

PERSEVERANCE

-Aarnav Dutta, School Captain, XII

There are a lot of people in my life who have taught me— family, teachers, friends, superheroes, but my biggest teacher has always been my sport. I started playing squash at the age of 12, and since then my racket and the squash court have taught me many lessons, both about the sport and about life. This is not to say that I have only had a good relationship with squash. There were tough days. Days when I would be reprimanded by my coach, days when I had to wake up earlier than everyone else to go practice, days when I would miss multiple classes for tournaments and days when I sustained multiple injuries. There were tough days like these that once even brought me close to giving up squash. But those tough times, they actually have taught me many lessons that help me today.

Being a student leader comes with a lot of difficulties. There have been plenty of opportunities to put your patience to the test, to be honest, and to make difficult choices. For me, these situations have been just as difficult and demanding. I am

thankful for the lessons I have learned on the court about humility, perseverance, discipline, and most importantly, never giving up, if difficulties like these come knocking at my door. My experiences on the squash court have taught me valuable leadership lessons.

“I need to constantly work on myself, both as a sports person and a student leader.”

Representing Assam and AVS, my state and my school in the Khelo India National Youth Games 2024 was a big moment for me. When I was selected in the state team for the National Games in 2022 and 2023, I was very happy. But my satisfaction was cut short when we couldn't make a win in the National Games. Till then, I had wins in the state and inter-school levels, but I had not tasted the success of a national win. This time when we finally secured

bronze at the national level, I was happy, satisfied and felt like my efforts were paying off. But this win also came with a realisation that this is only the beginning. There are many more wins, losses and lessons to come. I have a long road ahead where I need to constantly work on myself, both as a sports person and a student leader. I remember this particular match where I was up against the India number 2 ranked player. I remember it being a tough match. It was a close match, one of my best performances yet. But what helped me perform in that match was something else. It was the belief that I had to get back stronger every time I lost a point. I had to learn from the loss and come back stronger.

And that's one of my mottos I take from the sport as I look at the year that lies ahead. I know there will be obstacles, I know I will not always be successful, I know doubts may arise in my mind. But through it all, I know this much that I will continue to learn and lead the school the best I can.

A TWIST IN THE TALE

-Atoti Zhimomi, Editor-in-Chief, XII

People in the news called her all sorts of horrific names but throughout all my interviews with her, I came to know her as nothing more than a sweet girl with an unfortunate past that led her down that horrid path. But that was all before we got to the actual killing, that's when all of the comments that I thought were too harsh, made complete sense.

"I began with her hands," she said, "those dainty graceful hands with the tall fingers that I'd always loathed. I made incisions around each of her knuckles and ripping out the fingers were easier than I'd expected, at least compared to cleaning the blood out of my carpet."

Her eyes glossed over as though she was about to weep, shed a tear or two for what she did to her twin, but her

lips twisting into a grin that tied my stomach into a knot. "It took me a while to pull her apart, definitely."

I hid my disgust as well as I could and made sure that I looked intrigued by what she was saying to me. "Hm, how long would you say?"

"A couple of hours. The neck and limbs were difficult at first but once I got to the last shoulder and leg, it felt like clockwork." I heard a little chuckle as I jotted down what she said. "Do you know what was my favourite part of it all, Kaya?"

"What was?"

"It was the way that she tasted."

US ELECTIONS 2024

-Aayat Hazarika, XII

"A politician thinks of the next election. A statesman, of the next generation."

- James Freeman Clarke

With Presidential Elections knocking on the door, America is witnessing a clash between several candidates of varied backgrounds, with unique stories. The current President, Joe Biden, is expected to campaign about bipartisan achievements (like a major infrastructure bill) as well as abortion rights. Other Democrat candidates include Marianne Williamson, former spiritual advisor to Oprah Winfrey, who in her unsuccessful 2020 campaign, supported slavery reparations and criticised 'Trumpism' but has also promoted dubious/debunked medical theories (especially on mental health), and Dean Phillips, who has few major policy disagreements with Biden but argues that the latter's age and low approval ratings call for someone else. Former President Donald J. Trump seems to be struggling against legal authorities and the Justice Department but has a committed supporter base giving him an advantage. Other Republican candidates

