

ASSAM VALLEY EXPRESS

Founders' Special,
Issue 85



“When the shadow of the sash
appeared on the curtains it
was between seven and eight
o’ clock and I was bewitched
by time again.”

-William Faulkner, *The Sound
and the Fury*



WAR OF WORDS

-Aanya P. Sarkar, VIII



On the evening of 22nd of October, the Athenaeum held the prestigious Headmaster's Gold Medal Debate. The School Captain, also Captain of the Debating Society Naviya Chamaria was the Chairperson with Aanya P. Sarkar as the proverbial timekeeper. The topic of the debate was This House will give up liberty for safety. The team speaking for the motion consisted of Shripriya Kajaria, Fareeha Ambreen, Riariti Odelia Lato Sohliya, Vasumann Lohia and Alka Jhawar. The team speaking against the motion consisted of- Raghav Agarwal, Barsha Goel, Hiyaneijemmy Das, Donovan Figg and Claudia N .Marak. The Judges for the evening were Ms Chelsea Ann Scott, Ms Chandrikand and Mr Antar. The First Speaker from side Proposition Shripriya Kajaria spoke about safety providing liberty and stated that conflict was the only constant. Raghav Agarwal, the first Speaker from side Opposition took to the podium. He defined liberty and safety and spoke about contradictions regarding them in the Constitution. He stated that giving up liberty would result the loss of safety as well. The second speaker from the Proposition, Fareeha Ambreen took to the podium with confidence and spoke about the misconceptions regarding liberty and safety. Barsha Goel, of side Opposition then took to the podium beginning with a quote by Benjamin Franklin and defined liberty as a way of life. She also stated that trading away freedom would make us less secure. The third speaker from the Proposition was Riariti Odelia Lato Sohliya. She stated that Democracy was built on Liberty. She also said that being safe equaled to being free. She went on to talk about the Pandemic and gave an example of a seat belt which while restricting our liberty of movement kept us safe. The third speaker from the Opposition, Hiyaneijemmy Das took the podium like a quiet storm as she laid out the burden of proof. She argued that constraints of liberty were still a feature of liberty and that consent was essential. She then went on to state that liberty though dangerous was the safest thing we had. The fourth speaker from the Proposition was Vasumann Lohia. He started his speech by defining Liberty and Safety. He explained that rules were meant to keep us safe and also stated that laws were amendable. Donovan Figg, The fourth speaker from side Opposition took to the podium next. In his argument he rebutted the earlier statements made by the Proposition and emphasized on the word 'Give Up'. He stated that liberty and safety benefited each other. He stated that if we sacrificed liberty for safety we were bound to receive neither. The Last speaker from the Proposition was Alka Jhawar. She began with the rebuttal that Benjamin Franklin had lived in a different generation and the definition of liberty had long changed since then. She also said that wearing a mask during the Pandemic was not a choice but an obligation. She argued that the country had suffered higher death rates because some people chose liberty over safety. The Last Speaker for the evening was Claudia N. Marak. She began her speech with a series of rebuttals. She stated that we had a right to life and touched upon Personal Liberty and the Constitution of India. The evening came to an end with the judges and the Headmaster sharing their thoughts. The results saw Donovan Figg win the Headmaster Gold Medal Debate. Alka Jhawar came second while Shripriya Kajaria and Hiyaneijemmy Das shared the third position.

DAY ONE



-Kekhriesino Meyase, XI

The prestigious Founders' Assembly was held on the 28th of October 2021 at the Foundation Stone. The assembly started with the School Choir singing the School's hymn 'On this School you blessing Lord', followed by a prayer by the Headmaster, Dr. Vidhukesh Vimal. The history of the school and how it was founded and how it came to be a leap of hope for the North East was highlighted by the Headmaster. He asked the students to ponder if they were making the most of the time they had in School and on campus living by the vision of this great institution. The emphasis on passion and how it should correlate with the School's vision and core values resonated in his speech and he left the audience on the note, "There's more in you than you think." The Head Girl, Saumya Jindal graced the stage next and invoked a sense of belonging amongst the students. Head Boy, Areeq Imran spoke next on the sense of pride one felt to belong to a School such as AVS and how we were all part of its great legacy. Naviya Chamariya, the School Captain spoke to the School and reminded us of the perseverance and fortitude the community has shown in the face of the pandemic and how we have stood resolute by the vision of the School despite all odds. The times have brought us closer and today we celebrated the spirit of AVS that thrived in each Aviator of past and present. The 26th Founders' Assembly ended with the Headmaster reminding us that the greatness of AVS lay in the fact that its essence stood unchanged over the years and will stand strong long after we were gone and there were others who stood proud in similar uniforms.



