

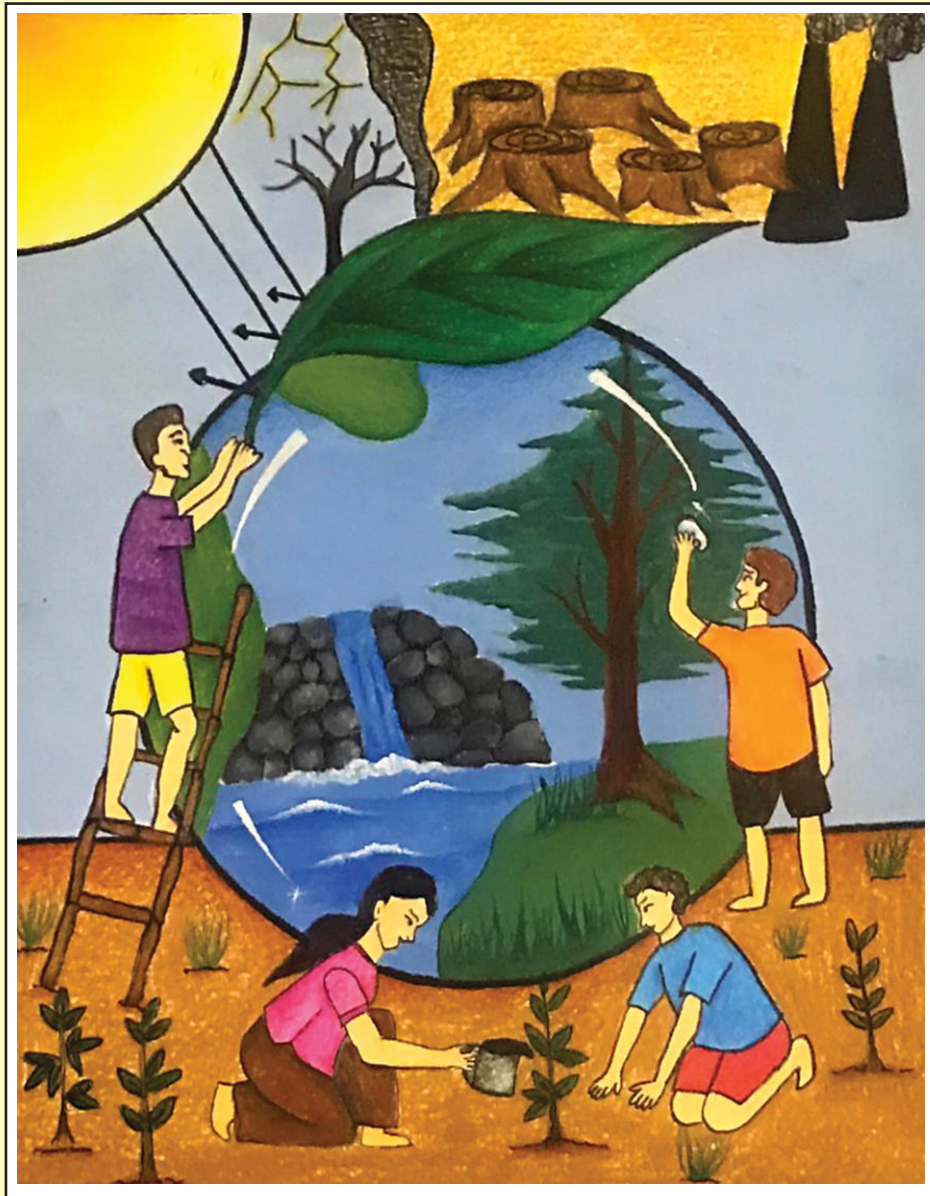
AUCKY e-NEWSLETTER



Auckland House School

SINCE 1866

Shimla (India)



Vidisha Jain - XI

'Art speaks where words fail.'

AUCKLAND HOUSE SCHOOL e-NEWSLETTER



Estd. 1866



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Most Rev. (Dr.) P.K. Samantaroy
Bishop & Chairman
Auckland House School, Shimla

Dear Friends,

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As we near the conclusion of another year, we see that each of us has been touched by the COVID-19 pandemic in some way or the other. We have experienced loss, grief, disappointment and despair. We have missed the company of friends and family.

At a time like this, it is even more important to celebrate life! Let us give thanks that we are alive to experience the beauty of God's wonderful creation.

Christmas is a time for joy and celebration. I urge you to be a light to those in darkness and share the joy of Christmas with them. Let each one of us use the blessings given to us to reach out to those in need. May our words and actions be wrapped with kindness, love and compassion.

I pray that God will continue to bless you and keep you safe.

May you have a meaningful and joyous Christmas!

Your Friend & Bishop
The Most Rev. (Dr.) P. K. Samantaroy
Chairman

MATTHEW

No
Surrender!

FRENCH

We Press
On!

DURRANT

Honour Before
Honours!

LEFROY

Play the
Game!



Little Ones

Children are not things to be moulded, but are people to be unfolded.



UPD

Only where children gather is there any real chance of fun.



Seniors

Tell me and I forget,
teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Auckyites and Friends of Aucky,
Greetings from Auckland House!!

With the session almost at a close, we come to you with a report on the year gone by.

Our Session this year began on a positive note, with a quiet morning of prayer and meditation, in which we were led by the Most Rev. (Dr.) P. K. Samantaroy, Chairman, Auckland House School, Shimla. The opening service conducted on 22nd February, set the tone for the year ahead with the Chairman encouraging us to dwell in gratitude on God's divine mercy and blessings on each of us during the past year. He urged us to introspect on how the Pandemic helped us become better versions of ourselves, by providing opportunities to reach out to others and walk the extra mile, drawing on strength we never knew we possessed.

It was with great enthusiasm that the IXth, Xth and XIIth Form returned on the 24th of February and the children of VI – VIII began online classes on the 1st of March. Nursery to Form V began School, virtually from the 8th of March.

