

THE ASSAM VALLEY SCHOOL



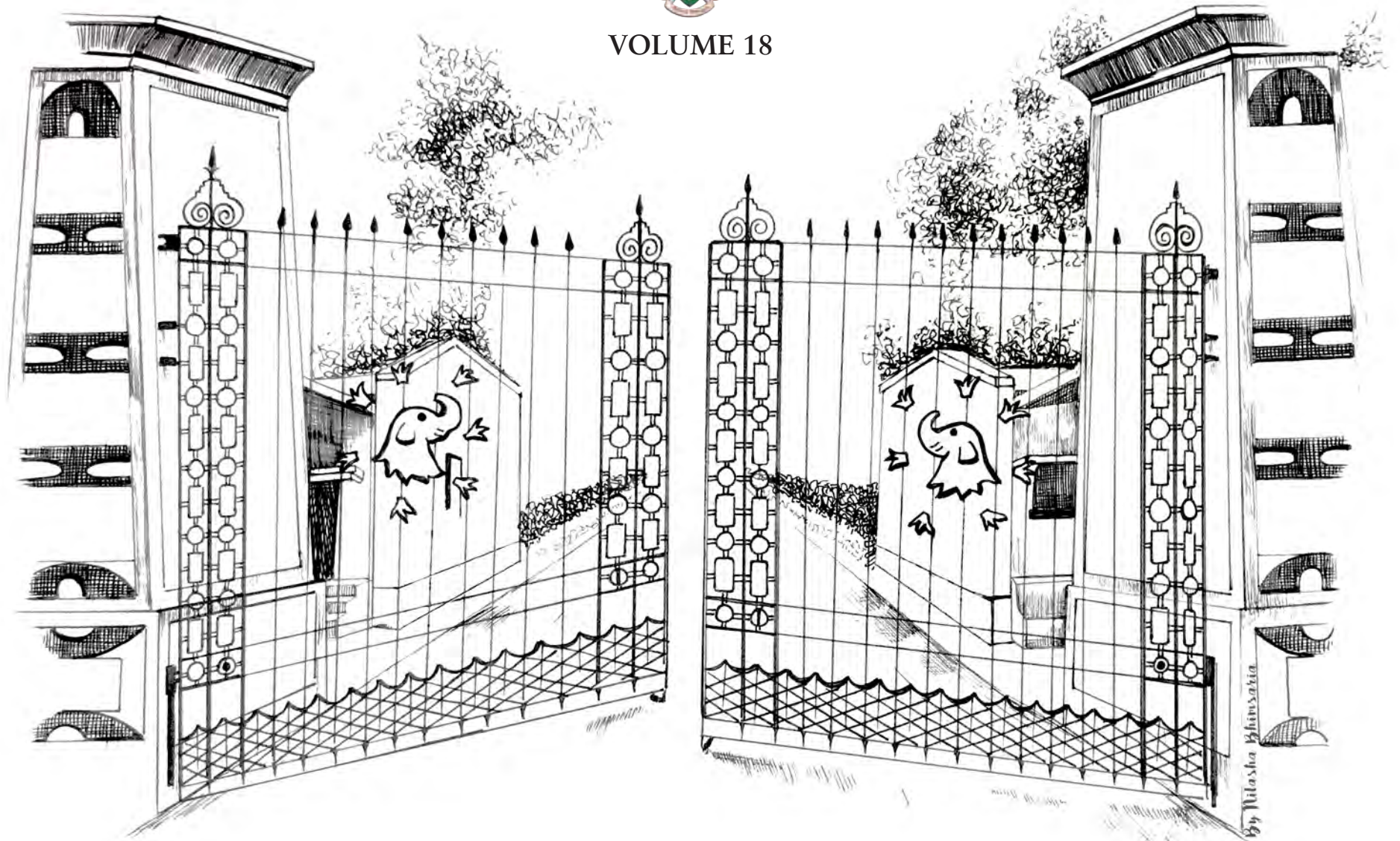
THE YEARBOOK 2020 - 2021

THE ASSAM VALLEY SCHOOL

THE YEARBOOK 2020 - 2021



VOLUME 18







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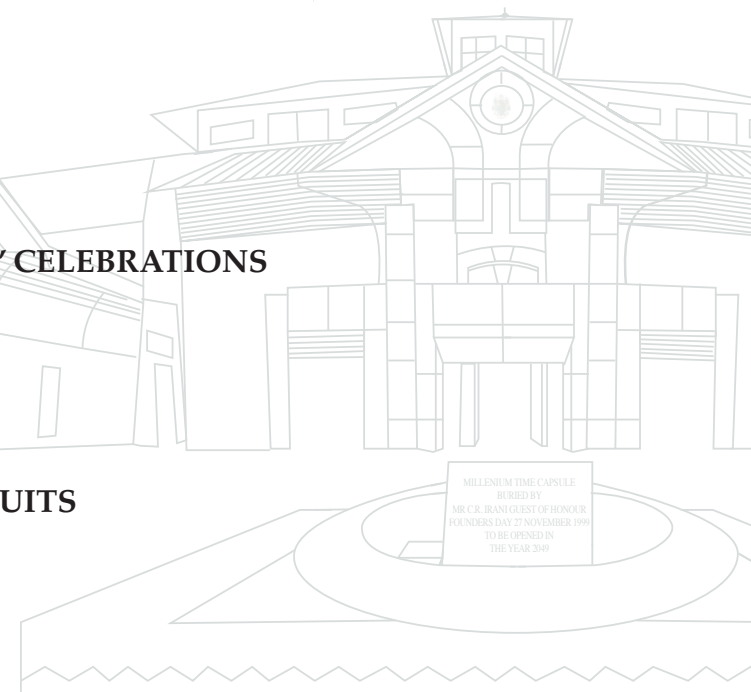
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250

THE YEARBOOK EDITORIAL TEAM



“ Though my soul may set in darkness it will rise in perfect light I have loved the stars too fondly to be fearful of the night -Sarah Williams”

As I stare at the blinking cursor to write the editor in chief's note, a gush of memories come recollecting to me through my five-year journey in AVS. Throughout our years of high school, we have all faced our own difficulties both individually and as a group. This past year has brought several new normals into our lives as we all attempt to stay safe and healthy through this pandemic. Along the way through our journey both in and out of high school, we have always had the support that we needed. Just as I was able to take a deep breath, exhaling stress, along with the angst of entering class 12 and filling out college applications, I was approached with a formidable challenge.

“How do you feel about being the editor?” my roommate asked. A nervous laugh was my initial reaction. How could I possibly fill that role? I had been a part of the yearbook committee for merely a year, initially joining the group in search of a new hobby. Certainly, I admire playing sports and working with children, but I longed for a change of routine. Suddenly, I was asked to bear the greatest responsibility the committee has to offer. Weren't there people who begged for the job? Or at least who were more experienced than I was? I decided to assume the position of