

On the 19th of June, despite the sweltering heat and the rising humidity, the School community gathered at the WMH to witness the much anticipated Inter-House Indian Music Competition. The event started off with a mesmerising solo by Shristi Baruah of the Yellow House, followed by Sikunpriya of Bhoroli who sang the ragas beautifully. Shagun Agarwal proved her mettle yet again with a classical number while Kapish Harsingpuria skillfully sang a classical piece composed by Mr. Benjamin.

The next category to take to the stage was the Tabla Duet. This category was ruled exclusively by the expertise of Aryan Sahoo and Adit Ghosh representing House Red while Pratyush Deka and Akhilesh Bora came a close second representing the House Green.

The next segment on que was the Group Instrumental where the melodious Santoor played by Kopili-Dhansiri and Jinari-Manas stole the show standing its ground amidst a myriad of instruments. The next segment was the much awaited Indian Music Choir where each House was accompanied by their own team of musicians.

Subansiri-Namdang sang a medley of popular folk music from across Bengal while Bhoroli-Lohit sang popular Rajasthani folk songs. Kopili-Dhansiri sang folk music from across the districts of Assam while Jinari-Manas stole the show with their rendition of the popular Rajasthani folk song ' Chaudhary' and the legendary ' Mast Qalandar'.

The winners tally began with Sikun Priya Goswami of the Blue House winning the First prize in the Solo Category followed by Kapish Harsingpuria of the Red House winning the second prize while Shagun Aggarwal of the Green house came third followed by Shristi Baruah of the Yellow House. In the Percussion Group category, Kopili-Dhansiri stood First followed by Jinari-Manas in the Second Position. In the Indian Vocal Group- Kopili-Dhansiri came first, followed by Jinari-Manas in the second place with Subansiri-Namdang came third followed by Bhoroli-Lohit.

In the Indian Instrumental group Jinari-Manas deservedly won the first position followed by Kopili-Dhansiri in the second place.



As the Indian Music segment of the Inter-House Music Competition gave way to the Western Music Department, the Williamson Magor Hall was packed with members of both student and staff community eager to witness the musical extravaganza the students had put together. The first category was for Western Instrumental in which Subansiri-Namdang was represented by Pratyush who played the violin, a new

face amidst the familiar ones while Kopili-Dhansiri was represented by Lemuel who played a classic Mozart. He received an encouraging applause for attempting the timeless masterpiece. Tarh Paul from Jinari-Manas amazed the crowd with his skills on the guitar proving that new talent had been discovered, nurtured and was here to stay. Kapinjal from Bhoroli-Lohit stole the show as he played his own composition the 'Phoenix Rising'

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on the guitar with ease and flaunted many difficult tricks with panache and skill. He went on to win while Tarh stood Second. The Vocal Duet category kick-started with Abidul and Rykor from the Yellow House singing the Oscar winning number by Gaga and Cooper, 'Shallow' much to the audience's delight. Veronica and Yajum from Kopili-Dhansiri sang the powerful number 'Like I am Gonna Lose You' while Navya and Saluzala sang Alicia Keys' 'If I Ain't Got You' and Jackson 5's 'Who's Loving You' and impressed the crowd with their vocal quality, control and pitch of the notes. Shanmen and Jirmin representing Bhoroli-Lohit emerged victorious in this category with their rendition of 'Change is Gonna Come' by Aretha Franklin. What struck a chord with the spectators was the performance the singers put up adding the X-factor to their duets by striking a connect between themselves and the audience. The next category brought the Choirs onto the stage. The largest category so far, it was evident that the Houses had put in sleepless nights and hours of dedication to perfect their respective pieces. Subansiri-Namdang conducted by Aichea were the first to perform rendering Katy Perry's famous number 'Roar', 'Some Nights' by Fun and Imagine Dragon's 'Thunder'. Conducted exquisitely it stood out for its acapella piece performed with perfect synchronization and predictably bagged the First Position in this category. Bhoroli-Lohit was conducted by their star singer Shanmen as the choir rang out to the iconic 'Oh Happy Day'. Yayum conducted the choir for Kopili-Dhansiri, which by far had the largest number of members. The track that specifically

