

THE ASSAM VALLEY EXPRESS

*founders' special,
issue 113*



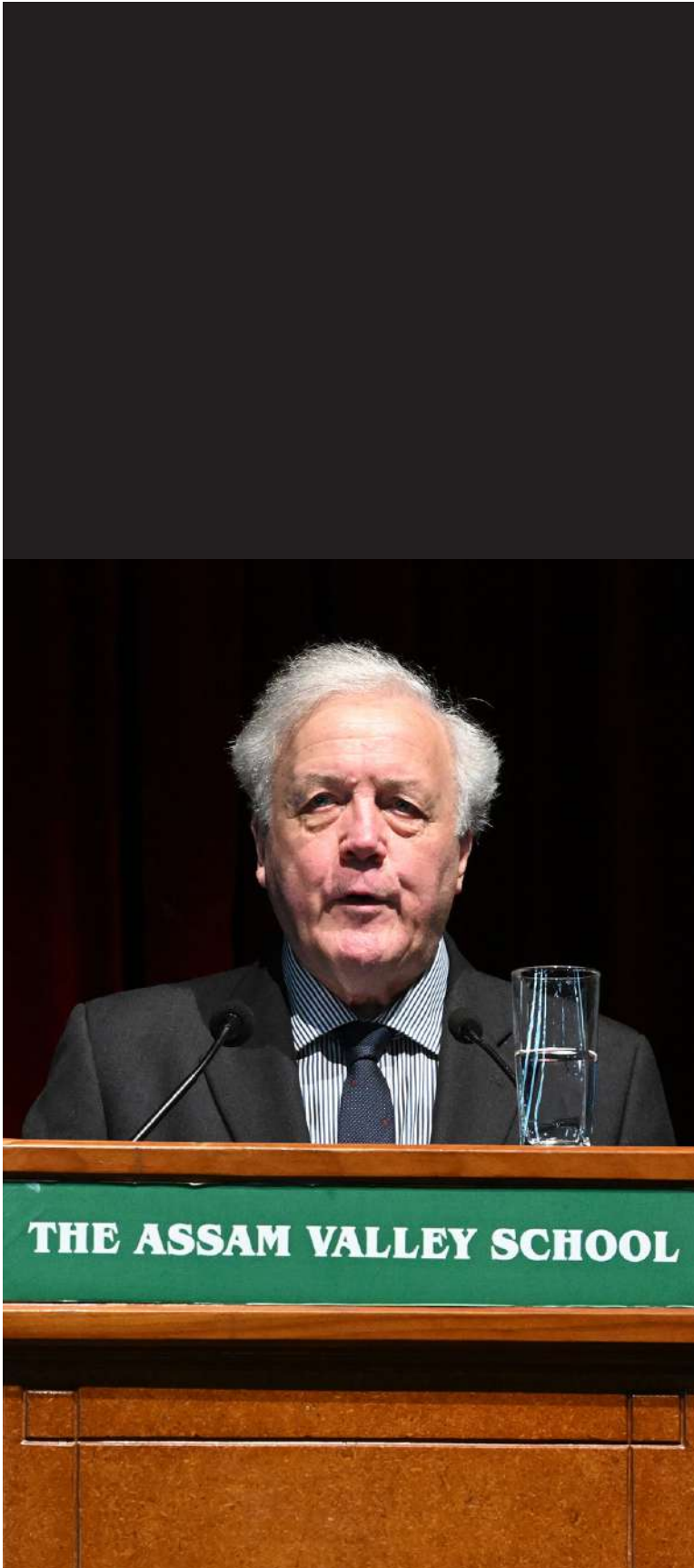
Illustration by: Gaurish Saikia, IX



Opening Assembly

-Deubale Meru, XI

On the bright morning of the 19th of October, the opening ceremony for the 27th Founders' took place in the Williamson Magor Hall. The assembly began with the school choir singing 'Pass it on,' followed by a prayer by the Headmaster, Dr. Amit Jugran. The occasion was used by the Headmaster to recognise and thank staff members who had completed 25 years of service at the school. Mr. David Summerscale, Chairman of the Board of Governors, presented 18 Staff members with tokens of the school's appreciation. Mr. David Summerscale then took to the stage and reflected on his first trip to Assam 32 years ago. He compared the history of the school to Rabindranath Tagore's famous poem 'Paperboats,' saying that AVS is now a solid structure with a strong history, rather than the breakable barren land it once was. He used the occasion to express his heartfelt gratitude to those who had worked tirelessly to keep the school running even during the pandemic, and to those who achieved their goals despite the health challenges. He expressed gratitude to the parents for sending their children to this prestigious school, where they would learn and grow to be proud, respectable citizens. He concluded his speech by mentioning that he looked forward to witnessing the school's immense talent pool that would be showcased over the three days of Founders' celebration. The assembly concluded with the presentation of the Media Center's '360 days', which highlighted the school's journey to Founders'22.



DAY 1

TAPZ Debate

Exhibitions

*Sports
Presentation*

Hindi Play



TAPS Debate

-Deubale Meru, XI

The much-awaited Alumni versus AVS Debate, popularly known as the TAPS Debate, took place on the 19th of October. The judges for the event were Mrs. Doyita Bira Dutta, Head of History Department, Mr. Thajeb Hazarika, Coordinator, Department of Humanities, and Mr. Sanjay Sharma, Department of History. The topic for the debate was 'This House believes love is overrated.' The Chairperson for the debate was alumni Ms. Rishita Seth, Bhoroli, Captain