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The opposition in India went from voicing their own opinions and the 'truth' until that was what they could hold on to for staying relevant. It went from criticizing the wrong policies and programmes of the Government to becoming synonymous with bashing the BJP government. The main opposition in India is formed by the Indian National Congress (INC) and other regional parties. "The INC is a sinking ship"; many of us have heard that phrase by now. Yet, it's a bit astonishing to think how far the political party has fallen. The history of the INC has run parallel with India's Freedom Movement, to an extent where the line between these histories seem blurred. A large part of the Indian Freedom Movement owed its existence to this "grand old party" which was not just a political party but an umbrella organization where different schools of thought coexisted parallelly.

"Despite having fought the British Raj, the Congress is today reduced to slaving for the Raj of the Gandhi family."

From Gandhi to Bose, Nehru to Patel, Tilak to Gokhale, Congress contained people poles apart ideologically and yet, remained one single party. The organizational structure of the Congress was so deep-rooted that it stayed entrenched in Indian society long after independence. Their decline started when people realized nepotism and corruption had become the bulwark of the party leaving little room for maneuver. The Gandhi family alone ir accounts for three Prime Ministers who ruled the country for 37 years making them the country's foremost political dynasts. Despite having fought the British Raj, the Congress is today reduced to slaving for the Raj of the Gandhi family. Recently, the Congress made a lot of news about rifts within the party causing the resignation of important

THE OPPOSING OPPOSITION

-Yashodhara Mahanta, XI

Illustration: Shrutika Parajuli, XI

MPs, who came to be popularly known as the G-23. It is important to address how the main political Opposition in India slowly turned irrelevant when the country is in dire need of interference to possible fascist policies favouring a certain group of people. The Opposition in India is seen to be in a state of helplessness to the point where “a grand alliance” seems to be the way forward in 2024. The Hathras case is an example of an event that shook the collective conscience

of our country, yet the Congress managed to turn it into an agenda all about the Gandhi brother-sister duo. A similar state of affairs lurked in the Lakhimpur-Kheri case where headlines went from farmers being killed to Priyanka Gandhi sweeping the floor. The Congress today has become stymied to three states and its call to fame remains merely to be the BJP's B Team its great lineage relegated to the pages of history.

BOND

An Around the World Feature

-Lavanya Adhikari, X

Illustration: Eloziini Senachena



“The name is Bond, James Bond” is the iconic phrase that draws us into the dazzling world of intrigue and chase. Better known as ‘Double O Seven’, is a fictional character who is an intelligence officer in the British Secret Service, MI5. He first appeared in a novel by Ian Fleming in 1953. When Fleming first wrote the novel, he wanted Bond to be the simplest, dullest, and most uninteresting character. Instead what we have today is a handsome fellow who loves guns, vehicles, the ladies, and his martinis ‘shaken not stirred.’ It was only about nine years after the first book was published that the first movie adaptation came out. Bond’s background is a tragic one. His parents were killed in a climbing accident when he was only eleven years old. He was sent off to his aunt’s and for a while, he attended Eton College before getting expelled for dalliances (typical Bond) and was expelled. The intriguing thing is that this information was not out until the twelfth book ‘You Only Live Twice’. Bond is usually on a floating timeline and never ages so if you have never watched any of the movies, it is okay to start with any since the episodes are stand-alone. Although Fleming died in 1964, authorized novelists continue to write about the adventures of Bond. Until today six actors have played Bond for over six decades. The first Bond played by Sir Sean Connery in Dr. No caught popular imagination and while each actor brought to Bond a new dimension, the Gentleman’s Journal ranks the Irishman Pierce Brosnan as the number 1# Bond. It was Daniel Craig who brought fresh fervor to the franchise and made Bond even more popular amongst the masses. Craig starred in ‘Casino Royale’ and since then, has played the character in four movies with his fifth and final Bond movie being No Time to Die. While Daniel Craig lays now the baton and the search for the new bond begins, and despite ripples of Lashana Lynch, the British female actor rumored to be the next Bond, will only play a new character in the next movie. The question that catches the imagination is not so much as to who the next Bond will be but what the next Bond will be like. We wait and watch.