impressed the audience was their version of 'Believer' by Imagine Dragons. Jinari-Manas sang 'Thundercloud' and 'Love is an Open Door'. Heavily characterised with harmonization and melodies it was conducted by Nivranshu. The Red House did themselves proud as they bagged the Runners Up position in this category. In the Instrumental Group category, Subansiri-Namdang played 'Hymn for the Weekend', a famous number by Coldplay. Bhoroli-Lohit played John Mayer's 'Slow Dancing in the Burning Room'. Jinari-Manas yet again did a fabulous job as they played an original composition inspired by Yui's 'Again'. Kopili-Dhansiri played the well-known number 'Kiss the Rain' by Yurima, which had a soothing effect in the hall. The Green and the Blue House were neck to neck and they won a joint First Position in this category as Jinari-Manas followed with a well-deserved second. The evening drew to a close with Mr. Bathla announcing the individual results while Mr Benjamin announced the overall House positions. The excitement for the results only intensified since it was the last Inter-House event before the School switched to examination mode. The AVS Music School performed brilliantly setting higher standards for itself and entertaining the community with an expert hand even as it nurtures its discovery of a new set of talented musicians.

Overall Positions:

- 1st: Jinari-Manas
- 2nd: Kopili-Dhansiri
- 3rd: Bhoroli-Lohit
- 4th: Subansiri-Namdang



Script...?

-Eloziini Senachena, X

'Script...?' by Jinari-Manas, the first play to take to the stage, centered around the theme of ego, in this case, of its actors. The play stood out for its intense plot amidst its sub-plots and was scripted and directed by Tamanna Ahmed, Nivranshu Baruah and Jeremy Jahau. Like the name suggests, the play started off with an empty stage with miscellaneous yells and shouts of the cast squabbling behind the drawn curtains, apparently due to discontentment regarding the script. The Director, Mr. Reynolds, played by Jeremy Jahau, walked up from

the midst of the audience to confront the situation and ordered the cast to come on stage. The curtain opened to reveal props that were set for neat and shrewd- if minimalistic- maneuver. The play then went on to unveil itself through loud confrontations between the actors which revealed a significant nature in their characters. While they jostled amongst themselves to suggest plots that revolved primarily around their pride and showcased specifically their own abilities, it is interesting how the set was cleverly utilised to

differentiate between the narratives. Teeming with connections to Bollywood, the play build towards its climax through many diversions each contributing to building the so called 'missing script'. The play ended with a monologue from the director Jeremy Jahau who accepted failure of creativity in the hands of individual egos with a dramatic track from the 'Pirates of The Caribbean' playing in the background. The Cast included Tamanna Ahmed, Nivranshu Baruah, Kapish

Harsingpuria, Aniketh Das, Devyam Seal, Jeremy Jahau, Shubhajeet Das Gupta, Hiramoni Basumatary, Trinayana Saikia and Shrabona Borthakur along with the House Captains Trisha Baruah and Jian Moji Jini. The play won The Best Director Award while Tamanna Ahmed was awarded Best Actress for her portrayal of Natasha Singhanian and Hiramoni Basumatary was awarded Most Promising Actress for her portrayal of Tara. The play came recieved the Runners-Up Award.



TWISTED CLICHÉS

-Saziia Selva, XII

As the name suggests the play is set in an alternate universe where the social hierarchy is decided by the orientation of a person, with the heterosexuals occupying the lowest rung of society and the various members of the LGBTQ being part of the elite. Winning the award for the Best Script, it was written by Ngukivi Chishi, Indrani Nandy and Gayatri Sapru. The play begins with a dramatic monologue by Dhruv Choudhary, played by Subham Paul, lamenting the position of those 'straight' in the community. He steals a bottle of medicine which he thinks is lethal and proceeds to gulp it down to end his miserable life. This is followed by a striking entry of Yamraj Singh on a bicycle, an underling of God. The duo trace their way back to the office where Dhruv had been employed and had faced terrible discrimination and mistreatment. Mrs. Maru, a well-respected and liked transgender woman played by Karun Thapa earned much applause and laughter for his theatrics. The people at the office beginning from his Boss played

by Kavya Bagrodia, Mrs. Zeenat Semwal played by Ipshita Kashyap, Mr. Kalita played by Bornam Bora are horrified to find that the untouchable heterosexual had dared to enter the office and proceeded to harass him. In an unexpected act of kindness, Mrs. Anushka Semwal played by Suhani Singhanian, stands up for him and shows how she too had been oppressed by society by talking about her childhood (played by Aanya P. Sarkar) and her male friend (played by Takhe Tamo Haro). The play ends with a monologue by God played by Tushar Das, as he preaches equality and tolerance. A twist in the plot at the end revealed that the bottle was not really lethal and that the entire episode had really been a figment of his imagination. The episode had played in his head and that now he had another chance at life.

