



the trees and stones? They too come into existence, decay and die.”

Connect with 'others'. Don't forget you are a part of nature. Internalize that knowledge. That's the foundation of ecology. It's not enough to know the biology and biochemistry of trees, plants and animals. You must feel them to be living bodies, like yourself.

Tat Tvam Asi: Thou art that (*Sanskrit*). That is one of the four *mahavakyas* (*great sayings of the Upanishads*). The others are **Prajnanam Brahma:** Consciousness is

Brahman (wisdom is the self), **Aham Brahmasmi:** I am Brahman and **Ayam Atma Brahma:** The Self is Brahman. These constitute the great connect.

Know the West from the standpoint of the East. It's impossible to know others without knowing yourself. You cannot respect others if you don't respect yourself. Study and try to understand your own history, your own culture first. That's very important. Only then will you be able to understand and appreciate other cultures. Don't just ape the West. They will never respect you for that. When they find you understand yourself and respect yourself and won't take any nonsense, they will respect you.

Today's world is dominated by data and information but remember what the great English poet T. S. Eliot wrote in *The Rock*:

*Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?
Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?*

You'll find data, information and knowledge in today's world, but not wisdom. If you want to save the world, go to the fountainheads of wisdom; in the East and in the West.

Most importantly, look at the universe and develop a sense of cosmic wonder, a sense of cosmic religiosity. Einstein wrote: *“The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion which stands at the cradle of true art and true science. Whoever does not know it and can no longer wonder, no longer marvel, is as good as dead, and his eyes are dimmed.”*

Humans are the only animals who can sense the existence of something much vaster than themselves and the world they see around them. That is the sixth sense we humans have, a surplus that exceeds the immediate necessities of our biological survival. That's why men across the ages have dared to climb mountains, explored the depths of the oceans, even dared to go to the Moon. We design and decorate our homes, our clothes, our cups and plates, even our swords. None of that is surely necessary for our biological survival. But they are vitally important for our spiritual survival. Aesthetics and pure **anandam** is at the heart of all existence. **Raso vai sah. Sat-chit-anandam.** That is the fountainhead of all creations. That is our spiritual basis, our heritage.

I end my speech with a video clip of Rabindranath Tagore's song 'Akashbhora Surjotara Biswabhora Pran'. I quote the translation of the song done by Tagore himself.

'My heart sings at the wonder of my place in this world of light and life;

At the feel in my pulse of the rhythm of creation
Cadenced by the swing of the endless time.

I feel the tenderness of the grass in my forest walk,
The wayside flowers startle me:
That the gifts of the infinite are strewn in the dust
Wakens my song in wonder.

I have seen, have heard, have lived;
In the depth of the known have felt
The truth that exceeds all knowledge
Which fills my heart with wonder and I sing.'



Headmaster's

FOUNDERS' ADDRESS



On the 27th year of The Assam Valley School, I would like to begin my speech by what Socrates once said and I quote, *"I am like a midwife. I will bring out what is hidden in you"*.

It is by far the most searchingly apt definition of Education.

Each person carries the seed of incredible development, of that paramount perfection within them. Unless those seeds are fertilised and nurtured, the person will remain barren. The situation is somewhat similar to that of a seed grown on the earth. Only when the seed is watered and cultivated does it sprout; only then does it elbow and nudge through the soil and reach the sun's light. There is an intense sense of anxiousness and restlessness in this journey between sprouting and growing. Only after all the turmoil has eased does a sense of tranquillity prevail. Education is the only source that can escalate and whet this glorious time of restlessness in young people. At AVS, we are midwives, bringing out the hidden in front of the world in the form of Aviators.

I am more than proud to inform you that The Assam Valley School celebrated yet another year of Academic achievement. Our board results have yet again been a proof of the hard work put in day after day by the faculty members. Let us now look at the results of our ISC and ICSE batches and a presentation on Academics at AVS.

Of course, as we celebrate our academic achievements, we also remember that a child's growth goes beyond the classroom. Boarding school is a safe haven for our children. The staff who are *in loco parentis* at The Assam Valley school supervise the students in their daily lives, overseeing general well-being and supporting them as they learn how to structure and balance their days. As they get older, children need more freedom to learn self-responsibility. Boarding schools allow exploration and independence while keeping young people safe.

