



Aama Aaina ଆମ ଆଇନା

A Reflection of Our Times, OSA NY/NJ/PA Chapter, Journal 2021

We thank the journal editors - Deepti Paikray, Prajnya Pradhan,
Nagesh Rajanala and Jigisha Biswal

Journal Front Cover
Artist: Prajnya Pradhan
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2021 – A New Beginning

Dear friends,

On occasion of Saraswati Puja, we pray to Goddess Saraswati to bless our community with her eternal wisdom, radiant knowledge and peace all around. As we celebrate the first event of 2021, we are pleased to present the newest edition of Aama Aaina, the magazine of the families in OSA NYNJPA, a journal that reflects the times we live in. This year with the pandemic weighing on everyone's mind we decided to keep an open theme for submissions. However, we were pleasantly surprised when the beloved children of our community participated with enthusiasm, sharing their thoughts and feelings in a forthright manner.

Their essays, stories and poems expressed a lack of connection in the present pandemic situation ----- with friends, school and family in India but also the hope that it will soon end. Our heartfelt thanks for sharing their journey on the pages of Aama Aaina. There is light at the end of the tunnel. In a few months we will receive the vaccine and can then leave the discomforts and inconveniences of Covid-19 behind, but not without learning our lessons about being more vigilant towards our planet earth, as expressed in the articles on climate change and environment in this edition. Not to miss that our children will play a small but decisive role in eradicating the evils that plague our earth, primarily through the implementation of the three R's of reduce, reuse and recycle in their homes.

The magazine is divided into three sections, English, Art and Odia. We are sure you will appreciate the artistic drawings of our cherished children. We decided to keep the Odia submissions in original form so readers may admire the beautiful handwriting of kids in their mother tongue. Some of the Odia articles celebrate the traditions that keep the children and their parents connected to our roots. Again, by learning Odia a connection is sought with an immediate and yet a wider world.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Aama Aaina. Thank you for your support on the literary accomplishments of the children and adults in our community.

OSA NYNJPA Management Team

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ENGLISH SECTION

Bapu - Father of the Nation

Mahatma Gandhi (affectionately known as Bapu) fought for the independence of India and for fairness for many underprivileged societies. He was born on October 2nd, 1869 and didn't do very well in school. A friend suggested that he go abroad to Britain to study law. He came back to India in 1891.

Gandhi's job as a lawyer in India wasn't going well, and when someone contacted him for a lawyer job in Johannesburg, South Africa, he accepted. In South Africa, the British acted superiorly to the other races, such as South Africans and Indians. They were treated poorly and not given the same rights as white people. He himself was harassed by the British, and he began to question the righteousness of the British. The British then proposed a bill denying Indians the right to vote. Gandhi and others founded the Natal Indian Congress and unified the Indians living in South Africa into one political voice to help stop the Indian oppression. During the Boer war, Gandhi and many other Indians served as stretcher-bearers towards the English side, thinking that showing them what Africans and Indians could do would give them equality. They did the same in 1906 in the war against the Zulu Kingdom, except Gandhi and his team operated on both sides of the battlefield. Other South Africans were shot by the



British and white soldiers stopped them from treating the Zulu peoples. Gandhi risked his life to help the Zulu people for two months. Because of this, the British did not change their opinions on them. It was then he started his ideas of satyagraha and nonviolent protests. The British passed an act saying that every single Indian in South Africa had to register to the government. Gandhi said to not register and practice satyagraha. He and his followers were arrested. But Gandhi didn't care. He stated that going to prison was an honorable thing to do. Gandhi founded a settlement, called Tolstoy Farm, that let people practice his ideas of satyagraha. They lived a simple life and owned little things.

Back then in India, and many other places, caste system prevailed: brahmins who were the teachers and priests, kshatriyas or warriors, vaishyas or merchants, shudras or laborers, and dalits or untouchables. Touching bodily excretions or touching dead animals were said

to pollute the body, and it was believed bathing cleanses the pollution. But untouchables were considered to be permanently polluted and deprived of equal rights. But Gandhi fought for them. He argued that the British rule was a punishment for disrespecting the untouchables. As a young lawyer in South Africa, he cleaned his own bathroom to emphasize the dignity of menial labor. Later, in India, he insisted his political followers, many of them wealthy brahmins, do their own sweeping, toilet cleaning, and trash disposal.

He famously said, "I do not want to be reborn. But if I have to be reborn, I should be born an untouchable, so that I may share their sorrows, sufferings, and the affronts levelled at them, in order that I may endeavor to free myself and them from that miserable condition." In one of the ashrams he founded in India, an untouchable couple and their baby wanted to join.

Gandhi let them in. Many people were upset, and the people funding them stopped sending money. But one wealthy man gave him enough for 1 year. This gave Gandhi hope that even traditional Indians were accepting his ways.

Gandhi thought helping the British in World War One would help give India their independence, but it was quite the opposite. The British passed even harsher laws. Gandhi knew he had to use satyagraha again. Gandhi became the leader of the Indian National Congress, and one voice became many as they all practiced his satyagraha principles. He and many others were jailed multiple times, but that didn't matter to him. He always practiced non-violence and made his own materials to protest the British's high taxes. He led his famous Salt March, across 240 miles, of everyone, young and old, Hindu and Muslim, and even some Christians. They arrived in Dandi off the coast of the Gulf of Cambay. There they prayed and made their own salt to protest the Salt Acts. When the British announced a law, making untouchables separate in courts and government systems, he announced that he would fast until he died. The British did not want the death of such a famous and well-known man, so they agreed to his terms. The British fought in World War 2, and did not have the resources to control India, and offered them their independence.

India gained its independence in 1947. Pakistan was also formed. Many people were angry about this, and hundreds of thousands died. Gandhi started a fast to make them stop. Even though he was in big pain, he still led a prayer meeting. The Hindu and Muslim leaders came to his terms and he stopped his fast. A Hindu extremist who was mad at Gandhi, shot him and our beloved Bapu passed away on January 30th 1948.

Gandhi will always be remembered as Bapu, the father of the nation, who led a long and arduous fight to ensure that India wins it's Independence. He followed the path of non-violence peppered with satyagrahas, fasts, marches, swadeshi acts etc. which brought the mighty British Empire to it's knees and forced them to give Independence to India. It has been more than 73 years since India took it's rightful position as an independent, strong, diverse and vibrant country, however, it still seems that a lot of people in India are still not fully integrated and are still looked down based on their caste. My hope is that one day India will be fully open and integrated without any divisions on caste.



Aahan Mahakud

Grade 7

Aahan loves Maths and to read fantasy and fiction.

The Siege of Jadotville

With all the turmoil around the modern world, we tend to wonder “Will we have a third World War?”. But not many people know about how we were on the brink of a third World War over 50 years ago. In September 1961 an Irish contingent of United Nations peacekeepers were deployed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo(DRC) to stop the country from descending into chaos.

The Congo, like many African countries in the years after the Second World War, had turned against its European ruler, England, and declared independence in 1960. The new government was not prepared for its new role, so the U.N. Security Council set up the U.N. Operation in the Congo to support it. Amid the chaos, General Moise Tshombe of the DRC military, supported by some Europeans, declared the resource-rich province of Katanga of the DRC independent.

The province of Katanga had many British mining companies and these companies provided jobs to the Katangans. But when the DRC declared independence, the companies left and the province became poor. Seeing this fall in the economy, General Tshombe, a native of Katanga, declared Katanga independent and asked French soldiers to be sent to support this new country. The French, who had high tensions with the British, agreed.



These actions are what led to Mission Congo. As part of the U.N. mission, Commander Patrick Quinlan's A Company of the Irish army was sent to Jadotville, a town in Katanga, with orders to protect the mainly British settlers. What seemed like a simple mission, ended up in a desperate life or death fight, pitting the Irish against a well-armed enemy, which consisted of Katangan troops supported by French mercenaries and settlers who outnumbered them 20 to one.

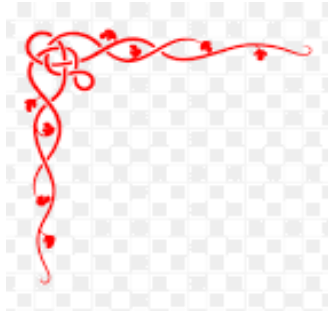
The Jadotville outpost was at a junction of three roads, it was surrounded by thick forests in three directions and a mountain in the fourth. Commander Quinlan noticed these disadvantages and ordered his men to dig deep trenches, stockpile water and carry their weapons at all times.

His instincts were correct; while most of his men were at mass, the Katangans attacked. The two sides would fight every day, the Katangans would come and fight but retreat hours later. After a week of fighting, 300 Katangan soldiers were killed and only 5 Irish soldiers were wounded. None were killed. But Commander Quinlan was forced to surrender.

The Irish soldiers were put on death row and their execution was to be the first thing done in the new year. But after five weeks of being held prisoners, the U.N. were able to negotiate their release, and the men returned to Ireland in December. But, there was to be no hero's welcome. The surrender of A Company was seen by major politicians as a national embarrassment which overlooked the men's courage and bravery. The treatment of the Jadotville troops infuriated the soldiers and their families. After many years of being humiliated by their own countrymen, in 2005, the members of A Company were finally given their recognition they deserved. The members of A company didn't lose a single man through a siege that most militaries would have lost all. They are heros, and they deserve to be treated as one.



My name is **Aarav Samal**. I am a freshman in South Brunswick high. I love to solve puzzles, bake, play video games, and read both mystery and historical fiction, especially World War II.



A Birthday Gift from Grandma

My grandma came from India for my 5th birthday at Roosevelt park, New Jersey in 2017. She is plump, fair and kind with honey brown eyes and her name sounds long but means mother earth. Grandma is 75 years old but does not like to be told so. Grandma played with me, sang silly songs like ... train adak tadak ... the rails are following the train ... and a man from Bombay is on top of the train. She was always around me in the two months she was with us.

She brought me a pink and blue flowery gown, and cooked my favorite chickpea curry and rice pudding on my birthday. After the park party we went to the soup kitchen to share some birthday goodies. Same night, tired but happy as I lay in bed with grandma, she told me a story that her mom had narrated to her. Grandma said the story was my actual birthday gift from her. I snuggled closer to her. Her sari smelt of lemon pickles and rose joss sticks.

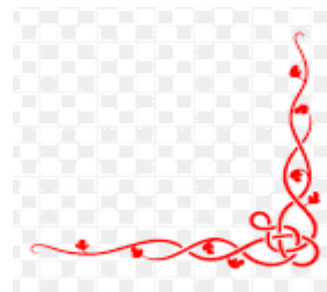


The story went ... once upon a time there was a 7 year old boy named Ajay living in a small village. Everyone was poor in the village. One day Ajay asked his father..." When will we be well off? "The father replied," there is a statue of a young boy at the village gate. When that boy comes, he will help us all." So, every afternoon after school Ajay visited the statue and when no one was looking he whispered, "when are you coming?" The boy in the statue as always said nothing and only smiled back.

Ajay turned 14 years old. One day he came to say bye to the statue. He had stood first at the village school and was going to town for higher studies. The village folk gathered around Ajay, and suddenly one of them cried aloud "Oh My God, Ajay you look like the boy in the statue."

Even though my grandma is far away this story reminds me of her and the lesson that help and change always comes from within us.

Gauri Paikray perceives the world through abstract ideas and notions.
Elementary School



I Hope...

Its freezing and it is February,
Sadly, a virus is still out there,
Schools are closed and the world is not like before anymore.
I wish I could play and meet my friends,
I wish I could spend time with them.
I wish we could sit together like before,
Sip a cup of cocoa and sing along,
I wish we could build stuff with Lego like before.
Wearing mask has become a pain,
But NO CHOICE!!
That's the only way to sustain.
I hope all this ends soon,
When we meet and play again.



With no fear of virus
And not getting hurt with it.
A magic wand is on the way,
When we can breathe free,
And share every moment once again.
I hope we all have learnt a lesson,
So the virus does not come again,
And we live free once again.



Yasharth Sarangi
Grade 3

Environment: Our Home

Have you ever seen garbage on the ground? I believe we should take care of the environment. I believe we should not litter because it can harm the environment. I also believe we should not pollute the ocean and not use a lot of gas because that also harms our surroundings. Before, I thought it was okay for people to not take care of the environment but now after learning about the 3 R's -----reduce, reuse and recycle, I feel it's our responsibility to protect our environment. Learning is not only about getting top marks but importantly how we use this learning to make our earth a better home for all of us.

By hurting our mother earth, the animals get hurt too. Most of the time sea turtles and marine life get stuck in plastic and industrial waste. Animal rescue teams spot and save them and that costs thousands of dollars. So, if you litter, animals you like can die, or you are making animal rescue pay many thousands of dollars. You might even be wondering If we don't even litter the environment, how can we try saving the environment? There are environmental websites that you can contribute your time, money or effort to. They will use the money for buying some tools like nets and machines that can suck all the plastic and metal that humans have carelessly thrown away. So please realize this. I strongly urge you to not litter for our earth, for us, for future kids.



I also think we should not pollute the ocean because the sea animals drink the water and die. You might also be thinking do we save the animals again this time by giving more money? Yes, we need money this time again too. Pollution also can hurt humans, for example if you were going to the beach one day and you saw black or very dark blue stuff in the water that might be goo or sludge. Many birds die after getting coated with this muck. So, if you think it is something else and you go in the water, the yucky harmful goo can go in your body and hurt you.

Prevention is always better than cure.

I believe we should not consume lots of gas because that also hurts our environment and the pollution harms our lungs. So, if you want to go somewhere if it is close, don't use a car, instead use a bike or scooter. If the place you are going is far and it would take a long time for a bike and a scooter to go there, use a car. Pool cars are also another great idea especially for office commutes. Before, I thought nothing would happen if we littered everywhere, polluted the ocean, and if we consumed more gas. Now, I know better. What will you do to make people not litter, not pollute, and not use too much gas in a car? Reduce, Reuse and Recycle please first in our own homes. Your response will decide our future. We must never forget that our environment is our bigger home.