yearbook Editor-in-Chief. I had my doubts, but I would approach this challenge as I would any new adventure, with an open mind and my full commitment. This was a chance to prove that I am capable of leading my peers while working collaboratively. Designing and editing the yearbook is not simply about photos and deadlines. It's about the journey taken to create the final product. This position forced me to go out of my comfort zone, to channel my creativity and imagination and to push aside my shy nature to pursue a student who needs to be featured. This gave many students a new start in their lives that they needed. Throughout the course of writing this letter, I kept thinking back to the theme of this year's yearbook. Perspective. One word that stands out and can mean so many different things to a variety of people. We built this yearbook through the perspective of not wanting it to be a “Covid book” meaning we didn't want Covid to take over the book and it be all about it. We chose the theme of perspective because we wanted to cover how so many people see this book and the views they have on the school. As we prepare to graduate and go on to do our separate things in life, I know eventually we will see each other again whether it be face-to-face or over Zoom. To me, a yearbook is about capturing the key moments of high school and all of the memories that you have experienced during that school year. This year, I wanted the yearbook to look different from the average SHS book. I was scared to change up the typical style but I am so glad that I did. Each page had a lot of effort, passion, and thought put into it.

I hope you all enjoyed this book. Thank you for allowing us to capture your memories. Congratulations Class of 2022!