The play had a universal message and bagged the First Position with Ngukivi Chishi who played Yamraj Singh being awarded the Best Actor.



THE END OF THE DAY

-Jeremy Jahau, XI

Photographs: The AVS Photography Society

'The End of The Day' was the name of the play done by the Green House, Kopili-Dhansiri, which answered the question "What if 'Murder on the Orient Express' was an Indian Comedy?" Scripted by Areeq Imran, it brought to the stage a unique concept of an entire act dramatised within an aircraft. The play was a noteworthy portrayal of modern day racial problems coupled with gut-busting stereotypes and the ever so expected plot twists, which one might feel were way too many. The play opened with a boarding announcement with which the audience would catch their first glimpse of the characters. This sequence was without dialogue and gave characters time to portray their traits before words were required. The curtains opened to the main set of the play, an ambitious stage re-creation of a Boeing-377 Economy Class aisle. The play was an interesting attempt of debunking modern stereotypes with hilarious comic bits played by Parikhith Baruah, Nachiket Jha, Rishita Dhelia, Pratham Somani and Prachi Agarwal, accompanied with more serious roles played by Parthiv Gargo, Areeq Imran,

Nizovino Meyase, Saptarshi Acharjee and a silent passenger played by Nilimoy Das. As the play took off, the story started unveiling more of itself in the form of an apparent bomb-scare with the plane suffering a handful of technical glitches and the pilots even forgetting to turn off the announcement system while they joked of possible crashes. However, the passengers became preoccupied with quarrels amongst themselves as an ex-CBI detective began questioning each passenger in the style of *Hercule Poirot*, without his genius. As the plane begins to go through rough turbulence, the same is felt within the aircraft as an argument ensues between the passengers and a hysterical air hostess. It reaches many emotional climaxes but continued to settle on the floors of the dysfunctional aisle. The play abruptly ends with an air-crash leaving only one survivor and many unanswered questions about the turn of events leaving behind an air of mystery. The play landed the Fourth Position with Krish Agarwal being given the Most Promising Actor Award.





A SOCIAL DISCONNECT

-Sieyina Meru, XII

Scripted by Sempisang Toy and Nandini Garodia, 'A Social Disconnect' took a satirical look into an obsession with apps and its impact on our lives. The play began with a punch as laughter rang amongst the audience as the Help of the house (Lokesh Agarwal) tried to tackle his mundane life by dancing to upbeat Assamese music. The play underwent a dramatic change as Roshni (Nandini Garodia) and Vito (Sempisang Toy) a married couple walked into the room caught in the usual marital bliss of arguments, wherein Vito lays down the premises of his life by proclaiming that he does not have "to pay a single paisa for Netflix since his entire life was a drama". Whatsapp (Srutashman Baruah) then strutted in and pulled the charmed Roshni away from Vito towards malicious gossips and news. The play circulated around the struggles of each family member and their obsession with popular apps and how it led them to ignore the

grandfather (Letminlun Haokip). Dhruv (Aryaman Choudhury) a repressed homosexual, also the son of the family, is found constantly taunted by Instagram (Aishwarya Saikia) while Tik tok (Fazil Hazarika) appeared to be constantly pulling away Riya, (Pratiti Baruah), the daughter, from her romantic persuasions. The play ended with the grandfather passing away after trying to gain attention of his family the only way he thought he could, by trying to reach them through the social media.

The characters all learn of the harmful effects of social media and reformed themselves after a reading a letter that the grandfather had left behind. The play had an interesting concept however had a strain of monotony that threatened to weaken the climax. However, the humour and the several set changes along with the sound effect kept the play afloat.

Photographs: The AVS Photography Society



New Kid On The Block:

Dreams Who Do

-Diya Nath, XII

I see a light and try to catch it.

But it's too far away.

It's spreading up, I just can't match it,

It seems to go astray.

I am stretching out with open arms,
But the only thing it does is it harms.
To try and chase a dream I can't fulfil.