Rishabh Das

Grade 3

6ft underwater

feeling entirely senseless
leaving troublesome energies behind
as I dive underneath
to cleanse my soul

holding my wavering breath
swimming in the open
a leverage the body carries over us
draining out my single life force

my body steadily tightens
with each slow-passing second
getting in touch with myself
sensing the pain and emotion

and I fall in more deeply
while the oxygen in me fades
but I regain control
fighting for the surface

the air struggles to reach my lungs
my shoulder relax as I reach up
heading out from the deep-end
but a strong desire pulls me back

wanting to deluge myself again
to get a moment of freedom
feels like a drug waiting to overtake me
ready to just overdose

fighting back while my body refuses
keeping steady while I go under
and a wave of calm swims over me.



Sumedha Jena
Grade 11

Momala to Kamala-Madam Vice President

Kamala Harris is an amazing 49th vice president of the United States. She is the first woman & the first African American to hold the post.

Kamala Harris was born on October 20, 1964 in Oakland California. Kamala was raised by immigrant parents, her mom was an Indian and her dad was from Jamaica. Kamala Harris mother's name is Shyamala Gopalan Harris, a scientist from India, her father's name was Donald Harris and her younger sister's name is Maya Harris.



Maya and Kamala Harris joined the Civil Rights Movement at a young age. Kamala went to Howard University in Washington DC for an undergraduate degree. Harris met Douglas Emhoff on a blind date set by a mutual friend. In 2014 the couple got married. Douglas Emhoff already had two children, Cole and Ella from a previous marriage. Cole and Ella are very friendly to

Harris from the beginning. [Kamala with her mother](#)

They are talented, brilliant and funny kids who decided to call Harris "Momala" instead of stepmom. Kamala became a lawyer in 1990. In 2003, she became the San Francisco district attorney and California attorney general. In 2016 Kamala Harris became the first Indian American United States senator. In 2020 Joe Biden announced she will be joining him as vice president.



On January 20, 2021 Kamala Harris was sworn in as vice president of the United States, the first woman, first black person and the first Asian American to hold the office. She holds dear her mother's words to her while growing up: "Kamala you may be the first to do many things, but make sure you're not the last." Here's to girlpower!!!

[Kamala with her sister](#)



Aarna Mallick

... is a creative soul. She loves to write stories and paint.

Age: 8 years

Love

It's this love that holds everything together

And it's the everything too!!!----Rumi



Today I will talk about love, what is love and how love is important in everyone's life. Love is a deep affection. It has various forms like a mother's love to her child, Friends love, Siblings love, Couples love and love for others.

People assume when you are in love with someone, you cannot live without them. This means you are pretty much into them and you want them and need them. However, that's not actually love, it's an infatuation. Love is an eternal

feeling, and a spiritual bliss. Even if the person is across the world, they are in your heart and you feel like they are always with you. You love them regardless of distance. For example, when my parents got married, they were far from each other. One was in Texas while the other one was in Connecticut. Though they were thousands of miles apart, nothing was a barrier for their unconditional love.

Similarly, I will give you another example of Radha and Krishna. When they were in Vrindavan they met each other as kids and started loving each other. After Krishna grew up, he had to go far from her to do his duty, but the distance was not an obstacle for them. Radha still loved Krishna unconditionally and he was in her heart all the time and vice versa.

There are a few feelings which are obstacles to achieve true love. Those are "fear", "ego", "jealousy" and "insignificance". Fear alerts danger or threat of harm, for example if you shout at your mom or scold at her she only becomes sad or angry but that does not mean she doesn't love you anymore. Ego is a sense of self-esteem or false self of "I", for example sometimes in households we have seen the husband thinks he is smart and better because he earns more money. But in love everyone is equal and needs to respect one another.

Jealousy is a lack of trust that feels uncomfortable for losing it. For example, when a new friend comes in between two close friends, sometimes one feels insecure of their friendship and gets jealous of losing the friend. But love in friendship is trusting each other. Insignificance is a feeling of meaningless or unimportant, to be worth consideration. We like to speak truth but sometimes because of our insignificant thought we don't

challenge or raise voice against the bad. But when you love your society you need to do the right things at the right time.

In conclusion I would like to say love is very precious in our life. It is free from all materialistic things; it is a precious gift. Trust, respect and surrender yourself to your loved one. It is the key to have long-lasting love.

Ayan Biswal

Grade 4

My Experience with Transitioning from Elementary to Middle School



The transition from elementary to middle school is a critical time considered to be one of the most difficult for students due to environmental adjustments, psychological stress, and developmental changes. They can experience several negative effects during the transition, including anxiety, stress, and apprehension. However, lots of study articles and transitioning programs are available for students to cope with this change.

Issues Students Face:

According to a research, students transitioning from elementary to middle school demonstrate a drop in self-esteem, decline in academic competence and perceived self-efficacy, lower achievement, increases in anxiety symptoms, and absenteeism. Students generally get anxious about getting lost in a large and unfamiliar environment, concerned about new demands academically and behaviorally.

Young people experience physical and emotional changes during this time. This transition generally requires students to move from a small and supportive school to a larger and less personal educational setting. It also means they need to establish new friendships at a time when peer acceptance is extremely important. Changes encountered by middle school students include the following: environmental adjustments, psychological stress, and developmental changes.

Environmental Adjustments:

The new environmental factors students contend with when transitioning from elementary to middle school are difficult for some students. The curriculum becomes more challenging and students have to juggle between multiple classes and teachers. The increased difficulty level of assignments and greater number of subjects necessitates that middle school students better manage their time and organizational skills. Additionally, the responsibility of lockers, gym uniforms, and alternating schedules can add to the stress.

Psychological Stress:

First time middle school students may feel anxious about making friends, getting lost, and fearful about being bullied in their new school environment. New to middle school, students may face many changes from a larger environment, multiple classrooms with different teachers who have different expectations. Students may become overwhelmed

with stress, fear, and anxiety. Increases in depression and a decline in self-esteem emerge among some adolescents as they transition from elementary to middle school.

Developmental Changes:

The period during middle school is not only a time of environmental, social, and emotional changes, but a time when middle school students' bodies are changing physically. One major situation when growing up is voice cracks. This process is when your voice goes through a change. Many people are bullied because of this and other physical changes causing kids to become depressed and lonely.

What is my personal experience?

I registered myself in the comprehensive transitional program at my school to acquaint myself into the new environment gradually. In this program you get a chance to mix with higher grade students, talk to them, learn about their experience in the middle school and get information about various clubs where you can participate. In these clubs you work with a smaller audience with similar interests.

I took a tour of the school over the summer break, which gave me a good idea about the layout of the school building, including the lockers, library, classrooms, cafeteria, and gym. This gave me confidence for my first day of school and set a positive mindset for the rest of the school year.

My parents and I attended the orientation program, to understand the new way of learning, how to transition for different class during a school day and become responsible. I met the principal, counsellor, and school administrators to become familiar with the school's expectations academically and behaviorally and practiced using lockers.

With my transition plan from elementary to middle school in place, my family had to suddenly move from Pennsylvania to New Jersey. This was a new twist to my transitioning story. With a new state, new school, totally new friends and virtual classes due to COVID-19 my transition plan had to be redone. However, my parents and the school district worked diligently to make me comfortable in this totally new environment and related changes.

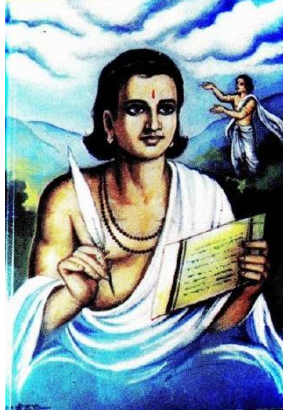


Rishit Nayak

Reference:

- <https://www.counseling.org/>
- <https://files.eric.ed.gov/>
- <https://www.edutopia.org/>
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KALIDASA



ନମସ୍କାର.

ମୋ ନା ସଂସ୍କୃତ ଜାଣି.

ମୁଁ ଗୋଟେ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଟୋକା

I can't talk a lot in Odia but I sure understand our culture and religious roots. Let me tell you one of the many stories I heard from my Maa ...

This story dates to 2,500 years ago.

One sunny day, the King's minister happened to see a cowherd-boy sitting atop a tree in a forest and attempting to fell the tree by axing its roots.

"What a fool!, sitting on a branch of a tree, trying to saw it off!

“ମୂର୍ଖ,

ଯୋଉ ଡାଳରେ ବସିଛି,

ସେଇ ଡାଳକୁ କାଟୁଛି!”

The dimwitted man was sitting on the wrong end of the branch, so when he finally sawed through the branch, down he tumbled!

“What is your name?”, asked the minister.

“ମୋ ନା କାଳିଦାସ.”

The minister who wanted to teach the Proud princess a lesson, brought Kali Dasa with him and took him to the King and his daughter Princess Vidyottama.

He tricked them to believe that Kali Dasa was the most learned man on earth. And soon, the princess happily married Kali Dasa.

After the wedding, it did not take the princess much time to understand that Kali dasa was far from the scholar she thought she deserved to marry.

She banished him from the kingdom and told him that his brain is full of mud and stones.

“ତମ ମୁଣ୍ଡରେ ଗୋବର,
ଗୋଡ଼ି ମାଟି ପଥର.”

The dejected Das wandered around, till he came to the bank of a river.

He tried taking his life muttering the words of the Princess “mud and stones in your brain Kali dasa”.

Suddenly an old woman washing clothes on the riverbank came and told him

“Do you observe the stones which the women are pounding with clothes, they are smooth and rounded, while the other stones on the riverbed are rough and ragged?”

This observation hit him like a thunderbolt, and it dawned upon him that if stones could be worn through and change their shape by being pounded upon by clothes, then why couldn't his thick brains change, by being pounded upon by knowledge!

Das thus grew determined to learn. He observed things, people and situations, and composed many verses and poetry about the essence of life.

And soon this cowherd boy, became the greatest poet & wisest and most learned man in the country, Mahakavi Kalidas.

Can you say who the old lady was at the bank of the river, who was his source of inspiration and encouragement?

She was none other than the flowing river of knowledge, River Saraswati or Goddess Saraswati, the goddess of Knowledge and mother of Vedas and Sanskrit.

When she appeared in her actual form before Kali Dasa, our esteemed poet kept singing her glory

“କଳ୍ପନ ପୂରିତ ଲୋଚନ ଧାରେ
ସ୍ତନଯୁଗ ଶୋଭିତ ମୁକୁତା ହାରେ
ବୀଣା ପୁଷ୍ପକ ରଞ୍ଜିତ ହସ୍ତେ
ଭଗବତୀ ଭାରତୀ ଦେବୀ ନମସ୍ତେ .
ହେ ମା ସରସ୍ବତୀ,
ବିଦ୍ୟା ଦିଅ, ବୁଦ୍ଧି ଦିଅ, ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ମଙ୍ଗଳ କର.”



Sanskrit Jee

8 years

Grade 3, Roosevelt Elementary School, South Plainfield, New Jersey

Pros and Cons of Virtual Learning

Now that there is Covid, many people are doing virtual classes. You have a choice between doing Hybrid classes which are half going to school and half virtual or doing completely virtual. After the Holidays, there is a week of full virtual for everyone when school starts because people would be mingling around with friends and family. Many people choose to do virtual for the fear of getting the virus, but there are still some things wrong with virtual learning. Virtual learning can be fun and relaxing, but there are pros and cons to virtual learning. Here are some of them:

Pro: You don't have to wake up earlier. No one likes to wake early in the morning, and when you have virtual learning class, your class starts later. So, you get to sleep later and you can wake later as well. When there was normal school, you would have to brush your teeth, take a bath, eat breakfast, and ride the bus. But in virtual learning, you only have to get out of bed and maybe splash water on your face and brush, and then you can sit on your seat and log on to zoom. Of course, after a healthy breakfast!!!

Con: Lack of Social Interactions / Virtual Learning Limitations. In normal school, you get to see all your friends and teachers every day. You would exercise together in Gym class, sing together in music class, draw and paint together, and have concerts in chorus, orchestra, and band. But now we are not doing it together, at least not in the same room.. In Gym, we have to do online activities that aren't the same. In Music, we have to sing with our microphones off and no one knows who is singing or not. In art, we can only use the supplies we have at home. And in Band, we can't have a concert because in zoom all the noises will echo and sound weird.



Pro: You get more breaks during class. In normal school, after a period is over, you would have to start walking to the next one, and you won't have that much time to relax. Snack would be for about 10 minutes, and lunch would be 40 minutes- 20 minutes eating, 20 minutes playing outside. But now, snack is 40 minutes, and lunch is an hour. And there

are a bunch of breaks. There are now half days once a week so we can get a break off the screen for a while after school. Also we are dismissed early and have plentiful free time with our family and for ourselves.

Con: **Interruptions on the screen.** Many interruptions can happen when you are using the screen. First, your screen can freeze when you are in class and you could miss the whole lesson. When you are at school, you don't have to worry about missing class . Second, some people play games during class during a lesson. They would use a home computer on which the teacher can't see their screens in Go-guardian.

Pro: **Kids can relax.** In normal school, kids have to rush in the morning and go on the bus. At school, they have to walk everywhere from class to class. But in Virtual learning, kids can relax and all they have to do to get to another class is press a few buttons. After school they would have to go for activity classes like dance, karate etc. But now we can't go anywhere from the fear of getting the virus. So, kids can just relax.

Con: **We can't have fun activities.** In normal school, people do fun activities like Dare and Field day, but now we can't. We would have so much fun playing with each other, but now all we get to do is go into a breakout room to discuss or interact. We can't even try to do it in our houses, because our friends wouldn't be there and it wouldn't be fun. When you have friends, you have fun.