Yet many parents opt to take their children out after class 10 and send them for coaching at various other destinations. While I respect your decision, I must caution you that for a child to adapt from a fixed routine and environment into an unknown, cut throat and extremely demanding and to an extent competitively hostile surrounding can have its own implications. Perhaps we are so blinded by our misplaced, unachieved aspirations that we burden their young shoulders, forgetting what is best for their wellbeing, their aspirations. The school has relentlessly made all efforts to ensure that our children get the same exposure of science coaching while enjoying the benefits of the boarding school life. The school has engaged the renowned Higgs institute for the JEE / NEET and CUET coaching. Our own trained faculty is also working overtime in extending assistance to the JEE and NEET aspirants beyond classroom hours. The school has been successful in also providing coaching for SAT and NDA. I wholeheartedly thank the parents who have enrolled their children in the coaching programme. Experiencing a new culture can be an eye-opener for all generations. The Assam Valley School over the years has been a forerunner in contributing to or enhancing the aesthetic, artistic, historical, intellectual and social development of its students.



The fields, courts and the achievements year upon year, are evidence that Sports is a religion at AVS.

We look back at the impressive achievements of the students in all fields with pride and joy. However, progress and excellence require an ever-evolving environment. So, we must look ahead as well.

My vision for AVS is simple yet complex. I wish AVS to be a “Caregiving School”. I want everyone – student, teachers, parents and staff computers, books, teachers, counsellors and curriculum. Classrooms also come with students, some successful and some who have not been successful or members to invest in caring for students. It is our moral responsibility to ensure that our children grow up under our care to be men and women of substance.

Education is not about classrooms that come with furniture, well adjusted. Some come to us with lifelong problems and excessive baggage. At AVS, the teachers as Caregivers are the rich and powerful resources for the children. We try hard to ensure that we provide the best education, psychological and emotional support to the child and not just convert or reduce him or her to a ‘case’ or a ‘number’. The individualised education plan spearheaded by Ms. Joyce MacDonald and team, the remedial programme ably handled by Dr. Kuljeet Singh and his team is evidence of how far the faculty assist our children. A school which supports the social and emotional needs of its students ultimately helps in the cognitive development, which I firmly believe AVS stands for. In this endeavour, I would also like to express my gratitude to Ms. Meenakshi Baruah Das, Mr. A. S. Huidrom and the Housemistresses and Housemasters.

My vision is to make AVS a place, where persistent basic human values are put into work when we are with children and to demonstrate fairness, sensitivity, empathy and care.

It gives me immense pleasure to announce that Education World has awarded The Assam Valley School 2nd position amongst the Co-educational Boarding Schools of the Country, climbing the ladder from the Number 3 position and at the same time sustaining 1st position in the Eastern region. For this, I have my predecessors to thank as also the staff, students, parents and the Governing Body.

Before I conclude my Founders' speech, I want to read a few lines from the school song “Pass It On”. Envisioned years back, it profoundly relates to our present time.

*I can see confusion is the sign of all times
Everywhere compassion's getting harder to find
Someday when we learn that no one's strong enough to make it on their own
I just hope there's someone there*

Who will take the time to care and pass it on.

A school that embodies such philosophical thoughts can only generate compassionate, empathetic, benevolent, charitable citizens of tomorrow. The Assam Valley School has embarked upon this arduous journey and proudly treads through its 27th year of existence. We reaffirm our commitment to the founders of this glorious institution.

Our children are our future, our hope and our dream. Please provide them with the inspiration to achieve a higher destiny and support their calling. Teach them the values to stay rooted in their culture and above all, to remain humane under life's challenges.

It is my privilege and a humbling experience to lead such an institution. A captain is as good as his team. I take this opportunity to thank the relentless educators, the hard-working administration and the finance department, the dedicated medical team, and the affectionate service providers. AVS is what it is today due to all your efforts.

I thank the parent community for believing in us and entrusting us with such wonderful children.

