsava and the festival of lights Diwali in the month of November. The students of St Germain learn to celebrate all cultures, making them more empathetic as they face the world.

[Click here to watch Rajyotsava and Diwali Celebration](#)





CHILDREN'S DAY

Children represent innocence, joy, laughter and most importantly, hope for the future. All children are equal yet diverse. As we are responsible for them, we also stand to learn from their innocence and curiosity. With students returning to campus, we celebrated Children's Day with Talents Week. Students of the primary and middle school explored their talents, creativity and passion while following COVID appropriate behaviour.

St Germain NCC

St Germain Academy revived its NCC Wing in the year 2020, despite the restrictions of the pandemic. Wing Commander Jaideep Kumar helped us secure the NCC platoon and presided over the inauguration. We are honoured to be part of this legacy, as our students learn values of discipline, courage and patriotism. On 28 November 2021, we celebrated NCC Day by planting trees around the school campus.



Germainites also shone in events conducted by other institutions...

- In Cadence 2020, an inter-school music fest conducted by St Joseph's Boys' High School, **Jaden Joseph** of VI C won first place in solo singing in the English junior category.
- In Cadence 2021, **Shareen Chengappa** of VII B won the first place in solo singing in the Kannada junior category.
- In Vivatharang, an inter-school dance competition conducted by Vydehi School of Excellence the following students won accolades:
 - **Adwita Vijay** of the Nursery Section won the first place in Western Solo Junior Category
 - **Bhaavni** of VI C won in Classical Solo Junior Category
 - **Shania Rosario** of IX C won in Western Solo Senior Category
- In a writing competition conducted by the Bangalore Multipurpose Social Service Society to commemorate Constitution Day, **Harshith V Sharbidar** of X C was placed first and received a cash prize of Rs 10,000.
- Many Germainites participated in the Science Olympiad that was held between October 2020 and January 2021, and added feathers to the school's cap. **Mrs Maria Prathiba M** won the **Best District Teacher Award** for 2020-21. The following students won medals in different categories:

STD	NAME	SCHOOL RANK	MEDAL WON
I	Arush A Poojary	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
I	Emmanuel Gavin Theophil	2	Gold Medal of Excellence
I	Thaman Krishnan K	3	Gold Medal of Excellence
III	Pralipta Archita Barik	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
V	Yahya Wasiaq	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
VI	Shareen Chengappa	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
VII	Ishank Reddy	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
VIII	Rakshith CG	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
X	Ibaad Samiulla	1	Medal of Distinction

SOF International

English Olympiad

STD	NAME	SCHOOL RANK	MEDAL WON
I	Tiyash Agrim MA	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
I	Laksh Uthappa Cheranda	2	Gold Medal of Excellence
I	Thaman Krishnan K	3	Gold Medal of Excellence
III	Pralipta Archita Barik	1	Zonal Medal (INTERNATIONAL RANK 4)
III	Nived Manoj	2	Gold Medal of Excellence
IV	Harshith S	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
V	Joanna Caroline	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
VI	Shareen Chengappa	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
VII	Ralph Lauren Moses	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
VIII	Aditya V	1	Gold Medal of Excellence

SOF International



G.K. Olympiad



Pralipta Archita Barik,
International Rank 4

Olympiad Toppers

STD	NAME	SCHOOL RANK	MEDAL WON
I	Tania Roy	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
I	N Harshad Sharma	2	Gold Medal of Excellence
I	Aachmann Bansal	3	Gold Medal of Excellence
II	Mervyn Rithvik	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
III	Nived Manoj	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
III	Harrel Roji	2	Gold Medal of Excellence
III	S Rupesh Advaith	3	Gold Medal of Excellence
IV	Aleena Javeed	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
V	Jadrian Vikram	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
VI	Oliver Isaac Lenin	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
VII	Ishank Reddy	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
VIII	Joel Sherwin Das	1	Gold Medal of Excellence