The classes for ISC and ICSE students began on the 1st of March. The ISC and ICSE exams were scheduled to begin on 5th May but were initially postponed indefinitely, and later cancelled. The practicals for the ISC for Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Computer Science were conducted offline between 24th March and 16th April. The ICSE and ISC students were assessed on the basis of their class performance in Form IX & X and XI & XII respectively.

The lockdown for schools in Himachal began on 26th March, 2021. Since this was for the students, the Staff continued to come to school regularly and take online classes for dayscholars and offline for boarders. The boarders of IX, X, XII and ICSE, ISC stayed on till the 28th of April, after which they went home gradually with the last four girls leaving on 9th May. The dayscholars however, started Online Classes on the 27th of March.

This year we had 104 students enrolled for the ICSE examination, the highest score achieved at this level being, 93.4% by Yamini Pal. Our subjectwise highest in English was 91, Hindi – 98, Punjabi – 97, Mizo – 91, History, Civics & Geography – 94, Maths – 83, Science – 90, Computer Science – 96, Physical Education – 94, Economics Applications – 91. At the ICSE level, there were 89

distinctions. 43 children were evaluated for the ISC examination. The highest percentage in the Science Stream was 97% with 87.75% in Commerce and 97% in Humanities with the subjectwise highest in English being – 99, Physics - 95, Chemistry - 92, Biology - 99, Maths - 94, Commerce - 91, Accounts - 88, Economics - 83, Computer Science - 100, Psychology - 99, Sociology - 99, History – 93 and Political Science – 99. The Class average at the ICSE level was 82.2% while that of the ISC was 85.36%. at the ISC level, there were 36 distinctions. I congratulate the girls on their well-deserved achievement and also place on record my gratitude and appreciation for the hard work put in by the members of the faculty.

Apart from striving to attain exemplary academic standards, we at Auckland House School, believe in developing the all-round human personality. In order to achieve this, the classroom, the playfield and the stage form an important part of the cumulative process of education. The Fixture this year was planned with the possibility of having to continue in the online mode.

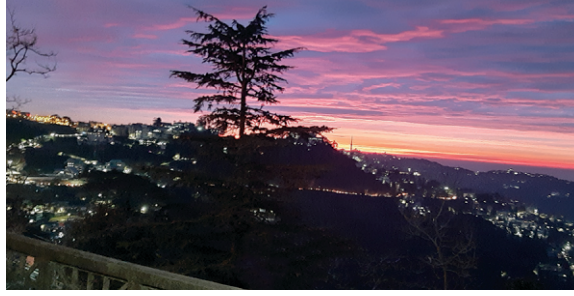
Keeping this in mind we provided our children adequate opportunities to participate in a plethora of extra curricular activities. Competitions like, original Poetry and Storytelling, Solo Dance, Mono Acting and Stand up Comedy were introduced in the yearly calendar.

The Senior girls got the chance to participate in and attend various webinars throughout the year. These focused on career options and admission processes in foreign universities including Harvard and Seattle. The students were introduced to the concept of Liberal Education, Undergraduate Programme, Pure Sciences Programme, Placements and Higher Education and need-based financial aid.

The Career Counselling Club has been functioning actively under the guidance of Mrs. Gurpreet Kaur. The aim of this club is to make students aware of their own potential and assist them in choosing a career. In addition to this, the club also assists students in solving educational and behavioral problems which in turn aid in enhancing academic performance. Keeping this in mind a number of workshops and counselling session have been held by eminent and Senior Counsellors of the Institute of Career Studies, Lucknow, who have guided the children in opting for a Career by Choice and not Chance.

The Staff and Students got an opportunity to attend a Webinar, 'From Confusion to Clarity' organized by the Institute of Career Studies, Lucknow. This Webinar had three Resource persons, Dr. Prerna Kapoor, Senior Physician, General Hospital SGPGI, Lucknow, who addressed queries on 'Health Management and Vaccines', Ms. Deepali Batra, Senior Consultant at Max Health Care, had an interactive session on Stress management and Emotional well-being. Dr. Dass, Founder Director, Institute for Career Studies, addressed concerns on Internal Assessments, Admission and Careers. She also enlightened the students about emerging new careers, post Covid. All three sessions were extremely interesting and beneficial.

Founders' Day was celebrated online. We had a Prayer Service followed by a short entertainment programme. We had posted this on the School Facebook page and it was appreciated by all especially the Alumnae. Videos featuring



our Environment Day celebrations / activities on June 5th, 75th Independence Day celebrations, the three Speech Days and the Nativity were uploaded on Facebook.

The School sponsored six teachers for Online subject related Training Programmes at the ISC Level organized by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations. The Staff have also enrolled themselves for two online courses on the DIKSHA Platform, for capacity building of teachers and Covid 19 : Responsive Behaviour and Environmental Hazards of Electronic Waste.

The H. P. Government tied up with the Education Department and made Schools partners in the Vaccination Drive.

As part of our Social Outreach responsibility and Diocesan Project, Love in Action, the School, distributed dry groceries and masks to twenty-three families of the Leper Colony and about hundred families of Migrant Labourers working on construction sites. 110 Toiletry Kits were also donated to the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Zonal Hospital and Indira Gandhi Medical College & Hospital, for COVID patients.

The purpose of Education is to make better people. We must teach our pupils to be morally correct, know the

difference between right and wrong, be empathetic to those who are different from us or in need. Our emphasis must be on character building, faith in God, pursuit of excellence and inculcation of self discipline. It is only then that we can bring about a holistic development in the children and train them as intelligent people who know how to live well and wisely. Parental contribution to this endeavor is sought as it is very crucial towards the overall development of each child.

Auckland House is grateful to the teaching, non-teaching and support staff of the school for their whole-hearted commitment and dedication to their work especially in these challenging times. We appreciate the co-operation received from the parents and well-wishers of the school. The support received from the Chairman and members of the School Board of Governors and Mr. John is acknowledged with gratitude.