While I understand that virtual learning is almost necessary in the current situation, I cannot wait for the situation to be normal so that I can go to school, interact with my teachers, play and have fun with my friends, explore new stuff together, do gym and band together as a group, but basically have a lot of fun. Hoping to see all my teachers and friends in school soon.



Anya Mahakud

Grade 5

Anya loves to read, sing and learn Odissi dance.

Bhima meets Hanuman



Hanuman's father (not biological) is Vayu the wind god in the Ramayana and Mahabharata. Bhima, one of the Pandava brothers, is born from the grace of Vayu. Hence making Hanuman and Bhima brothers. The Ramayana is the story of Rama's birth, his exile from Ayodhya, meeting with Hanuman and the war between Rama and Ravana, the demon king of Lanka (Now Sri Lanka.) The Mahabharata however is based on the five Pandava brothers (Yudhishtira, Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadeva.) pitched against one hundred Kaurava cousins. (Duryodhana, Dushasana and 98 more.) to win a kingdom belonging to their ancestors. But the question arises, If Ramayana took place hundreds, even thousands of years before, how could Bhima meet Hanuman? Hanuman was granted immortality (living forever). It even appears that He has Lord Rama's blessing to stay and look young forever.

Once Bhima desired to get some flowers for Draupadi, the wife of the five Pandavas. He scared even tigers, lions and elephants with his size and strength. He suddenly heard a loud roar. He discovered it was an old monkey. Bhima who thought he was the most powerful being in the universe bellowed, "O monkey, get out or I will thrash you. HARD!" The monkey replied, "Oh mighty being, I am too old to move. Move my tail then pass." Bhima laughed and replied, "I can lift a tree with only one hand. I even crushed a stone when I was a baby." Filled with pride Bhima pulled the tail, but no matter how much he tried he couldn't move the tail. Then when all his strength was drained, he humbly queried, "Who are you? Why do you feel like my brother, Hanuman?"

“Because I am He,” replied the monkey in amused tones. Hanuman now transformed into his mighty form, magnificent in his strength and brawn, with long flowing locks over his handsome face. Bhima filled with humility apologized, “Oh Hanuman, I am so sorry that I tried to test my strength on you. From now on, I will never do that.” And after saying goodbye affectionately, they went their separate ways. From here on Bhima used his strength to uphold what is right and to defend the weak.

Fun facts 1.

- In childhood, Bhima would shake mango trees and the fruits would come tumbling down.
- Hanuman as a child leaped to swallow the sun thinking it was a bright fruit.
- Hanuman is still alive and whenever, wherever the Ramayana is being read he appears often in disguise of an old man.
- Hanuman’s name means *loose jaw* since Indra, the king of the gods, hit him on the jaw.
- Hanuman is also known as Maruthi and Tatvagyana-pradaya.
- Bhima was so strong that he could carry his mother and the four other pandavas on his shoulders.
- Reference: Amar Chitra Katha book “Bheema and Hanuman”.

By: Ayaan Mahapatra

CORONAVIRUS

COVID-19 is the new Global Crisis

Outrageously Contagious and spreading through human vices

Respiratory masks(N95) are the life saviors

Overcoming this pandemic is our only endeavor

No one has been able to find the solutions

All are following physical distancing and staying at their homes in all nations

Ventilators are vital for fighting against this virus

India, USA, China, Italy, Spain, Iran, UK, Turkey, Germany are the most affected nations

Researchers are working tirelessly to develop COVID-19 vaccines and drugs with focus

Understanding symptoms and taking precautions are our best options

Stay Safe, Stay home, Stay Cautious



Poem by **Mishika Mohanty**

My Travelogue: London

My name is Siyona and I am 8 years old. I live in South Brunswick, New Jersey. I love traveling with my family.

Two years ago we visited London. London is the capital of England and it lies on the Thames River. It was established about 2,000 years ago by the Romans. Now people from all over the world live here and it is one of the most important cities in the world.

Just like me and my family many tourists visit London every year because there are so many things to see and do. Some of my favourite places to visit were the British museum, the London eye and the Tower Bridge.

From the London eye you can see the birds eye view of the city, I guess that's why they call it the London eye!



Tower Bridge is one of the most famous landmarks in London. My favorite part of it was the glass floor. When I looked down I could see the River Thames under my own feet! I was so high up that the boats on the river and the cars on the bridge looked like tiny toys!

In my opinion the British Museum is a must see. It has exhibits based on human history, art and culture. It even has an entire section on mummies. And an entire section dedicated to Odisha!

London is a very beautiful place and I had an amazing time there!

If you ever think about going to London, maybe try going to these places and you might just like them as much as I did! Thank you for reading and bye!



Siyona Samal

3rd grade

Climate Change

It was a lovely sunny morning in the month of January 2021. The temperature was also a little higher than a normal winter morning. That's when I noticed the change. Something odd has happened, tulips bulbs started popping out of the ground. Tulips bulbs usually start sprouting and blooming during the spring season. This happened because the higher temperature makes the tulips think it is spring, and they began to come out in January instead of March.

In New Jersey over the past few years the weather has been fluctuating. Some days it is warm at 50F during winter and then it just becomes freezing cold at 20F. The weather is unpredictable. Also, I am noticing it is not snowing a lot like how it was a few years ago. These changes in our everyday lives are happening because of the climate change which is caused due to global warming. Global warming is happening because of gradual warming of the atmosphere, water and earth's surface caused due to emission of gases by burning of fossil fuels for industries, transportation etc, which causes an increase in the amount of greenhouse effect.



Climate change causes natural disasters like heat waves, tropical storms, etc. Also, glaciers have shrunk, the water level is rising, and trees are blooming quicker than when they are supposed to bloom. Extreme weather events like heavy rains, heat waves, drought, forest fires etc are becoming more frequent, hurricanes are becoming stronger. Scientists

are predicting that the Arctic will soon become ice free and parts of cities like New York City, Mumbai and Puri would go under water if this continues.

Can this be prevented? **YES, WE CAN!** If we act together, we will be safe from all these natural disasters. Governments should raise awareness on climate change, ban all the polluting industries, encourage bikes and public vehicles as a mode of transport and start more tree plantation campaigns. What can we do as an individual to prevent this? Some things we can do are: Reduce usage of energy at home and office like switch off the lights when it is not in need, avoid burning leaves, trash, etc., conserve water, plant trees to make the air clean and cooler, practice organic farming/gardening, not flush oil, grease, fats, etc, and say no to plastic bags and cups. Together we can prevent this from happening if we act now.

Swarnab Roy

Grade 5

Sources: Everyday life and articles on the internet.

While walking I saw my life as a Maple leaf



For me, my thoughts and daily activities go together like peanut butter and jelly. Every day I take my walk and see a large maple tree in our neighborhood which has a lot of leaves. I know that no two maple leaves are the same just the way two human beings are not the same. "Just like us human beings", I mumbled to myself. I keep on comparing my life to the life of a maple leaf. Like

the cheerful young maple lime green leaves in spring, I was a young girl with a full moon smile at Pathuria Sahi Puri, India. My life was clearly defined by my family and I followed the rules without many complaints. A leaf spends outdoors soaking up the sun rays and the raindrops. It does not have much choice on how to mold its life. Like her, I often spent my time talking to people in my family and from our lane. I kept on moving from house to house in our lane to play or doing chores.

The leaf adjusts and adapts to the air currents and feels joy in the ride that is given to her. It feels secure on the tree. I also felt secure at my father's home growing up with limited love and care since I did not have a mother. She died when I was only ten months old. The leaf willingly becomes a landing pad for insects and birds and lovingly turns her face upward to provide food and shelter for the tree. Most of the time the decisions were made for me, example is where and what I will study, what food I will have and even whom I must marry. Growing up most of my clothes were chosen by elders despite my wish to dress like my friends. I have done similar work like accepting what is given to me by my family. In the process I have become an obedient daughter, daughter in law, a wife, and a mother as I grew older.

Fall is different, for trees. The young green maple leaf has changed color and become mature. I noticed a shift in the leaves on the trees. Same way now I have noticed a shift in my body and mind. Even my view of the dressing or doing things has changed. To look at changes in the leaves brings clarity in my life as well. My life's journey has now made me mature and older. I am the fall leaf. My body is aging, not as strong nor as reliable and supple as it once was. I welcome the change and wonder how to prepare for what lies ahead.

I notice that some of the leaves on the tree will be brilliant in color, others dull and muted and even others will just dry up. The dry leaves appear to be hanging on to something that will never be again young. Am I going to be the same as the leaf? I wonder what determines the radiance of the leaf. Is it the weather, its living condition, or an unknown factor?

This is the fall of my life. My time on the earth is limited. How will my life be finished? Will I go out as the maple leaf in a blaze of color, or cling to the branch for dear life, waiting until I am withered, brown and windblown. Will the people who know me cry out loudly and be saddened, not ready to see me go? Do leaves have a choice when to go and how to go? Do I have the same choice with my life? Will my life circumstances determine my departure? Not sure. I noticed that my round of walk is done. So, I will think about it tomorrow.



Chandra Misra is a first generation immigrant from India. She came to the USA in 1977. She did her nursing degree from the Gwynedd Mercy University and worked as a critical care nurse at Albert Einstein Medical Center, Philadelphia. As per her “nursing brought her future into focus and made a difference in her life”. She loves to write and let people know about her experiences. She lives with her family in North Wales, PA.



Never Give up...

I had a little rubik's cube.

I play with it all day.

I twisted here and twisted there,

but didn't find a way.

“Practice makes one perfect .”

That's what my mom said .

I tried and tried and tried.

And finally found a way.

Siddhi Mohapatra

Age: 8 years

Thanks to Amazing Mom

We should thank our amazing moms because they gave birth to us and on our birth their hearts got filled with joy. They work hard to keep us safe, protected and happy. They cook delicious food and sometimes they cook dishes we don't like but are healthy for us. They play with us but sometimes they don't as they have other work. But don't feel sad they do everything for us. Whether we are small or big our mom will always remember us in their heart. They will always support us and think of us all the time. So go, thank your mom for everything they have done for us, give them a kiss and a hug and surely their hearts will fill with extreme joy.

Shrika Rout Roy

Grade 3

My Love for Odia Language

In August 2014, I was on a plane back home from India. As I looked out the window a realization dawned over me. I spent weeks in that other continent, living with my grandparents and with all the other members of my family tree, silently. I only spoke English, and no Odia. My family members spoke Odia, but no English. We would watch TV together and nod, but never converse. At the market we'd gesture, but never talk. And so, I stayed in Orissa for weeks never speaking to my family.

My parents were both Odia. This group amounts to 34 million, with pockets across the world and the United States. These pockets were something my parents often came to when they immigrated to America. Growing up, I met these pockets at religious and cultural ceremonies. But like I realized during my trip to India, I found myself distant from them despite all the time spent close by.

Despite the distance between myself and my heritage, I tried to come closer. I spent time reading about the Odia people, and built a good understanding. I still found myself wishing that there were a translator for the Odia and English languages. If such a thing existed, I would so much more easily reach out to the rest of my family tree and my ethnic community.



Four years later, I was speaking to a researcher about applications for artificial intelligence. The year just before, I enrolled in my school's science research program, which allowed me the chance to work on a research project of my own choosing. All I had to do was choose a project. He suggested I look into working on a translator for Odia.

Major Translators like Google and Microsoft were yet to bring out Odia systems, and most systems that tried to use Odia were impractical. I thought about it, and suddenly memories of my heritage and the language barrier blocking me from embracing it came back. I accepted this idea and decided to try and assemble a translator model myself.

In my study Artificial Intelligence systems were applied to the task of translation between Odia and English. I created two versions of the AI to see which would do better. The AI's were tested with English and German, English and Hindi, and English and Odia. This let me see if the AI's favored certain languages over others.

The AI's did not perform well, but were actually fairly capable in comparison with other systems given the limited resources I had at my disposal. My extended family still stays away from me separated by geographic and cultural barriers, but with this I am happy to have at least closed the gap a little bit.



By **Shashwat Patel**

Grade 9

IT SHALL PASS SOON!!



It shall pass soon!! & soon we will catch the butterfly!!

It shall pass soon!! & soon we shall enjoy the weather and nature too.

It shall pass soon!! & soon we shall play outside with our friends too.

It shall pass soon!! & soon we will meet our teachers too.

It shall pass soon!! & soon we all will go to our school too..

This shall pass soon!!

Stay strong and be thankful this shall pass soon!!

~~



Artist: **Siaraa Dalai** ~~

Age: 11 years, New Jersey

Saraswati Puja

Saraswati puja is performed on the fifth day of the Magha month of Hindu calendar. It is also known as Basant Panchami. It is believed that on this day goddess Saraswati was born. She is the goddess of knowledge, art and music. The goddess is seated on a white lotus wearing a white silk

Goddess the symbol of book of inner symbolizing the Saraswati is Vedas. she is feminine energy



saree with red border. Saraswati plays veena, divine music, holds a knowledge and the mala power of mantra. Maa called the mother of all According to Vedanta considered to be the .About 4000 years ago

in India, a river flowed by the name of Saraswati. It was an earthly form of the goddess. Saraswati puja is held in every home and all localities. Many families bring goddess Saraswati idol to home, decorate with flowers such as marigold, rose and worship the goddess to get her blessings. The image looks sublime and the atmosphere grand. All study materials are placed at the feet of the goddess. Prayers and puspanjali are offered with love. It is also a great day to inaugurate educational institutes and new schools. Yellow color has special importance on this day. It is a custom to wear a yellow dress on this auspicious day. Yellow sweets are made and distributed to all. Children are taught to write their first word: (Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwara). This Puja has a deep educational value. Students learn to be spiritual in their life. They also learn the value of cooperation and leadership. Everyone enjoys this festival with great fun and enthusiasm.