of the Atheneum, ISC Batch of 2018, with Anushka Jitani as the timekeeper. In proposition of the motion was Hiyaneijemmy Das, Captain of the Atheneum, Kekhriesino Mayase, Editor, AVE and Jikke Kikum. Team alumni formed the Opposition with Ms. Attriba Hazarika, House Captain, Subansiri, ISC Batch of 2005, Mr. Humraj Singh Jassal, Cultural Captain, Manas, ISC Batch of 2021, and Mr. Suraj Singh, Manas, ISC Batch of 2014. The first speaker from side Proposition, Hiyaneijemmy Das took to the stage and spoke about how the world seemed to revolve around love, an emotion that was placed on a pedestal. She highlighted how every little thing we did was centered around love and was, many times, seen as a solution to our problems when reality it was not. The First speaker from side Opposition, Mr. Suraj Singh, argued that there existed many ways to express love and it was an unconditional emotion, and was therefore, placed on a pedestal. The second speaker from Proposition, Jikke Kikum, spoke on the toxicity of love. In his argument, he explained how the unrealistic standards of love in today's world led to a person ignoring or accepting abuse. The second speaker from Opposition, Ms. Attriba Hazarika, expanded on what love was and how it could be easily misinterpreted. Love was a privilege not everyone could enjoy. Kekhriesino Mayase, the third speaker from side proposition, rebutted the Opposition by explaining how media influenced society and how it led to society today building up a concept of love in our minds which was toxic. The third speaker from side Opposition, Humraj Singh Jassal, began with strong rebuttals pointing out that the Proposition spoke only of receiving love and not giving love to others. To sum up, Side Opposition emphasized the significance of love and how the world depended on it to endure these difficult times. The debate came to an end with Side Proposition emphasizing that love was overrated as there were other emotions in our lives, like trust and respect which held far more relevance in our lives. Mr. Humraj Singh Jassal was awarded Best Speaker and Mr. Suraj Singh was awarded Most Promising Speaker. The motion was lost and Team Alumni was declared the winners.