EXHIBITIONS

-Lavanya Adhikari, X



Little Enchantments:

This was an exhibition by the Sunnyside on the theme of Assam's culture. They showcased their learning through dance, music, speeches, etc. The main point of the exhibition was for the students to display the skills that they had acquired in their own unique way.

Orchid Art Exhibition:

This exhibition had it all: from abstract art and still life, to nature study, portraits, landscapes and applied art. The array of canvases and sketches were spellbinding. The artists left us speechless with their talent.

Orchid Design Exhibition:

This exhibition almost felt like entering a completely different universe. The Shibori-dyed dresses were made ethereal by the beautiful lighting. The toys, bamboo instruments, caricatures and the mathematical art brought so much life to the already beautiful exhibition that every spectator was mesmerized.

Earth (Class 8):

This was an online exhibition by the class 8s on their cross-curricular topic, Earth. The students put together a video of their understanding on the topic. They analysed the topic in terms of every subject and presented something related to that. For example, in biology, they worked with the topic flora and fauna. It was an informative exhibition.

Change (Class 7):

Change was also an online exhibition put together by the class 7s. Although apart, they managed to convey to us what change meant to them corresponding with every subject. For example, in biology, they talked about germination, in Hindi about change in seasons, in geography about climate change. The students reminded us of this important aspect of life.

Water (Class 6):

The class 6 students presented the topic, water. They talked about saving water, as well as clean water and dirty water. They also managed to convey to us the method of filtering water by using sand and gravel. It was an informative and interesting exhibition.

Communication (Class 5):

The tiny and enthusiastic kids of class 5 put up an online exhibition on the topic, communication. They talked about the different modes of communication and also made models of the different tools. They made models of telephones, televisions etc. These kids managed to leave us in awe by their cuteness and enthusiasm.

Karwaan:

Karwaan was an exhibition where all the online events the school had held in the year 2021 was recorded and portrayed in the most beautiful manner. They had the pictures of all the events displayed. From inter-house to inter-school, they had it all. This was indeed a great way to compile and display the school's events.

Sparsh:

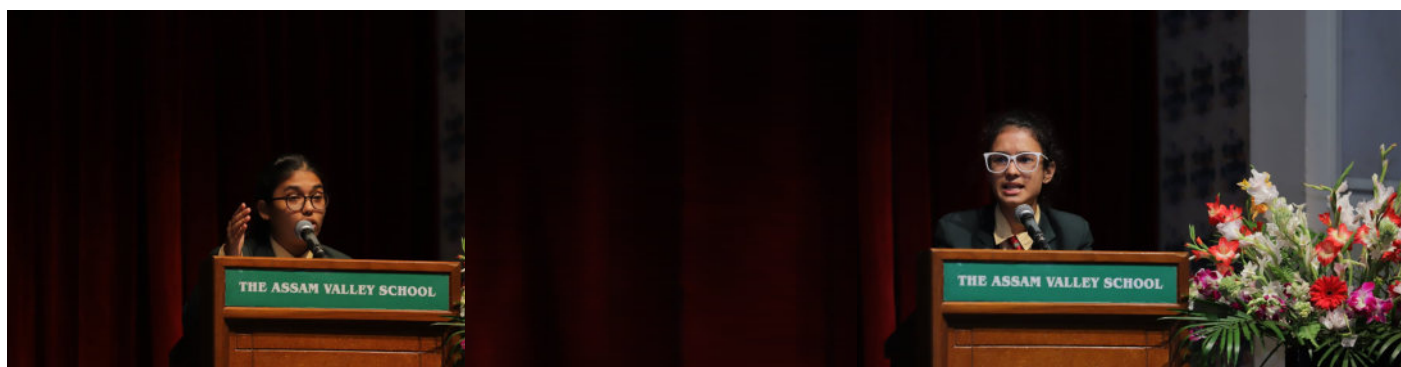
The Sparsh exhibition, as it always does, left us speechless this year too. They displayed photography in all categories: landscape, abstract, wildlife, sunset, product, and also a section of pictures that did not belong to any of the above-mentioned categories. The photographers put in their best effort, evident in the wonderful exhibition.