Afternoon Bliss

-Anukriti Kashyap, IX

Nothing shall ever compare to dozing off on afternoons
Slyly dashing off to my room
As stealthily as a rogue on the run,
As I pay little or no heed to my mom's bicker
As my eyes flicker
knowing that bliss awaits me
In a sweet and sound sleep

And the trophy goes to....

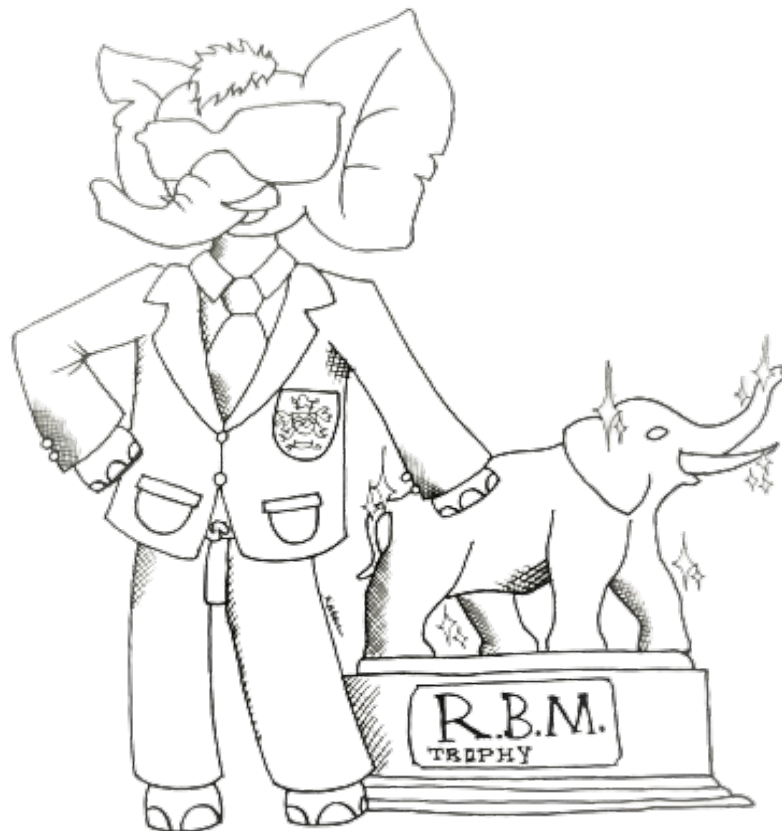


Illustration: Karun Thapa

Errata:

Issue 83's keep it reel was clicked by Zainab A. Khan, XII

The English Debates Finale

-Aayat Hazarika, IX

The Inter-House Upper School English Debates took place on the 14th of October, 2021, on the virtual platform between Bhoroli-Lohit and Kopili-Dhansiri, as sides Proposition and Opposition respectively. The motion for the day was “Social media has improved human communication”. The judges for the event were Mr. Tushar Bharadwaj, Director of Activities and Marketing Affairs, Ms. Joyce McDonald, Head of Lower School and Head of the Department of Biology, and Mr. Thajeb Ali Hazarika, Co-ordinator, Humanities. The debate began with Naviya Chamariya, lead Speaker of side Proposition, explaining what an invaluable tool social media has been for communication during the pandemic giving examples to counter arguments side Opposition was likely to make. Ahamed Daiyan Alam, lead Speaker of side Opposition pointed out through numerous examples that fake news propagated through social media continued to harm people causing panic and pandemonium. Shripriya Kajaria, second Speaker of side Proposition, rebutted the Opposition’s arguments and said that “Tools are as good as how you use them” and explained about the supply-and-demand chain vis-à-vis social media along with statistics. Fareeha Ambreen, 2nd speaker of side Opposition, countered side Proposition’s arguments with facts and statistics and explained how prominent abbreviations frequently used in social media posed serious problems in the proper use of the English language. Side Proposition’s 3rd speaker, Hiyaneijemmy Das, countered the Opposition’s arguments pointing out that they had used the very abbreviations, which they condemned and further strengthened her team’s position through strong rebuttals. Alka Jhawar, 3rd Speaker of side Opposition expressed her disappointment over the growing lack of physical human contact because of social media which kept people glued to their phones and made them distant to family, giving basic but realistic situations. The debate came to an explosive finish after a series of relentless rebuttals and counters. The results awarded Shripriya Kajaria as Best Speaker while Fareeha Ambreen was awarded Most Promising Speaker. The motion was carried and Bhoroli-Lohit emerged victorious with Kopili-Dhansiri as Runners-up.

