



It would be unfair to not mention the role of the priest, portrayed by Rishikesh Dehingia that sent the audience into peals of laughter. Anirudha on the other hand was played by Veeraditya Poddar who with his calm persona managed to create a romantic atmosphere in the Hall. Banasura on finding out about his daughter's wrong doings puts Anirudha behind bars which leads to his grandfather and the creator, Lord Krishna's arrival. It is imperative here to mention the brilliant performance of Shreyansh Aggarwal, the winner of The Heather Carling Award for Dramatics, who brings alive the epic character of the demon king with aplomb. The series of events thereon move towards the climax of the battle of Hari-Hara Yudha, the battle that could have been apocalyptic had it not been for Lord Brahma's intervention. Bringing the play to an end was a beautifully choreographed dance portraying Usha and Anirudha's epic which went on to mesmerize the crowd. The beautifully sung songs by our very own, Dr. Parinita Goswami, were an integral part of the enthralling ballad. The crowd cheered on as the lady who led this mammoth project, Mrs. Meenakshi Bora Gogoi, the script writer and director took to the stage and shared the creative journey as well as the efforts that had been put in to make the ballad a success.

Indian and Western Dance Concert

Flora Basumatary, Class 12

The second day of the Founders' welcomed another set of colourful events aimed to win the hearts of visitors and students alike. Alongside the bubbling exhibitions, and the choc-a-block food courts, came the productions from the dance department. Dubbed "Purba Ranga" the programme started off with the Indian dances first. The extravaganza began with a Ganesh Vandana portrayed gracefully by the Bharatnatyam dancers. The Odissi dancers took to the stage next with a beautiful portrayal of the "Dashavatara". This was followed by a performance by the budding Kathak dancers who kept the audience enthralled with their rhythmic grace. The Sattriya dancers, who came next performed the popular Raas Leela, capturing the magic of Krishna's divinity. A quick interval saw students being awarded the prestigious Cultural Ties.



The next half began with a swish of colours and the upbeat Flamenco rendered with flair by the students of the Western Dance department. Advick Pal and Shiney Kasshyap's heart-rending portrayal of the tale of a soldier's passing away and the mother's loss, was a re-run of the winning piece of this year's Inter-House Dance Competition. The third western number came rather as a surprise as the tiny tots of AVS struck up an extremely energetic and not to mention adorable piece to the trending Bollywood song "Galti se Mistake".





Then came the popular folk dances of Assam. Dubbed as “O Mur Apunar Dekh” this category began with the Tiwa dance. The dancers twirled to folk tunes with the brightest smiles on their faces and “hopped” in and out of the stage in rhythm. They were soon followed by the Mising dancers. After another cheerful performance and an exit with a flourish, the next ones to follow were the “Bagurumba” dancers – the traditional folk dance of the Bodos, a dance which is said to be inspired by the movements of a butterfly. The mood was thus set for the next dance which was the Deori folk. The Deori dancers set the stage for the “pride” of Assam – Bihu. Starting with the clarion call of the *pepa*, the dancers with their exuberant twirls, boisterous songs and flurry of red and gold brought the afternoon to a climax as the audience sang along to cheer the dancers. The programme came to an end with a heartfelt rendition of the state anthem.

Torchlight Tattoo and Award Ceremony of Sports Ties

- Tezraj Kashyap, Class 12

The Torchlight Tattoo is an ardent reminder of how the greens still hold the pomp and pride that goes into making Founders' memorable. The event kicked off after the arrival of Mr. Jayant Krishna, the Chief Guest for the evening, who was traditionally welcomed by the student escorts of the Riding Club astride the decorated horses donning majestic saffron turbans and holding flambeaus as they trotted gracefully before the conclave. The green expanse, brightly visible under the floodlights, was then filled by the four colours of the School as students moved in perfect synchronization to the drum beats, showcasing many shapes and figures.





Next, we had the Taekwondo squad showcase their fiery moves which left the audience in awe. This was followed by the final show of the Torchlight Tattoo where students with red and green torches lit up the night with the letters 'AVS' along with the trademark motif of the 'Elephant'. The sport's ties were then given away by the Chief Guest followed by the vote of thanks from the Sports Captain, Tenzing Ngorup. The evening came to a close as students and parents strolled back to enjoy the rest of the evening.