I will end the speech with a few lines by Mr Gulab Ramchandani, my first Headmaster, “*You see, the world is much tougher outside and full of compromises. Before you become men, you must know what is black and what is white. You will be dealing with many shades of grey for the rest of your life, but you must have fundamental values straight, and this only your parents and school can teach you.*”

Finally, I would like to thank our Honourable Chief Guest, members of the Governing Body, Visiting Director Mr. Ghosh, my dear Teachers, Staff, Distinguished Guests, Respected Parents, Friends, Alumni and my dear students of The Assam Valley School. For the success of this Founders', I thank Mr. Tushar Bharadwaj, Mr. Leslie Peter Watts, students and the staff members. Though I must add, that our journey does not end here; it is our continuous endeavour and promise to the community that each day will be better than the previous one and we shall be dreaming and realising the dream for a better future, a better environment where young minds take up challenges and march forward to become model students of a global civilization.

Thank you for listening to me patiently. I wish you all a very happy and Green Diwali!

The TAPS Debate

The Alumni versus Present Students

Love is overrated'. Well! It truly is a debatable statement. This, precisely, was the motion for the enthralling TAPS (The Alumni vs Present Students) debate on 19 October, 2022, the first day of the 27th Founders' Celebrations at The Assam Valley School. The school team comprising Jikke Kikum, Hiyaneijemmy Das and Khekre Meyase battled it out with the school alumni team, 'while all the world wondered'. The Alumni, represented by Humraaj Singh Jassal, Surajdeep Singh and Attriika Hazarika opposed the motion and very easily convinced the judges and the audience of their stance. Students from class 8 to 12 witnessed enthralling arguments put forward by both the proposition and the opposition.

The debate started off strong with the proposition arguing that love is put on a pedestal, that we as an audience are fed a very glorified idea of what love is by the media. The proposition claimed that to pretend that love is the highest ideal is wrong, and that other important traits such as the pursuit of self-discovery is cast aside for what we think love is. The second speaker elaborated on how people stay in unhealthy relationships in the hope of receiving the love they are conditioned to believe is real, and highlighted the psychological aspect of this behaviour that endorphins act as a catalyst for this need. The third speaker gave a wonderful example of the story of Romeo and Juliet, how it's seen as a love story and how the tragedy in the story is completely overlooked. "Caution and common sense will never be as poetic".

The opposition proposed that love is the need of the body and the soul, that love drives nature and we cannot override this basic emotion and take what really is misconstrued as a glorification of the concept. Of course, the story of our life cannot be the plot of typical Bollywood films like *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* directed by Bollywood director Karan Johar who goes out of his way to deify love. Love isn't all that we need, but it is definitely something that we all yearn for.

This was definitely one of the most riveting and compelling debates AVS has witnessed. We were truly on the edge of our seats.