May the Almighty continue to bless Auckland House in its efforts to provide quality education.

Auckyites, always aim for the best and excel in all you do.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sunita John
Director Principal

Editorial

Entrusted with the task of writing an Editorial for the school newsletter, I could feel the immense load of responsibility which lay on my shoulders. The responsibility to do justice to the unfathomable determination and high spiritedness of the Auckyites which did not falter even once during these unprecedented times.

The year 2021 brought with it a much craved hope for 'NORMALCY', which like some glorious dream did manifest itself in the initial and then later months. Our wish to break out of our houses- turned -prisons and instead be happily trapped in the ambience of our cosy classrooms was finally fulfilled. Everyone seemed ecstatic to see life getting back on track.

But, as the Almighty would have it, this year unlike its predecessor, was to be an exciting roller coaster ride, hosting alternate periods of normalcy and lockdown in a rather unpredictable fashion.

Come what may, Auckyites continued to advance towards the light. The pandemic gave us the opportunity to explore. Novel, creative activities made it to the school's annual fixture. Every page being added to the newsletter, showing the Auckyites in action, sent a rush of dopamine through my veins. Witnessing our budding Picassos, Hardys and Angelou's hone their skills did not let that smile leave my face for even an instant. None of this would have been possible had it not been for our pilots, our teachers who guided us through it all.

Here at Auckland every child's conscience is instilled with an indomitable spirit of perseverance for inception we are taught to hold our heads high in the face of adversity.

We are the AUCKYITES !
Seekers of the Higher Things.



Samriti Kaith
Student Editor



*"They inspire you, they entertain you,
and you end up leaving a ton even when you do not know it."*

SENIORS

Change is the only constant and humans are skilled in the art of adaptation.

No matter what the situation we learn to live with it, to make it a way of life. Two complete years have passed since we first heard of the COVID 19 virus and the Auckyites along with everyone else are still going strong.

The year 2021 was characterised by an alternating online and offline mode of schooling. Nevertheless, it was replete with all sorts of activities and the necessary fun.

Science, Maths, English and General Knowledge

The **Science Olympiad Foundation** had organised various Olympiads in 2020-2021. Yagnya Bhardwaj, Sirisha Syal and Avisha Syal won medals and cash prizes at the national level.

Jaenaaz Gulati, Gayatri Shekhar and Sirisha Syal won medals at the **International English, General Knowledge and Maths Olympiad**.

INSPIRE, is one of the flagship programmes of the **Department of Science and Technology, Government of India**. This year the following students submitted their ideas for the aforesaid event, namely:

1. **Saloni Chandel (Form 9 B):** Swachh Bharat, Swasth Bharat
2. **Tia Bedi (Form 6-C):** App based carbon footprint monitoring
3. **Sirisha Syal (Form 6-C):** Avoiding Banking of Roads
4. **Avisha Syal (Form 6-A):** Holes in drains
5. **Nishtha Sharma (Form 7-A):** DIY charger for android phones

Social Sciences

Auckland House School celebrated the 75th Independence Day. The national flag was hoisted in the school by the Principal and the students participated virtually, with Samriti Kaith, Diya Chandel, Palak Sharma and Ananya Sood engaging in a panel discussion on the significance of independence in the 21st Century.

Our Auckyites proved their grit by participating in various inter school online quiz competitions like the **Inter School Science Quiz** by IISC, Bengaluru; **Discovery Super League Quiz** in collaboration with Amar Ujala and **Hyperion**, an inter school online fest organised by Bishop Cotton School, Bengaluru. A weekly Mind Wars Quiz was also conducted for the students virtually.

Kala Utsav, an initiative of the **Department of School**



Education & Literacy, launched by the **Ministry of Education, Government of India** was conducted online. Ananya Sood and Anshika Gaur participated in Toy making and Painting respectively. They did us proud by Standing 1st in their individual Categories at the District Level and have been selected to represent the State.

Sports

"Play is the highest form of research"

- Albert Einstein

Auckyites not only proved themselves in brain games but also showed their aptitude for sports through numerous activities like the **District Level Cycling and Shooting Championship**, wherein, Maanvi Sood, Bhavya Singh, Mihika Kaundal and Sherin Thakur won medals. The **Champa Devinder Dhingra Sports Trust**, also known as the CDD Sports Trust, started by the Dhingra family, offered to give merit scholarships to students who excelled and achieved higher proficiency levels in Sports of their choosing. As such, Maanvi Sood, Bhavya Singh and Mihika Kaundal were recipients of this scholarship for their exemplary performance in Shooting. Likewise, Tia Bedi was also awarded a scholarship for her praise worthy performance in Chess. The girls were awarded a merit certificate and a scholarship of Rs. 15000 each.

The **All India Chess Federation** had organised an **Online National Under -12 Girls Chess Championship** in which, Tia Bedi of Form 6 stood first in the District Level and second at the State Level Championship. Devanshi Verma of Form X represented the school in the **Womens' Under 19 Cricket National Tournament** organised by the BCCI at Jaipur.

Students also participated virtually in the **Inter House and Intra Class Yoga and Fitness Competition**.

THE ELYSIAN

"I had found my religion: nothing seemed more important to me than a book. I saw the library as a temple."

- Jean-Paul Sartre, *The Words*

In the academic year 2021, the Literary Club has actively organised various online and offline events. There was a massive influx of both Intra and Inter School Competitions, keeping the students high on motivation, throughout.

After one complete year in lockdown, the first activity to be held in the school auditorium was the **Inter House English Debates** held in the month of March. The semi final was on the 17th of March and the finals of the event were held on 24th March. Lefroy House emerged as the overall winner with Samriti Kaith as the Best Speaker.

The pandemic gave Auckland the opportunity to explore the students' calibre through a wide range of activities. The **Inter House English Self-Composed Poetry Recitation** was held for the first time on the 27th of March, for the students of Form 3 to 8, wherein Lefroy House emerged as the overall winner followed by French at the second position and Durrant and Matthew sharing the third prize.