Indian and Western Music Concert

Tulika Bhargav, Class 12

On the 4th of November, the WMH quickly filled up with Aviators and visitors alike awaiting the harmonious performances of the skilled musicians and vocalists of AVS. The first recital was from the Indian Choir which was accompanied by the Indian Music School on various musical instruments together performing the 'Saraswati Vandana'. The next act was an Indian Instrumental performance with a fusion of percussion and wind instruments. The instruments ranged from tabla to drums, flute to violin and together they put forward an enchanting piece.





The third act of the afternoon was the Indian Choir performing the 'Melodies of India' with numbers such as 'Bhar Do Jholi', 'Ajeeb Daastan' and classic Bollywood tunes such as 'Yeh Dosti'. Many among the audience were left feeling a tad nostalgic at the end of the presentation. The last performance of the Indian Music category was the group percussion act accompanied by the Indian choir. The percussion performance this year kept to the benchmark and was a resounding success. The instruments included the drums, dhol and tabla. This brilliant performance was accompanied by the Indian Choir singing numbers such as 'Boga Koi Bogoli' and 'Chak De India'. At the end of the Indian Music concert, the Scholar's Ties were distributed by the Chief Guest.



The second half of the show saw the Western Music Department take the stage. The first performance was of the Western Choir singing the hymn 'Blessed Be Your Name' accompanied by various musical instruments such as the drums, piano and guitar. The second act was an instrumental rendition with instruments comprising the piano, violins and the drums as they performed the ABBA hit 'Mamma Mia'. The show was however stolen hook and microphone by the winning IPSC contingent who performed their touted numbers with the School Choir performing with the Orchestra a medley which was awarded the First Prize. Dikshant Nangia went on to enthrall the audience with his energetic drum solo which reverberated throughout the WMH. Lari Warshong and Eleanor Singh's duet that bagged the first position did not fail to enchant with their astounding vocals while Ronojit Bhuyan's effortlessly intricate Chopin medley sent chills down everyone's spines. The last feat of the afternoon was a rather engaging act with the Western Choir performing an acapella act creating the effect of rain and was followed by the song 'Africa' under the guidance of the choir master, Mr. Doraiswamy. The afternoon ended on a melodious and enchanting note.



English Play - 'Who Killed Hope? An Inquiry'



Hope is something that has the power to save nations yet can be shattered with the slightest intrusion. The Dramatic Society of AVS has managed to portray the concept of hope in an ominous play lined with unexpected comedy, 'Who killed Hope? An Inquiry.' The WMH witnessed yet another remarkable production, one that would stay imprinted in the minds of the entire audience for a long time to come. Directed by Mr. Abhinav Gogoi along with Mr. Ranjeev Lal Baruah, the adaptation of "The Inspector Calls" by J.B. Priestley started off with the ceiling of the WMH lit by 'Breaking News'.

The news anchor (Tanushree Borbaruah) conveyed the sad tidings of the death of a certain Asha Rani Tanti (Tamanna Ahmed) before the screen switched to a live stream where a news reporter (Devaansh Jallan) was investigating the incident. As the screen went dark, the curtains opened to reveal a dinner party in the midst of cheerful laughter blending with the boisterous bragging of the two families present. Mr. Ananta Baruah and Mrs. Anuradha Baruah (played by Jeremy Jahau and Lari Warshong) seemed to be in high spirits as they conversed with Mr. and Mrs. Chaliha (Tezraj Kayshap and Niharika Gautam), the cheerful mood only getting amplified as Gaurav Chaliha, their son (Aditya Chaudhary) expressed his undying love for Urvashi Baruah (Sana Kahlon). Giggles emerged from the audience as comic incidents took place on stage, enhancing the appeal of the play. However, everyone fell silent at the entrance of DSP Mrityunjay Mahanta (Pratyush Pran Das), whose presence

seemed to dim the entire hall by a few notches. The true plot of the play finally comes to light as the DSP starts questioning the Baruah family, along with Gaurav, revealing how each member of the family seemed to play a pivotal role in the death of Asha Rani Tanti

A collective gasp emanated from the audience as ghostly episodes took place which seemed to be veiled from the eyes of the cast. As each of the accused was proven guilty, it came to light that the ones who had dealt the final blows were none other than Mrs. Baruah and her son Aditya Baruah (Aadarsh Stephen).