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Trinayana
Saikia



The annals of The Assam Valley School would record the past year as one built on perseverance, grit, and determination. The compilation of the yearbook 2021 would also be a tribute to a school community that braved odds and held strong the school's belief of resilience and stayed true to its vision of the pursuit of excellence. From the helm, I have had the pleasure of witnessing people evolve to be better professionals and more empathetic human beings who took each challenge that came their way as an opportunity to do better and be better.

There are many prisms through which to view this collection of work. The first must be of course as a celebration of all the many efforts, achievements, and aspirations of students and teachers whose combined effort is what one will find held within these pages. These pages are also testimony to the vast and varied aspirations of the community. To be better, to strive further, to learn, unlearn and relearn faster, to survive stronger, and live with determination in times that is constantly changing, were some of the highlights of the year gone by. The Yearbook is also a narration of the journeys that were undertaken as much by this grand institution as it was done by every single member of the school community. Within these bound pages are stories of endless hours devoted by teachers to learn the ways of new-age technology so that they could teach better. It is hours spent planning, re-planning and fine-tuning plans to upgrade various infrastructures so that they may stay at par with the requirements of the day. It speaks of lawns that were maintained and the upkeep of boarding houses that were seen to round the year despite the emptiness that rang in the school corridors. It also narrates the countless mishaps of online classes behind blank screens brought alive with emoticons. This book is a recounting of an unusual school year that saw the school spirit simmer across countless homes scattered around the year. The pages herein remember with pride every single Aviator who lived and learned during times that were unprecedented and through it, all build a bond deeper with the institution they have long called home.

The compilation of the Yearbook by itself is an outstanding saga. I recall an afternoon I stood by myself in the corridor outside my office watching the weakening winter sun as it set, and I realized yet again just how spectacularly beautiful this vast campus was. Nobody knows the exact time the rays of the sun hit this part of the world better than those who hit the grounds at the break of dawn. In the same breath, very few can capture the true essence of these rolling greens than those who have seen the changing of seasons on this campus from behind their lenses. This book is a collaborative effort of a young team who have chosen to portray a school as they see it. It has been, truly a pleasure to watch them bring together in print the lives and times of this legacy school.

The Yearbook 2021 is one of journeys that were undertaken. And I am glad I made one such journey while steering the school through days that will be remembered as a period when The Assam Valley School shone brightly despite the dark. AVS, you and I have walked these paths under this canopy and we have made our stories. Remember them, for your night skies shall never be forgotten. It has been a pleasure.



HEADMASTER

Dr.
Vidhukesh
Vimal





MILLENNIUM TIME CAPSULE
BURIED BY
MR. C. R. IRANI
GUEST OF HONOUR
FOUNDERS DAY 27 NOVEMBER 1999
TO BE OPENED IN
THE YEAR 2049



LEADERSHIP



CAPTAINS
COMMITTEES



SCHOOL CAPTAIN

For everything you have dreamt of – I want to tell you – dreams come true. This column of the yearbook, let's say, has been a dream from afar. And as I open my eyes to this dream each morning, I am always short of words to be thankful to AVS.

The aura and ethos of AVS allow us to dream, to dream big. It gives us the opportunity to want things, and the daring to aspire to it. It teaches us to go after it. It almost pushes us to achieve it. And then... AVS allows us to live it.

I began my tenure as the 'first elected female School Captain'. It was difficult, no doubt, to justify the caveats. Now I am School Captain, with no gendered prefix to it. After all, I am an anomaly. Through my tenure, after long fought days, having to prove myself on a daily basis, sometimes even crouching to wonder whether it's worth it – as I lay down on my pillow at the end of the day, all the grind felt worth it. The battles, the laughs, the cries, the tears – all of it – because through thick and thin, we have a sense of community that supports one another. It felt humbling to dine with juniors who were missing home. It felt fulfilling to inspire a sense of belonging. It even felt rewarding to successfully conduct zoom calls without glitches. It felt victorious, to hold my chin up wear this badge with pride. The gratifying experience of leadership is worth a goldmine. I have experienced the euphoria of leadership and the scrutiny of power. While fighting through the judgement of being a soft and compassionate leader, in testing online-offline times, with no precedent, I have learnt and experienced so much, that I would trade this for absolutely nothing.