On 28th March, an **Inter House Hindi Recitation Competition** was organised for the students of Form 3 to 7. French House stood first, followed by Lefroy, Matthew and Durrant respectively.

The **Inter House Hindi Elocution** was conducted virtually on 21st May. Gurbani Kaur, Ayushi Rana and Kendra Pathania emerged winners in Poetry, Prose and Drama respectively. Overall, Lefroy stood first, followed by Durrant, French and Matthew House.

The virtual **Inter House English Elocution** was organised on 28th May. The competition was divided into seven categories. wherein, Arundhati Rathore, Pritha Doegar, Anisha Singta, Ojasvini Thakur, Kendra Pathania, Vidisha Jain and Samriti Kaith were declared winners in their respective categories.

Lefroy was awarded the first position on the whole, followed by Matthew, French and Durrant House.

"A word after a word after a word is power"

- Margaret Atwood

Storytelling is an art that is ingrained in each one of us. To make us channelize this aspect, the **Inter House Original English Story Telling Competition** was organised for the students of FORM 3 to 12 on 28th August, wherein Durrant House stood first, Matthew stood second, followed by French and Lefroy House.

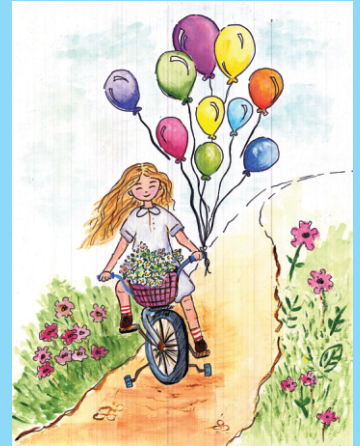
The **1st IMS International Online Debates** were organised by IMS Law College, Noida. Samriti Kaith of FORM 12 stood Third among the 109 participants and was awarded a cash prize of 1000 rupees.

Bishop Cotton Boys School, Bengaluru, organised an Inter School Debate - **Synchronise-Clash of Titans**- virtually, wherein many of our girls participated. Auckyites actively participated in the **Annual Vivek High Inter School English Debate and Public Speaking**, and Samriti Kaith was adjudged the Best Speaker for Persuasive Speech.

Divya Marwah won the Second prize in a **Hindi Essay Writing Competition** organised by **Shri Digambar Jain Sabha**.

The **Vivekananda Society, Shimla**, held a **Hindi Declamation Competition** on the occasion of Universal Brotherhood Day, wherein, Divya Marwah of FORM 12 was awarded the second prize.

On 10th September the school organised the **Inter House Original Hindi Story Telling Competition** for students. Durrant House was declared the overall winner,



Reachel - XII

'Art is harmony.'



Anshika Gaur - XII

(Selected for State Level Competition)

'I dream my painting and then I paint my dream.'



Baani Simar Kaur - X

'You don't make art, you find it.'



Camping



Farewell



Welcome



Independence Day



Picnic



Dance



Nukkad Natak

with Lefroy second, French third and Matthew at the fourth position.

The Fr. George Hess Memorial ASISC Zonal Declamation Competition was held on 10th September, 2021. Pritha Doegar stood second in the Junior category and Vidisha Jain stood third in the Senior category.

Drama runs in our blood and we have the Bard of Avon to thank for it. **The Shakespeare Trophy** was organised virtually this year on 13th September with a total of 27 participants. Avni Sharma and Samriti Kaith won the Trophies in the Junior and Senior Division respectively.

In the **Inter House Punjabi Elocution** held online on 21st September, French House emerged as winners followed by Matthew, Durrant and Lefroy House.

SJVN in collaboration with **Dainik Bhaskar** organised a **Slogan Writing and Painting Competition** on the occasion of World Water Day. A total of 545 girls participated.

Connect to Community - Local to Global Drive 2021 was organised by **Bharat Scouts and Guides** in collaboration with **Seema Scouts** to commemorate the 50th year of complete Statehood of Himachal Pradesh and Amrit Mahotsav, i.e. 75 years of Indian Independence. Various competitions had been organised over a period of 4 weeks to engage the students during the pandemic fostering mental health, fitness levels besides promotion of Happiness Index. A number of Auckyites participated and won prizes.

In the **XIX Bremdudd Memorial Pan India Inter- School Painting and Acting Competition** organised by the Cambridge Foundation School, Bhavya Dhora and Garima Gupta of FORM XII were awarded encouragement prizes.

Auckland House School organised an online **Inter House Solo Dance Competition** for the first time, wherein Arundhati Rathore, Aahr Singh, Ojjasvini Singh Thakur, Aaradhya Sethi, Ashima, Mahi Khadgawat, Ananya Sood and Asmita Singh Thakur were adjudged the best dancers.

Laughter is an indispensable exercise. In search of future comedians for the Aucky family, another event was added to the fixture, i.e., the **Inter House Stand Up Comedy Competition**, held on 5th July. French House emerged as the overall winner, followed by Durrant at the second position, and Lefroy and Matthew sharing the third place.

Palak Sharma and Garveeta Sharma represented Auckland House School in the annual **MUN** organised by the **Hiranandani Foundation School, Mumbai**.

Auckyites also participated in **Resurgence-Commerce and Economics Fest**, organised by Bishop Cotton Boys, Bengaluru.

Six students participated in the Preliminary Round of the **CISCE School Quiz Competition** organised from the 23rd to the 27th of September, out of which four made it to the finals.

"Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent"

- Victor hugo

The **Inter House Singing Competition** was conducted on 13th August. Matthew House was declared the winner, followed by Lefroy, French and Durrant House.

Senior Section Speech Day was celebrated on 30th September. It was a virtual celebration which included a street play, dances and a monologue enacted by the Auckyites, and of course, beautiful singing by the Choir.