SOF National



Science Olympiad

STD	NAME	SCHOOL RANK	MEDAL WON
I	Syed Shoaib	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
I	Naman Kothari	2	Gold Medal of Excellence
I	Muhammed Aariz	3	Gold Medal of Excellence
II	Mervyn Rithvik	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
III	Sri Vibhav Lad HS	1	Silver Medal (INTERNATIONAL RANK 2)
III	Pralipta Archita Barik	2	Gold Medal of Excellence
III	Nived Manoj	3	Gold Medal of Excellence
III	Adhya Reddy T	4	Gold Medal of Excellence
IV	Aleena Javeed	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
V	Jadrian Vikram	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
VI	Devansh Mishra	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
VII	Vanya R	1	Gold Medal of Excellence
VIII	Prayag Shetty	1	Gold Medal of Excellence

SOF International



Maths Olympiad



Sri Vibhav Lad HS,
International Rank 2

St Germain Nursery

For the academic year 2020-2021, online classes were held for all the students for the first time in history, including the Nursery. Everyone had to adapt to the new scenario. It was a challenge for the teachers, but they faced it with great effort and determination. Credit also needs to be given to the parents, who diligently worked with their children in attending online classes.

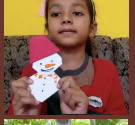
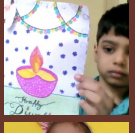
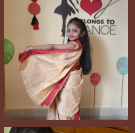
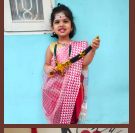
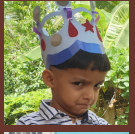
As online classes progressed, new ideas and innovative techniques were used to impart knowledge successfully, despite the lack of physical interaction.

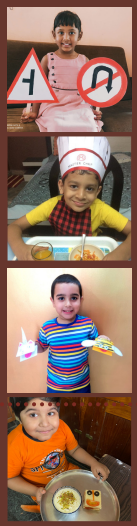
Regular online classes were held every Tuesday and Wednesday for L.K.G and U.K.G students in 2020-21. Other sessions were added on Thursdays and Fridays for fun-filled activities. In the subsequent year, online classes were conducted thrice a week. To make the classes more interesting and visually appealing, creative PPTs and related videos were played for the students. Colourful charts, flashcards and other beautiful teaching aids became part of our repertoire, to keep the children's attention. Special emphasis was laid on vocabulary and cursive writing skills. Oral and written tests were conducted at regular intervals to monitor the progress of the children.

The Bud's Workout Session also became part of our online programme. During this session, the physical training instructor taught the students simple exercises. St Germain Nursery is filled with budding artists. In the "Nursery has got Talent" session, drawing, colouring and singing competitions were held. The children also displayed the pots decorated by them.

The following events were conducted in the Nursery Section of St Germain Academy:

- Independence Day: The students came dressed up as freedom fighters. The children took the go-green path and decorated our national flag using organic ingredients from their homes.
- St Germain Day: A presentation about St Germain Academy was made and the story of the school's formation was explained to the students.
- Children's Day: The students celebrated virtually with beautiful cakes and snacks and enjoyed themselves thoroughly.
- Arts and Crafts: The students built models of different kinds of houses, designed crowns and





made photo frames for their family pictures. They also explored colours and creativity using vegetables.

- Show and Tell: The students spoke about their favourite superheroes. They spoke about their favourite toy, cartoon character, family and food. The students also spoke about their dreams and aspirations.
- Smart cooking without fire: The students explored the joys of cooking and mixing ingredients, experimenting with flavours all without using fire.

Nursery education is the foundation for the future. The St Germain Nursery Section, with its dedicated staff will continue to work with our children and parents to sow the seeds of learning. To quote Jess Lair, "Children are not things to be moulded, but are people to be unfolded."

St Germain P.U. College

The goal of the college, in addition to academic excellence, is to awaken in the students a sense of social responsibility---to themselves, their families, their communities and the nation at large. The students of the PU College displayed their determination and aptitude for learning as they seamlessly shifted between offline and online classes, depending on the need of the hour. The dedicated P.U. staff divided the students into batches to ensure social distancing was maintained. They incorporated the immense curriculum of the P.U. Board to suit the virtual medium and ensured that the learning journey remained unaffected. The academic progress of our students were monitored with tests and assignments. The support of the parents, the motivation of the students and the steadfastness of the staff translated into the results of the academic year 2020-21:

Pass Percentage: **100%**

Science Topper: **Sultan Siddiq**

Commerce Topper: **Mohammed Moinuddin**



PU College celebrates Rajyotsava

P.U. Courses Offered

Science
PCMB and PCMC

Commerce
CEBA and SEBA

[Click here for St Germain PU
College Website](#)

Parents during the Pandemic

When schools went online, parents became our partners in the day-to-day teaching learning process. We acknowledge the immense support they have given and hope that it continues in all our future interactions. The following is a summary of interactions with a few parents whose wards are in St Germain High School, their experiences managing the stress of the pandemic while monitoring their children's education.