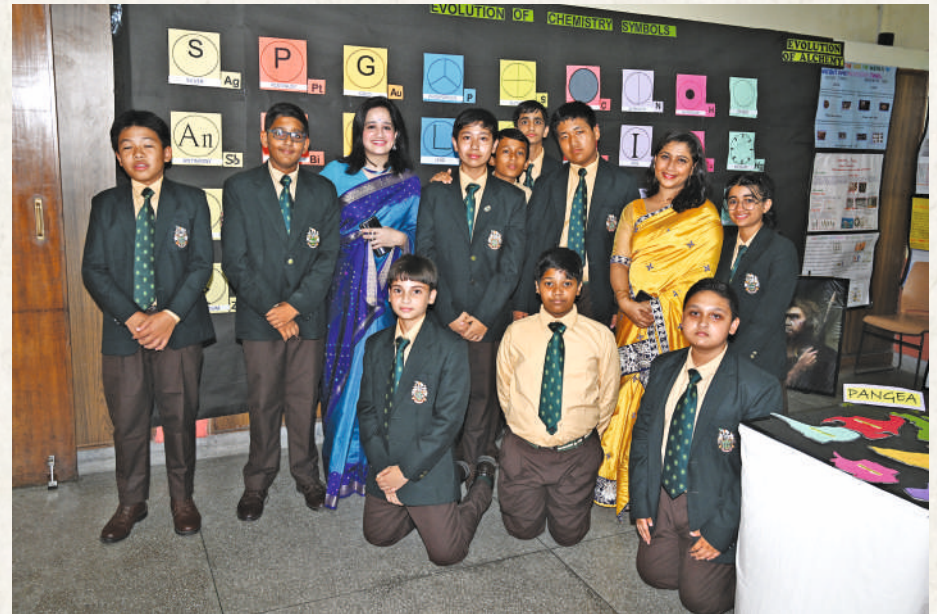
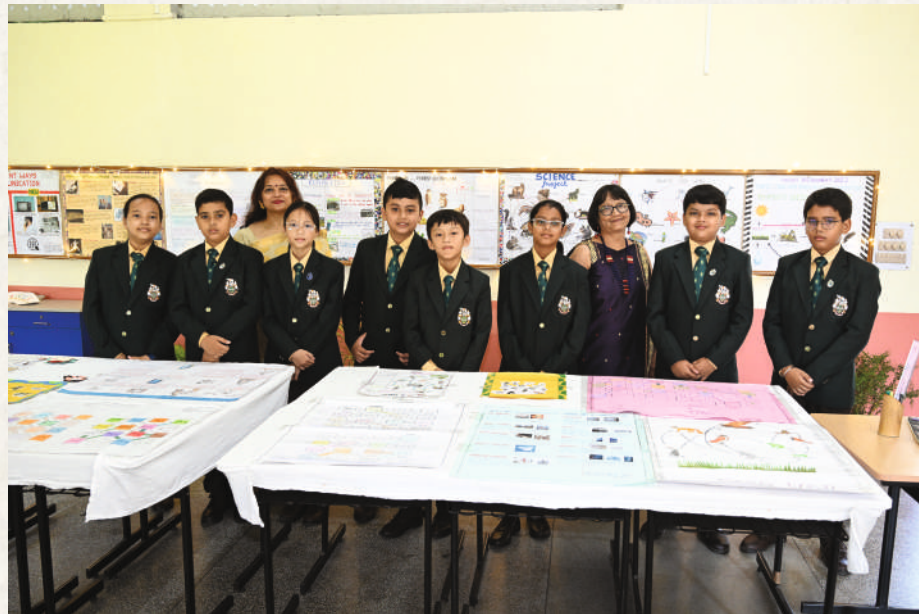
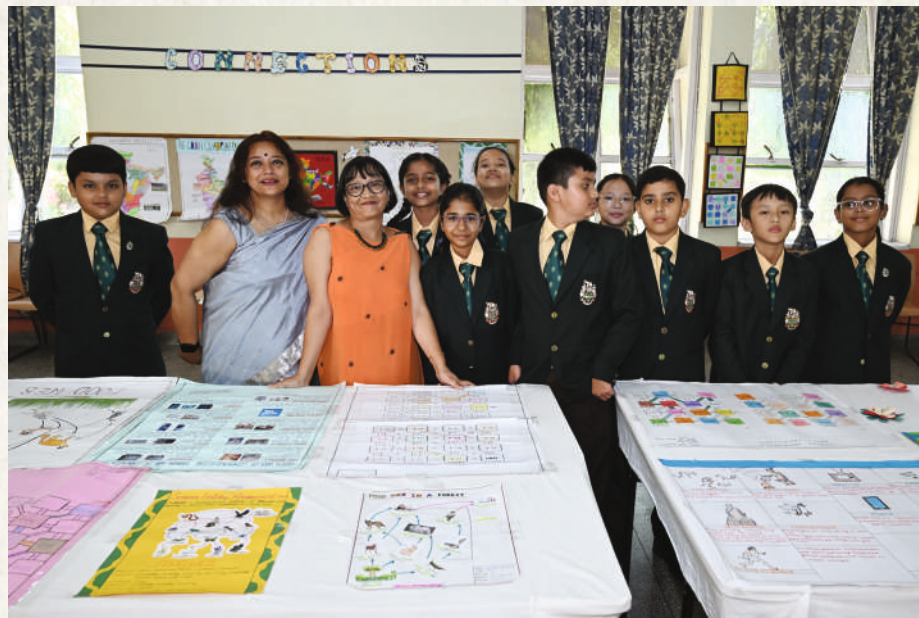
FOUNDERS'