Samreet Kaur - XII

"The world is but a canvas to imagination."

U P D

ART & CRAFT EXHIBITION



Shambhavi Singh Thakur - III C



Mayra Bhardwaj - III C

They say, if you find yourself going through tough times, you must keep going. These words have been dinned into the minds of every Auckyite. The Upper Primary Department showed great enthusiasm by partaking in a variety of activities throughout the year.

On the 20th of March, a **Water Conservation Painting Competition** was held wherein 80 students participated. The objective of the competition was to create awareness among the students about the importance of saving water, to cope with its scarcity and ensure sustainability.

An **Inter House and Intra Class Self Composed Hindi and English Poetry Recitation Competition** was conducted virtually on 26th March and 27th March respectively, encouraging the students to exhibit their writing skills, thoughts and emotions.

125 students participated in the online **Intra-Class Dry Cooking Competition** held on 27th March. The little master chefs exhibited their culinary skills and tried their hands at fireless cooking.

The Hindi Elocution was held on 5th May. French House stood first, followed by Matthew, Durrant and Lefroy House.

A Card Making activity was organised in the month of May. 100 students participated and made assorted cards with inspirational titles for motivating people who were affected by Covid-19.



Ashwina Thakur - III A

Anushi Pushp - IV B



Mayra Bhardwaj - III C

The Inter House English Elocution was conducted virtually on the 27th of May. Matthew House emerged as the winner of the event, with French, Durrant and Lefroy at the second, third and fourth positions respectively.

The GEMA storytelling workshop was held online on 3rd June to foster listening and reading skills among children. 10 students of Form V attended the workshop along with the English faculty, wherein they were introduced to various techniques of storytelling.

The Best Out of Waste Competition was held in the first week of June on the occasion of the Environment Day.

An Inter House Solo Dance Competition was held on 21st June virtually and 76 girls participated in this event showcasing their exceptional dancing skills.

On 16th August, an online **Inter House Singing Competition** was conducted. Matthew House stood first, followed by French, Lefroy and Durrant House.

The Middle Section Speech Day was celebrated virtually on 29th September, 2021. Students participated enthusiastically in all the events displaying their skills at dancing, acting and singing.

'The greatest art in the world is the art of storytelling.'

The UPD conducted an online **Inter House Original Storytelling Competition (English)** on 28th August. The stories were judged on the basis of plot, enunciation, originality, poise and expression. Matthew House stood first, followed by Durrant, Lefroy and French House.



Charu Sharma - V A

An Inter House Original Hindi Storytelling Competition was held on the 17th of September, virtually. Lefroy House bagged the first position, followed by Durrant, Matthew and French House.



Anvesha Pathak - IV B

The Keekli Charitable Trust organised a **Story Writing Competition for India's Budding Writers** to encourage



Gomukh Asana

Vishvachara Bhushan Thakur - V B



Ashwina Thakur - III A

originality and innovative thinking among children. A number of girls participated. The stories of Lavanya Muni, Aarzu Kumra, Shivangi Sharma, Anvesha Sharma, Jiya



Biaannca Bakshi - III A

Rampal Saini and Madhvi Sharma found place in the book **51 Scintillating Tales**, which indeed is a matter of great honour for Auckland House School.



Gayatri Shekhar - IV B

TINY TOTS



Ahana Shandil - UKG A Kaashvi Diman - UKG A



Shivanya Verma - Nur A Pavleen Kalsi - Nur A



Anaya Sharma - I A Yashvi Sthita - LKG A



Amyra Rana - UKG A Ziva Thakur - UKG A



Shanvi - I A

202 students of Nursery to Form II explored their talents by participating in 'Exhibit my Skill', an event, hosting various activities such as storytelling, keyboard recital, paper craft, mono acting, painting etc.

A Fancy Dress Competition was conducted virtually. The students of Nursery to Form II actively participated in the event.

Our little ones also participated and won prizes in various competitions organised by **Seema Scouts Foundation**.

Among the other activities were **Card making for Covid warriors, Independence Day Celebrations, Rakhi Making, Calligraphy, Clay Moulding and Intra Class Poetry Recitation Competition.**

The Junior Section Speech Day was celebrated virtually on 28th September. Students participated with great enthusiasm, wherein they exhibited their talents in dance, drama and a puppet show.



Yashavi Aggarwal - II B



Shanaya Malhotra - UKG A



Shriti Sood - UKG A



Anaaya Sharma I-A



Radhika Sharma Nursery-A



Anahita Lall I-A



Ziva Thakur UKG-A



Adhvika Sharma Nursery-B



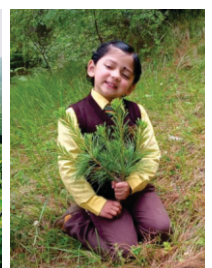
Lavanya Sood Nursery-B



Aadya Thakur UKG-A



Vaishnavi Thakur I-B



Aadya Bharanta Nursery-A

CREATIVE WRITING

Sasha

The year was 3000. The chattering of children did not exist anymore, probably because they learnt what they observed from their elders: unhappiness and depression. There were no professors found roaming around college buildings, chatting about how their students flunked their class tests. To be honest, there were no college buildings at all! You couldn't hear school teachers calling her class, a fish market. There was a robot teacher for every child. The robots should have been teaching the kids everything, but they only seem to be interested in Science. According to the people these days, moral values were not important because nobody ever interacted, and learning anything new was considered a complete waste of time, because you have your personal robot to ask anything you want to. As the robots cooked, the food missed out on its most important ingredient, love. Robots were used to do everything else too! So no job other than creating more and more robots existed. But I'm sure that in the future that lays ahead, robots will be experts in creating their own kind! The biggest issue with robots is that they cost about a million digioins (digital coin) and not everybody has that sort of bread.