- Online classes were the need of the hour, but the children missed out on school activities that involve students coming together.
- Especially with older students, it becomes harder to monitor if the devices are being used for academics or for distractions. "My son wanted privacy for his classes and we were not allowed into the room during classes", says a parent who is now relieved that he is back in school.
- Balancing our own work-from-home while ensuring our children keep up with their school work has added to our pressures.
- All of us have been thrown into the deep end with the sudden transition into online modes of work. We are grateful to the school for the well organised classes and the exams. "As a parent of a child who is in the tenth standard, I am really happy that we had one session of offline preparatory exam. With the new pattern of semester exams, it was helpful in boosting the students' confidence", said Mrs Marina.
- What has been an issue of immense concern is the children sitting in the same place for long periods of time. For most of them, there was no physical activity. For just that reason, we are glad that the children are now attending classes offline, said the parent of a high schooler.
- Yes, we are anxious and worried. For many children, the excitement of seeing their friends can outweigh the importance of Covid appropriate behaviour. But, for school going children, online classes gave too much flexibility, over-dependence on technology and the freedom to slack when not constantly monitored. So, we are glad that the children are coming to school. We appreciate the precautions taken by the school such as thermal screening, sanitisation of classrooms, mandating masks and increasing the number of sections to ensure social distancing in the classrooms.
- When asked for advice for all the children, "Do not forget your fundamentals. Spend some time brushing up on them. Memorising without understanding is not going to help anyone," said Mrs Tabassum.

Students Speak...

All because of Covid which entered our lives,
It put down our plans, and set back our thrives,
I still remember the last day I enjoyed offline,
Now, in despair I think, those moments cannot be lived online.

Then started the journey of my 'online class'
I thought I would gain knowledge but all I put on was mass,
At first I felt nervous, but with time I felt good,
All I remember was left hand on mouse and right hand on food.

As days passed by, it started getting more interesting,
Learning new topics through Zoom was fascinating,
Sometimes all I would do is just time wasting,
Watching, calling, texting, enjoying those moments were just amazing.

Entering the class, switching on our cameras,
Like good students, listening to our teachers' lectures,
All those who kept our cameras on were only the front benchers,
When our mics gave us problems, all we did was virtual gestures.

As months passed by without school it just got boring,
Sometimes when I felt low, I would start snoring,
Finally came the day which said "Offline classes are commencing"
Oh! that joy within me had my body dancing.

All due to your hard work we haven't decreased,
I'm sure this high, we wouldn't have reached,
Hats off to all, for you have been so sweet,
Without you my dear teachers, our lives are so incomplete.

ERYL OSWIN ISAAC, IX A

Un petit problème qui à des kilomètres peut tout changer, que ce soit notre vie ou autre chose. Tout à commencé le 16 mars 2020 lorsque mon examen était en cours, quand je suis allé à l'école, ils m'ont dit que l'examen était annulé, donc avec cet enthousiasme j'ai apprécié mes vacances.

Trois mois plus tard, Les cours en ligne ont commencé. D'abord, je ne faisais pas attention à mes cours, à cause de cela, j'ai beaucoup souffert, j'avais des mauvaises notes. Encore mon école a annoncé que les examens finaux seraient en ligne. Cette fois-ci j'étudiais dur et j'ai réussi.

Après les vacances d'été encore mes cours en ligne est recommencé. Avec mon expérience antérieure j'ai essayé de ne pas répéter la même erreur et mon travail acharné n'a pas échoué.

Enfin, j'ai appris deux choses pour réussir dans la vie, au lieu d'attendre aux opportunités se présentent, il est mieux de créer les opportunités nous-mêmes et arrêter de répéter nos erreurs car les erreurs sont le secret de notre succès.