The usage of half of the stage to depict Asha Rani's story in the form of a silent

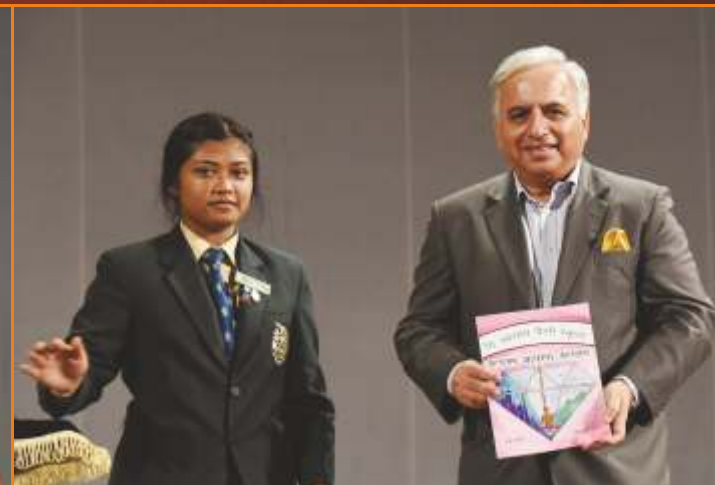
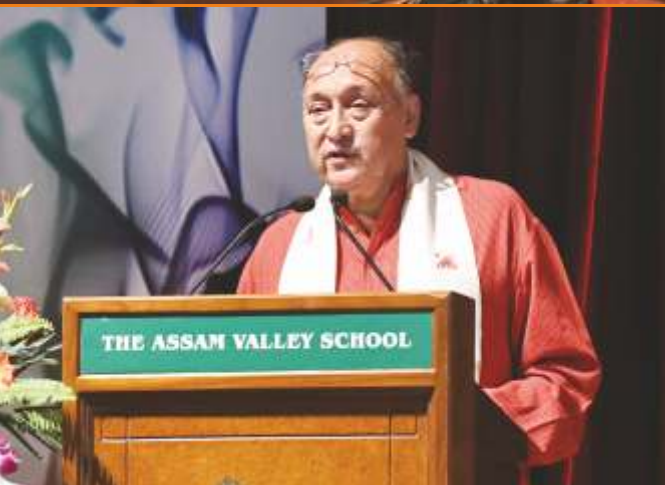


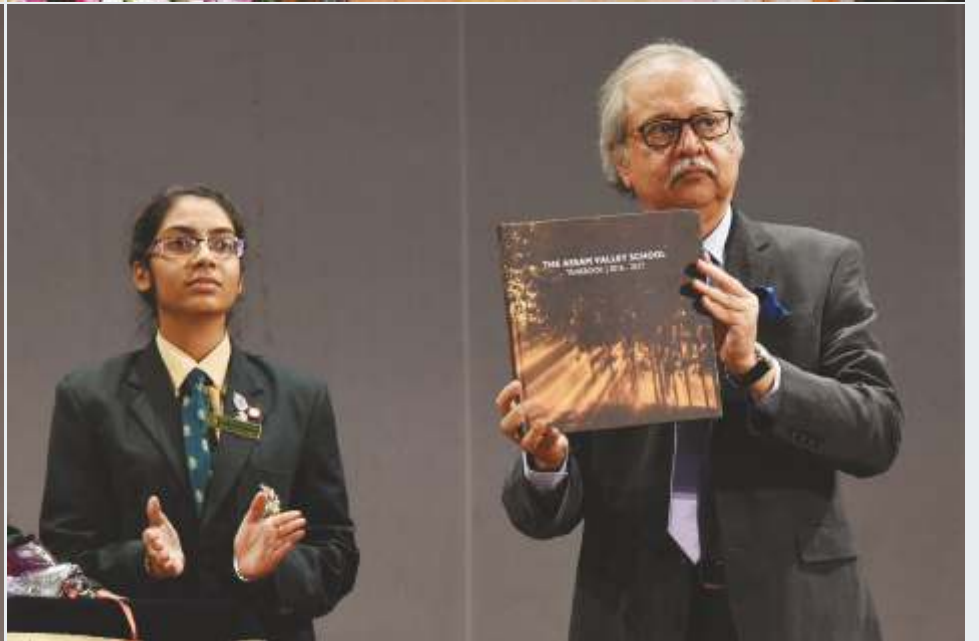


drama added an interesting touch to the already captivating act. Production here deserves mention not only for their professional handling of the backstage events but also because they play a critical role in helping the scenes shift seamlessly from the past to the present, seen in the change of costumes of the cast. Right when the audience felt they could predict the rest of the story, the sudden disclosure that the entire incident might have been a hoax changed the entire atmosphere of the WMH even as it lifted the spirit of the Baruah family and Gaurav Chaliha.