AVS came into my life when I was barely a year old, and through some magical thread, I have always been drawn towards it. A bookshelf back home awaits a new yearbook every summer. In fact, my parents have it all curated from 2005 to 2021. As I write this today, I know it's the end of a tradition for them, and I hope they are performing the last bit of the tradition with pride. Just like AVS has grown through the pages of those yearbooks, I know I have grown with it.

My movie, as I often like to call it, has had innumerable characters playing extraordinary parts. And it is because of each one of these beautiful characters, playing such significant roles, that as I look back, I find myself calling it a blockbuster.

I end this piece with a very bitter-sweet feeling in my heart, bitter because it marks the end of a dreamland, but sweet because I am glad it all happened. Thank you AVS, it has been a pleasure.

Naviya
Chamariya





HEAD GIRL

I look back through the telescope of time with no intent to return because when I do, I will no longer have this magnificent campus all to myself. It's a reality I'm still grappling with, and I will be for a long time to come.

I was once told that I would make a suitable Head Girl someday. In all honesty, I doubted if I could ever lead the masses but I had just realised that all I needed was a push. On my initial days of school as a Tihuite, I lost my way back to my dorm and found myself weeping inside the Kopili Subansiri building because my room had disappeared from the boarding house! Now when I take the Tihu girls on a walk to the stables every Sunday, and they race against each other on their way to winning a toffee, it somehow reminds me of times when I was little and how lovely little gestures like these have shaped me as a leader. Too often we underestimate the power of a warm hug, a listening ear, an encouraging compliment, or even a happy grin, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

I came here to give a voice to the unheard in the halls of power. I wanted to show the favoured, the admired, the underdogs, and the misfits that they all belong here. I want you to know that you are important and you are free to be who your conscience thinks you should be. I speak for all the twenty other women who have written under this panel before me when I say leaders are made when one resists the tendrils and tentacles of self-doubt and fear of failure that once tried to crumble them. If we could, you can too. As I step down and pass the baton on to my successor, I wish her growth, happiness and clarity. The year of recovery ends here.

“The sword glows softly in the moonlight, feeding on the dreams of the immortals.”

Saumya
Jindal





HEAD BOY

Did you know that Pluto can fit into Russia? Well, now you do. The universe is full of surprises, isn't it? Being dragged out of an ordinary day school and being thrown into an elite boarding school such as The Assam Valley School was one such surprise for me, and boy, was it an interesting one, to say the least; interesting because it pushed me beyond boundaries I had never imagined.

I do not have a fair memory of what life was like in my initial years at AVS. All I remember is a vague midst of confusion and a few occasional hiccups of "experiences" with the first thought I had the moment my parents left being, "What have I gotten myself into now." Well, I had gotten myself into a roller coaster of growth, with ups and downs, loops and twists and the entire package of thrill. At times I would scream, at times I would laugh and at times I would remain - more often than not - unfazed. Most importantly, throughout these last five years, I found myself.

It has always been my motto that one should not veer off their path for incentive or merit. I believe that a position should not define a person but rather a person should define a position, otherwise what is the point? There will come a time when you will lose who you are in the midst of pretending to be someone else and through the fissures of your false visage your true colours will shine through. I am sure all of us have seen plenty of such examples in real life. It is therefore that I always tried my level best to stay true to myself and stick to my beliefs throughout my tenure as the Head Boy. Of course, I am always open to criticism and conversation.

It is that time of the year again when everyone prepares for their teary-eyed goodbyes as they part with their beloved school and friends. I wish it were the same for me. Maybe somewhere deep inside me I still want to cling on to my school life, but my curiosity for what is yet to unfold outweighs it all. I enjoy challenges. As the pages turn, slowly unearthing the dreaded ending that everyone once awaited, a new dawn will light the path for the batch of 2022. Godspeed.