There existed such a village, with a gurgling brook passing through its beautiful flora and fauna. The children played on its banks in the evening, chattering away. A small family lived in that village. It consisted of just four members: Sasha, her little sister Sarah, and her parents. Sasha was an eleven year old bright girl. She possessed a very precious mango leaf which everybody believed to be her lucky mascot. It was so valuable that she wore it around her wrist 24/7. Thus, it never touched the ground. Everybody in her village was poor, and could not afford any robots. But Sasha's ancestors had written a very long book

which consisted of the knowledge about what all a child should know until he or she becomes an adult. It contained information about farming, school, different jobs, and the values of life. It also contained other things about the ancient world. That book was the reason Sasha's village had always seemed like a whole new world to the outsiders. It was always filled with colour, and happy faces. Sasha's father used to school the children under the bushy foliage of the wild rhododendrons. The other villagers carried on with the activities, like cooking, farming, etc. They all would eat their meals together. Sasha and her best friend, Tanishka supported each other, no matter what! They were always seen together, and their bond made others happy.

Sasha had an interest in music. She loved to play the keyboard. Everybody in the village knew that, so the previous year, on Sasha's birthday, they saved money and bought her a keyboard. Sasha cried all day long because she was so happy. "Thank you all so very much!" she said to the villagers. "My happiness is beyond limits! Can we please keep this instrument in a place where everybody can use it?" So it was decided that the keyboard will be kept in the village's drama house. Sasha soon got into the habit of playing the piano daily with Tanishka listening to her. Four years passed away like a breeze. Sasha was now fifteen years old. She was able to play the keyboard like a professional. She could play any song on it anytime, even if she had just heard it.

On her sixteenth birthday, Sasha stepped out of her village for the first time in her life. There was no greenery, smiling faces and togetherness. Everybody was talking rudely to each other. Sasha pinched herself to check if it was a dream, but she soon realised, it wasn't. Sasha was a nervous. She walked up to a man, and asked him innocently "Can you please tell me where I shall find a music store?" The man seemed utterly bewildered. He looked as if he had eaten too much cheese.

Sasha bit her lip and crossed her fingers behind her back. She was shocked at the man's rude reaction! "How dare you!" the man whispered through gritted teeth. Sasha immediately traced back her steps and turned to go back to her village, when her eyes fell upon a keyboard. She had not come here to experience the world, but to bring back hope. She took out the keyboard from its cover. She stretched the stand and placed the keyboard on it. She pulled out her folding stool and kept it beside her stand. She sat on it and started playing her favourite tune, Swan Lake. Most of the people had never listened to it because these days it was called 'outdated'. But as we all know, melodies like these never lose their touch! Slowly, Sasha began to attract people. A woman with long black hair said to her child "She's playing it beautifully! What do you think she is playing, son?" And then, after an interminable wait in mankind, someone started to dance and slowly everybody else joined in! After an hour, Sasha went back home.

By the time she had turned eighteen, she came back every day to play the keyboard. People from far and wide came to listen to her music. It made people kind and loving. Sasha decided to become a pianist. Tanishka, and her older brother Tanishk, decided to open a school. Many people took admission in their school as they all disliked the robot teachers. You could again hear the sound of teachers calling their class, a fish market echo through the school corridors. Sasha's younger sister Sarah, who had not yet graduated from her school, began to plant trees. Many people were inspired. They followed her example, and slowly greenery flourished on earth. People stopped inventing robots as they were no longer required. Markets run by human beings returned.

One day, fireworks reached out to the sky from the tiny village and lit up the heavens. People from the cities became curious and entered the village. They saw the villagers playing with crackers and distributing sweets. Their houses were lit up with candles and fairy lights. They soon realised, that the villagers were celebrating Diwali! They wanted to enjoy, it, like them too! Thus, the culture started again.

Sasha was now thirty two years old. She stepped out of her village. She was shocked! The whole place was full of greenery and excited chatter. Sasha took out her keyboard from its cover. She stretched the stand and placed the keyboard on it. She pulled out her folding chair and kept it beside her stand and sat on it. She started playing her favourite tune, Swan Lake. It was the last time she was playing it. She put her signature on the instrument and stood up.

She untied the mango leaf bracelet from around her wrist and let it fall on the ground. She went forward and said to Tanishka, her eyes filled with hope. "Well you remember the robots, don't you?" "I'm extremely sorry but I don't know what you're talking about." replied Tanishka, befuddled.

"You sure?" Sasha asked again, with one eyebrow raised. "Absolutely positive!" Tanishka replied firmly, nodding her head.

"And do you know who I am?" she said cautiously, not wanting to get on Tanishka's nerves by asking too many questions.

"Um... No!" Tanishka replied politely.

Sasha walked away and muttered "Well, they've forgotten everything about the robots and me. It's nice. I remembered to drop the leaf or they would have remembered everything." She walked back to her house where she found a rhododendron, waiting to be picked up. The moment she touched it, she found herself on a cloud. She looked up, and saw God. "Greetings God", Sasha said with a bow. "Mission accomplished!"



Lavanya Muni
Form V-B

(Published by Keekly Charitable Trust)

The Lollipop Tree

Farway in the forest deep,
all in the dark street;
The forest covered in trees,
with a cold and swift breeze.
Milly the butterfly, As busy as a bee,
Lived on a lollipop tree!
A tree so round,
Known all around;
With colours so bright, It gave such a wonderful sight.
Milly the butterfly,
As busy as a bee,
Lived on a beautiful tree!
She flew around the tree,
With her fellow, in a mellow,
Enjoying the beauty,
The nature had,
And proud of being a part of that.
Milly the butterfly,
As busy as a bee,
Lived on a beautiful tree!



Yaagnya Bhardwaj
Form IV-C

My Granny's Cookbook

I found an old cookbook,
In the attic the other day.
It had the recipes of my granny,
From when she was young and happy.
It had some wonderful recipes in it,
Like 'Cheer 'em Up Mac and Cheese', and some to bake.
But the one that caught my eye,
Was for a strawberry shortcake.
I called my best friend,
And together we made the cake,
Which was the perfect dish,
For it was my granny's birthday.
We planned a party,
The shortcake being the 'showstopper',
It was a wonderful dish,
And everyone had a slice or two.
My granny was very proud,
For whom, the party was a treat.
She even told me the secret ingredient,
That could make the sourest dish sweet!
Be any dish it might,
From a lemon tart to rice,
The ingredient would work,
As it is none other than love.