I'm running after fire.

I know I'm not a crier;

But I cannot just dream and keep still.

A thousand words I wish to speak

No sound escapes my voice,

I'm tired of running, growing weak

But do I have a choice?

I will not be a rusted gate,

A fool with nothing else but hate

I need to try and reach that open door.

To find a world of destiny.

Of hope and faith and make believe.

A peace I've heard, but never seen before.

Enough of dreaming, hoping.



Enough of sadness, enough of moping.
It's time to make my dreams come true
For sure...

CAMPUS NEWS



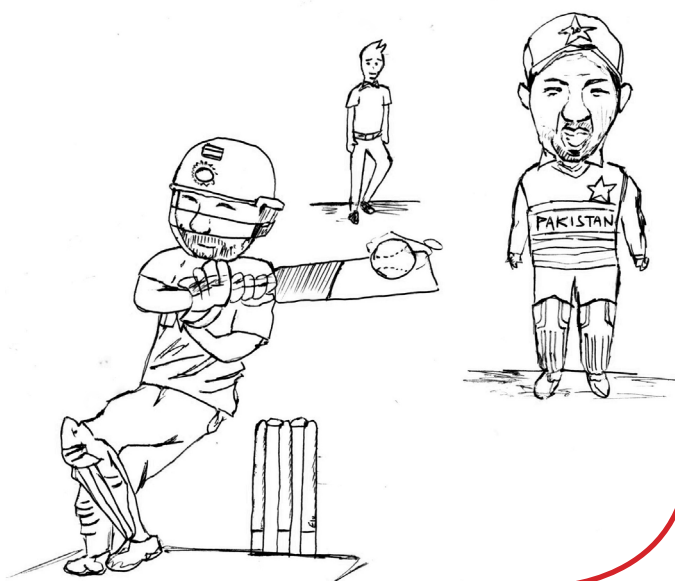
On the evening of the 16th of July, after a fun-filled if exhaustive House Day, the students assembled at the WMH for an interactive and informative workshop on Cyber Security and Crime by India's renowned ethical hacker, Rakshit Tandon. He kept the AVS crowd captivated with his wit and humor while speaking on the dangers that lurk on the internet and the necessity of preventive steps that allow students a protected use of the World Wide Web.

The following day saw the inauguration of the School's first Archives Gallery by the Head of School. The excellent show put up by the School's Archives Team headed by Mi/c Mrs. Rimjhim Ghosh Pyne made the best use of space while preserving sources that bring alive the history of AVS as it stands on the threshold of its 25th year. The exhibition was lively and interactive and is set to grow from strength to strength keeping pace with the School it chronicles.

THE OUTPOST

Illustration: Eloziini Senachena

With the new Lok Sabha reinstated, The President's Address to the Joint Session of the Parliament resonated the BJP's manifesto and Modi's new plan of 'One Nation, One Election' as Rahul Gandhi fiddled with his phone only to come out of the Parliament to reiterate his exit as Congress President. Andhra Pradesh's CM surprises the nation by notifying that his cabinet is to have five Deputy Chief Ministers representing the various minority groups. While the CM tries hard to satisfy the people, India wins the match against Pakistan by a crushing 89 runs in the ongoing ICC Cricket World Cup.



HEATED PERFORMANCE

-Nilasha Bhimsaria, X



Ripple #104

-Nandini Garodia, XII

To spare the wolf
pup
Would cost the
lion his own cubs
But most of all
his dear lioness
And so he
whispered,
“The things I do
for love.”

Tongue of Slip!!

1. Tallum, you not very soccer - Ashmita Phukon, XI (*The same goes for your English.*)
2. Deb in your classmate - Ma'am SPS (*That trend is so out of style Ma'am.*)
3. How many much time? - Anisha Baruah, XI (*Not enough for you.*)
4. Will run 20 kmph on windmill - Arpit Agarwal, XII (*Tread lightly.*)
5. Who is the Chief Minister of India - Jirmin Toko, XII (*That's a prime question.*)
6. Do not make shout - Sempisang Toy, XII (*Keep your volumes to yourself.*)
7. You will become stomach bad - Anahita Stephen, XI (*Atleast my brain is fine.*)

Keep It Reel!

Surfing Sands

-Himangshu Baruah, XII



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