

Always...

-Ngukivi Chishi, School Captain, Batch of 2019

I've stood on the stage of the Williamson Magor Hall more times than I can remember. That is not to say that I've done it countless times; this has more to do with my poor memory. But yes, I am familiar enough with the experience to give you a perspective from the other side. The first time I found myself on the stage was in a choral event in my first year at AVS. I was yet to learn at the time that I was not exactly flattering myself and that I would do wisely to move on pursuing other areas of interest in subsequent years. What a great many novices assume, I believe, is that one is somehow shielded by choir members and therefore nobody will notice if you happen to do something stupid, like forget the lyrics of the song or sway the exact opposite direction of everybody else. They will find, as I did, that your friends always notice. I am reminded to this day and I suspect that I will be for an awfully long time ahead, of what a fool I made of myself. At least I grew all the wiser for it and I moved on to more apposite pursuits for myself; I soon realised that I would still find myself on stage most of the time, albeit in different capacities. I took to dramatics and debating, and sometimes dramatics in debating for which I received my fair share of flak. Nevertheless, I enjoyed the giddiness and nervousness before the stage-lights would hit me or while I walked from my seat to the podium; the rush of adrenaline I would feel amidst intense scenes and fiery arguments. When it was all over, the heart was either buoyant or disappointedly heavy; the degree of applause usually gave one a good

estimation. Either way, the sun came up the next day and life bustling with activity at AVS went on. These memories, although precious, carry with them a sense of detachment- as far as sentimentality is concerned. I loved acting, but I was only one part of a storyline. I debated on several issues, but none that I had chosen; this was one of the challenges that I greatly learnt from- the attempt to give words the power to make the most ridiculous of motions and notions seem reasonable. Not a great strategy for politics, but certainly one for good fun. What did not carry a sense of detachment but in fact, carried an extraordinarily precious sense of intimacy are all the times I took the dais as School Captain. For every time I stood and spoke, be it a serious issue or just a simple prayer, each word seemed to weigh a little heavier; carry a little more meaning. Nobody likes a prick for a leader and definitely not a student leader, so one is taught to keep a check on his sense of self-importance. But in the constant effort not to get ahead of myself, I wonder if I sometimes tended to forget that each of my actions or words mattered a little more now. I still remember being a keen-eyed boy, observant of the subtlest gestures of seniors and mostly prefects. It could be the way they talked or the way they walked, how they knotted their ties or the number of badges on the collars of their blazers. Subconsciously, I now realise, we almost always ranked our admiration for them based on the way they treated us- their juniors. Anyway, my point was that now, someone else was the keen-eyed young boy or girl,

unassumingly noticing more than we gave them credit for. What impact would my words have on them? How would they rank their admiration for me? If I had quite possibly overplayed my role as a firm disciplinarian, I profoundly hope that they sometimes saw a different side of me on the lectern- an insightful side; a more sensitive and candid side. From the moment I stood and spoke to the school keyed up for Election Day to my final address as the badge holder, I curiously looked at the audience scanning their reactions. I saw laughter when I joked, commiserating smiles when the intended jokes weren't so funny, scowls when I yapped on about

rules, uniforms and the like, and almost always some kid snoozing in a corner whom I'd have greeted with a glare had I been patrolling the aisle. When I wanted to know most, however, what they were thinking, I could not. I always searched among the sea of eyes when I talked about what this school meant to me, what my hopes for us were, when I asked my classmates to believe in me, when I offered advice to my juniors and incoming prefects. In these bits and pieces, their faces were remarkably inscrutable. I will never know what lay behind those unreadable eyes. Whatever they discerned- I hope they believed that I spoke from the heart, always.