SHALOM THILIP, VIII C

ಇಂದ,
ರಾಜು
ಎಂಟನೇ ತರಗತಿ 'A' ವಿಭಾಗ
ಸೆಂಟ್ ಜರ್ಮನ್ ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆ
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ಆತ್ಮೀಯ ಸ್ನೇಹಿತ ಮಹೇಶನಿಗೆ,
ಸ್ನೇಹಪೂರ್ವಕ ವಂದನೆಗಳು.

ನಾನು ಇಲ್ಲಿಕ್ಷೇಮವಾಗಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ನೀನು ಕೂಡ ಕ್ಷೇಮ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿದಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ನಿನ್ನ ಪತ್ರ ಬಂದು ತಲುಪಿತು. ಓದಿ ಬಹಳ ಸಂತೋಷವಾಯಿತು. ಈ ಪತ್ರದ ಮೂಲಕ ನಾನು ಲಾಕ್ ಡೌನ್ ನಲ್ಲಿನಗಾದ ಅನುಭವವನ್ನು ನಿನ್ನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಒಂದು ಸಣ್ಣಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಲಾಕ್ ಡೌನ್ ನಲ್ಲಿನಾನು ಮಾನಸಿಕವಾಗಿ ತುಂಬಾ ನೋವನ್ನು ಅನುಭವಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿನಮ್ಮ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಬಾಗಿಲು ಮುಚ್ಚಲಾಗಿತ್ತು, ಇಲ್ಲಿನವು ಹೊರಗಡೆ ಹೋಗುವ ಅವಕಾಶವೂ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿನವು ಕಳೆಯುವುದೇ ಕಷ್ಟವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಟಿವಿಯಲ್ಲಿಬರೀ ಜನರ ಸಾವು-ನೋವು, ನರಳಾಟ ಮತ್ತುಕಿರುಚಾಟಗಳ ಸುದ್ದಿಯೇ ಪ್ರಸಾರವಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಯಾರ ಜೊತೆಯಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಹಾಗೆ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ, ಹೊರಗಿನ ತಿಂಡಿತಿನ್ನುಗಳನ್ನು ತಿನ್ನುವ ಅವಕಾಶವೂ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಬೇರೆ ಊರಿಗೆ ಹೋಗಲು ಸಹ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯವಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೋವಿಡ್-19 ಎಂಬ ಈಮಹಾಮಾರಿ ವೈರಸ್ ಎಲ್ಲವರ್ಗದ ಜನರನ್ನು ಆರ್ಥಿಕವಾಗಿ, ಮಾನಸಿಕವಾಗಿ, ದೈಹಿಕವಾಗಿ ಕುಸಿಯುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡಿತು ಮತ್ತು ಮಾನವೀಯ ಮೌಲ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡಿತು. ಒಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿನಮ್ಮೂರು ಲಾಕ್ ಡೌನ್ ನಿಂದಾಗಿ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಸ್ತಬ್ಧವಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ನಿನ್ನ ತಂದೆ-ತಾಯಿಗಳಿಗೆ ನನ್ನಅನಂತ ನಮಸ್ಕಾರ-ಗಳನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸು. ಈ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಓದಿದ ಮೇಲೆ ನೀನು ಸಹ ಈ ಲಾಕ್ ಡೌನ್ ನಲ್ಲಿನಗಾದ ಅನುಭವವನ್ನು ಕುರಿತು ನನಗೊಂದು ಪತ್ರ ಬರೆಯುವುದನ್ನು ಮರೆಯಬೇಡ.

ವಂದನೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ,

ಇಂತಿ ನಿನ್ನ ಪ್ರೀತಿಯ ಮಿತ್ರ

ರಾಜು

ADIBA SEHREEN

VIII B

प्रिय मित्र...