Round Square

The Round Square Committee hosted a Virtual Zoom Post-card Call on October 13, themed “Too many of us are not living our dreams because we are living our fears” and the Keynote Speaker for the event was Lt Gen (Retd.) Surendra Kulkarni, Director, Mayo College Ajmer.

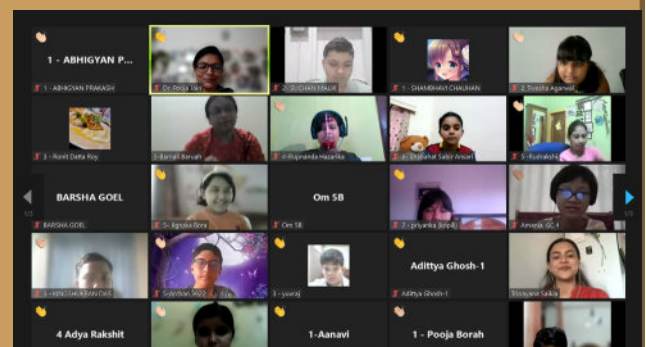
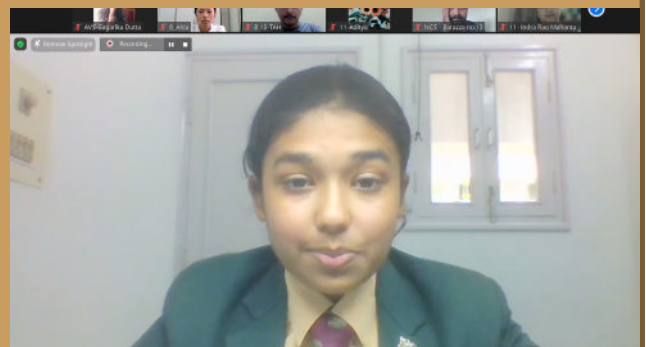
Ubuntu

Hiyaneijemmy Das and Yashodhara Mahanta of Class 11 secured 1st position in Dialogue-2 of the Virtual Academic Symposium: ‘Raising the Bar through Ubuntu’ held in Modern High School for Girls’, Kolkata.