Avisha Syal
Form VI-A

My School

The place where we learn new things,
In each one of us confidence it brings.
It also teaches us manners,
Along with numbers and grammar.
From here knowledge we gain,
Whatever the problem, the teachers explain.
As our school motto says, 'Seek Higher Things',
It has given us wind beneath our wings.



Jaenaaz Gulati
Form V-B

Beginning

As the sun rises above the horizon,
And the moon starts to descend,
The birds start chirping,
The day finally ascends.
There is a new beginning.
As the sunlight hits the sky,
And the darkness is nowhere seen,
The little ones get ready with hustle,
While mothers cook their meals.
There is a new beginning.
As the sky turns golden,
Fresh clouds and breeze appears,
People go off to work,
Ready for their busy day.
There is a new beginning.
As the sun sets down again,
And the darkness envelopes all,
People go off to bed,
With restful sleep and hope.
That, there will always be a new beginning.



Arundhati Rathore
Form VI-B

Grim Reality

As a child, you always wish for something fascinating to happen. I always wished for my life to be more interesting. I didn't really have many friends at that time, so I spent most of my time at school aimlessly roaming in the hallway, or finding a quiet place to sit and read. I remember one day, I decided to go to the library and work on an assignment during lunch, when I heard a loud noise coming from somewhere. Two students ran in calling for the librarian saying that a boy had been shot. I panicked and looked for a place to go to and that's when I saw a student crouched under one of the computer tables. She noticed how lost and scared I looked, and gestured for me to hide with her.
"We're going to be okay," she said, just before the door burst open. Everything after that felt surreal, as if it was all happening too slow, but all too fast at the same time. The voices of the gunmen made me jump out of my skin. I shut my eyes tight and just kept hoping everything would go away. Wake up, I said to myself. This isn't real- no this can't be real. Wake up- But it wasn't long before, the crack of several gunshots, silenced my thoughts.
I felt a sharp pain in my thigh and it took me about a second to fully realise what had happened. I reached down to grip the source of the pain. The room was spinning and the pain from the bullet in my thigh was unbearable. I looked to my left, the girl was bleeding too as she pleaded with the shooter, begging for her life. I remember waking up surrounded by paramedics and police. The sound of sirens echoed in the distance...
Why did this happen? How did I survive this? Who was she? She didn't deserve this. We did not deserve this. She had a family, friends and a life. This incident brought about a life changing revelation for me. It taught me the value of being alive. Something fascinating and interesting had surely happened, however, it had come at a price. Hence, be careful what you wish for.



Ananya Sood
Form XI

It's the Way it is

I was standing in the middle of the ground with my mother and father holding my hand and the sun rays were falling directly over my head. All the children around me were crying as it was the first day of our school. The teachers took us to our classroom and asked us to write the alphabet A. I looked around the class and saw children writing. I tried to write but then I realised that I was not able to write as my hands were shivering. So I took the support of my mouth and I started writing.

On the day when my mother was taken to the operation theatre, it was getting difficult for the doctors to take me out from my mother's womb. A time came when the doctors had to use certain surgical instruments, due to which my brain cells got damaged and I became differently abled.

I find myself very lucky that I am born in a family where I have never been treated differently. My mother has always been there for me in every part of my life. She was the person who taught me how to walk, how to talk and especially how to present myself to the world confidently.

There were times when I had to suffer peoples' indifferent behaviour to my condition, but I tried to let it go.

My school has always encouraged me to participate in extracurricular activities. The school has never treated me differently from the other students and has always helped whenever I was in need. My teachers and our Principal have always been there to help me.

When I was a child, I was entirely dependent upon my family. But then, when I grew older my family tried to make me a strong independent girl. I went to the picnics and even went to my school camping for two days. This gave me the confidence to deal with life undeterred.

I am now a person, who can go anywhere and not bother whether people would accept me or not. I no longer believe that my disability has affected my life in any way, rather, it has taught me to become a better version of myself.

I dream to be a person who can set an example for all differently abled people in this world so that they don't feel hampered by their different abilities rather feel proud of who they are. We should accept each other just the way we are with love.



Ada Thakur
Form X-B



Ananya Sood - XI
(Model selected for State Level Competition)

"Goodbyes make you think, they make you realize what you've had, what you've lost, what you've taken for granted"

As I sat down to write my experience in Auckland House school, millions of thoughts come to mind. I entered the portals of this school as a young girl, scared and reluctant to join a boarding school. Gradually I realized that Auckland House School was a home away from home where all my emotional and physical needs were taken care of.

Auckland House School became a second home to a frightened 12 year old . The teachers became my friends who helped me understand not just academic concepts but also life lessons which moulded me into the person I am today.

Auckland House school - a place, which brought out the best in me and encouraged me to venture into the new and unknown.

The fear of a boarding school vanished and all I will carry now are fond memories which will be cherished forever.

Life is a journey with problems to solve and lessons to learn but most of all experiences to treasure. Auckland taught me to never give up no matter what the circumstance.

It has been rightly said," time and tide wait for none". My journey in Auckland is coming to an end and the tide is carrying me to the unknown.

Words seems inadequate to express my feelings as I get ready to leave the safe confines of my Alma Mater. I owe a debt of gratitude to this prestigious institution for all it has given me.

May Aucky continue to grow from strength to strength.



Nabhya Bhagirath
Form XII



Srishya Syal - VI A

'Art is the highest form of hope.'