After the unexpected revelation had finally sunk in, the play ended with an even bigger twist in the plot as the news of the death of a young girl reached the accused. Adding a subtle touch of the sinister and the supernatural was because of the management of the set that saw a painting take the physical shape of Asha Ranti Tanti whose spirit haunts the characters and the WMH through the windows and the walls. Contented faces intermingling with stunned ones exited the WM Hall in groups, apprehensive of being caught alone in the dark, having witnessed the apex of the day and having found a new topic to talk over refreshments in the food court.

Founders' Awards, Speeches and Choral Presentation





Head of School's Founders' Address

Sunday, 5 November, 2017

Good Morning!

Once upon a time, there were two warring tribes in the Andes, one that lived in the lowlands and the other high in the mountains. The mountain people invaded the lowlanders one day, and as part of their plundering of the people, they kidnapped the baby of one of the lowlander families and took the infant with them back up into the mountains.

The lowlanders didn't know how to climb the mountain. They didn't know any of the trails that the mountain people used, and they didn't know where to find the mountain people or how to track them in the steep terrain. Even so, they sent out their best party of fighting men to climb the mountain and bring the baby home.

The men first tried one method of climbing and then another. They tried one trail after another. After several days of effort, however, they had climbed only several hundred feet.

Feeling hopeless and helpless, the lowlander men decided that the cause was lost, and they prepared to return to their village below. As they were packing their gear for the descent, they saw the baby's mother walking towards them. They realized that she was coming down the mountain that they hadn't figured out how to climb, and she had her baby strapped to her back! How could that be?

One man greeted her and asked, "We couldn't climb this mountain. How did you do this when we, the strongest and ablest men in the village, couldn't do it?" She shrugged her shoulders and said, "It wasn't your child."

Honourable Chief Guest, Dr. Rudranshu Mukherjee, Chancellor of Ashoka University, Members of the Governing Body, My Dear Teachers, Distinguished Guests, Respected Parents, Friends, Alumni and my dear students of The Assam Valley School. It is my privilege and honour to welcome you to school which I now refer to as my home and its students, my own children.

I report to the community on a year of consolidation, consideration and challenge, and of endless efforts to advance the School's strategic goals. By all of our familiar measures in the academic, co-curricular, sports and student well-being domains, this year has been a mixture of success, challenges and celebrations.

To begin with it was yet another year when we celebrated academic achievement – one of the pillars of an AVS education.

The Assam Valley School has in recent times, become synonymous with Academic Excellence and our board results have steadily been improving over the years. This year we sent up one of our biggest batches at both the ISC and ICSE levels and not surprisingly got absolutely stupendous results, shattering all past records.

The Class of 2017 exceeded all our expectations. The average of the entire class was 89.66% with our toppers – Shivesh Khaitan and Nehal Ahmed both scoring 98.5%. The Science Stream scored an average of 91.02%; followed by the Humanities and Commerce streams scoring averages of 89.94% and 88.04% respectively.

ICSE 2017 scored an average of 86.99% with Lakshmi Lune Dai topping the score sheet with 97.6%.

While we rejoice in the results of our students we continue to investigate new methodologies that will enhance teacher instruction and student engagement. The concept of active learning, while not new, is an avenue we are employing to strengthen our pedagogy. Similarly, the Massive Open Online Courses which most of our teachers are willingly and excitedly pursuing is beginning to show results both in and outside the classroom. We see accessible online study programs as an integral part of the future of education and our endeavour to consistently work towards promoting online research among both teacher and taught is emblematic of our commitment towards innovative and research-focused practice.



Another highlight of our academic success this year was that four of our students cleared the JEE Mains with one of them even qualifying the JEE Advanced. Moreover, eight of our students qualified the NEET- 2017. I congratulate these children and their parents and urge all present this morning to remember that with hard work and determination, one can scale any height. I reiterate the fact that a child receiving a holistic education in a school like ours, has a better chance of cracking competitive examinations than anyone else. A fair mix of Academics, Sports, Activities, Spiritual and Social development is the ideal recipe for success not only in examinations but in life at large. It will be my endeavour to get this recipe right so that our students blossom wherever they go from here.