Aarush Sahoo

Grade 3

Art Credit: Sudarshan Patnaik

Why You Should Learn Oriya

After taking the Odia class, I realized that learning a new language is the key to unlocking a whole new world filled with rich culture and society. Upon learning this I asked myself, wouldn't it be great for every Odia person to learn their mother tongue, Odia? So here I am today trying to convince you to learn Oriya.

One reason you should learn this wonderful language is that it is your mother tongue. A lot of people don't understand what the term mother tongue means so let me explain it. A mother tongue is not only the language of the land you are from, it is the very key to your land, culture, society, and people. So, if this language in some ways is the very thread that connects you to your origin why not learn it?

In addition, while you are learning Odia you will also learn the valuable history of Odisha and India. You will also learn the impact Odia has on the world. Wouldn't you want to be part of this impact?

On top of all that, be happy to be Oriya. This is a privileged claim and you should feel proud of your culture and heritage. Don't neglect it, embrace it and you will see the true power of this language.

In conclusion, you should learn Odia no matter what age you are. There is never a limit to who can learn this language. Even if you are not Odia, learn the language so you can communicate with Odia people. After you learn Oriya try to read the Odia text below:

Odia Text:

ଓଡ଼ିଆ କି ସୁନ୍ଦର ଭାଷା | ତୁମର ମୂଳ, ସଂସ୍କୃତି, ଭୂମି,
ଏବଂ ଲୋକ | ତୁମ ମାତୃଭାଷା ଶିଖ ଏବଂ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ହୁଅ |



Arul Rout Roy

Grade 6

Wedding in India

“Yippee!” I shouted. I was going to India although it was not yet summer vacation. My dada (dad’s younger brother) was to get married. I was super excited and couldn’t wait to be in India. I reached Bhubaneswar where my grandparents (Jeje and Bou) live. The day before the wedding there was a ritual with family friends. Girls were applying mehendi on their hands. With my cousins, I had a lot of fun dancing to the drum music. At the end we all went to the terrace and ate delicious food. Then on the wedding day morning there was a ritual in the house before we went for the baraat (procession to the wedding place). At night we went in separate vehicles to the city where my new khudi (dada’s wife) lives. My dada got into a special car decorated with pretty flowers for the wedding procession to the mandap (wedding place). We had lots of fun dancing with the baraat to the DJ music. After reaching the mandap we ate food and the wedding ritual went on for the entire night.



Next day early morning we came back to Bhubaneswar with our new khudi (she was crying which I thought was a little funny). After a few days there was a reception where a lot of family friends and relatives came to congratulate the newly married couple. In the reception there was again lots of food but my favorite was pani puri, dahi bara and ice cream. At the end we took several family pictures. I had a lot of fun with my cousins and other relatives. It was time to say goodbye, I was a little sad but at the same time was excited because we were to stop over at New

Delhi for sightseeing before flying back to NJ.

We stayed at a grand hotel for two days in New Delhi. We went to Red Fort. The red fort was originally named by the Britishers for its red walls (the walls were constructed to provide security to the royals.) The commoners call it “Lal Quila”. Then we went to India Gate where I saw India’s tricolor flag colored lighting on it. At last, I sat in a noisy auto rickshaw to go to Rashtrapati bhavan. Do you know the Rahtrapati Bhawan is the second largest residence in the world with over 300 rooms? It was too much grandeur to take in.

Soon I was back in NJ after my wonderful vacation. Now looking at all the photographs brings back to me memories of time spent with my loved ones and the awesome cultural heritage of India.



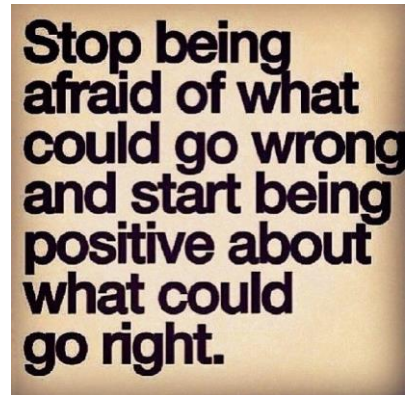
Saswat Mallik

Grade 5

Thoughts about Virtual School

I am going to write about Virtual school. To be honest, it is going better than I thought it would. At first, I wasn't sure about going virtual. I wanted to opt for the Hybrid model because it was my first day of school, and not just any school, MIDDLE SCHOOL! Also, I really just wanted to get out of the house. In 5th grade, I was excited about all the different things I would be able to do. Lockers, being independent and the different opportunities sounded so amazing. With all of this, came the big R responsibility.

However, I also knew I needed to be safe. If I went to school, even with all the precautions, there was still a chance of contacting the virus, and by going I wasn't just putting myself in danger but I was also putting my family in danger. So, I decided to opt for virtual learning. Even though I knew I made the right decision, I was worried about how I was going to learn because if at any point the internet went away, I might miss important parts of lessons. But I attempted to stay positive.



Stop being afraid of what could go wrong and start being positive about what could go right.

On the first day of school, there were a lot of technical problems. I was scared that I was going to miss the whole first class. I thought it was just me. But when I checked google classroom, I saw I wasn't the only one. Most of the people faced the same problem. I tried not to see this in a negative way. Instead of thinking Oh no, I missed so much of my class, I tried to think of it as a learning process. When these technical snags happen again, I will know what to do. However, all the other classes went smoothly, considering it was my first day of school. Oh and looking at numerous faces on the limited screen was a bit dizzying for the first week or so. I had to frequently look away to rest my eyes.

So, other than the technical problems, virtual school is great-----considering the pandemic. Something else I was worried about is how I will get to know my classmates. I didn't think I could learn everybody's name, how they look, and their personalities online. But thankfully the teachers helped with getting to know them. They made us do presentations about ourselves, our likes and dislikes. Although I wanted and still want to eventually meet everyone in person, I learned at least one character trait about each of my classmates. I am still keeping my hopes up that I will be able to know more than just one quality about everyone once we are able to go in person. So, in conclusion, even though I am required to sit in front of a computer for long hours, virtual school ensures learning continues in a safe and timely manner.



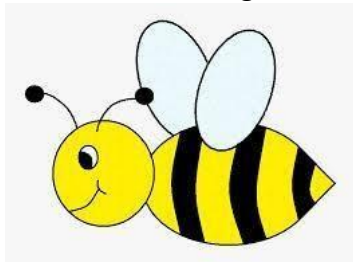
Shivangi Mohapatra

Grade 6

Who am I?

Who am I?
Am I a creature?
Or a plant that sings
To the souls of the jungle?

Who Am I?
Am I a buzzy bee?
Who works hard building it's hive,
Or am I a wishing tree?



Or a slave that worked up his life for his
owner
And wishes that he had his own liberty and
freedom.



Or am I a peasant who serves the lord
Or a pleasant man that lived a happy life
And never stayed in the shadows of the
darkness.

Who am I, I ask to myself?
Who am I, I wander
Every day and night.

Am I a man of biology?
Who knows the jewels of life.
Or am I a fortune teller
Who wants to know about the afterlife.



Am I a magical paintbrush that works?
Like a wand to the attractive.

Who am I, I think,
Well, let me tell you what I am.
I am a human being.

A magnificent living being
Who is filled with emotions and feelings,
One that can be full of bright light or either
be
Full of the darkness of the night.



Aayush Jena, 9th grade

The Tale of Frozen Walt Disney

In a fleeting glimpse of the 20th century, Walt Disney has cultivated the arena of family entertainment as a producer, animator, and entrepreneur. As he got older, a few people have pointed out his peculiar fascination with death and immortality. Soon enough, Disney's demise due to lung cancer has ignited the preposterous speculation of him deep-freezing his body until there was a cure for his illness. The two leading biographies Robert Moseley's "Disney World" and Marc Elliot's "Walt Disney -- Hollywood's Dark Prince" frivolously promoted the prospect of Disney insisting to his brother for his corpse to be frozen and buried under the Pirates of the Caribbean exhibit at Disneyland. Hence, the Walt Disney Company allegedly took on the huge endeavor to cover-up search optimization results regarding the truth behind Disney's death by creating a widely known, superhit movie known as "Frozen". Through heavy scrutiny of all the components formulating this conspiracy theory, it is only reasonable to contend that it is merely an exaggeration of Disney's ephemeral obsession with the future of his renowned theme park.

As conspiracy theorists continued to stem the long-held conviction of Disney's preoccupation with the science of cryogenics (freezing of a corpse for resurrection), witnesses of his death have clearly debunked these rumors. In a non-fictional article, David Letty impartially assessed this urban myth by recounting Disney's surgery preceding his death, designating Moseley and Elliot's entries to be poorly substantiated. He briefly discussed how Disney's daughter Diane disapproved of this premise in an instant pointing out how her father never even faintly mentioned his prior knowledge of cryonics. Her statement was corroborated by a discovery of legal documents declaring Disney's cremations to be put under a paid estate worth of \$40,000 at Forest Lawn (Letty). By deliberating on this existing evidence, Moseley and Elliot present themselves in advocating such an absurd forethought for which they do not account family members who would have personally known about Walt Disney's fantasies. Although Disney retained a queer eye for the future and technology at a time of probing cryonics, it is simply illogical to connect this to a theory of having his body to be frozen for reanimation. If the science behind cryonics was fully refined and developed for practice, there would have not only been full disclosure but also many instances of public figures who would have paid immense costs to have this procedure performed on them. Moreover, an American skeptic William Poundstone ponders over the darkest possible secrets through history in the book "Big Secrets", in which he meticulously unfolds the origin of these theories. The author sheds light on the conspiracy theorists' most plausible explanation of how Disney explicitly declared in his will to not inform the public on the disposal of his body including the unreleased information on the trust funds he set forth (Poundstone 287). Despite this reasoning to suggest him strictly wishing his death to be a mystery, the signed documents proving he wanted to be cremated and Forest Lawn being able to site his gravesite add no significant value to these allegations. The indisputable accuracy of his body undergoing cremation sufficiently outweighs the plausibility of the cryonics theory and continues to come back full circle.

A lack of concrete evidence upholding a dubious assertion based purely on assumption and ill-founded suspicion leads to nothing but a cloud of confusion. When the well-liked film "Frozen" was released in 2013, believers of this conspiracy like to constantly point out how searching the word frozen on any search engine changed right from the top results of the possibility of Disney's frozen body to the ratings on the film instead. Thus, a recent New York Post by Brett Gubitosi defies such a bizarre claim through an emphasis on the movie generating roughly around \$1.2 million in sales with over 600 million views on its songs. He goes on to corroborate how certain fans in the past have attempted to detect subliminal messages in the

media giant's previous classics such as "The Lion King", which is a prominent reason as to why this theory thrived on people's full conscience (Gubitosi). After examining the soaring revenues from this movie, it is downright irrational to come to the conclusion of a massive media company going to great lengths to obscure a secret almost 50 years ago for other than the sole purpose of producing a huge profit. This can be reiteratively deplored with the recent release of the sequel "Frozen II" in which they skillfully crafted another plot due to fans' amazement with the first-ever "Frozen". Another major grounds these conspiracy theorists use to endorse their view is on Disney openly stating to a close relative how he wanted people to know him as "alive" or a living figure endlessly other than passing away due to an unfortunate illness (Poundstone 300). It can be surely attested that Disney was not willing to die of lung cancer, but not suggest he explicitly proclaiming himself to freeze his body. Disney's inclination to live unconditionally only serves to signify his bitter reluctance to face death, which ultimately seizes his dreams of expanding his theme park for many years to come. Falsifiable hypotheses related to this matter arouse to be far fetched from the slightest plausibility of his quest for seeking an eternal life.

Altogether, the outrageous thought of Walt Disney's frozen body beneath Disneyland spooking visitors is founded on an overstatement of his own imagination for the future. If a dark, deep secret was intended to be kept for so long, somehow part of the act if not all of it would have been leaked. There is no single individual who anyone can profoundly confide in, especially after the person wanting the secret to be kept, deceased. The intellectual character of people who choose to concoct these theories can be questioned. Any person in their right mind would not take on such a stride to postulate an incoherent theory unless they held wrongful intentions of bringing defamation to a prosperous media company.

Priyanka Choudhary

To Wear Or Not To Wear

Per CDC recommendations, wearing facemasks in public places is a requirement, particularly when social distancing is a challenge. When worn correctly, face masks create a barrier that reduces the spray of a person's spit and respiratory droplets. These droplets play a key role in the spread of COVID-19 because they can carry SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Much of the population supports wearing facemasks in public to help minimize the spread of the new coronavirus. CDC recommendations were made based on COVID transmission and infection data, yet there is still a significant number in the American populace who refuse to wear masks in public.

Those who do not wear masks have several lines of reasoning. Some argue that masks can have a negative impact on your health, and even suggest that wearing masks can increase infection rates. However, wearing a mask does not weaken your immune system nor does it increase your chances of getting sick if exposed to the COVID-19 virus. In fact, the impact is the opposite. Epidemiologists note that masks can prevent many infections altogether and are therefore mandatory for healthcare workers. The idea is that masks reduce the number of viral particles that enter the body, and thus minimize the degree of illness. This is known as the dose-mortality curve, which shows that there is a specific number of viral particles that are needed before infection or death can occur. Smaller numbers can be more immediately addressed by your immune system.

There have also been concerns that face masks for children can reduce oxygen intake and can lead to low blood oxygen levels. However, face masks are made from breathable materials that should not block the oxygen your child needs. Masks will also not affect your child's ability to focus or learn in school. Most children age 2 or older can safely wear a mask for extended periods of time, and this includes children with many medical conditions. There are also claims that masks will affect a child's lung development; this is also a misconception, given that masks allow oxygen to move freely around.

There have been false reports that face coverings can lead to carbon dioxide poisoning (known as hypercapnia) from re-breathing the air we normally breathe out. However, carbon dioxide molecules are very tiny, even smaller than respiratory droplets. They cannot be trapped by breathable materials like masks. In fact, surgeons wear tight fitting masks all day as part of their jobs, without any harm.