The Formation Of Nepal

-Jigme Pao Tamang, XI

During a period closely resembling the warring states period of China, the Ruler of the Gurkha Kingdom and the founder of the Shah dynasty of Nepal, Prithvi Narayan Shah, realised that the only way that the Nepali Culture could survive was if all the petty warring fractions are united under a single power. He saw the danger that the British posed to the nation as he realised that a divided nation will easily fall. Even before the British began their conquest of India, he correctly assumed that their method of conquest will involve capturing the divided Indian sub-continent, one state at a time. Prithvi Narayan Shah planned to conquer the Terai and other regions bordering India first and then move on to the Kathmandu Valley to ensure the safety of the Nepali people. In 1700 CE, Prithvi Narayan Shah began his conquest with the annexation of Nuwakot, a kingdom on the eastern border of the Gurkha Kingdom and a part of the trade route between Tibet and Kathmandu. Under Kazi Kalu Pande, a Chettri aristocrat, the Gurkhas captured Nuwakot in a single campaign. The King of Tnanahun, another kingdom bordering Kathmandu, was invited on the pretext of a friendly visit by the Gurkhas. However, he was imprisoned and his kingdom was annexed. The other two kingdoms were quickly annexed in a battle lasting for only eight hours. The exiled rulers of these two Kingdoms, with the help of the Nawab of Bengal, sent a force of 3500 soldiers to retake their kingdoms but these soldiers were killed, in one swift maneuver, during the dead of the night by the Gurkhas. The Kathmandu Valley was ruled by the three city-states of Kirtipur, Lalitpur, and Kathmandu. The first two attempts to conquer the Kathmandu Valley failed miserably however on the third attempt the entire Kathmandu Valley was first suppressed by creating a

famine in the region. This was possible as the Gurkhas had already conquered the kingdoms surrounding the valley. As mentioned before, Prithvi Narayan Shah was unifying Nepal to protect it from the East India Company, so when the rulers of the Kathmandu valley brought in the East India Company as reinforcements - making the exact same mistake as the Indian states made, doing exactly what the Gurkhas were fighting to avoid - the Gurkhas suppressed the entire British force even before they reached the valley and the Sepoys were forced to retreat. After removing the British forces, he marched to the Valley and began the suppression of the City States with the fall of Kritipur. As punishment for bringing the British into their country, Prithvi Narayan Shah, killed the commanders of the city and chopped off the noses and ears of all the inhabitants to brand them as traitors to their race.

The people of Kathmandu shared Prithivi Narayan Shah's view of the British Threat and resented their king, who was extremely dependent on the East India Company. Thus, when the Gurkhas began their invasion of Kathmandu, all the nobles of the city switched over to the Gurkha side. The success of the Gurkha capture of Kathmandu was celebrated by its inhabitants with the firing of guns and people streamed to the palace with gifts for the new King, Prithvi Narayan Shah. In sharp contrast to the capture of Kathmandu, the Gurkhas faced tough resistance at Lalitpur; however, the soldiers of Lalitpur were already exhausted by the prolonged siege that the Gorkhas had begun as soon as they surrounded the Valley, and when threatened with the same treatment that the people of Kritipur had received, with the additional benefit of having their right arms chopped off, the Newars of Lalitpur quickly surrendered

In Verse

Heal The World

-Nyasa Bagra, IX

As long as the world grows old,
There comes moulds,
With dozens of folds.
How old could it grow?
It is a place for us to live,
for us to keep.
Who can save it?
A doctor? A nurse?
Only you could
So go on and
Heal the world.
Go out and see what it is giving,
The alluring air rushing and gushing,
The mighty mountain standing still,
The summer sun smiling above, and
The winter moon is sleeping soundly.
Now that it is your time to give,
Give the world what it is giving you,
Let it rise, let it shine.
Let it feel the beauty of its own.
Go on, and heal the world.