Exhibitions

-Emidaka Rapsang, XI

The entrance of the Main School Building was abuzz with excitement and enthusiasm. It has long been the custom that the exhibitions are inaugurated by an alumnus. This year the Chief Guest for the occasion was alumni Mr. Miguel Queah, ISC Batch 2005 who inaugurated the alluring display of the exhibitions of the various groups and classes. Upon the cutting of the red ribbon, the Chief Guest set out on his route around the MSB. The first place of attraction was the open-air exhibition of the Astronomy club which was a bedazzling showcase of the Solar System and a well-built sundial. Mr. Queah then proceeded to the Card Making exhibition which was crowded with parents and students alike. The awe of the exhibitions persisted even at the Class 7s show of the human and animal Evolution and at the astonishing abilities of the Math wizards in creating a “mathematical labyrinth.” The beauty of the Bodo Handloom was intriguing and the exhibitions of Art and Pottery held on to the intrigue. The route of our guest moved from the technological wonders of the ICT exhibitions to the delicate artistry of the SESSA exhibitions, from the heartwarming display of the lower school exhibitions to the show of the little, hardworking Sunnyside students, from interesting exhibitions of the social service league to the photography club and experiments of science club, the exhibitions finally came to an end with the bewitching and decorative exhibition of the Craft, Design and Technology members.



Sports Presentation

-Temjenrenla Jamir, XII

The pavilion was filled with enthusiasm the pleasant afternoon, an additional bonus as the school waited to greet the Chief Guest for the Sports presentation Shri. Binod Nayak. The first presentation was a Dumbbell drill performed by the students of the Lower School. The students went through the moves perfectly forming AVS in human letters to acknowledge the school's 27th Founders. The AVS Archery squad captured the audience with their unwavering aura of focus. The audience then witnessed a Taekwondo demonstration where students performed with practiced confidence and proficient skills. This was followed by a choreographed



Zumba performance, which was upbeat and catchy. The AVS equestrian club then took to the pavilion to put up a fantastic show of show jumping. The riders atop their horses jumped over fire barriers and cars, setting an excellent highlight to the equestrian show. The spectacle reeled in the audience, keeping them at the edge of their seats. Sports ties were then awarded to students who have shown excellent sportsmanship throughout the year. The mesmerizing twilight bid farewell to the onlookers as the sky lit up with fireworks, fulfilling its promise of a wonderful Founders'.

YAMRAJ KA DURBAR

HINDI PLAY

-Aanya Paul Sarkar, IX

The 19th of October, the first day of Founders' this year saw the prestigious Hindi production, a labour of love and toil of the Department of Hindi, take to the floor of the WMH. A dark comedy the play was a riot with plenty of laughs that would have cheered even the grave Greek god Nestor. Named 'Yamraj ka Darbar' and adapted from Aslam Muani's contemporary play it did not fail to grasp the attention of the audience, mesmerizing them with every dialogue executed brilliantly. The play displayed the cruel injustices taking place in our world along with the many crimes ranging from hospitals to homes to daylight robberies. The play also showcased crimes against children such as child labour along with acid attacks on women. However, these rather dark subjects were portrayed with a hint of humor to lighten the mood and make the audience feel more engaged with the play. A special mention must be made of the young sipahi who moved perfectly with the beats of the music and Prabhsimrat Singh who played the ATM perfectly giving a new meaning to the adage 'jeeb laplapaya'. A total of forty-nine students participated in the play. The effort and perseverance put into this play was evident and was what made this production a huge success!



DAY 2

*Tune of
the Land*

Western Dance

Indian Dance

English Play



Western Dance: “An Ensemble”

-Hana Shanifer Ahmed, XI

From barbaric and violent to social to ritualistic, from being encouraged by the Greeks and then being banned by the Romans, western dance has come a long way. Forty-seven boys and girls performed snippets of the classic ballroom dance followed by a lively favourite, the American jive called swing. The dancers gracefully glided and joyfully jived, across the floor in this ensemble.



Indian Dance: “Kanhairo Komolo Mukho”

-Hana Shanifer Ahmed, XI

The AVS Dance school presented an abridged multilingual dance drama, depicting the journey of Lord Krishna's life through a magical series of events being brought to Vrindavan. A heavenly oracle had warned Kans, Lord Krishna's uncle and the tyrant of Mathura, that Lord Krishna will be his doom. Kans sends his demonic acquaintances including Putona, an attractive woman, Kalia, a venomous snake, and Bakasura, a demon bird. Lord Krishna defeats them all. Lord Krishna grows up merrily, winning the hearts of gopis and mothers of Vrindavan. Hence, the title of this performance translates to “Krishna, one with the face of a lotus”. The dance forms in this fusion were Kathak, Sattriya, Odissi, Manipuri and a few elements of modern dance, while the languages used were Hindi, Assamese, Bengali and Manipuri. From the set design to the costumes, and of course, the ingenious choreography and stellar performances, the entire event was a gala of talent that one couldn't tear their eyes away from.