Expressions:

With much pride and affection, the school released 12 different publications in various languages. Expression, a publications exhibition displayed all the different publications that our school has.

SILVER JUBILEE DEBATE

-Donovan Figg, XI



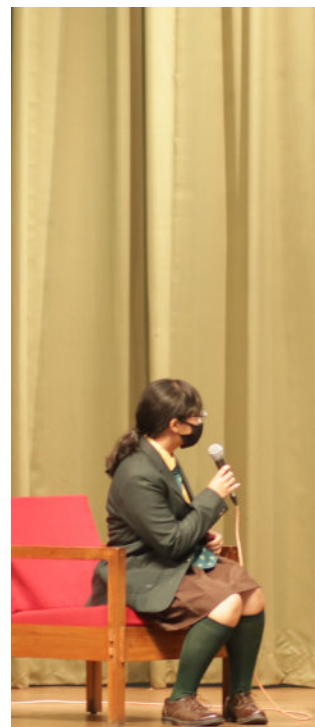
The Silver Jubilee debates has become one of the prime highlights of Founders' that brought the alumni and the present pupils on the same platform. Introduced in the school's 25th year, it promises to become a sought after event for those within the School as well as those outside School. The judges for the event were Dr. Objha Bora Hazarika, Alumni Batch of 2005, Sunasiri, Mrs. Joyce MacDonald, Head of Lower School and Head of Department, Biology and Dr. Amlan K. Saha, Principal Of Sanskaar Valley School and ex- Deputy Headmaster of AVS. The alumni formed side Proposition and the team consisted of Samarjit Sharma (Batch of 2003, Lohit), Karuna Goenka Chamaria (Batch of 2003, Bhoroli), Jyotsna Chandrani (Batch of 2003, Bhoroli). The School team was side Opposition and was represented by School Captain and Captain of the Debating, Naviya Chamariya, Bhoroli, Vasumann Lohia, Namdang and Anushcka Joshi, Subansiri. The event saw a large number of viewers on the virtual platform. The Proposition began the debate by stating that the distinction between specialists and experts was becoming increasingly blurred. It had reached the point where everyone considered themselves an expert -- with disastrous results. They also said that it was pretentious of anyone to assume that they knew everything about a subject. Side Opposition rebuffed this by pointing out that the very concept of credibility was what gave someone the authority to "sign off" on something, thereby validating it for the world. People said that we may be falling down the spiral of "too many cooks", which is why we needed a head chef in the form of subject experts. The Proposition's second Speaker took a jibe at misinformation by proclaiming that people would believe any lie if you gave them enough time. She also said that the Syrian Civil War, the 2008 financial crash, and the fall of Afghanistan could have been avoided if we hadn't followed the advice of "experts" with dubious and unverified credentials. The second Speaker of the Opposition opened his debate with a quote from Neils Bohr, "An expert is a man who has

made all the mistakes he can in a very narrow field". He pointed out that we cannot actually judge the credibility of experts because we common people do not possess the knowledge, tools, or experience to evaluate them. The Proposition next stated that experts were relative, meaning that they were considered experts in relation to their audience or clientele. Also, since experts had a paymaster and had financial responsibilities of their own, they could pander to ulterior motives when proclaiming the findings of their investigations. The third Speaker from side Opposition came up and gave us two constructs. The first construct pointed out that we simply could not distinguish which experts were "good" and which were not, because we did not possess the credentials to do so. In the second construct the Speaker pointed out that, if we used failures as a metric for validating the credibility of an expert, then by that yardstick, Einstein, Edison, or the Wright brothers would not be considered experts in their own fields either. The Opposition's principal speaker wrapped up by saying that specialists and experts were not mutually exclusive and that indeed, one is the subset of the other. She gave the example of how, when we chose between two specialist doctors, we chose the one who had been in the field for a longer period of time. She ended by rebutting the Proposition's statement of experts pandering to their paymasters by saying that this ulterior motive was common to every single human being. The Proposition ended the debate with the statement that the intuitive bias that led us to associate proficiency with the word expert stemmed from the common use of the word to denote both proficiency and a profession. The scores were declared shortly after with the School team taking away 305 points, and the alumni taking home a grand total of 327 points. Mr. Samarjit Sharma was awarded Most Promising Speaker while Ms. Jyotsna Chandrani was awarded the coveted Best Speaker Award and Team Alumni were declared winners and the motion was carried. The debate came to an end with the alumni receiving a resounding applause from the audience.