Though there are many who pushback on mask wearing, there are also population subsets that will always wear masks. Data shows that mask wearing is especially seen with family members who have lost someone to the virus. According to Dr. Arnold Hopland, the founder of Medical Care PLLC, when people are wearing masks, they are doing so to protect their neighbors. Many people agree and consider that the decision to wear a mask is more about public health than personal choice – it is generally considered more respectful to wear a mask in public.

Gender disparity in wearing masks is also an interesting consideration. According to the NY Times, men are less likely to believe they'd be seriously affected by Covid-19 and more likely to view wearing masks as a sign of weakness. Alternatively, many people in the US who don't wear masks may see it as a sign of solidarity, as if they are together making a stand against some principles, while those who do wear masks likely see it "as an act of altruism and a way of helping each other out".

Unfortunately, the wearing of masks has become a catalyst for political conflict where scientific evidence is often viewed through a partisan lens. According to a report from the Pew Research Center, most from one political belief support the wearing of masks, whereas most from the other political belief do not.

With constant variations in infection and transmission rates, there is no reason to not wear a mask, especially when in proximity with others. There are very few and rare medical conditions that warrant alternatives or special considerations. Some people, particularly children, with sensory processing disorders may be unable to tolerate masks. Facial deformities that are incompatible with masking are also a category of exemption. Others CDC exemptions include (but are not limited to): skin allergies, sensory disabled (mute, hearing impaired), sensory hypersensitivity due to developmental disorders or psychological reactions to facemasks, and COPD or reactive airway disease (asthma) which may cause trouble breathing in some patients due to use of facemasks. In these cases, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) fights for the disabled people in justifying the validity of these medical reasons for not wearing a mask. The ADA is an anti-discrimination civil rights law intended to provide legal protections to Americans with disabilities. Both the ADA and the Department of Justice have made it clear that there are no medical reasons that absolve an individual from mask-wearing, however, without replacing it with a similar measure that would meet public health requirements.

There are ways to overcome challenges with facemasks so that people still stay safe while being mindful of public health. For example, many use face-shields instead of facemasks. Using a face-shield can be challenging because many public places require customers to wear face masks before entering an establishment. Another alternative is to use clear face covering, for example, using a transparent fan as cover; which is particularly useful when sensory disabled people may need to lip read. Although these measures are not very safe, they can certainly minimize the spread of covid-19.

For people with COPD, the best way to prevent coronavirus is to avoid coming into contact with anyone with the virus and to practice social distancing. Other prevention methods are to use a delivery service for groceries, medications, and other needs, and to ask family members, friends or volunteers to do your errands for you.

In the above cases, where the person is truly unable to wear a face mask due to an actual disability, alternative solutions must be considered, especially in the workplace. In this situation, if the individual makes a request for an accommodation due to disability, employers practicing state mandates would need to engage in an interactive process under ADA and evaluate whether a reasonable means to accommodate exists. Possible solutions may include: the use of alternate types of face covering, adding physical barriers or working in more isolated areas, and working

remotely. If all else fails, employers must allow a leave of absence until face covering are no longer required.

With respect to visiting a store, it should be noted that people with disabilities are not the ones rushing to stores looking for grocery or other goods. Because, they know that they are the ones who are most likely to get COVID-19. Most often, disabled people will ask for other accommodations like curbside pickup or delivery for their groceries and other needs. In limited circumstances, there could be a situation in which a customer cannot wear a face mask due to a legitimate health reason, a business may not need to alter their face-mask required policy, but in any event, should attempt to accommodate that customer in an alternative manner that would continue to protect the store's employees and other customers while also providing service to the customer.

In general, there are very few reasons why masks should not be worn. It is easy to state discomfort or freedom of choice as reasons to not wear masks. However, in those cases, people must understand that their choice to not wear masks can rob others from a choice to live a healthy life and be with their families. Especially with the current state of the country, it is critical that we look out for each other and encourage safe practices until better days become more common.

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Chandana Pradhan



Reaching out for the silver lining

In 2020 amidst a ranging pandemic the district of South Brunswick honored an eleven-year tradition of engaging students through a common reading experience called SB reads. The theme of the program: silver linings---- encouraging students to find their own bright spot and read about characters who discovered their silver lining amidst challenges and setbacks. Soon the prophetic line “there’s always a silver liningfind yours” appeared on every school communication as a crisp banner at bottom of a white sky of an A4. I too scribbled the words on paper, taped it onto the windowpane where my daughter would hopefully see it between break out rooms and share screens. I forgot the maxim, but it's winds began to blow in my home.

One day as I pulled the screen away from the window the line showed itself on the paper, now dangling by a single tape. I pondered what the phrase could mean in a broader context and was led to write and find out. How can we today living in a virtual world with scarce in person interactions with friends and loved ones find our bright spot and importantly continue going back to it every single day? Does finding our bright spot equate to a pool of talent or an eager yearning, a righteous thirst? And will not working on the silver lining save us, our world and the world at large? As a writer once wrote, we work on the “it” or believe we are working on the “it” and before we know it the “it” begins to work on us, begins to tie the tides and ebbs of our days, braid little joys and big worries to transmute into wonderful pieces of artistic expression or munificent humanitarian causes.

Dr Seuss in his seminal book *Oh the places you will go* urges his readers to find the grit inherent in them through life’s highs and lows. An extract:

But On you will go though the weather be foul

On you will go though your enemies prowl

On you will go through the Haken - kaks howl

Onward many up a frightening creeks

Though your arms may get sore

And your sneakers leak

So how exactly are we to go through these dips, highs and curves in leaking sneakers? Is the bright spot or silver lining a distant thing to work towards or is it a miniscule joy with after glows that sliver through our days?

For my daughter, an elementary school student finding the bright spot was instant.....art she trumpeted. Art with its messy, bold strokes, its orange-pink blobs on the sky, the yellow and green, inaccessible community park swings or the dark night curtain with silvery stars and a coarse, three

quarter moon. Art because it makes her relax, separates her brain cells, slows the trail of her breath. Art that makes her believe in the unitive beauty that we are all made of the same powdery dust of the universe, our yellow laughter, grey fears, periwinkle dreams. Did not the painter Vincent Van Gogh justify his work (silver lining) with the seething words?----- “ *I am seeking. I am striving. I am in it with all my heart.*” Her friend’s bright spot evokes a sense of power, a controlled tensile strength as she displays a series of karate chops then with a jungle yell cuts the air with a fiery kick to twirl and land on her resting place where it all began. Her eyes are aglow after meeting her strength. Undoubtedly their silver linings allow the steam to let off their overwhelmed minds and bouncing bodies.

For the writers ----- us who attempt to trap thoughts that scuttle away like home spiders or attempt to move the obstinate rocks of words around, a silver lining beckons to that horizon where hoary poets and writers assemble----- a livewire that briefly presents itself within our beings on the completion of a poem, a story---- until we decide to chase it again for a new tale around the bend. Speaking for myself the silver lining evokes the gunmetal image of a parallel bar with longitudinal pipes of reading-touching the heart of words, teaching-sharing----- to then welcome the horizontal welds of the written words. Every day, I haul my spirit up to build the thought muscles, stare at the blinking cursor, the lined clouds on my notebook, wrestle with the muse for my share of stories.

Meanwhile at our home we are reading the lodestar of all books: *Matilda* by Roald Dahl. Our hearts broke to read about the little, brilliant girl born to parents the absolute scum of the universe. But from the books she reads Matilda gleans true grit, the characters in the tomes reassuring her with the argent promise that she is not alone. She walks this tightrope of “you are not alone” to get across the valley of naysayers who believe she is a twit, a twerp, a mere girl harshly oblivious to her scintillant mind. Ultimately the blood of the written words she loves to read empower her to unleash a fitting revenge on the obnoxious, tyrannical headmistress Mrs. Trunchbull and to end her cruel reign. Indeed, the silver line “you are not alone” assures her way out of a wretched quagmire.

But doesn’t the luminous furrow also tether us to our days? our duties?..... yet lift us above drab, mandatory monotony. In Rumi’s words:

Work. Keep digging your well.

Don’t think about getting off from work

Submit to a daily practice

Your loyalty to that is a ring on the door.

Often this band of working hope arises from dead end situations, indicating a u turn to the despondent being. Nisha Madhulika, the 62 year chef youtuber began sharing vegetarian recipes on her blog as she struggled to come to terms with the empty nest syndrome. All she knew was to cook lip smacking dishes and this is what she offered from her corner of the world. She now has over 10.4 million subscribers and countless cookbooks to her credit. A dear, elderly lady in my extended family faced difficulties going through similar changes and isolation. Her husband was retired, the children grown up and living their challenges. Moreover, the grandchildren she fed and looked after were now independent, Myspace teenagers. The malaise of not being needed made her count each heavy, empty day. She needed a spark, the whit of a fire to energize her life. I thought about her considerable pool of talents and encouraged her to begin knitting again, a craft she possessed unparalleled mastery over. But a frozen shoulder further clamped her dexterity and knitting needles. So instead, she began knitting accessories requiring less effort like caps, gloves, mufflers, an absolute must in Delhi’s unforgiving winters. The vibrant Scandinavian and English color palettes made up for the reduced intricacy of pattern. Her

grandkids uploaded her designs on local whatsapp groups, Instagram and now aunty is flooded with orders or should I say neighborhood requests. Once a week aunty holds classes to share her talent. She has no desire to build an empire but the fuzzy, wooly, multicolored silver lining now cloaks her days in the warmth of being needed, appreciated. Both women and countless like them decided the scope of their work but were undoubtedly taken beyond the limitations of their current situations by discovering their glowing spot.

For the noble ones, the silver lining comprises serving others. I often observe successful people unwilling to face the space within that remains empty, the space seeking more, the more that does not fill up with a quick upload seeking fame. To chase the more, one requires stepping into the wilderness of uncertainty. A particular gentleman, a dear family friend is a lion in the corporate world. He flies a personal plane to taste freedom of skies and crafts furniture out of chunks of wood. While the thoughts shape up within him, he leaves no stone unturned coordinating logistics to feed hundreds at a huge soup kitchen of New Jersey. Halfway around the world India's biggest philanthropist Azim Premji shares half of his wealth with the needy. Sue Gandhi of Illinois featured in NBS news is another one. She converted her garage into a food pantry for the last ten years. Her silver lining comprises asking two big hearted questions: "what do you need?", "How can I help you?"

Irrespective of our resources the silver lining calls to the highest in all of us. Finding this silver lining makes our personal grievances feel like nasty bumps on the road, necessitating a mere changing of gears. When we create or perform something pure, an act beyond us made possible by harnessing all that is challenged, often broken but onward marching within us, we become a working cog in the universe's time machine. Perhaps tilting the axis of our deeds to serve this world or creating something sublime to discover(save) ourselves is the answer to finding the lambent silver lining-----by whichever way..... dancing, painting, writing, or sprinting towards it-----the "it" of a luminous yearning, the torch lighting gravelly pathways and shrouded, beating caverns.



Deepti Paikray is a mom and freelance writer residing in New Jersey USA. She teaches writing, yoga and loves to prod at stories lurking beneath the dust of life.

ODIA SECTION



ମା ସରସ୍ୱତୀ ପୂଜା

ମା ସରସ୍ୱତୀ ବିଦ୍ୟା, ଜ୍ଞାନ, କଳା, ସଂଗୀତ ଆଉ ଶିକ୍ଷ୍ୟା ର ଠାକୁରାଣୀ । ସାରା ଭାରତ ବର୍ଷରେ ବସନ୍ତ ପଞ୍ଚମୀ ଦିନ ମା ସରସ୍ୱତୀଙ୍କୁ ବହୁତ ଧ୍ୟାନରେ ପୂଜା କରା ଯାଏ । ସାଧାରଣତଃ ସବୁ ବିଦ୍ୟାର୍ଥୀ ମାନେ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ପାଠଶାଳା ରେ ମା ସରସ୍ୱତୀଙ୍କୁ ପୂଜା କରନ୍ତି । ପୂଜା ଦିନ ବିଦ୍ୟାର୍ଥୀ ମାନେ ପାଠଶାଳାକୁ ରଙ୍ଗ ବେରଂଗ ର ପତାକା ଏବଂ କଦଳୀ ବୃକ୍ଷ ରେ ସଜାନ୍ତି । ବିଦ୍ୟାର୍ଥୀ ମାନେ ସକାଳୁ ଗାଧୋଇ, ଉପବାସ କରି ପୂଜା ପାଇଁ ଘରୁ ବାହାରି ଯାନ୍ତି । ପୂଜା ପାଇଁ ଫୁଲ, ଫଳ, ନଡ଼ିଆ ଆଉ କଲମ ବା ପେନସିଲ ବା ବହି ସହିତ ମା ସରସ୍ୱତୀଙ୍କୁ ପୂଜା କରନ୍ତି । ପୂଜା ସମୟରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ଭଲ ପାଠ ହେବା ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା କରନ୍ତି । ପୂଜା ସରିଲେ, ପଞ୍ଚାମୃତ ପାଇଁ ସମସ୍ତେ ଅରୁଆ ଭାତ, ଡାଲ୍ଲା ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ଖାନ୍ତି । ସେ ଦିନ ପାଠ ପଢ଼ା ବନ୍ଦ । ତା ପରଦିନ ଭସାଣି ସରିଲେ, ବିଦ୍ୟାର୍ଥୀ ମାନେ ମା ସରସ୍ୱତୀଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ ପୂଜା କରିଥିବା କଲମ ବା ବହି ରୁ ପାଠ ପଢ଼ା ଆରମ୍ଭ କରନ୍ତି ।

ଅନୁଜ ନାୟକ
Grade 3



ରାମଚନ୍ଦ୍ର, ରାବଣକୁ ମାରିବି ଯାତା ଆଉ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମଣଙ୍କ ସାଙ୍ଗରେ
ପୁଷ୍ପକ ଦ୍ଵୀପାନରେ ଅଯୋଧ୍ୟା ଫେରିଥିଲେ ।