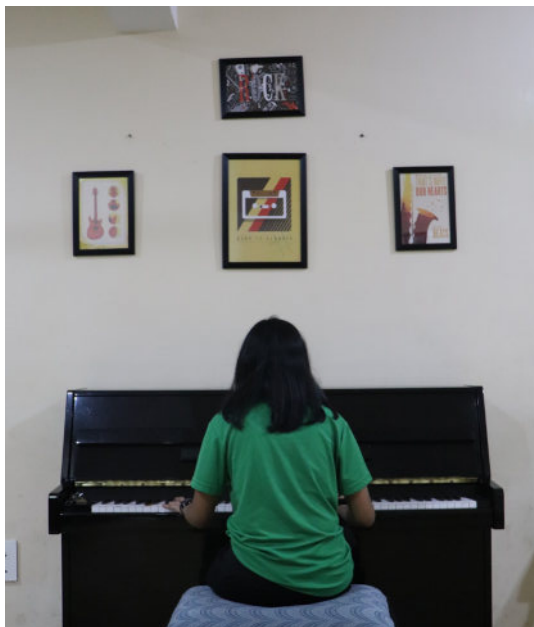
AVS Conference for LS

-Dr. Pooja Jain Benjamin, RS Rep

The Assam Valley School Round Square Committee under the guidance of Dr. Pooja Jain and Mrs. Sagarika Dutta, hosted a Virtual Conference for Lower School students on 19 October, 3 pm, themed ‘Too many of us are not living our dreams because we are living our fears’ based on the Discoveries of Communication Skills; Inquisitiveness; Tenacity; Courage and Self-Awareness. Over 175 delegates across classes 5-8, participated in the conference. The Keynote Speakers, Naviya Chamariya School Captain and Trinayana Saikia Round Square Student Chairperson, shared their ideas with the delegates as student leaders who would soon step out to pursue their own dreams. The event came to a close with Adella F. Massar and Aastha J. Bora passing the conference resolution to never quit and keep striving until we accomplish our dreams. Yashodhara Mahanta concluded the session with her vote of thanks to the delegates, mentors barazza leaders, and the Round Square committee for helping bring to fruition yet another successful conference. Dr. Pooja Jain, The Keynote Speakers, Naviya Chamariya School Captain and Trinayana Saikia Round Square Student Chairperson, shared their ideas with the delegates as student leaders who would soon step out to pursue their own dreams. The event came to a close with Adella F. Massar and Aastha J. Bora passing the conference resolution to never quit and keep striving until we accomplish our dreams. Yashodhara Mahanta concluded the session with her vote of thanks to the delegates, mentors barazza leaders, and the Round Square committee for helping bring to fruition yet another successful conference.



FOUNDERS' FEVER



Nail-biting finishes & nervous energies abound and toes all around are stepped upon as much as nimbly turned on – be it the sports-field, dance-recitals curated by the Performing Arts Depts or the gripping English theatrical treat from the Master of Suspense adapted for a discerning audience by an enigmatic English teacher. Setting the campus abuzz about Founder’s Celebrations 2021, here’s what to expect: A musical extravaganza integrating both physical and digital mediums, titled, “Saptasur” with singers and instrumentalists infusing patriotic fervor, the AVS Dance School showcasing ‘Mukti Jujaru’ based on Birbala Kanaklata and other Axomiya freedom fighters of the Quit India Movement and a heart-warming poem juxtaposed in between the dance and drama are some highlights. Others include far pavilions of the sports ground witnessing a standing salute to the Indian flag, horseback exercise routines, tent-pegging and show jumping performances by Equestrian club members, note-worthy being Arman Abdullah Imdad, class 11, Dhansiri, who has done AVS proud with his selection at JNEC 2021 by riding 2 horses in dressage and holding 1st and 2nd position in the selection round and show jumping category. So, be there – or be square!

-Deepanjali Figg, Department of English/SEN

This that I see around me, the vast expanse of the greens feels like a safe haven where I can step out breathe and meet people unafraid. They say Founders’ is a festival where life reels in a cosmos ruled by creativity and achievement. Today, I sense a calm in the air, a serenity that wraps around the days where effort and tenacity is achievement. If Founders’ is creating then I am at it, if it is catching more than just a moment with my friends than I have found it, if it is a sudden nip in the air, then I am feeling it. Founders’ will be many things to many people, to me, it is my subtle journey of becoming an Aviator, for life.

-Sarai G. Momin, XI

AVIATORS SPEAK

“It is the most awaited school event for all the Aviators alike. It is when everyone gets a chance to perform whatever they are good at. The excitement can be seen easily as we start preparing for founders like a month ahead. Weeks of toil seems to pay off on the last day of dry run before Founders’. Apart from that, food courts inevitably add to the joy. Another reason I call this time of the year “most awaited” is because the RB Magor is awarded during Founders’. We make some of the best memories over the three days.”

-Jaanvi Bagaria, IX



“Founders’ is like the new year of this school. It is an event that every aviator looks forward to. When founders start to come around, it feels like all these old buildings start speaking. It makes me realise how lucky I am to be a part of this prestigious school. If you ever asked what founders mean to me, I would never describe it as a mere event, for me it is a feeling altogether.”