IN CONVERSATION WITH DR. P. SRINIVASAN

-Hiyaneijemmy Das, XI

The 1st Day of the 26th Founder's Celebrations started off for the students of class 10 and 11 with an interaction with the Chief Guest of the day, Dr. Pia Srinivasan. She was a Bhoroli girl (Batch of 2003), whose professional journey was an interesting mix of jobs which spanned from journalism to running a bookstore before finally settling for research and conservation. The interaction began with an address by her on various issues and all the initiatives that she has been involved in. She provided insight on what it took to land on a job one was truly passionate about, and also shed light on many global issues that deserved more attention. She reminisced about her days at school remembering her teachers and Headmaster Mr. Carling warmly regaling the audience of her exploits with her friends. She stressed on the importance of reading and how it must be a conscious practice of every person. This was followed by a Question-Answer Interaction, where the enthusiastic and inquisitive students had much to ask. They asked questions ranging from career choices to social justice. The interaction left the students with a deep desire to learn more and advocate more for the various issues that must be addressed today. It was a great honour to have Dr. Srinivasan on this special occasion on campus and it was an interactive afternoon well spent that left a lasting impression on the audience.



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TALKS OVER TEA

Interviewed by Tanisha Bhadra, Neelabh Kashyap and Hiyaneijemmy Das

On the 29th of September, AVE had the opportunity to meet with the Chief Guest of the 26th Founders' Day, Mr. Sonam Wangchuk, the remarkable engineer, innovator and reformist who visited school along with his wife, Ms. Geetanjali JB Founding Member of Himalayan Institute of Alternatives, Ladakh (HIAL). AVE caught up with the power duo for a quick conversation.

AVE- How do you support each other through big and important decisions? What influence do you have on each other?

GJB: We resonate on the core values and we're complementary on our expressions, yin and yang, our core values are in place.

SWK: We complement each other rather than seeing things the same way, and are connected more towards the spiritual side.

AVE- From where do you get the spark and direction to choose what path to follow next, what new venture to try next?

GJB: Life is a very formative process and it always leads to something larger than we expect and we merely pick things up as we go.

AVE- What does your typical day look like?

GJB: A typical day starts around 4.30 am. I have sessions from 5am to 6am, learning or teaching, 6.30 am onwards I have fitness sessions, 9.30 work starts ends and around 5.30 pm I like to play sports.

SWK: I do not have a typical day. I go as ideas strike.

AVE- Could you tell us more of the curriculum you are developing and where do you hope to promote it?

GJB: The issue with the curriculum today in the country is that it is designed in a way that does not respect diversity. This needs to be rectified by making a curriculum that is more contextual, with a transitive approach which took into consideration the rich heritage we have, encouraged us to take pride in who we were, to

learn from it and adapt it to the modern context.

AVE- You have many patents and ideas under your name, prominent ones being the Ice Stupa, the siphoning technique, the Solar-Heated Military Tents - inventions so-out-of-the-box that no one would have thought of. Are there any new ideas currently in the works, or are they supposed to be a confidential, classified secret we aren't supposed to know?

SWK: (smiles) There is nothing classified about what I do. Ideas are sometimes a problem for me for they keep me awake. Nowadays I am working away from gadgets and more towards finding different ways to help heal nature.

AVE- What significance does spirituality hold in education according to you?

GJB: Education is the discovery of science through objective means, while spirituality is through experience and is the realisation of who we are. It is that anchor, the purpose, the guiding light, that helps us to evolve into something higher than ourselves. Education is the means by which we integrate both into our lives.

SWK: While technologies explore the outside world, we should also explore the inner world. While the former may be able to satisfy our, needs, beyond a point, it just becomes an empty pursuit. Spirituality is what makes you desire less, therefore helping solve the problem without fighting the war.

AVE- Your You Tube channel has over 1 million subscribers. What kind of reaction do you get to the contents you create especially regarding China?

SWK: There are two levels of reactions in India and China. People in India would want a way to make a difference and not leave it alone to the soldiers guarding our borders. China gets its power by flooding the world with unfriendly products and yet their development is not sustainable. We may think of China as the people of China but the truth is these are people who are victims of their government and are at their mercy. It is the responsibility of all Indians to raise their voice and use it to bring positive change in society.