ରଞ୍ଜିତା ପ୍ରଧାନ

ବୋଇଟ ବନ୍ଦୀ-ପୁରାତନ ପ୍ରଥା

ଆଜ୍ଞା ମା ବୋଇଟ, ବନ୍ଦୀ ବାଆଁ ଥୋଇ
ବନ୍ଦୀ ବାଆଁ ଥୋଇ, ମାଗନ୍ନ ପରମ
ଗୋର ।

ଓଜା ଭିଆ-ବୋଇଟ ବନ୍ଦୀ ଓଡ଼ିଶା
ରେ ପ୍ରାଚୀନ ପରମ୍ପରା । ଏହି ପର୍ବ
ଆମ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଗୌରବ ଗାଥା
କୁହେ ।

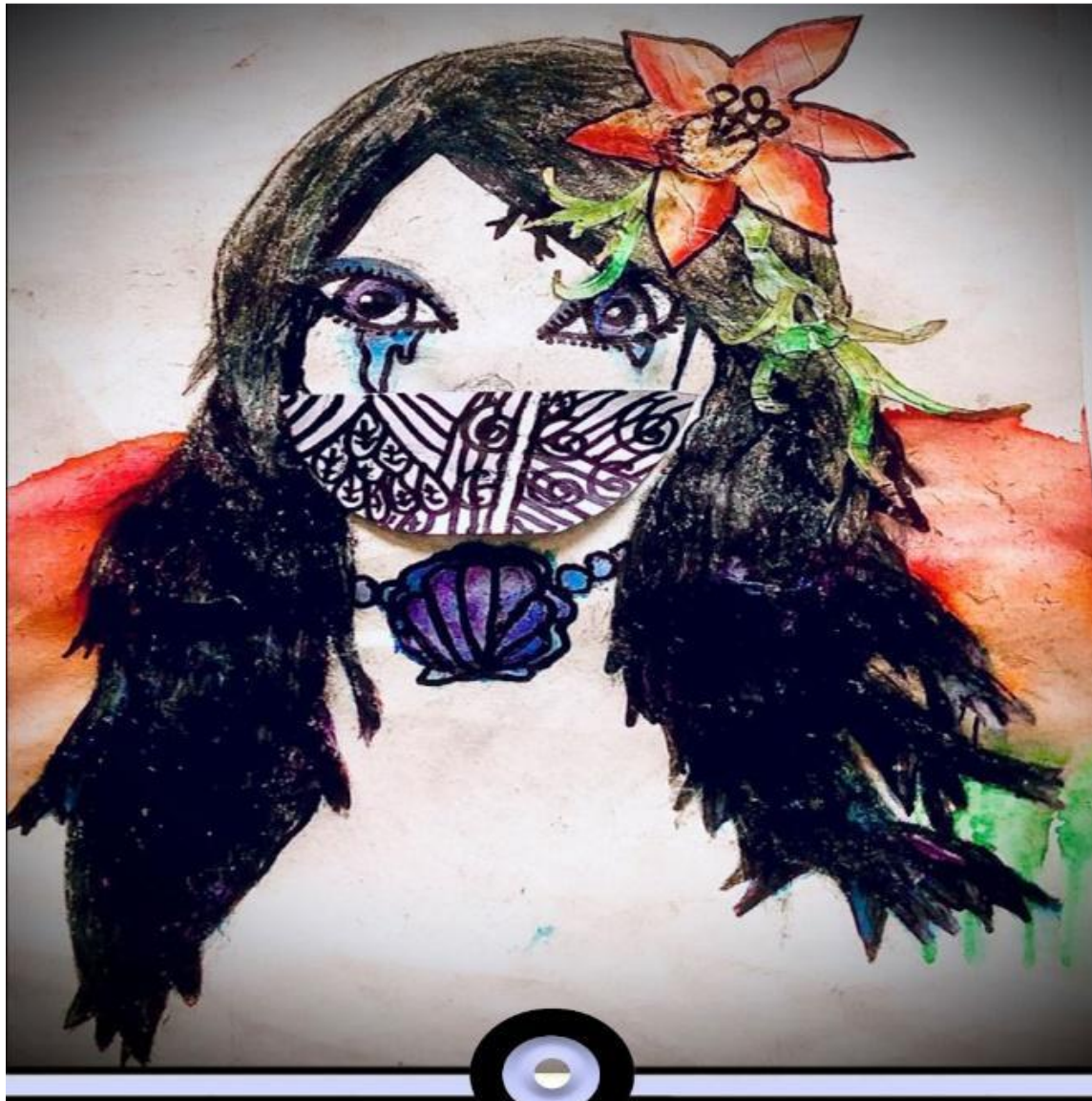
ପୁରୀ ଜାଲର ଯାଏବୁଦ୍ଧ (Sea Raiders)
ବନ୍ଦୀଜୀ କରିବାକୁ ଦୁଇ ଦ୍ଵୀପ
ଜାଣନ୍ତେ, ପ୍ରମାତ୍ରା, କୋଷ୍ଠ, ସେଣ୍ଟର
ଆଦି କି ବୋଇଟି ମାମୁଁ ତେ
ଯାତ୍ରା କରୁଥିଲେ । ଏହି ପ୍ରମାତ୍ରା ତେ
ଯାଏବୁଦ୍ଧ ମାତେ ବନ୍ଦୀଜୀ କରି ବିଦାୟ
କରୁଥିଲେ । ଓମାପାଞ୍ଚ ଅନୁକୂଳ
କରି ନ ଦରକାର ।

ଏବେ ଯେମିତି ପୁରୁଣା ଦିନ ଥାଉ
ମିହି, କିନ୍ତୁ ସ୍ମୃତି ଏବେ ଦିଅଛି ।

◆ ସିତଳା ସଂକଳ୍ପ ◆ Grade-3



Siona Sarangi
Grade 3



ପକ୍ଷମ ଦୁର୍ଭିକ୍ଷି ସୁଖେ ସୁଖେ ପ୍ରମାଦିତେ
 ଅଗ୍ନି ହୃଦିକା ମୋ ଆକ୍ଷୁଣ୍ଣେ ବୃକ୍ଷିତେ
 ପହିପାର୍ଶ୍ଵେ ଛୁସିଲ ଆକାଶା ବିଚ୍ଛିତ
 ତଥାପି ମୋ ମନ ଜଣା ପାଶ୍ଵେ ବିଚ୍ଛିତ

ଶ୍ରେୟା ଶାତପଥୀ
 ପଞ୍ଚମ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ



ମୁଆଁଖାଇ ଦିବ୍ଦୀର



ମୁଆଁଖାଇ

ମୁଆଁଖାଇ ଭସଲିଯେ
 ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ବସୁଡ଼
 ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଆଉ
 କୁହୁଥାଉ। ମୁଆଁଖାଇ
 ପଶୁମ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର
 ଏକ ବଡ଼ ପର୍ବ। ଏହି
 ଦିନ ଚାଷୀ ମାନେ ମୁଆଁ
 ଧାନ ପୁଢ଼ା କରନ୍ତି। ଏଭଳି
 ଆଗେ ଗଣେଶ ପୁଜା
 ପରଦିନ ପାଳନ କରୁ।
 ଏହି ଦିନ ଗୋଟିଏ ମିଠିଆ
 ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ସମସ୍ତେ
 ମିଶିକି ପୁଢ଼ା କରନ୍ତି।
 ଆଗ ସମସ୍ତେ
 ତାଙ୍କ ଗ୍ରାମ ଯେବା

ଆଉ ଦେଶଟାକୁ ପ୍ରଥମ ଧାର ଅର୍ପଣ
କରନ୍ତି, ତାପରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ମିଳି
ତ୍ୟାଗାନ୍ତି, ଏହିଦିନ ସମସ୍ତେ ନୂଆ ପୋଷାକ
ପିନ୍ଧିଥାନ୍ତି, ଏହା ଏକ ପାରମ୍ପାରିକ,
ଭ୍ରାତୃଭାଇ ଓ ଏକତାର ପର୍ବ, ଏହି ଦିନ
ସିଏ ପୋରଠି ଥାଆନ୍ତି ସମସ୍ତେ ଆସି
ଏକତ୍ରିତ ହୁଅନ୍ତି, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଗୋଟିଏ ଭାଜ୍ୟ
ପୋରଠି କାର ମାସରେ ଛେର ପର୍ବ ପାଳନ
କରାଯାଏ, ଆଉ ନୂଆଁଖାଇ ସେଥିରୁ
ଗୋଟିଏ ବଡ଼ ପର୍ବ,

Nuakhai is a harvest and agricultural festival in Odisha. This festival is observed annually the day after Ganesh chaturthi. Nuakhai means new grain as the word "nua" means new, and "khai" means food. Therefore, the festival of Nuakhai is celebrated to welcome and worship the new grain of the season.



- ସରସ୍ୱତୀ ପୂଜା - ତା ୧୦/୨/୨୦୧୯
ଅଦିତି ମଲ୍ଲିକ

ସରସ୍ୱତୀ ପୂଜା, ଯାହାକୁ ଶ୍ରୀ ପଞ୍ଚମୀ, କିମ୍ବା
 ବସନ୍ତ ପଞ୍ଚମୀ ରୂପେ ଜଣାଶୁଣା । ଏହି ପର୍ବଟି
 କେବଳ ଭାରତ ନୁହେଁ - ବରଂ ଅନ୍ୟ ଏସିଆ
 ଦେଶ ମାନଙ୍କରେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ରୂପେ ପାଳନ କରା-
 ଯାଉଥାଏ । ଆମେନାରେ ସରସ୍ୱତୀ ପୂଜା କରି,
 ବସନ୍ତ ଋତୁର ଆଗମନକୁ ସ୍ୱାଗତ କରିଥାନ୍ତି ।
 ଏହି ବର୍ଷ ସରସ୍ୱତୀ ପୂଜା ଫେବୃଆରୀ ମାସ
 ଷୋହଳ ତାରିଖରେ ପାଳନ କରାଯିବ ।

ବସନ୍ତ ପଞ୍ଚମୀ ସରସ୍ୱତୀ ଦେବୀଙ୍କର ପୂଜା
 ପାଇଁ ରସୁଗା ହୋଇଥାଏ । ଦେବୀ ସରସ୍ୱତୀ,
 ଯାହାଙ୍କୁ ମଧ୍ୟ ବୀଣାପାଣି କୁହାଯାଏ, ସେ ହେଉ-
 ତୁଣ୍ଡି ସୁର, ଜ୍ଞାନ, କଳା, ବୁଦ୍ଧି, ଏବଂ କଣ୍ଠର
 ଅଧିଷ୍ଠାତ୍ରୀ । ତ୍ରିଦେବୀଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରୁ ସରସ୍ୱତୀ
 ଦେବୀ ଜଣେ ଏବଂ ସେ ତ୍ରିମୂର୍ତ୍ତିଙ୍କ ସମୂହ
 ବିଶ୍ୱର ସମ୍ବଳନ ରଖିଥାନ୍ତି । ମା' ସରସ୍ୱତୀ ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛ
 ଧର୍ମ ଓ ଲାଲ୍ ବସ୍ତ୍ର ପରିଧାନ କରି, ପଦ୍ମ ପୁଲ୍

ଉପରେ ବିରାଜିତ । ଆମ୍ଭେମାନେ ସରସ୍ୱତୀ
 ପୂଜା ଦିନ ଧଳା ବସ୍ତ୍ର ପିନ୍ଧିଥାଉ କାରଣ
 ଏହା ସୁକ୍ଷ୍ମତାର ପ୍ରତୀକ । ମା' ସରସ୍ୱତୀ
 ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରଭୂଜ ଧାରଣୀ, ଦୁଇ ହସ୍ତରେ ବୀଣା ଧାରଣ
 କରିଥାନ୍ତି, ଏବଂ ଏକ ହସ୍ତରେ ପୁସ୍ତକ, ଓ ଅନ୍ୟ
 ହସ୍ତରେ ପୁଷ୍ପକ ମାଳା । ସରସ୍ୱତୀ ମା'ଙ୍କ
 ପାଖରେ ସର୍ବଦା ଏକ ମୟୂର ଏବଂ ଏକ ହଂସ
 ବାହୀର ଉପସ୍ଥିତ । ହସ୍ତର ପୁସ୍ତକ ଜ୍ଞାନ, ପୁଷ୍ପକ
 ମାଳା ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ, ଜଳପାତ୍ର ବିଦେକ, ଏବଂ ବୀଣା
 ସମନ୍ୱୟର ପ୍ରତୀକ ।

ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ, ସରସ୍ୱତୀ ପୂଜା କେବଳ
 ଗୋଟିଏ ଦିନ ପାଇଁ ପାଳନ କରାଯାଏ ।
 ଏହି ଦିନ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟରେ, ବିଦ୍ୟାର୍ଥୀମାନେ ପୁଷ୍ପର
 ମାଳା ବନ୍ଦେଇଥାନ୍ତି, ଏବଂ ପାଠ ପଢ଼ାଯାଇଥାଏ
 ବିଦ୍ୟାର୍ଥୀମାନେ ସ୍ନାନ କରି, ସରସ୍ୱତୀଙ୍କର ଆସ୍ଥାନ
 ପରିଷ୍କାର ସ୍ତ୍ରୀକୃତ କରି ଆରାଧନା କରିଥାନ୍ତି ।
 ପୂଜାର ଶେଷ ସମୟରେ ପୁଷ୍ପାଞ୍ଜଳି ଅର୍ପଣ କରିଥାନ୍ତି ।