Exhibitions



Alumnus & Founder UTSAH, Guwahati,
Miguel Qeah Inaugurates Exhibitions





CLASS 5

Led by Ms. Pamela Syiemlich, the students of Class 5 presented an exhibition on the theme "Connections". The exhibition talked about the locations of airports as the centres of communication. The students presented their project in the field of communication through an appealing display of charts and models. The exhibition was beautifully prepared and received great reviews.

CLASS 6

Under the guidance of Ms. Nidhi Rathore Shekhawat, Ms. Debjani P. Nath and Ms. Debolina C Bakshi, the students of Class 6 had put up an exhibition on evolution. They charted the progress of evolution through various topics and had put up a colourful exhibition on their findings.





CLASS 7

Under the aegis of Ms. Mousumi Talukdar and Ms. Barnali Baruah, the students of Class 7 had lots of fun working with *Fire and Heat*. In this exhibition, the students walked the visitors through the greenhouse effect, the factors contributing to the effect and the consequences of the greenhouse effect. The exhibition put forward well-researched matter through a colourful representation.



CLASS 8

Led by Mrs. Indra Mahanta, Mrs. Rimjhim Ghosh Pyne and Mr. Niranjan Samaddar, the students of Class 8 presented an exhibition on *Space*. They tackled topics such as Inter-Molecular Space and Space Exploration and presented their findings through interesting and interactive models and colourful charts. It was an amazing exhibition and got some great reviews.





SCIENCE CLUB

The students of the AVS Science Club under the guidance of Dr. Alpana Dey, Mr. Subhash Chand, and Ms. Shalini Roy prepared an exhibition on the theme, *Sustainable Village*. The students showcased different methods of sustainable living such as decontaminating water using household items, making organic soap and much more. The exhibition was interesting and educational and the air-conditioned house built by mud was a hit.

PHYSICS

The AVS Astronomy Club under the guidance of Mr. Taufique Alam Ansari, Mr. Umesh Singh and Mr. Rajen Bharali built a *Solar System* along with a sun dial in this interactive exhibition which engaged as well as entertained the visitors. An open-air exhibition, it had already caught the attention of the community. The exhibition overall was quite captivating and innovative.





MATHEMATICS

Under the guidance of Mr. Pawan Kumar Pal and Mr. Bhola Prasad, the Mathematics wizards of Classes 7, 8 and 9 had put up a Mathematical labyrinth titled *Hunarbaaz*. This exhibition was divided into two parts - Vedic Mathematics and Rubik's Cube. Talents such as beating a calculator and solving a Rubik's Cube blindfolded were showcased. This was truly an awe-inspiring exhibition.

AEROMODELLING

Led by Mr. Huidrom, Mr. Sajid Ahmed and Mr. Rajiv Hazarika, an enthusiastic group of students built models of drones amongst others. These were flown and were on display. There was also a simulator on display that allowed the visitors to get a feel of flying these objects.





ART

The Art Department, along with its artists, this Founders' exhibited the spectacular beauty of AVS. Their theme, *Scenes of AVS* gave one an insight into our campus from an artist's point of view. The artworks focussed on those aspects of AVS that are unknown to non-Aviators- like the lotus pond in the gardens near the Foundation stone. Along with the blushing lotuses, the exhibition also showcased paintings of the different outfits of the North-Eastern states. The exhibition was supervised by Ms. Mampi Das, Mr. Bijit Das and Mr. Rounak Patra.

CDT

A department where design meets productivity, CDT is a place where design is translated through craft, technology, storytelling, and philosophy. This exhibition was spearheaded by Ms. Priyanka Joshi and Mr. Hari Narayan Baruah. The air was filled with exuberance as students bustled around the rooms making handicrafts such as paper bookmarks, balloon lamps, and embroidery. The preparation for Founders' also saw students gather to make Pipli lamps and tailored dresses.