Areeq
Imran





ACTIVITY TEACHERS IN CHARGE



Sitting (L-R) : Mr. Sanjay Dixit, Dr. R. K. Mishra, Ms. Lipika Bora, Dr. Pooja Benjamin, Mrs. Priyanka Joshi, Mrs. Dayita Dutta, Mr. Tushar Bharadwaj, Mrs. Hemashree Deka, Mr. Leslie Watts, Mrs. Rubi Bordoloi, Mrs. Tamanna Seth, Mr. Arvind Benjamin, Mr. Rajendra Chauhan

2nd Row (L-R) : Mr. Pranjal Saikia, Mr. Manoj Hazarika, Mr. Pranjal Baruah, Mrs. Alpna Dey, Mrs. Torali Baruah, Mr. Manjil Kumar Gogoi, Mrs. Mampi Das, Mrs. Rimjim Ghosh Pyne, Mrs. Rupali Borah, Mr Tapash Das, Mrs. Prarthana Phukan

3rd Row (L-R) : Mr. Thajeb Hazarika, Mr. Devesh Prajapati, Mr. Samuel Daniel David, Mr. Vivek Kumar



CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



Sitting (L-R): Mrs. Tamanna Seth, Ms. Lipika Bora, Dr. Pooja Jain Benjamin, Mr. Leslie Peter Watts, Anushka Barua, Mr. Tusbar Bharadwaj, Dr. Vidhukesh Vimal, Mrs. Hemashree Deka, Kaustav B. Arya, Mrs. Dayita Datta, Mrs. Priyanka Joshi, Mrs. Rubi Bordoloi, Ms. Sarmistha Paul Sarkar

2nd Row (L-R): Mahi Agarwal, Anushcka Joshi, Trinayana Saikia, Bornam Bora, Swaptadeep Paul, Vasumann Lohia, Aarav Jain, Luqmaan Ahmed, Shubhajeet Dasgupta, Tanisha Bhadra, Jiya Agarwal, Shripriya Kajariya, Naviya Chamariya, Nilasha Bhimsaria, Kuhu Bakliwal

3rd Row: Mr. Rajendra Chauhan, Mr. Arvind Benjamin, Mr. Siddharth Bhatla, Mr. Samuel Daniel David, Mr. Tapash Das



EVENT MANAGEMENT TEAM



Sitting (L-R): Ayang Borang, Trinabrita Baruah, Mr. Leslie Peter Watts, Aadish Jain, Kavya Neel Kalita

2nd Row (L-R): Imansong Longkumer, Kashvi Kalita, Sidharth Choudhary, Raseen Shah, Neha Swabnam, Christine Houmai



GAMES COMMITTEE



Sitting (L-R): Raabil Hazarika, Khrushelu Sazo, Peter Seth, Mr. Sanjay Pathak, Dr. Vidhukesh Vimal, Anushcka Joshi, Saumya Jindal, Mayukh Jain, Tatiana Lakiang

2nd Row (L-R): Alda Nongmeikapam, Arjun Chaliba, Priyanchi Sharma, Niraj Sarmah, Samiksha Modi, Jiya Agarwal, Trinabrita Bujar Baruah, Dristi Rathi



PASTORAL COUNCIL



Sitting (L-R): Mrs. Priyankoo Kashyap Das, Mrs. Nabanita Jassal, Ms. Pamela Syiemlieb, Dr. R.K. Mishra, Mrs. Meenakshi Das, Dr. Vidhukesh Vimal, Mr. Amirzit Huidrom, Dr. Dimple Baruah, Mrs. Tamanna Seth, Mrs. Debjani Bora, Ms. Mousumi Talukdar

2nd Row (L-R): Mrs. Sharma, Mrs. Neeta Hazarika, Mrs. Lipika Pathak, Mrs. Nancy Kwan Baruah, Mrs. Nomita Huidrom, Mrs. Janet Bharadwaj, Mrs. Daisy R. B. Ahmed, Ms. Kabita Bala Devi

3rd Row (L-R): Mr. Amalmani Sharma, Mr. Arvind Benjamin, Mr. Prem Singh, Mr. Samuel Daniel David



PUPIL ACADEMIC COUNCIL



Sitting (L-R): Dechen Sangay Bhutia, Trinabrita Baruah, Takhe Tamo Reela, Adrija Das, Dr. Kuljeet Singh, Mrs. Shakila Banu, Ms. Joyce MacDonald, Aarav Jain, Niraj Sarmah, Angshuman Sharma, Aryan Boragohain

2nd Row (L-R): Donovan Dexter Figg, Tanish Hansaria, Tanishka Sharma, Priyasha Sarma, Ojasvi Agarwal, Adella Massar, Fareeha Ambreen, Anukriti Kashyap, Lavanya Adbikari, Hiyaneijemmy Das, Pratiti Baruah, Vidhi Choudhary, Aakansha Kumar, Himanshu Goenka, Utkarsh Jajodia