are Nikki Haley, former governor of South Carolina and U.N. ambassador under Trump, presenting herself to be of a new generation of leadership and emphasising her life experience as a daughter of Indian immigrants and Ryan Binkley, a 56-year-old businessman (president of a mergers and acquisitions firm) and pastor of a Texan church. Independent and third-party candidates are Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (nephew of John F. Kennedy), a prominent anti-vaccine activist, Cornel West, who has taught at some prestigious universities and is known for his progressive activism (including his sharp criticism of Obama) and Jill Stein, a physician who has run for President twice, wants an 'economic bill of rights' and is protective of abortion and transgender rights. What is interesting is the name of Michelle Obama making the rounds in the Democratic circles. Will there be a quick and a quiet coup to unstage the aged Joe Biden? We shall have to wait and watch.

AVS: VISION 2050

-Mr. Amirzit Huidrom, Department of Physics

The Assam Valley School foundation stone was laid on 11th February, 1990 by Mrs. Julia Magor and on 1st April 1995, the school opened with the enrolment of a few hundred pupils. Nestled amidst beautiful tea-garden terrain in the Sonitpur district of Assam, it is a residential, co-educational school that believes in education with a difference. Founded by the Williamson Magor Education Trust, and spread over a sprawling 95 sylvan hectares, The Assam Valley School aims to prepare the pupils for life itself, for global citizenship in the twenty-first century. The school has a proud past; an impressive present and a promising future—a gift to the peoples of the North East of India.

As Educators, we play a very special and important role in our society. It is very important to supplement the education provided in classrooms with programmes that expose pupils to the best the world has to offer in the field of science, commerce, humanities, art and culture.

It is a fact that Quality Education is the only most accepted and a better passport in the rapidly crystallizing global scenario and thus the fulcrum has to shift to bringing about an explicit improvement in both academic standard and co-curricular activities in both letter and spirit. The holistic development of the child is the crux of the school and there is no doubt that The Assam Valley School is a pool of talents and has no dearth of it.

Technology, like art, is the soaring exercise of human imagination and it is impossible to imagine life without the innovation like mobile phones, computers and the internet. One such advanced technology is “Artificial Intelligence” which we utilize daily

without even realizing. Technology is our way of life. Teaching through technology is the way forward to meet the demand in future education. The career for children will be multifold and challenging.

The Assam Valley School of 2050 has to be a progressive, child-centered co-educational school which must be committed to foster creativity, sustainable skills development, independent thinking—exploration and experimentation amongst teachers and pupils. Every student is unique, with their own strengths and challenges.

The quality education provided by The Assam Valley School will not compromise and quality refers to education it takes form to morph into a life giving, nurturing, result driven, chronicle of learning events and standard of aspect. The final product that comes out from the school after the formative years therefore must undoubtedly be intelligent, creative, vibrant, bright, confident and above all capable of facing the challenges to work efficiently even under stressful situations.

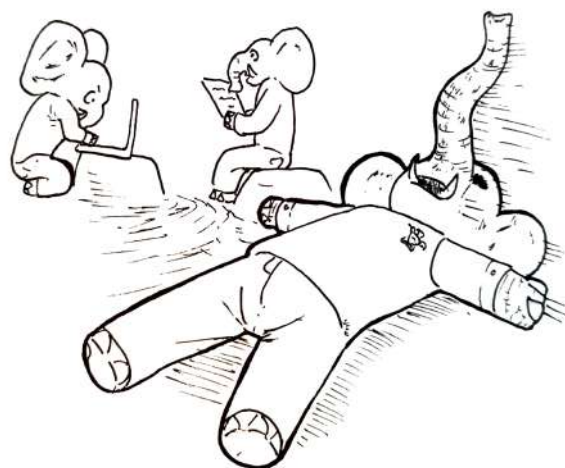
Henceforth, it is imperative that young pupils should be endowed with good leadership qualities and high moral values. They must be tech-savvy and must get ample opportunities to develop a broad horizon so that they are well groomed and possess excellent life skills so as to excel in any walk of life. At the Assam Valley School, we believe students must emerge as global citizens who excel in social skills and enjoy a wide range of interests because learning ought to be a child’s biggest adventure— foster positivity, nurture creativity, encourage wings to sprout in its students the legacy of believing in themselves and their capabilities.