SAPTASUR



-Adella F. Massar, XI

Saptasur just as the name suggests, means the origination of music notes that resonate and create the very foundation of Indian music. *Saptasur* embodies the spirit of freedom through songs ranging from Hindi, Assamese, Bengali and English. It is an array of different musical cultures of India brought together by the students of the school in vibrant, pleasing-to-the-ear songs. An exquisite orchestral piece of art bearing the theme of 'patriotism'. The show began with a performance by the cultural captain, Kaustav B. Arya who sang the resonance of the seven notes. The Music presentation was a 'phygital' performance as it had performers performing on stage physically as well as those who performed on the digital platform. It was a beautiful synchronised presentation allowing musicians from on and off campus to come together and perform in the event. On the occasion of India's 75th independence festival celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the students sang eleven songs dedicated to our country's freedom. The music was dynamic and the lyrics were beautiful and profound. Through the entire performance, different emotions were felt in the room. The sound of the instruments along with the euphonious voices of the singers gave the crowd goosebumps. The Musical presentation was spectacular, be it the musicians or the singers. It brought life to the stage and instilled a feeling of patriotism amongst the audience.

MUKTI JUJARU

An eye-catching performance, 'Mukti Jujaru' a dance play performed by the students, kept everyone on the edge of their seats. The name 'Mukti Jujaru' means fight for freedom. The dance presentation showcased the sacrifices and struggles made by the freedom fighters led by the Kanaklata Barua who lay down her life during the Quit India Movement. It depicted the glory of Assam and our Nation, written in the pages of our history through poetry. The dance drama was performed through Jhumur, Sattriya and other folk dances. Words fail to describe the beauty of the show put up by the students. One of the things that caught everybody's attention was when the performers entered waving the Indian flag along with the female lead. The performers held candles at the end of their performance which added a nice touch to the play. Everything was beautifully coordinated and there were times when it felt so real as the emotions flowed effortlessly through the act. The Dance presentation was a breath-taking performance from start to end. It left everyone with a feeling of pride to belong to a country such as ours.



ROPE: A PLAY ON MURDER AND MYSTERY

-Ojas Krish Ayapilla, XI

The first of its kind in the 26 years of AVS history, the e-play, ROPE, is an adaptation of the 1948 movie of the same name by Alfred Hitchcock, based on the 1929 play of the same name by Patrick Hamilton. Shrouded in a veil of illusion of a single take, and embellished with very artistic scenes and a fitting background score that kept the audience at the edge of their seats, the 50-min long e-play was the culmination of the tireless efforts and sleepless nights of both the Media Centre and the Dramatics Department. It opens with two friends-Gaurav and Varun, strangling their friend, the young David Dsouza to death with a rope. Gaurav came up with the plan to commit the perfect murder just for the thrill of it. Gaurav invites an ensemble of characters to his house for a party. This was to celebrate the achievement of having committed the perfect murder and at the same time experience a higher level of ecstasy knowing that there are people moving about the very spot where they have committed the crime in. The strength of the play along with its cinematography were its dialogues which brought through intellectual arguments cleverly embedded in the dinner party around the single topic of murder. The actors executed the play to perfection; from expressions to dialogue delivery. The Production team's direction and execution deserve plaudits for it did justice to the character of the play. The beautiful cinematography in equal parts made one feel like one was in the audience and the play was being performed live, enhancing the overall feel of the play.