-Abishkrita Barua, X

“The Founders bring forth a wide range of colours and designs to suit the various festivals and days round the year. It also brings a sense of unity among the Aviators to work, grow and bring the best out of it. The smell of freshly coated paints around the school campus and the water droplets of rain falling down from the sky to the core of the heart and the group of students of each stream rushing in for late night practices. This end of October marks a new beginning and with new achievements among the Aviators.”

-Calvin Irom, XI



“Founder’s, the LOC bustling with students rushing from one end of the school to the other, the WMH booming with loud music and dramatic plays and speeches, the food court filled with people all day long. Yet, these are not the only aspects which make founder’s, FOUNDERS. It’s AVS which make the founder’s celebration live up to its name eventually. Founder’s is not an event which the school celebrates annually, it’s become more of a feeling that an Aviator lives with. It’s that time of the year again when there’s fresh paint and rejoiced spirits everywhere.”

-Aadya Ghosh, X

“Founders’ is like the new year of this school”

“It’s that time of the year again when there’s fresh paint and rejoiced spirits everywhere.”

“We make some of the best memories over the three days.”

“I would never describe it as a mere event, for me it is a feeling altogether.”



I still remember my first Founders'. Coincidentally, it was also the first semester of physical school for me. It seems the golden lights cherish the old as they open their arms to welcome the new. Besides good food and music, I also look forward to Founders' Awards this time. It somehow manages to be the perfect breather I need before I roll up my sleeves for boards!

-Garlina Saikia, XII

"Founders' cannot only be called an 'annual event' for this school. It does occur annually, but it is so much more than just the events and decorations. It is about the feeling of enthusiasm and excitement that every aviator waits year long for. The lights, the LOC, the food courts, and even the practices that start weeks prior, make it the most awaited event. The way winters start to set in and evenings start to give you nostalgia, makes every aviator want this time of the year whole heartedly."

-Vanshika Sharma, IX

The Founders bring enthusiasm and unity among the Aviators, where the sky filling with clouds, bringing in rain to fall from the sky to the core of the heart, makes a sense of unity and prosperity amongst the Aviators where it marks the end of the bygone days to a dawn of new beginning of life.

-Yash Vardhan Agarwalla, XI

"This is an event discussed and talked about both in and outside the campus. It is one of the most important and prestigious event with enthusiastic participation of students in fields like dance-plays, exhibitions, musicals, food courts for which everyone puts in their best foot forward. I, as a newcomer, am extremely enthusiastic to witness this grandeur celebration."

-Priashi Khakholia, IX

"Founder's Day is the most important in the calendar of annual events, marking the day when the past, present and the future come together to uplift the school to the greatest heights. Everyone is very excited during this time of the year and work extremely hard to put everything together. Some people make posters, some decorate the stage, while others take part in dance, music, orchestra and so many other things. It is definitely the best time of the year where the whole school comes together to celebrate this day."

-Ruhi Kalita, IX

Founders' is coming and we are very excited. One thing I like about this occasion is that we get good food. I wish my parents could be here and I am kind of sad that we cannot invite them because of the pandemic. However that is okay because I care about my family in AVS too.

-Devrani Pebam, XII



Ripple #171

-Adella F. Massar, XI

The strong stench filled the
eerie silence of the night.
The thick white fog covered
the dark alley.
Crime and creature hid in
the shadows
Alert, awake, aware
Enola Holmes, was in town.

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "I am dying for my life" - Tsoshenu John, XII (*Same, dude, same*)
2. "Can't even get a hot water of bottle" - Subhajeet Das Gupta, XII (*Are we drinking bottles now?*)
3. "They are discussioning" - Shripriya Kajaria, XII (*Me when I watch couples fight*)
4. "She is a Namdang girl. No, no, Dhansiri girl. I mean Subansiri" - Tanisha Bhadra, XII (*A cue to get your life together*)
5. "The boys are making bodies at the gym" - Danica Boro, XII (*Animal breeding in the gym next?*)

Keep It Reel!

Sanctity in AWS

-Suhani Agarwala, XI



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