SPORTS DEPARTMENT



Sitting (L-R): Mr. Jayanta Borah, Mr. Biswajit Baglary, Mr Jalam Singh, Dr. Sarika Brahma Hazarika, Dr. Vidhukesh Vimal, Mr. Sanjay Pathak, Mr. Devendra Verma, Mr. Rajendra Chauhan, Mr. Abhijit Baruah

2nd Row (L-R): Ms. Ishita Malhotra, Mr. Jayanta Kalita, Mrs. Jean Haymo, Mr. Rajiv Doimary, Mr. Devesh Prajapati, Mr. Monjit Roy, Mrs. Torali Baruah, Ms. Kabita Bala Devi



SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



L-R: Dr. Kuljeet Singh, Mrs. Meenakshi Baruah Das, Mr. Hrishikesh Singh, Ms. Joyce MacDonald, Dr. Vidhukesh Vimal, Mrs. Shakila Banu, Mr. Tushar Bharadwaj, Mr. Amirzit Huidrom



FOOD COMMITTEE



Sitting (L-R): Yashu Agarwal, Mahi Agarwal, Mr. Khemraj Giri, Dr. Vidhukesh Vimal, Mr. Jha, Samiksha Modi, Kubu Bakliwal

2nd Row (L-R): Doyin Padung, Vaibhav Gattani, Niraj Sarmah, Shripriya Kajaria



25TH FOUNDERS' CELEBRATIONS

EXHIBITIONS
PRODUCTIONS
SPEECH DAY
FOUNDERS' AWARDS





The Archives Exhibition



On the occasion of Silver Jubilee celebration of the Assam Valley School, the Archives and Museology Activity students along with their Mistress in Charge Ms. Rimjhim Ghosh Pyne showcased an exhibition which served as a timeline of the last 25 years. The exhibition started with the inception of the school and ended with the online school phase. It included photographs, albums, old laboratory equipment, previously worn uniforms, badges, school yearbooks and magazines, brochures, calendars and leaflets of previous years, old documents, artifacts, trophies, films, cds, slides and other awards and medals. All the artifacts were arranged in chronological order depicting the particular Head of School's era. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Chief guest Mr. Akhil Khaitan and other respected dignitaries of our school. They were accompanied by the presenters explaining the exhibition and responding to their questions. The exhibition was highly appreciated by the Chief guest, Head master and other dignitaries. As a part of exhibition team myself, I can tell that the process of mounting and dismantling the exhibition was a herculean process but we managed it well under the guidance of our MiC. All the artifacts had to be handled with so much care especially the photographs, albums and magazines because we were the only ones with the original copy. We had used a special kind of archival paper to store the photographs so that it does not get damaged with age. Our Archives team exhibited this in a beautiful manner and received positive remarks from the entire school committee. The Archives Exhibition being the centerpiece of the 25 th Founders' was under great pressure but the presenters and the presentation did not fail to impress the school. All in all, this exhibition was a success and was well received by everyone.



The Expression

Publications Exhibition



Student journalists and publications play a vital role in informing their fellow students about campus events and uncovering stories that outside media might miss. I. With this vision only The Assam Valley School, initiated 12 publications from the different departments during the lockdown period, to provide the opportunity to the students for self-expression in written form, to provide training to students for better utilization of their leisure time, to develop and cultivate the literary taste and study habits in the students.

“The Expression” was an exhibition to showcase these 12 publications. Following are the names of publications along with department names- Spectrum- science, Ace- Commerce, The Player- Sport, Erudite- Quizzing, Orchid- Art and design, AVE- Weekly newsletter Orbis- Geography Jagaran- Indian language Rongini- Assamese Pen Chant- English Udaan – Indian language Perspective- Photography.



Sparsh

Photography Exhibition





“Buying a Nikon/Canon doesn’t make you a photographer. It makes you a Nikon/Canon owner.”