While we focus explicitly on the intellectual development of students, we are also unreservedly committed to developing their emotional intelligence and provide them with life skills that will last them a life time. I vehemently feel the need of 'taking the lead' in preparing our students for jobs in the 21st century as employers today need much more than the skills developed in exams: they also need what are patronisingly called 'soft skills'. These are skills of creativity, collaboration, empathy, grit, resilience and honesty.

Experiential learning is by far the best form of learning and this fact was emphasized and ratified by all students and staff who went out on expeditions to Mawlyngba, Kalimpong, Munsang, Samsing and NIMAS earlier this year. I know some parents were absolutely petrified to send their children out but on our insistence, finally did agree. Notwithstanding, the trouble or discomfort that some students experienced, they learnt lessons that they shall never forget. Appreciating the luxuries that they are fortunate to enjoy and being sensitive to hunger, pain, fear and suffering of others are some of the lessons that they learnt in addition to having fun with their teachers and friends. We, as parents and teachers sometimes underestimate the potential and endurance of our children and I must place on record my unstinted admiration for our students who braved the inclement weather, delay in meals, uncomfortable accommodation, home sickness and above all anxiety of their parents with grit, determination, fortitude and more importantly a spirit that defines every Aviator.

The expeditions were truly an adventure that everyone enjoyed and we as a school have made some observations that we would certainly work and improve upon to make these events safer and more pleasurable for all concerned in the future.

All members of our Prefect Council underwent a twelve session certified 'Life Skill Training Program'. I am sure that this exercise will go a long way in preparing them for the real life challenges that they are bound to meet once they leave the safe and secure environs of this school. Subsequently, it will be our endeavour to provide this really important and relevant exposure to all our students in a phased manner. This program for the Prefects has gone a long way in bringing out the best in them. I was particularly very impressed with the way our present Prefect Council has conducted itself.

For the rest of the school, workshops on health, hygiene, cyber crime and ill effects of social media among others were held throughout the year. We are also looking at introducing Life Skill Training as a curriculum and hopefully we shall have a concrete plan ready soon.

AVS has long held such views and has developed structures and programs that encourage global citizenship and opportunities for students to be part of an emerging world community. The School continues to explore learning through service as a pathway to creating responsible and accountable global citizens, and while existing projects have continued to grow and provide our students with quality experiences, so too has our desire to develop a sustainable and meaningful service model by encouraging further participation in our Social Service League and Interact Club activities.

The Round Square engagements at both national and international levels have continued and blossomed over the years. Tamanna Ahmed made us proud by being adjudged third in the Roy McComish Art Competition. She was declared the second runners up at the Round Square International Conference held at Cape Town last month.

We pride ourselves in providing career guidance and counselling especially to the students of classes 11 and 12 so that they do not have much trouble in getting a placement once they leave AVS. Our Careers Department in the recent past has worked hard towards eliminating all misconceptions and dubiety in the minds of our seniors towards career choices, thereby ensuring better placements. Personal interactions with relevant universities and frequent reminders for each student around tests and deadlines of colleges and universities of their choice saw many students get to their dream colleges earlier this year.

The inauguration of the state-of-the-art Squash and Basketball courts last year at Founders' gave these sports an unprecedented impetus enabling our children to use these facilities to the fullest.

At the very core of producing teams which are athletically and mentally ready to compete in a range of sports, is the need to foster a strong training culture. Our coaches have worked extremely hard to prepare our students and I thank them profusely for all their efforts.

Our students participated in many inter house and inter school competitions and were fairly successful. Our performance at the IPSC events has established the fact that we are a strong contender at the national level. The video presentation that follows later will showcase the highlights of our sporting successes.

The School continues to operate an extensive co-curricular program throughout the year and I am sure the inauguration of the Dance and Music School will add more glitter to the already sparkling cultural life of the school. Our students participated in huge numbers and most importantly, in a non-coercive environment in intra and inter school events throughout the year. Further to this, it remains an aspiration of this School to continue to promote the notion of the all-rounder – the kind of student who derives pleasure and enjoyment from participating in a number of sporting or cultural activities, or indeed, both. Details of our successes in the co-curricular domain will be shortly showcased in a video presentation.