Light Lavenders

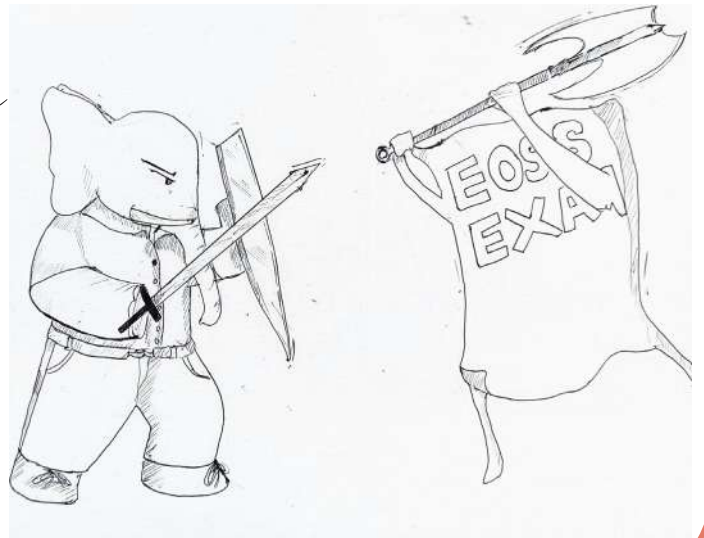
-Mridulla Guleria, X

Little purple lavenders that grow by the lakeside,
Little purple lavenders that sway with the clouds,
Little purple lavenders fill the sky with their fragrance.
Bundles and Bundles of peace and delight,
They fill the air with sweet scent under the moonlight,
Little purple lavenders, they beam and gleam
Like the stars in the night sky.
Tied with a white bow,
Tiny little lavenders.
A bouquet of peace and serenity,
To touch a human's soul,
Their scent to be never forgotten,
Is what lingers around these
Tiny little lavenders.

Campus Caricature

MY EXAMS ENDED OR EXAMS ENDED ME?

Illustration: Innalemla Imchen, XII



ALL INDIA IPSC FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

**Host School: BK Birla Centre for Education-
Champion: The Assam Valley School**

The AVS Under 14 Soccer team, won the All-India IPSC Soccer tournament defeating Modern School, Barakhamba, Delhi. The Champions were received ceremoniously by a euphoric AVS Community.

Heartiest congratulations to team AVS and their coaches, Mr. Jamlamthang Hangzo and Mr Biswajit Baglary. It is a huge accomplishment and we are proud of the young boys.

Best player of the tournament: Uttam Pukhrambam, Class 8

Name of the students in the AVS IPSC Team:

Sivdatta Thangjam, Suchan Malik (Goalkeeper),

Tayu Natung,

Uttam Pukhrambam (Captain),

Buhumsa Daimari,

Moilung T. Ngonyen,

Atova Ahozhe,

Gitartha Rabha,

Alvert Thokchom,

Techi Lonam Mangming Toko,

Tayar Doni, Joram Bagang Chagam,

Vedant Bajaj, Tage Lahye,

Nafees Hussain Kakati and

Rangkam Sonam.



AVS NCC CADET

AVS NCC Unit's Cadet Vidhi Chopra, S- 4369 (Air Force Wing) of Class 9, has been selected to participate in the Republic Day Parade. She will be participating in the Republic Day Camp, in 2024. Congratulations to Vidhi, her NCC Unit, and her family.



ALL INDIA IPSC TAEKWONDO CHAMPIONSHIP

Host School: Birla Vidya Mandir, Nainital
The All-India IPSC 2023 Taekwondo Championship was held at Birla Vidya Mandir on the 26th and 27th of June. Former Olympian Rajendra Singh Rawat inaugurated the championship.

The performance of the AVS team at a glance:

Under 19 Category:

1. Piyush Paul: Gold in under 68 KG
2. Bhabarnab Pran Nath Sandalya: Gold in above 78 KG
3. Kavish Agarwal: Bronze in under 51KG

Under 17 Category:

1. Bornil Phukan: Gold in under 59 KG
2. Tanishk Sharma: Gold in under 68 KG

Under 14 Category:

1. Nilav Prajapati: Bronze in above 41 KG

Total medals:

Gold: 4

Bronze: 2

Many congratulations to the boys and their coaches.

INTERHOUSE ONE ACT PLAY

The evening of the 24th of June, saw the much-anticipated Inter-House One Act Play Competition commence. The four plays were based on one of the 154 of Shakespeare's sonnets. The judges for the evening were Mr. Anubhuv Sarkar, Department of Biology, Mr. Leslie P. Watts, Head of Hospitality and Event Management, and Mrs. Anupama Bajaj, an educator and theatre enthusiast. The first house to perform was Subansiri-Namdang, followed by Kopili-Dhansiri, who was promptly followed by Jinari-Manas before the event ended with Bhoroli-Lohit. The event kept the audience at the edge of their seats as the actors from all four houses brought their best onto the stage and kept their audience engaged.

Results at a glance:

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

IPSC TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP



Boys (Under 17 & 19 categories)

Host School: Genesis Global School, Noida

IPSC Tennis Championship for boys Under 17 & 19 was held from the 5th July to 7th July at Genesis Global School, Noida. 21 Schools and over 100 tennis players participated in the event.