A Music School Presentation

-Hana Shanifer Ahmed, XI

The theme for this year's Music Production was 'Matir Xur', meaning 'the tune of the soil'.

The first performance was a beautifully amalgamated medley encapsulating the diversity of India. Based on Indian folk music the numbers including Assamese, Boro, Garo, Bangla, Tea Tribe folk, Tiwa folk, Rajasthani, Punjabi and Gujarati folk music which explained the love and affection of people for their country and their land.

The next number was a fusion of songs from popular genres. It was followed by a Guitar and Keyboard ensemble, which incorporated pieces from Dmitri Shostakovich's Waltz No 2.

The last musical performance was "SoundScape" a collaboration between Western Instrumental, Indian Instrumental, and Indian vocal. The presentation brought forth Western melodies along with ethnic folk tunes of Assam, accompanied by different percussion and string instruments like piano, vocals and ethnic taal badya. The performance left the audience mesmerized and longing for more

English Play: “The Witness”

-Emidaka Rapsang, XI



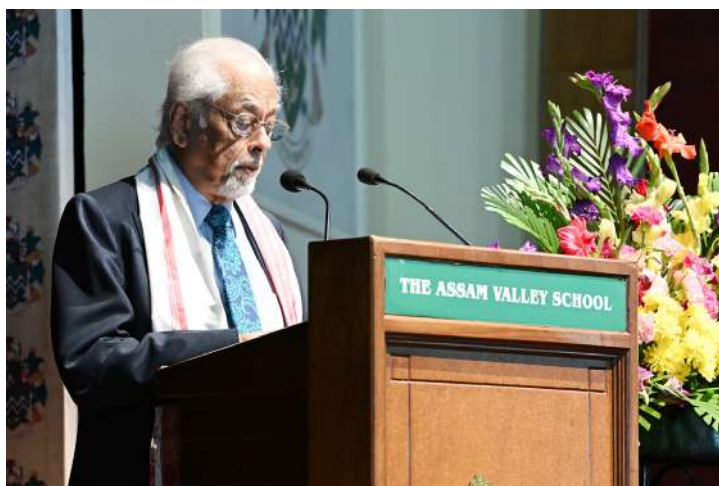
“The Witness,” adapted from Agathe Christie’s short story, “Traitor’s Hands,” embodies the twisted tale of a twisted man known as Mr. Mistry. The curtains of the play opened with an air of mystery and murder, of blood and betrayal, of love and money. Mr. Mystery was accused and put on trial for the alleged murder of an old widow named Rose Braganza who dwelled in luxurious wealth. Suspiciously, that wealth fortunately fell into the unassuming hands of Mr. Mistry who claimed to only be a helpful friend to the murdered victim. Mr. Mistry ran to the help and mercy of an intriguing detective, Mr. Kapoor and a loyal lawyer, Mr. Dutta. As the protagonist and his team strive to prove his innocence, the truth only blurred out further. That was due to the introduction of the cunning and clever, Mrs. Mistry. The elusive and sly nature of Mrs. Mistry added to the confusion of the identity of the culprit. Was it the assumingly spineless Mr. Mistry or was it the sly wife? The play progressed to a courtroom scene where truths and lies spun weaves around the people involved, from the intelligent detective to the loud and pretentious opposition, from a terrified Mr. Mistry to an intrepid Mrs. Mistry. The courtroom scene persisted with little hope for Mr. Mistry until a sudden truth of Mrs. Mystery arrived in the form of letters. The courtroom scene arose yet again, yet the second time