Believe in Your Dreams

Once, in the beautiful city of Mumbai, lived the Jacoby family, who were very affluent. They had a daughter named Nancy, who was a teenager of thirteen years. She was sensitive towards the needs of her family. Nancy loved Mathematics and spent hours gaining knowledge of the subject. She had been encouraged by her mother since she was a little girl. Due to a brutal accident, she lost her dearest mother at the age of ten.

Nancy's father Andrew was a great doctor of his time. He believed that he could look after his daughter, but he was wrong. Unwillingly he had to marry a second time. His second wife's name was Clarisse, she was a gentle, calm lady and loved Nancy immensely. As time elapsed and relations between Clarisse and Andrew became strong. Nancy accepted her stepmother, and devoted her time to her family. As Nancy grew up, she became ambitious and began to spend her time studying Mathematics, she dedicated all her leisure hours towards the study of the subject. She was so clear with the concepts, that she literally played with numbers. Nancy wanted to achieve great heights in Mathematics. Her stepmother encouraged her in every goal of her life. Clarisse was a great poet and writer of her time. Andrew wanted his daughter to be like him, to speak like him and live like him. He knew that his daughter was a genius in Mathematics, but he did not want his daughter to go ahead with this subject. One day, like always Nancy was practising her sums and her father walked in.

"What are you doing young lady?" he asked.

"Solving sums, dad."

"Oh, and what about the other subjects? I have told you time and again that Mathematics is not your goal and look at yourself, so disrespectful this is!" "Dad, I have always told you that I will do what I like, and I respect you. I have already spent an hour studying Biology. Now I am free to do what I want".

"Oh, you little one! Don't try to act smart, now listen, pack all this up, and take out your science books quickly, without any argument, and move to the laboratory."

"Oh, please dad not now, let me do what I want. It's my leisure time according to the time table set by you and you've always said I must follow the rules and respect the time table."

Such scenes were regular in the family. Nancy was explicitly told by her father that she had to proceed in the field of Medical Science, without any justification or any prolonged discussion. Clarisse was not allowed to help her daughter or be in consent with Nancy. She was burdened by her father to take up the medical stream. But her unscripted love for Mathematics was unmatched, she could do anything for it. She decided to do as her father wished, but coerced him to allow her to study Mathematics as well. One day, as she sat worried in her room, her father came up to her.

"Hey you little one, it seems you are worried. Let me see what you are doing."

"Oh, thank you for your concern dad, it's all because of you that I am worried. Yes, yes, of course I am studying your favourite subjects. You must be happy!" Nancy replied.

"You, better mind your language girl. Is this the way you talk to your own dad?"

"Dad, is this how you treat your own daughter? Forcing me to do what you want," Nancy replied.

That night, Nancy had a talk with Clarisse. "Mom, I know why you are here, to scold me again like dad did for not coming for dinner with both of you."

"No sweetheart, you are burdened with what is happening in your life and I understand that. Listen, Do what you want, just don't let your father decide for you, calm down," Clarisse said.

"Your father defies what I say about letting you do what you want and wants me to stay out of this matter otherwise he would send you to the hostel."

"Mom you are right, I am trying my best to convince dad, I understand that you cannot speak on my behalf, but it is okay and thank you very much for your concern," Nancy smiled.

"Oh dear, I love you, my darling. I got you some dinner, will you eat it, ok?" asked Clarisse.

"I love you too, mom. Yes, thank you. Good night," said Nancy.

"Good night, dear."

The next day, Nancy decided to confront her father. She told him that she didn't want to be a doctor, instead she wanted to be a Mathematician. It was a difficult day for the family. Andrew refused to accept Nancy's decision, warning her that he would throw her out of the house if she didn't do as he said. But Nancy was resolute. She apologised to Andrew and chose to proceed with Mathematics. Andrew swore that he would never speak to her.

Ten long years have passed. Nancy and her father didn't speak to each other. Andrew's huge ego and Nancy's stubbornness didn't allow them to. After years of great hard work, Nancy achieved her goal. She did become a great Mathematician. She was all over in papers and magazines and on television. She travelled widely and later married Kevin, who was a fellow scholar at the University.

One day, as Andrew sat watching Nancy in a show, Clarisse walked up to him.

"Andrew we must forget and forgive. Does it really matter what she did? What matters is that she made you proud."

Andrew walked out of the room. That evening he opened his mailbox and began to type, 'Dear Nancy...' It was perhaps the best mail that had dropped into Nancy's mailbox in years. As she sat in front of her laptop, happy tears flowed down her cheeks. Life had come full circle. Nancy began to pack her bags. She was finally going to meet her father. Nancy had never lost hope and had always tried to do her best. She firmly believed that one must not be too proud of success, and must accept failure with a calm mind, as both of them pay momentary visits in a person's life.



Aarzu Kumra
Form VII-C

(Published by Keekly Charitable Trust)

WEBINARS

Auckland registered its presence in a number of webinars on different subjects organised by various institutions:

- **Webinar on Preparatory Courses** for entrance examinations, organised by the Institute of Career Studies.
- **A Career Specialisation Expo** was organised online by the Institute of Career Counselling.
- **A Career Guidance workshop** was conducted offline in the Atkins Hall by Ms. Pushpa Joshi, Assistant Director, Indian School of Hospitality.
- Webinar on **'The Profound Power of Hand Holding'** was conducted by the Institute of Career Studies.
- **Creative Healing Spaces**, a workshop on mental well being during the pandemic was organised by the Ashoka University.
- **Workshop on Business Management, Accounting and Finance and Humanities** was organised by CIE (Consortium for International Education), wherein the students were given information about the infrastructure, admission procedure, eligibility, academic collaboration, faculties and placements in various higher institutions..
- **Webifair**, a webinar for parents and students of AHS was organised by KICUniv. Assist in collaboration with 60 global universities from 9 different countries including Cambridge, American, Waterloo, PolyU, Trinity Dublin etc.



Arya Talwalkar - X

'Art is something that makes you breathe with a different kind of happiness.'

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Sd/-
(Mrs. Sunita John)