Campus Caricature

DEBATING DEBACLE:

A SENIOR’S BURDEN
AND THE JUNIOR’S LANGUISH

Illustrated by Mashunsing Keishing, X



KAMP-NASTA

The Kamp-NASTA all-India Science exam was held in AVS for Students of classes 5 to 12 on the 11th of December 2022. Mahiya Khemani of Class 11 Science-K/3870 has been declared 'The State Topper' this year. This exam is an Initiative and Knowledge Alliance of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) - National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR) and NCPL, and intends to develop 21st-century skills amongst the school students.



TAEKWONDO

CHAMPIONSHIP

Bhabarnab Sandilya 11C, D/ 3987 bagged a Bronze Medal at the National Taekwondo Championship held in Jaipur, Rajasthan from the 6th to 9th February 2024. Over 33 competitors participated from across India where Bhabarnab played in the over 78 kg junior category. Heartiest Congratulations to Bhabarnab!



AFS GLOBAL STEM SCHOLARSHIP

We are thrilled to share that Aira Thoudam of Class 11H, S/4050, has earned a Full-Scholarship for the 2024 AFS Global STEM Academy in Egypt. Among the nearly 6,000 highly-qualified applications from over 15 countries, Aira stood out and she has been awarded one of the 150 spots for the 2024 cohort.

The AFS Global STEM Academies are full-scholarship intercultural exchange Programs for students interested in Sustainability, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) and Social Impact. The successful participants of this program get certified from AFS and the University of Pennsylvania Centre for Social Impact Strategy. Heartiest congratulations to Aira!



WE BID ADIEU

Ma'am Joyce Macdonald joined The Assam Valley School in the year 2008. In her 15-year tenure, she served as Head of Biology and was appointed Head of Lower School in 2021. Her tenure was known for its sound academic policies, management and creativity.

AVE: What are you most excited about stepping into this new chapter of your life?

JMC: I get bored very easily, and I felt that I was in my comfort zone and not challenging myself at all. This new chapter of my life has placed me completely out of my comfort zone. I am excited about that. I am excited about pushing my boundaries and doing things that I would never have done.

AVE: You've always kept a very punishing routine for yourself as HLS, do you have any fond memories of this period?

JMC: Oh all the days since I took over as HLS have been special for me. Spending time with the little ones, listening to their stories, and listening to the teachers narrate their experiences in the lower classes was so special for me. They were very naughty, but there was an innocence in their naughtiness that was special to me.

AVE: What is your most precious memory of AVS and why?

JMC: All memories of AVS are precious. There is not one that I can particularly pick out. But all the memories with my students are precious to me. I do

**Alumna Dr. Nehal Ahmed, ISC Batch 2017
shares a few words for Ma'am Joyce:**

Being an alumna of AVS and a student of science from the ISC 2017 Batch, I recall having some of the fondest and empowering memories with Ma'am Joyce over the many years I've known her. A teacher per-excellence, who would walk the miles with you in your academic endeavours, she was kind and gentle, but strictly tethered to her righteous morals and principles, which she also taught us to imbibe. We will always cherish her classes in the Bio lab, that turned into jolly banter and interesting conversations from time to time. Ma'am Joyce will always be remembered by me and her many students, with respect and gratitude.



often think of all the times that I had with my tutees, with my students in my class, especially my Junior school students towards the end. The time that I spent with my tutees is most memorable since they became my adopted children. My students, particularly the ones that I taught, I remember so much.