brought the audience closer to the culprit. However, at the last few moments we are introduced to yet another character, the surprising mistress of Mr. Mistry himself. The play executed sheer mastery in keeping the audience on their toes for the truth. The entire cast came together to make the productions memorable. Anikaith Anant Joshi as the defending lawyer Mr. Mallik was brash and over the top and was the perfect anecdote to the serious, clipped no-nonsense character of the persecuting lawyer Mr. Karanjit Kapoor played by Donovan Figg. Raghav Agarwal as Mr. Dutta was ever bit the investigative lawyer. The dual character of Mrs. Mysteri played by Divyana Lahan brought to the play mystery as well as dynamism and was clearly the star of the evening. It must be mentioned that the secondary roles played by Aakanksha Kumar as the Judge, Hrideek Choudhury as the guard, Shavya Shrestha as DSP Khanna was authoritative while Priyanu Kashyap as Ms. Deepali Dey was the perfect witness, Jikke Kikum as Daniel Sharma, Pratiti Baruah as the flamboyant assistant Ms. Rita were exceptional. Natasha Bilimoria as Mr. Mistry’s girlfriend was dramatic as was Aanya Paul Sarkar who made her presence felt as the assistant to Lawyer Mallik. The Witness played to the audience and lived up to its reputation of an invigorating and engaging courtroom drama.

DAY 2

*Founder's Awards
and Speeches*

*Western Choir
Performance*



Founders' Awards and Speech Day

-Hiyaneijemmy Das, XII



The three day celebrations of the 27th Founders' were drawn to a close on the final day, with the prestigious, Speech Day. This time on the sunny day of 21st October, 2022, students made their way to the Williamson Magor Hall full of anticipation. Day 3 began with the presentation of awards to meritorious students and was followed by an address by, Mr. David Summerscale, the Chairman of the Board of Governors. He highlighted the parallels between the way the world built itself after the pandemic, and how the school has built itself from the ground up. He reminded the community to remain proud of the school and to uphold all that it has built and nurtured. He also encouraged the students to keep pursuing the arts that they were invested in, making it clear that the talent flowing through the school was not only impressive, it was inspiring and transcendent.

The Headmaster took to the podium to address the school. He spoke about how a school like AVS played a vital role in shaping a child's life and that, with that responsibility, came a feeling of service for the school and the students. He outlined the various successes in the different fields of academics, culture, and sports through videos which featured the respective captains detail the events and achievements in their parallel. The Headmaster ended his speech with a reminder of our school song and its ever-growing relevance in our lives today.

The Headmaster's address was followed by the highly-anticipated and regarded school choir. The choir began with a medley of James Bond theme songs that brought goosebumps to surface every few seconds. This was followed by a mix of popular Beatles songs which would have got even the most rigid person clicking their feet and moving their head to the beat. By the end of their performance, the choir got the entire hall to join them in the song 'Hey Jude', truly bringing to the hall the spirit of celebration that Founders' is really all about.

Also to note were the release of multiple journals in various fields and arts that accompanied the awards presentations. These included the AVE Founders' Magazine, the Eye of the Camera, the Literary Journal, Spiti and Orchid Journal, and of course, the Yearbook. Finally, the Chief Guest addressed the hall. He particularly wished to address students that were at the end of their school life and were ready to foray into the outside world. He reminded them that the students would face a lot of adversities and even more new, confusing experiences. He asked us to carry with us a spirit of integrity, never to settle for anything less than what was truly in one's heart. He also reminded the audience never to be afraid of dreaming big and making mistakes. The Chief Guest also touched on the phenomenon of aping the West and asked us to remind ourselves to respect our culture, respect ourselves, and to look at the universe and develop a sense of wonder. He ended his address by speaking of what truly makes us human- our sense of an existence much vaster than ours, and led to the Tagore song 'Akashbhora Surjotara Biswabhora Pran', which concluded his speech.

The last item on the line was the much-adored Electronic Media presentation. They presented 'Unsung', which was a celebration of all the things, little and big, and the people and their perseverance that made the school what it was. It was a beautiful reminder of what a sense of community and respect can do for those who belong to the school and it was particularly bittersweet for the seniormost batch, signaling the end of their school life. The last day of the 27th Founders' thus came to an end. A heady three days of festivities that reflected countless hours and weeks of practice finally closed and as the school began to move out of the gates, one couldn't help but wonder just what the magic would look like this time next year.



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