विजय रोड

माहेश्रवति

बेंगलूर ५६०००५

दिनांक ४ दिसंबर २०२१

प्रिय मित्र,

सप्रेम नमस्ते

मैं आशा करता हूँ कि आप सकुशल होंगे। मैं भी यहाँ अच्छा कर रहा हूँ। बहुत समय हो गया है; मैंने आपको पत्र नहीं लिखा है। मैं समझता हूँ कि आप मेरे पत्र का बेसब्री से इंतज़ार कर रहे होंगे। लेकिन सच कहूँ तो मैं काम में फँस गया था। लेकिन आज मैंने सोचा कि मैं लांकडाउन के दौरान होने वाले अपने अनुभवों के विस्तार से लिखूँगा।

यह सब कुछ ऐसा है जो हम एक दशक में पहली बार अनुभव कर रहे हैं। आखिरी महामारी वर्षों पहले की होगी; और उस समय मानव जाति के पास आधुनिक प्रकार के उपकरण नहीं थे। लेकिन आज हमारे पास उन्नत किस्म के और आधुनिक उपकरण हैं जो हमें भविष्य में होने वाली मुश्किलों का सामना करने में मदद करते हैं।

मित्र, मेरा लांकडाउन भी कुछ इस तरह से गुज़रा। मेरा काम घर से था। ईमानदार होने के लिए मैंने प्रभावी ढंग से काम किया। हालांकि इसमें स्कूल के माहौल की कमी थी; लेकिन यह वास्तव में आरामदायक और घर से काम करने के लिए आसान था। मैं कहना चाहूँगा कि मैंने नए शौक विकसित किये हैं। जी हाँ, सुनने में अजीब लग सकता है, लेकिन यह बिलकुल सच है। मैंने कैसियो खेलना सीखा। मैंने अपनी स्कूल की ऑनलाइन कक्षाएँ ली और कुछ तकनीकी शिक्षा का भी ज्ञान प्राप्त किया। मैंने कुछ नई चीज़ें सीखी और अपने परिवार के साथ समय बिताने का मुझे अवसर मिला। इसके अलावा मैं आभारी हूँ कि मैं खुद को समय देने में सक्षम था, और मैं हर सुबह योग करता था जो कि स्वास्थ्य के लिए बढ़िया है। मैं समझता हूँ कि यह महामारी बदतर है; लेकिन साथ ही इसने हम सभी को आराम करने और जीवन के कुछ बुनियादी सबक सीखने का समय दिया है। ये बुनियादी सबक न केवल हमारे दृष्टिकोण को समझने पर ध्यान केंद्रित करेंगे बल्कि आत्मनिरीक्षण करने में मदद करेंगे।

मित्र आप भी मुझे पत्र लिखकर बताएं कि आपकी लांकडाउन अवधि कैसे गुज़री और आपने इससे कैसे निपटा। मैं आपका जवाब का इंतज़ार कर रहा हूँ।

आपका मित्र,

हरसिल जैन

VIII B



*The following essay, written by **Harshith Sharbidar** of X C won the first place in a regional competition held in honour of Constitution Day. Harshith won a cash prize of Rs 10,000 for this essay.*

My Pride, My Constitution

“The Constitution is not a document for the government to restrain the people; it is an instrument for the people to restrain the government,”- Patrick Henry. We are often proud about things that we have, hence I say with all pride, ‘My Constitution.’ What is a Constitution? For one part of the society, it is a book containing a fixed number of laws according to which a country’s government should rule over a territory. On the other hand, the Constitution has proven to be a shield against the evils of the society.

Let’s see briefly see the descriptions of our constitution. Dr BR Ambedkar is the main author and was made effective on 26 January 1950. Here, a question arises: Why should I be proud of my constitution? Before we answer this, let us briefly what our Constitution offers us. First, it is the Supreme Law of India. No one can act against it. The document lays down the framework of the political and structural procedures, powers given to both the government and the citizens and sets out directive principles as well as duties. Most importantly, it gives us the fundamental human rights which is essential for an individual to live in freedom and harmony. It ensures that the liberties of the citizens of India are protected and prevents the establishment of authoritarian and dictatorial rule.

Another question arises: Is the Constitution of India followed by all? It creates a sense of ambiguity. India is a diverse country consisting of people with different identities and ideologies. The people of India can be classified into three groups based on their commitment with the constitution. The first group of people are those who are educated about the constitution and follow it strictly.