Photo credits: Aviator Motion Pictures

DAY

THREE

-Hiyaneijemmy Das, XI

The most important day at Founders' Speech Day was held on the 30th of October. It began with the felicitation of the Chief Guest, Mr. Sonam Wangchuk. This was followed by the Head Girl leading the School in prayer, and the School song, 'Pass it on'. Mr. Wangchuk then released six publications by the various Departments. The Headmaster addressed the School, touching upon the ideals of student-centric learning, the pursuit of excellence, and the vision of AVS. He also listed the achievements of the school community. Finally, he emphasized on the importance of seizing the day, of pursuing our dreams and of nurturing the unique ideas that all students have. After the Headmaster's speech, the prestigious Founders' Awards were given out. Mr. Wangchuk then took to the podium and addressed the gathering. He caught our attention by narrating his own experience at school, which had been the open nature. He continued by telling us that children were wired to learn and that education must work to foster this innate desire to learn and know. He also said that we must not only teach and learn skills of the head but skills of the heart, such as social interactions and introspection. Mr. Wangchuk highlighted what he believed were the greatest lessons he has learnt in life. The first was that curiosity was innate, and it must be nurtured. He went on to say that curiosity drove one to follow goals and took one places. This innate curiosity must never be encouraged and not extinguished by educational institutions. Secondly, students must be stimulated to take initiative. If one had an idea or a thought one ought to pursue it. This also helped us to learn through initiative, for always learn better from our failures and mistakes. According to Mr. Wangchuk, "Experience came from action, and experience led to confidence." Only through initiative and experience would we master skills that helped us become more confident not only in what we were doing, but in what we wished to achieve in the future. He ended his speech on the note that empathy was the most important value, and that education was the powerful tool that would get us there. The School Captain, Naviya Chamariya, addressed the congregation next. She reminisced on her time in AVS and what it took to be a student leader especially in the given times. She ended with the wonderful words, "Dream big, they do come true."



LIST OF AWARDEES - FOUNDERS' AWARDS



Anushcka Joshi, XII

Award for Excellence in Craft, Design & Technology;
The Debater of The Year;
The MUN Delegate of The Year;
Sportswoman of The Year;
Angshuman Nath Trophy for General Proficiency (Upper School)



Naviya Chamariya, XII

The Headmaster's Award for Academic Excellence Level: ISC;
Chairman's Award for Leadership;
The Actress of The Year



Aarav Jain, XII

The Reader of The Year (Upper School): Silver Level;
The Quizzer of The Year



Kaustav Garg, XII
The Actor of The Year
The AVS Award for Pursuit of Excellence



Tanisha Bhadra, XII
The Print Media Journalist of The Year



Trinayana Saikia, XII
King Constantine Medal for Promoting The Ideals of Round Square



Nilasha Bhimsaria, XII
The Artist of The Year



Luqmaan Ahmed, XII
The Photographer of The Year



Shubhajeet Dasgupta, XII
Heather Carling Award for
Contribution in Dramatics



Takhe Tamo Reela, XII
The Reader of The Year (Upper School):
Gold Level



Abhigyan Deba Mishra, XII
Sportsman of The Year



Angree Killingpi, XII
The Artist of The Year



Utkarsh Jajodia, XI
Carling Award for Academic
Excellence Level: ICSE



Jaskeerat Singh, XI
The Instrumental Musician of The
Year: Western Music

Carling Award for Academic Excellence Level: ISC
Ananya Singh XII

Carling Award for Academic Excellence Level: ISC
Ashmita Kakati

Carling Award for Academic Excellence Level: ISC
Hrishi Raj Sureka XII

Carling Award for Academic Excellence Level: ISC
Aaryav Dutta XII

Carling Award for Academic Excellence Level: ICSE
Tanish Hansaria XI

The Headmaster's Award for Academic Excellence
Level: ICSE
Aditya Panigrahi XI

The Reader of The Year (Upper School): Bronze Level
Aakanksha Kumar IX

The Reader of The Year (Lower School): Gold Level:
Aanavi Ghosh V

The Reader of The Year (Lower School): Silver Level:
Vania Singh VIII

The Reader of The Year (Lower School): Bronze
Level: Zaheen Rafia Shah VIII

The Dancer of The Year: Western & Contemporary
Dance: Baibhav Sharma XI

The Percussionist of The Year
Swaptadeep Paul XII

The Vocalist of The Year
Jyotismoyee Chairingia XII

The Most Versatile Musician of The Year
Shriyansh Sharma XII

The Dancer of The Year: Indian Dance
Diksha Baruah X

The Designer of The Year
Anikaith Anant Joshi IX

Headmaster's Gold Medal Debate
Donovan Figg XI

The Award for Excellence in Electronic Media
Bornam Bora XII

Stuti Pande Prize (Improvement, Determination &
Preservance)
Sourav Khodal XII
David Summerscale Award for General Proficiency
(Lower School)
Urvee Rathi VIII

Academics Cup
Jinari-Manas

Cultural Cup
Jinari-Manas

Sports Cup
Subansiri-Namdang

Fair Play Cup
Bhoroli-Lohit

R.B. Magor Trophy for The Best House of The Year
Jinari-Manas



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"Strange how much can be
conjured with a few notes of
a song or a solitary whiff of
a room."

-Emily Giffin, *Something
Borrowed*





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