The AVS Tennis contingent consisted of five students:

They are:

1. Garv Kedia, Class 12
2. Aryan Agarwal, Class 12
3. Ishan Deka, Class 8
4. Adhayan Saikia, Class 10
5. Rajnish Sharma, Class 11

The top performer from AVS:

Rajnish Sharma: Quarterfinalist (Individual Category)

SUBANSIRI NAMDANG

“The pain be mine, but thine shall be the praise.” Subansiri-Namdang put on a spectacular performance, with a play titled- ‘Unfinished’ based on Shakespeare’s Sonnet 38, “How can my muse want subject to invent”, which tells us the story of Anthony, portrayed by Divyana Lahan, who was crazed with the obsession of making what he believed to be the perfect sonnet. We saw his sonnet being personified by Norzin Lhamu Bhutia who, other than being the personification of the sonnet, was also Maria, his first muse. The play began with Anthony with his muse Roslyn, played by Pragya Narjinary whom he adored. Everything seemed to be fine until Roslyn passed away. With his source of inspiration gone, Anthony and his friend Tob, played by Nivran Jung Thapa, grieved Roslyn’s death giving the play a melancholic touch. However, Anthony soon found himself another muse named Cecilia (played by Natasha Bilimoria) and his search for his perfect and complete sonnet continued. Anthony was eventually called out for having multiple muses by his friend Toby and a heart-broken Cecilia, who believed that she was the only love of his life, left him. In the closing scene of the play, Anthony is left on stage by himself with nothing but his unfinished sonnet and his lingering recollection of Maria—that is, until inspiration strikes and he is able to finish the sonnet as a whole, soundtracked by Aditya Gargo on the piano.

-Aanya Paul Sarkar, X

BHOROLI LOHIT

‘You live in this and dwell in lovers’ eyes’ The last play of the evening performed by Bhoroli - Lohit highlights the theme of “love lost to war” based on Shakespeare’s Sonnet 55 ‘Not marble nor the gilded monuments’. The play started with Andrew, played by Lochan Rana, finding his great-grandparents' letters in the attic. He shares these letters with his friend and significant other played by Chenmai Chang who brought comic relief to the play. Through these letters, he discovers the tragic love story that was his great-grandparent's life. Andrea, his great-grandmother played by Srishti Bajaj, and her husband, Edward played by Aryan Buragohain, shared regular correspondence from where he was posted as a soldier. The letters continued even when he was deputed to a war zone. The letters were sensitive and spoke of the life he wished to come back to with his family. They spoke of a hope he nursed of seeing his daughter grow. The couple shared the love they felt for each other and the hope they nursed a life together when he returned home. The play came to an end with Andrew reading the last letter from his great-grandfather right before he was killed in battle. He sensed the immense loss that his great-grandmother felt and the burden she carried till the end of her days.

-Anushka Somani, XI

KOPII DHANSIRI

To me, fair friend, you can never be old.’ Kopili-Dhansiri’s show for the Inter House One-Act Play competition began with Anushka Jitani graciously introducing the play which was based on Shakespeare’s Sonnet 104. The play had appropriately been titled “Friendship is a Sonnet” and followed the touching story of Manju played by Priyanu Kashyap and Rohan played by Nuhang Chamling who managed to stay in contact through letters and emails despite Manju living in Bangalore and Rohan in London. The audience watched as the two grew from children to college students and eventually into young adults who get married (not to each other, much to Rohan’s disappointment.) Though neither of them could attend the other’s weddings, we eventually got to see them reunite once the two had grown old and grey. Priyanu Kashyap brought life to her character and her dialogue delivery was spot-on. The touching play ended with a recorded recital of the sonnet on which it was based.

-Rianna Irom, IX



JINARI MANAS

“Love is not love, Which alters when it alteration finds. ‘Shakespeare's Sonnet 116 ‘Let me not to the Marriage of True Minds’, served as the inspiration for the one-act play that Jinari-Manas enacted. The Sonnet is about a beautiful, unwavering love between two people. Ojasivi served as the show's anchor and informed the audience of the Sonnet that Jinari-Manas would be playing out but with a unique twist. The three main characters in the play were: Peter, portrayed by Adhayan Saikia, Sarah, played by Tasmin Ahmed, and Roger, portrayed by Agnih Bora. The production distinguished itself from the rest because it included Arel Jordan who played the character of William Shakespeare and narrated the Sonnet as the play progressed. The idea behind the act was narrated by Shakespeare himself and this caught the attention of both the judges and the audience.