The second group of people are like the people of the first group, educated on the document, but do not follow it either because of one's own selfish needs claiming that the constitution is restricted to courts and government officials. These people neglect it and are ready to modify the constitution based on their ego-centric intentions claiming that it is not just enough to be followed.

The third set of people are those who are not educated about the constitution either due to illiteracy or ignorance towards this subject. They are not aware about the perks this charter gives us. There are ways through which these people can gain knowledge on this subject. The initiatives of schools, colleges and campaigns can be beneficial. Constitution Day or Samvidhan Diwas celebrated every year on 26th of November. The irony is that this event is celebrated only by a very small portion of our society and celebrate it meaningfully but the rest either ignore this event or not even aware of it. I am proud of my Constitution as it assures me the right to freedom of speech, expression, right to life and liberties. Let's see what our country would have been without the constitution of India. A complete chaos. There wouldn't be a proper and a just governmental setup. There would have been high chances of dictatorship or colonial rule. The caste system, racism and gender inequality would have been prevailed. No freedom, equal opportunities, education and superiority and inferiority complexes would grow. Wealth would gain more value than morals. the list has no end, life would have been a living hell. Former American president, Abraham Lincoln said, "Don't interfere with anything in the constitution. That must be maintained, for it is the only safeguard of our liberties. And not to democrats alone do I make appeal, but to all who loves these great and true principles."

Here's a short story on how important a constitution is for people to lead a stress-free life. [this is a completely fictional story and does not resemble any person or country] Pinky was a twenty-year-old girl living in India as an independent adult. Her parents were living in another country on account of her father's business. One day, suddenly pinky's mother got a heart attack and pinky had to rush immediately. As she reached the country, she had to pay a lot of taxes in the airport. She ignored it and took a taxi to the hospital in which her mother was treated. The driver drove the taxi very slowly and took a long route to increase the bill. Priya knew all of this since her father shared such stories with her. She was disgusted by the driver's creepy looks. The only option she had was to contact the police through safety applications on her phone, but none were available. She was helpless. She reached the hospital and found her father on knees, pleading the doctors to treat his wife. It seemed that the corrupt hospital wanted the payment in cash and would not accept the life insurance. He had no cash. The father and his daughter were devastated. In a few minutes Pinky's mother passed away. After a few months, Pinky shifted back to India. When she came back to her country, she realised that she was so ignorant towards the amenities she was offered by the constitution of India. She also published a book in which she has written all her experiences and the importance of the constitution. This story shows what role does the constitution plays in the proper functioning of a country.

Hence, we as young citizens of India, need to take a stand and educate ourselves and our countrymen about this wonderful charter. "However good a constitution may be, if those who are implementing it are not good, it will prove to be bad. However bad a constitution may be, if people implementing it are good, it will prove to be good."- anonymous quote. We must not blame the charter for the prevailing evils in the society, instead we must blame ourselves for not following it. This Constitution Day, I will promise myself that I will follow our constitution and take a chance to say, "My Constitution, My Pride."

Other Activities at St Germain

With students returning to campus, we emphasise on extra-curricular activities along with academics.

The Read-Write Programme

- Organised and run by the English Department
- **Goal:** To get children to fall in love with reading and writing
- **Activities:** Age appropriate exercises on vocabulary, story telling, writing, dictionary usage and many more
- **Frequency:** A new skill is learnt/ practised every month

The St Germain Sports Academy SPORTS COACHING OFFERED

- For Boys: Football and Hockey
- For Girls: Badminton and Hockey



Joining the Germainite Family

Admission Criteria

St Germain Nursery School, LKG

- Age Criteria: 3 years 10 months to 4 years 10 months

St Germain PU College

- The student must have completed Class X from any of the following boards: SSLC, CBSE, ICSE or IGCSE.
- The student must have scored 75% or above overall and 80% or above in Science and Maths for PCMC or PCMB.
- The student must have scored 65% or above overall and 70% in Maths for CEBA or SEBA.

Visit the School Website for more details: <https://stgermainacademy.com>

Our Prayer for the World

As the year draws to a close, we pray for the whole world.
May joy and love surround us.
May the Lord keep us and our loved ones safe amid all difficulties.
May we all find support and acceptance.
May the world stand together, filled with kindness and empathy.
May compassion and faith fill us all.
For this, we pray.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