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ମଙ୍ଗଳଯାନ ଭାରତ ଦ୍ୱାରା ମଙ୍ଗଳକୁ
ପଠାଯାଇଥିବା ପ୍ରଥମ ଉପଗ୍ରହ । ଏହି କୁଡ଼ିମ
ଉପଗ୍ରହକୁ ୨୦୧୪ ମସିହାରେ PSLV ରକେଟ
ଦ୍ୱାରା ଶ୍ରୀହରିକୋଟା ରୁ ଉତ୍ତରାଘଟ ଜିଲ୍ଲାରେ
ଭାରତ ଏହି ଅଭିଯାନ କୁ ଅତି ଜମ
ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚରେ ପୁରା କରିଦାରିଥିଲା ।
କୁଡ଼ିମାଏ କି ଏହା ଉପରେ ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ହୋଇଥିବା
ଟଙ୍କା ଦୁଇଭଡ଼ ଲେବିଲି STAR WARS
ରେ ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ହୋଇଥିବା ବାଣୀ ଠାରୁ
ମଧ୍ୟ କମ । ଏହି ଅଭିଯାନରେ
କିଲୋମିଟର ପିଛା ମାତ୍ର ୭ ଟଙ୍କା
ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ହୋଇଥିଲା , ଯାହାକି
ଭାରତ ରେ ଚାଲୁଥିବା ଅଟୋଭିକସା
ରୁଟା ଠାରୁ ମଧ୍ୟ କମ ।
ମଙ୍ଗଳ ଯାନ ଅଭିଯାନ ଭାରତ ଦାକ୍
ଏକ ଗୌରବ ର ବିଷୟ ।



କୁମାର ଅର୍ଣ୍ଣବ

Kumar Arnav
Grade 7



Maa Saraswati is the goddess of knowledge and wisdom. Maa Saraswati is elegantly attired in pure white outfit sitting on a white lotus. The color white signifies purity, true knowledge, and divine wisdom. In her 4 hands she holds Veda's, a crystal mala, a kalash, and veena. The Veda's symbolise universal truth and knowledge. The crystal mala symbolises the power of meditation and spirituality. The kalash stands for creativity, flow of knowledge and the power of purification and the veena signifies perfection in all arts and music. A swan is the carrier of Maa Saraswati. It has incredible power to differentiate between real and unreal, right and wrong. The peacock and the swan symbolize equilibrium between reason and emotion.

-By Aishani Sahoo

Grade 6

"ସଗା ଓ କର୍ମାଣ୍ଡା"

ଘୋଡ଼ିଏ ବର୍ଷା ପରଗଛ ପାଖରେ ଘୋଡ଼ା ଘୋଡ଼ା ଘୋଡ଼ା । ପରଗଛରେ କେତେ
 କେତେ ପକ୍ଷୀଙ୍କୁ ଦେଖା । ସେଠି କେତେକ ମଧ୍ୟ ରହେ । ଘୋଡ଼ା ଘୋଡ଼ାରେ
 ମାଛ କର୍ମାଣ୍ଡା ଉତ୍ପତ୍ତର । ପ୍ରାୟେକ ଦିନ ସିନା ଘୋଡ଼ା ଘୋଡ଼ା କିଲରେ
 ସମସ୍ତ ମାଛ ଖାଏ । ସେ ଉପିଲା ଖାଏରେ ସମସ୍ତ ମାଛଙ୍କୁ ଚାହିଁ ଚାହିଁ
 ଘୋଡ଼ା ଦେଖି ଖାଏ ଥାଏ ଆଉ ଆଖିକୁ ଉଲ ଘୋଡ଼ା ଘୋଡ଼ା । ତାର ମନକୁ
 ଘୋଡ଼ା ବୁଦ୍ଧି ଆସିଲା । ତୁଳସୀ ମାଳ ପକାଇ, ସମସ୍ତ ଲଗାଇ ଘୋଡ଼ା
 କିଲରେ ସମସ୍ତ ରାମ ନାମ ଲେଖିଲା ।

ମାଛ ମାଛ କହିଲେ ସଗା ମଉସା ତୁମର ଏକି ରୂପ । ଭଣ୍ଡା ସଗା
 କହିଲା ମୁଁ ସତେଜ ଯାଉଥିଲି ମୁଁ ଅନୁଭବ କଲି ଜୀବ ହୃଦୟ ।
 ମହା ପାପ । ଏଣୁ ମୁଁ ମନସାସୀ ହେଲ ଆମିଷ ନ ଖାଇବାକୁ ଚିପିଥା
 ନେଇଛି ।

ମାଛମାଛ ସଗା ମଧ୍ୟର କଥାରେ ବିଶ୍ୱାସ କରି ଗଲେ । ତାପର ଦିନ ସଗା
 ଆଣି ଛୁଲ ଛୁଲ କରି ଆସି ମାଛ ମାଛ କହିଲା ପତେଙ୍ଗ ଚୁ ଫେରିଲା
 ବେଳେ ଚାଣିଲି କେଉଟିମାନେ ଘୋଡ଼ା ଘୋଡ଼ା ଘୋଡ଼ା ଘୋଡ଼ା ଘୋଡ଼ା
 ତମ ମାନଙ୍କୁ ଧରି ନେବେ । ଏଥିପାଇଁ ଘୋଡ଼ା ମନ ବଡ଼ ଦୁଃଖୀ

ପରର ଉପକାର କଲେ ସ୍ୱର୍ଗମିଳିବ । ମୁଁ ଭବିଷ୍ଟ ତମ ମନକୁ ଘୋ
 ପିଟରେ ସମାଧି ପାଶ ଘୋଡ଼ା ଘୋଡ଼ା ଘୋଡ଼ା ଦେଖି । ମାଛ ମାନଙ୍କୁ କଥାଟି
 ଭଲ ଲାଗିଲା । ସଗା ପ୍ରତି ଦିନ ମାଛ ମାନଙ୍କୁ ନେଇ ନିକଟରେ ଘୋଡ଼ା ଏ
 ପଥର ଉପରେ ରଖି ଆରାମରେ ଖାଏ ।

କେତେ ଦିନ ବିତିଗଲା । ଦିନେ କର୍ମାଣ୍ଡାଟିଏ କହିଲେ ମଉସା ଦୟା କରି
 ଘୋଡ଼ା ବି ଆଉ ଘୋଡ଼ା ଘୋଡ଼ା ଘୋଡ଼ା ଘୋଡ଼ା ଦିଆ କର୍ମାଣ୍ଡା ଘୋଡ଼ା ଘୋଡ଼ା
 ଘୋଡ଼ା ସଗା ଘୋଡ଼ା କର୍ମାଣ୍ଡାକୁ ପଠରେ ସମାଧି ଉଡ଼ିଗଲା, ପଥର

"ପଞ୍ଚତାନ୍ତର"

ପାଖକୁ । କଙ୍କଡ଼ା ଘେନିଲା ଯୋଗୀରୀ ନାହିଁ କି ପଶି ନାହିଁ, ପଥର
ଉପରେ ପୁଲ୍ଲା ପୁଲ୍ଲା ମାଛୁ କିଣା । କଙ୍କଡ଼ା ଯାକୁ ଜାଣିଦେଲା ।
ଓର ଗୋଡ଼ରେ ବଗର ବେକକୁ ଚିପିଦେଲା । ଏବଂ ଯୋଗୀରୀକୁ
ଫେରି ଯାକୁ କଥା କହିଲା । ମାଛୁ ମାଲେ ମାନସୁଷଣ କଲେ କଙ୍କଡ଼ାକୁ
ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ କହିଲେ ।

ନୀତିଶିଳା - ବିନା ବିଚାରରେ କାହାରୀ ମାଧୁର କଥାରେ ଭାସିଯିବା
ଭରଷ ନୁହେଁ ।

* I got this story from "Panchatantra", with the help of my
grandpa.

ସମୁଦ୍ର କୂଳରେ ଏକ ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟୋଦୟ

ନିଦ ଲାଗିଥିଲା ଆଉ ମୁଁ ଚାଲିକି ସାଙ୍ଗ ମାନକୁ ପାଖକୁ
ଯାଇଥିଲି । ମୁଁ ଦେଖୁଥିଲି ଆକାଶ କୁ । ସବୁ ରଙ୍ଗ ଥିଲା । ମୁଁ
ଆଉ ମୋର ସାଙ୍ଗ ପାଣି ରେ ଚିକେ ଓଦା ହେଲୁ । ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟ
କୁ ଦେଖି ଆଉ ବେସି ଲାଲ ଲାଗିଥିଲା । ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଶୀଘ୍ର
ଉଠିଲେ ଆଉ ଲାଲ ରୁ ହଳଦିଆ ରଙ୍ଗ କୁ ବଦଳି ଗଲେ ।
ମୁଁ ପାଣି ଭିତରକୁ ଗଲି । ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଉଦୟ ହେଲେ ଆଉ
ଆମେ ବାଲିରେ ଜିନିଷ ତିଆରି କଲୁ । ମୁଁ ଏହାକୁ ପୁଣି
ଦେଖିବା ପାଇଁ ଫେରେ ଆସିବି ।



जगन्नाथ जी का अवतार ऐसा क्यों है?

माता यशोदा, माता देवकी और देवी सुभद्रा वृंदावन से दूरका आए हुए थे

और भगवान कृष्ण के बचपन की लीलाओं का आनंद ले रहे थे।

भगवान कृष्ण और बलराम बातें नहीं सुन सकें इसलिये देवी सुभद्रा को द्वारपाल बनाया गया था।

देवी सुभद्रा को भगवान कृष्ण की लीला इतनी अनंदमयी लगी के वो अंदर आकर खुशी से पिघल गयी।

इतने में भगवान कृष्ण और बलराम भी अपने बचपन की लीलाओं को सुनकर खुशी से स्तंभित हो गए।

बहन और दोनों भाइयों कि बड़ी आँखें, चौड़ी मुस्कान, छोटे हाथ और उनके पैर छोटे हो गए।

उस वक्त नारद मुनि वहाँ से गुज़र रहे थे और वो तीनों भगवान का ये रूप देख कर, तृप्त होकर तथा प्रसन्न होकर बोले आप इस रूप में कितने सुंदर लग रहे हो, यह अवतार आप कब लोगे।

तब भगवान कृष्ण बोले, हे नारद मुनि कलयुग में हम तीनों राजा इंद्रदूमना को निमित्त बनाकर यह अवतार लेंगे।

और इस तरह जगन्नाथ पुरी धाम में तीनों भगवान जगन्नाथ, बलभद्र और सुभद्रा माई के नाम से स्थापित हुए।



Devanshi Sahoo

Grade 5

ART SECTION



Alisha Nayak

6 years



Anuva Nayak

6 years



Ravya Patnaik
6 years

Uni the Unicorn super hero

Once upon a time there was a unicorn named Unica. She loved to play outside with her friends. One day her friends planned for a party in the park. Unica was so excited! When the party started she was so happy. And they also played games. After some time there was a big monster and the monster ruined ALL of the decorations and then it started to hurt the unicorns. Here comes the good part so please get some popcorn and get ready!

but don't get too much popcorn! Then the super unicorn named Uni/uni saved the day! Unica said thank you hadn't come we be hurt badly!

God if would Uni said worry I always to unicorns!