-Neilgimyan Das, X

BIDDING FAREWELL

-Gungming Phassang and Kaezax Kholie, XII

School Captain Gungming Phassang and ICT Captain Kaezax Kholie, on behalf of AVE, caught up with Director Mr. Samik Ghosh, during the final days of his remarkable tenure at AVS before he moved on to his next great project.

AVE: Sir, as the visiting Director to AVS, what were some of the initial problems you faced?

Mr. Ghosh: To be honest, troubles? There were none except some small problems. Firstly, I did not know the people here, and the same with them. Building trust between us took a little time as everything was online during the pandemic when I first joined but this was not the issue with the students.

AVE: Sir, you are a seasoned educator with over 3 decades of teaching experience. What sets AVS different from the rest of the schools you have been to?

Mr. Ghosh: Firstly, the facilities that AVS provides for the academic sessions are excellent. I have not seen a school with such a brilliant academic support block and a stand-alone exam section. Secondly search closeness to nature with big natural trees which are not artificial or manicured makes the campus unique. Thirdly the students here are exceptionally talented in cultural activities like dance, drama, music, movie-making, and

debates. Lastly, the COVID management of the school was well planned and executed and the AVS infirmary must be commended for its 24/7 operation.

AVE: Where do you see AVS in the next 5 years?

Mr. Ghosh: Financially the school is stable and will only grow and there has been an increase in the number of admissions. The school is also taking specific initiatives that show that the school has every intention of adopting modern education practices such as using the Cambridge book. The kind of talent that I see in both the students and the staff for Co-curricular activities which is beyond academics, is just wonderful.

AVE: Sir, what are your plans and ventures now that you move on from AVS?

Mr. Ghosh: I will be advising another school that will be in the IB curriculum on the other end of the country, Gujarat. It's going to be a new challenge and opportunity. Apart from that I will be attached to schools for certain educational activities. I will be hosting 'Theory of Knowledge' or TOK workshops. These are some of the things which should keep me fairly occupied.

AVE: What would be your parting message or words to AVS?

Mr. Ghosh: Open your minds to adopt diverse cultures and global approaches to make school a center of motivated learning driven by curiosity. Making a system where the students and teachers learn together and have an environment where the students are curious to learn.

THE OUTPOST

France in upheaval as riots spread across the country to protest the police killing of Nahel Merzouk, a 17-year-old of Algerian descent. With a twist in the tale, Sharad Pawar's nephew Ajit Pawar does a Pawar-Play and leaves the NCP to ally with the BJP, it promises interesting days ahead in Maharashtra. NATO offer aid but not membership to Ukraine despite Turkey's support. What is the "Breadbasket" to do now? Biden administration plans to send Ukraine a strapping bounty in the form of controversial cluster munitions. US-China relations at an "all time low" despite US Secretary of State's China visit.



Illustration: Sara Jha, XII

Ripple #208

-Atoti Zhimomi, XI

We watch our husbands, fathers
and brothers
March back home with howls and
shouts,
Fists gripping the hair of our
beheaded enemies.
And we smile knowing
That victory is ours.

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "A 1kg dog of bag food."-Shambhavi Jindal, X (*Bag it up, you're done.*)
2. "Can we meet me yesterday?"- Aakanksha Kumar, XI (*Who meets who?*)
3. "Bag up my pack." -Babli Kanwar, X (*The real house spirit.*)
4. "The sun was raining" -Tanisha Singh Sisodia, X (*Brain not braining?*)
5. "Please phone the charge." - Jessica Rani, XII (*Go charge your brain.*)

Keep It Reel!

Victorious

-Aakanksha Dutta, Head Girl, Batch of 2019



Editor-in-Chief: Emidaka Rapsang

Deputy Editor: Deubale Meru

Correspondents: Ssara, Tanveer, Aanya and Neilginryan

Design & Layout: Emidaka

Illustrators: Hana Ahmed, Imnalemla & Gaurish

Photography Credits: Rudarayan Haloi

Mistress-in-Charge: Ms. Sarmistha Paul Sarkar

Publisher: The Assam Valley School, P.O. Balipara, Dist. Sonitpur, Asom-784101, India

E-mail: ave@assamvalleyschool.com

Telephone: 09678074320/08812009627 Website: www.assamvalleyschool.com

Patron: Dr. Amit Jugran, The Headmaster of The Assam Valley School



The views expressed in articles printed are the authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of AVE or its editorial policy.