**Mr. Umesh Singh, Head of Department of
Physics, shares his thoughts:**

I joined AVS on September 28, 2013, and within a few weeks, I had the pleasure of meeting Joyce McDonald. Over time, our acquaintance blossomed into a strong friendship. Joyce has consistently demonstrated her unwavering support for students, provided their demands align with what is right. She possesses a keen eye for identifying students' errors and is not hesitant to point them out when necessary. Her Biology classes were not just educational but captivating. Students would often recount her examples with great enthusiasm long after the class had ended. Joyce's dedication to her students' well-being and academic growth is commendable.

She went above and beyond to ensure that every student felt welcomed and at home within the AVS community. Joyce firmly believes that being a teacher requires a genuine love for students and a profound passion for the subject matter. Her mantra of striving for perfection in every task resonates deeply with her approach to teaching and life.

As a member of the AVS community, I strongly feel that we need more educators like Joyce McDonald, individuals who are driven by principles of love, compassion, and a commitment to excellence. I wholeheartedly extend my best wishes to Joyce as she embarks on a new journey in life. May her future endeavours be as fulfilling and impactful as her time spent with us here at AVS.

AVS MEDICAL CAMP

Initiated by Dr. Dimple Baruah, Senior Medical officer, AVS and Dr. Lipika Borah, Head- Social Service League, AVS The Assam Valley School organized a health camp in Nepaligaon and Lachit Ville AVS on the 25th of February 2024. The Camps was staffed by the volunteer doctors who are alumni. Despite their busy schedules, the alumni not only ensured the quality of healthcare but also reinstated their commitment to service to the community and their alma mater. The Camp provided medical check-ups and treatments along with medicines, benefiting 167 individuals in Nepaligaon and 58 in the Lachit Ville at AVS. AVS Social Service and JRC volunteers actively engaged with residents, assisting in check-ups, and fostering meaningful interactions. The enthusiastic participation of the alumni and the students emphasised yet again the culture of service at school.



AVS BADMINTON CHAMPS

It is not for nothing that AVS is called the School for Adventure! A total of 39 students from our school participated in the Club Championship of Badminton organized by Tezpur District Sports Association. The championship, which is an annual event, was conducted on the 3rd and the 4th of February, 2024.



The experience of playing under different age groups was a major boost to the morale and the confidence of the students. This will pave the way for greater milestones to conquer! Mentioned below is a list of our achievements:

Manonta Kalita - Open category Singles and Doubles - Bronze medal.

Tanisa Pegu and Twesha Agarwal - Junior Girls Doubles - Bronze medal.

Adrija Sneha Gogoi and Aarini Muklani - Junior Girls Doubles - Bronze medal

Tanmoy Raj Baruah and Darsheel Kalita - Junior Boys Doubles - Bronze medal



THE OUTPOST

I.N.D.I. A alliance begins a crawl towards recovery as the opposition parties come to some agreement over seat-sharing in the upcoming Lok-Sabha elections. Farmers protest contained at Haryana border rages on even as the non-viability of their demands and the necessity of farm reforms takes center-stage. The mysterious death of Putin's prime opposition and critic Alexei Navalny held in imprisonment in Russia further dents Putin's image. Uncertain of continued help from the West, Zelensky bats for a peace-agreement with Russia. PM Modi's Dwarka visit grabs attention with the Sudarshan Setu and his underwater visit to the lost city of Dwarka.



Illustrated by Mashunising Keishing, X

Ripple #219

-Atoti Zhimomi, Editor-in-Chief, XII

*A pair of eyes look at me
Through the windows
That overlook the city.
I realize then that
I live on the 16th floor.*

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "Do they care you think?" -Siaa Kejriwal, XII (*Who is thinking about what?*)
2. "I forgot to tell my braces about my mum." -Riddhima Chakraborty, X (*We pray for your dentist's sanity.*)
3. "How do I want you punch?" -Ma'am SPS (*We kindly urge you to remember that promoting violence is wrong.*)
4. "I was doing that thing in the thing." -Norzin Lhamu, XII (*Please get a hold of yourself. Please.*)
5. "She sat on the ceiling below the chair." -Jigme Pao (*These Science-ies are creating their own physics left and right.*)



Keep It Real!

Ecstasy

-Tivona Narzary, XII



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