don't cause come help the end



Shivanski



Aarna Mallick
8 years



Gauri Paikray

Grade 3



Aarna Mallick

8 years



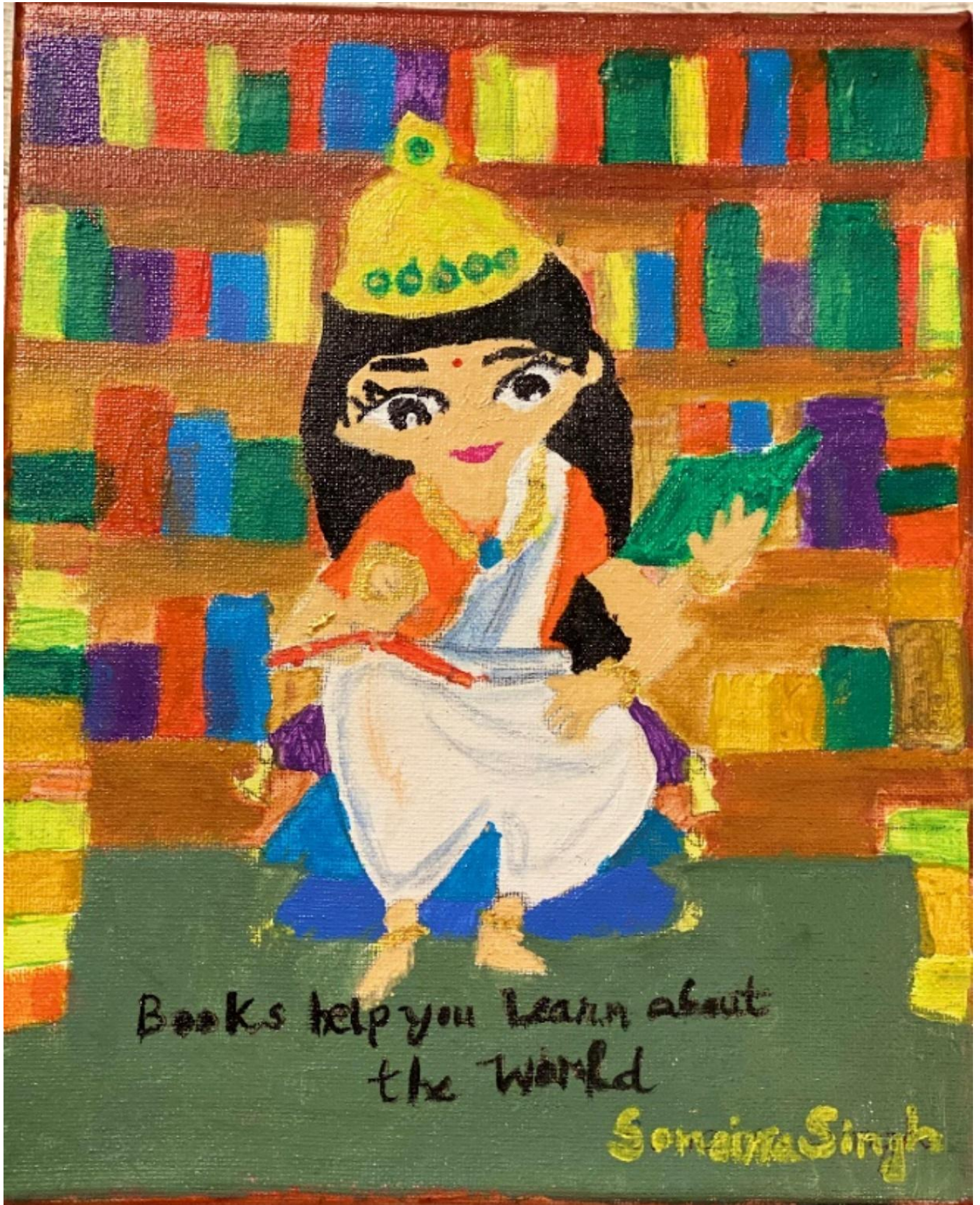
Sanskrit Jee

8 years



Siona Sarangi

8 years



Sonaira Singh

8 years



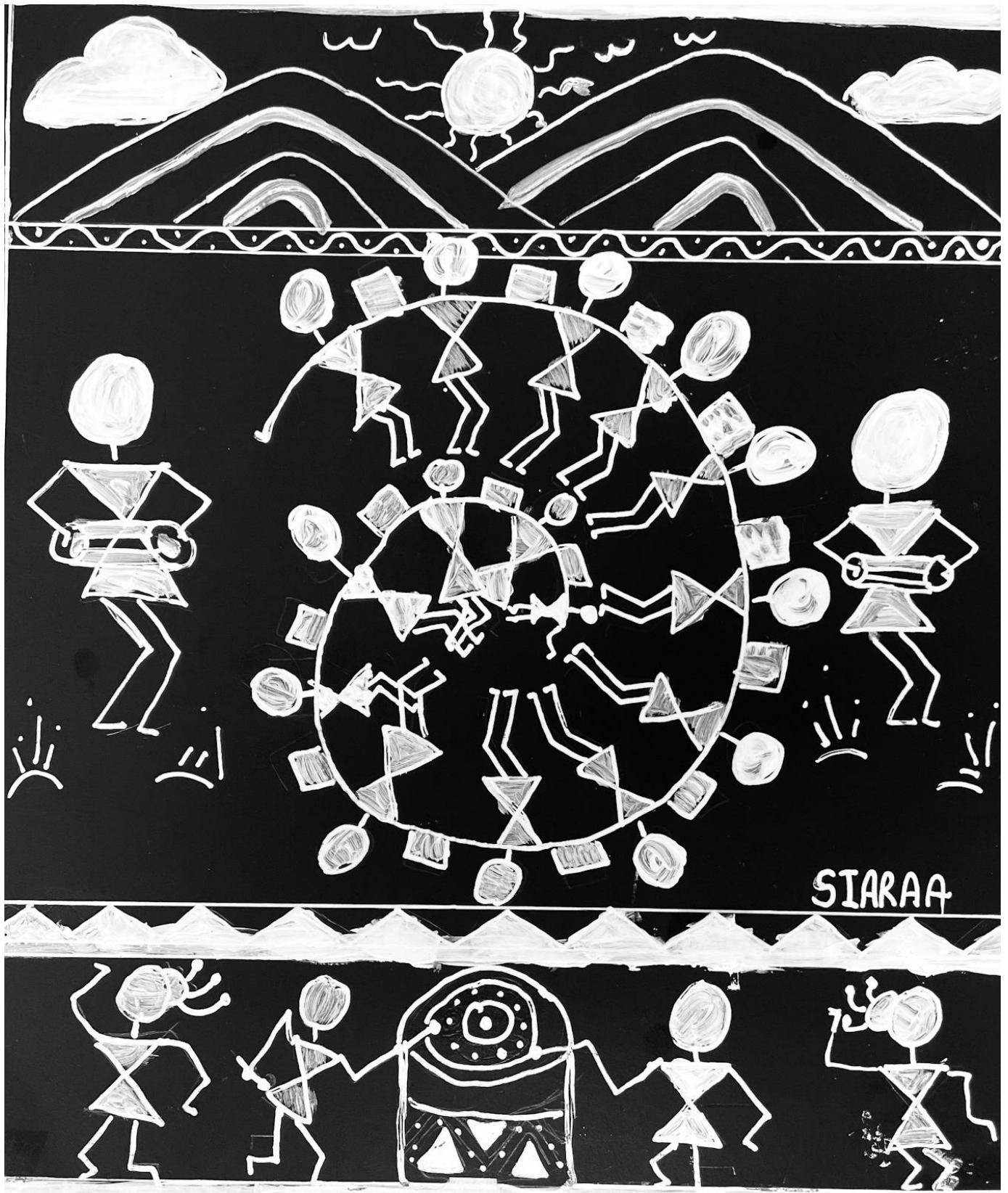
Arnesh Nayak

8 years



Saanvi Mishra

8 years



Siara Dalai

11 years

Om Om Namah Saraswati



By: Taruna Parija



Anushree Ghose
Grade 4



Anya Mahakud
10 years



Shivangi Mohapatra
11 years



Swarnab Roy
11 years



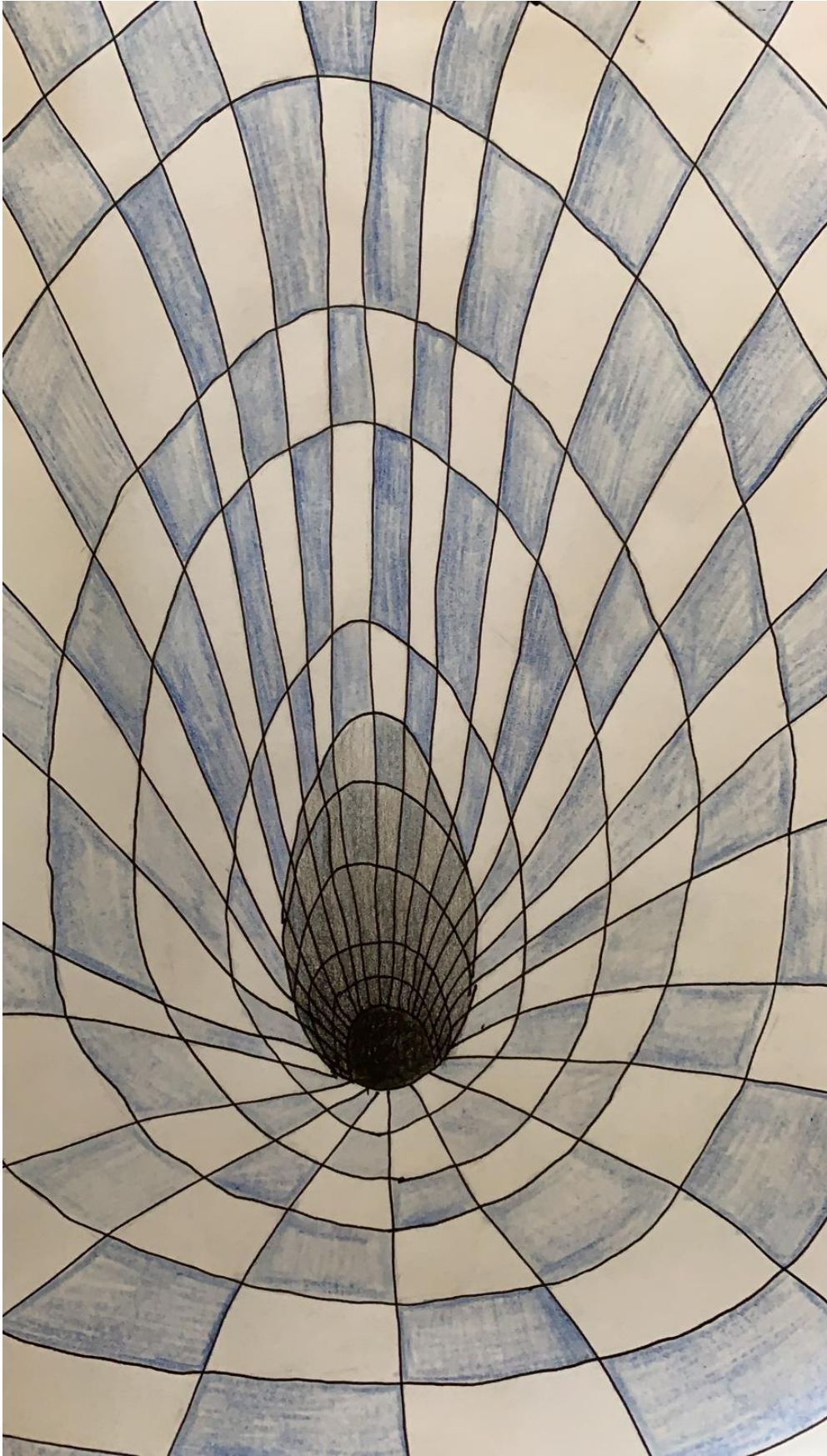
Aditi Paschimiray
11 years



Rishi Patnaik
11 years



Misha Das
12 years



Rohini Routray
Grade 7



Pallavi Routray
14 years



Sushmita Jyotishi



Manasi Nayak

PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION



Anshul Mahakud



Anshul Mahakud



Misha Panda



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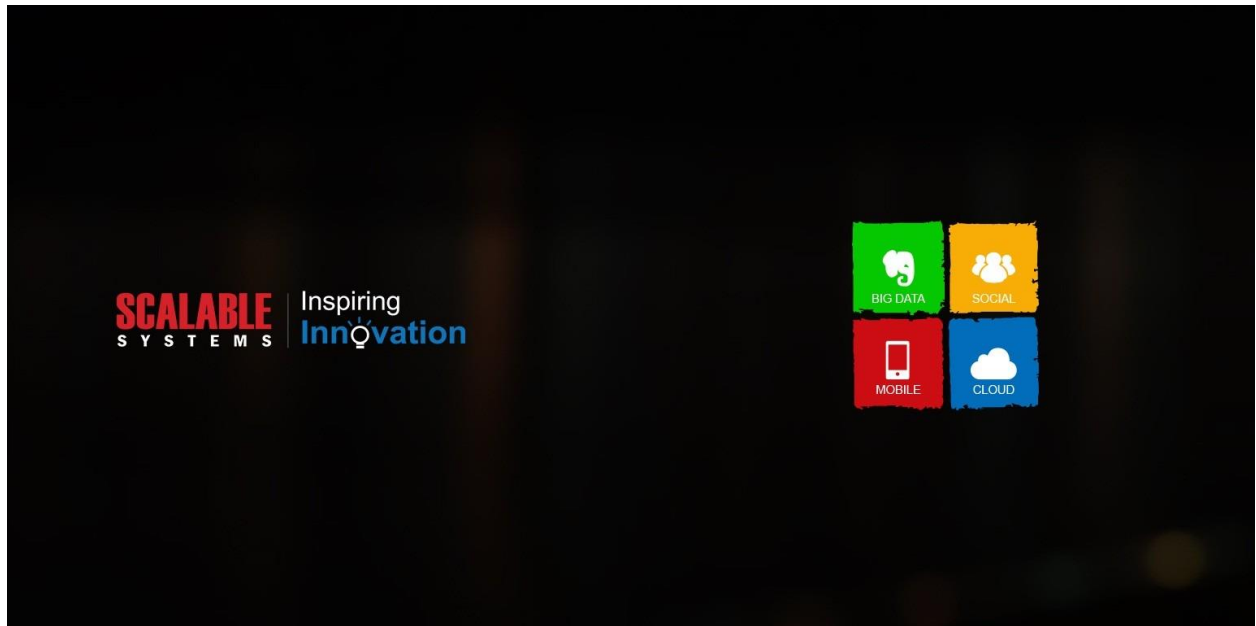
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The scores tell everything!

Students with Perfect scores

Pooja Prabhu	Hanover Park HS	Math 800
Meher Mangat	Morris Hills HS	Math 800
Ananya Sridharan	Randolph HS	Math 800
Nitish Kavarla	Hanover Park HS	Math 800
Laya Gollamsudi	Rye HS	Math 800
Kevin Zheng	Montville HS	Math 800
Jay Mulay	Montville HS	Math 800
Yogi Drave	Montclair Kimberley Academy	Math 800
Arif Husain	Al Gazali HS	Math 800
Suddeep Sanju	Millburn HS	Math 800
Neha Maddali	Newark Academy	ACT 36
...		

Students scored 1500+ in Recent SAT

Pooja Prabhu	Hanover Park High School
Meher Mangat	Morris Hills High School
Siya Kulkarni	Morris County School of Tech
Keshav Sridharan	Randolph High School
Rohan Tripathy	Randolph High School
Yogi Drave	Montclair Kimberley Academy
Laya Gollamsudi	Rye High School
Gregory Gallagher	West Essex High School
Nitish Kavarla	Hanover Park High School
Kevin Zheng	Montville High School
Mannat Singh	Wayne Hills High School
...	

Students enrolled in Prestigious Colleges

Arjun Rajkumar	Delbarton HS	University of Maryland
Asher Gilani	Montville HS	University of Maryland
Ishani Trivedi	Montville HS	Drexel-Integrated Medicine
Jackie Zheng	Montville HS	Cornell University
Khusbu Shah	Parsippany Hills HS	NYIT - Integrated Medicine
Nicholas Awertschenko	Montville HS	Dartmouth College
Nithya Reddy	Montville HS	NYU
Patrick Zhang	Delbarton HS	Brown University
Priya Shah	Parsippany Hills HS	University of Pittsburgh
Satyen Singh	Montville HS	NYU
Vivian Lee	Livingston HS	Cornell University

And the list goes on ...



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