– Author Unknown

Like other forms of expression, photography is sometimes art, sometimes craft, and sometimes just a grabbed image. The fact that photography uses technology that has developed more recently than some other forms of art often confuses this, but the fact remains that expressive photography comes from an image that is made, not taken. The AVS Photographic Society of The Assam Valley School is trying its level best to set standards year after year. This year was a huge success for our society. We offered all members in-house and online workshops and discussions on basic photography. We are very fortunate that we got talented members who can do wonders this year to come. AVS Photographic Society is a member of Assam Photography Club, Assam. Our photographers in both Upper and Lower Schools get the opportunity to learn this art once a week. We try our level best to teach every student about the technical aspect (various modes of the camera), composition and artistic value of the image. We also make sure that all our members learn these important photography skills at an early stage. During the Founders’ 2021, our photographic society put up an excellent exhibition, ‘Spash’. This exhibition was a huge success where students and staff enjoyed each work of our members.





Orchid

Art & CDT Exhibition





The Art & CDT Departments presented a combined exhibition for the 25th Founders' celebration. The artists showcased canvas paintings in acrylic, oil and digital mediums. The artworks were based on a variety of themes ranging from folk themed artworks using the technique of printmaking, the temple-art themed mixed media artworks, Monet's water lilies & Woman with a Parasol, Van Gogh's naturescapes from Impressionism to the Dutch countryside landscapes. The Crafter's space in the Art Hall transported the viewers to a gypsy caravan with bright patchwork and applique settees, cushions, wall hangings and recycled furniture. The side tables were adorned with epoxy resin coasters, lamps and origami craftwork. The lower school students displayed Assamese musical instruments like the 'Toka' and 'Bahi' made out of bamboo and a cultural map of Assam showing the location of the various handicrafts and artforms made in Assam. The traditional bamboo craft was a part of the cultural exchange programme with the Bednarska Primary School, Poland. The 'Padmanabha' sculpture of the sitting Buddha was the centerpiece of the exhibition. The exhibition displayed the limitless creativity of the students despite the limitations of the pandemic.

The Founders' Awards Artist of the Year & Designer of the Year were bagged by Nilay Dhakal & Anushcka Joshi respectively while the Award for Excellence in Craft Design & Technology was bagged by Nilasha Bhimsaria.





Ek Tha Gadha

Hindi Play



The Founders celebration in February 2021 saw many new steps being taken. One such step was a brand new production that was staged by the teachers and most ably directed by the Headmaster, Dr. Vidhukesh Vimal, himself.

“Ek tha Gadha - Aladad Khan” was produced as an ‘hinglish’ version of Sharad Joshi’s original satirical play by the same name. The play was a modern take on a whimsical way of governing and the plight of the common man. Nicely interwoven was the role of the intellectual and the fun twist was a scientist from NASA and the idea of a space station right down in the Namdang greens of AVS. The actors did a marvellous job and the direction was efficient too. Each character did justice to his / her roles. The cast included Ms.Daisy Rani Baruah, Ms.Tamanna Seth, Ms.Rimjhim Ghosh Pyne, Dr. Kuljeet Singh, Mr.Debnath Pyne, Mr.Devesh Prajapati, Mr. A. Huidrom, Ms.Nabanita Jassal, Mr. Prem Kr. Singh, Mr.Taufique Ansari, Mr.Tushar Bharadwaj, Mr. Sanjay Dixit, Dr. Pooja Jain and Mr. Nabin Jha. The props were looked after by Mr. Shantam Basu, Ms. Priyankoo Kashyap Das, Ms. Anam Aviva and alumna Ms.Rishita Seth pitched in on all sides. The play was a great success and for a change the students sat back and enjoyed what was in essence, an all staff presentation.

The school hopes to host many such productions in future as well.



The Game of Dice

Assamese Musical
Drama



The Game of Dice in the Mahabharata, we witness one of the epic tale's most iconic scenes, in which a loaded trap takes the form of a simple game of dice. Yudhishtira rolls away his possessions, his kingdom, his brothers, and even his own freedom, though Krishna's protection saves his wife from total humiliation. The ultimate result of 'The Game of Dice' in The Mahabharata is the bloody battle between the Pandavas and the Kauravas which brings about ultimate ruination of the Kauravas, thereby, establishing the victory of good over evil.

The Assam Valley School Music and Dance School along with the staff members and staff children present to you a Musical Drama, 'The Game of Dice'.