



The Staff Editor

Ecole Globale is a robust eighteen-month old baby today. Had she been human, she would still be struggling to push aside the restraining hand of a solicitous adult in a bid to break free and take tentative, rushing steps into the open, wide world.

To form words, albeit incoherently, that only close ones can interpret, to scream petulantly to make its presence felt in its own little universe!

Well, baby Ecole Globale has, in a matter of eighteen months, made its presence felt, LOUD and CLEAR. Documenting the birth and chronicling its journey so far, complete with its troughs and crests, achievements and disappointments, within these pages, has undoubtedly been, an exercise of devotion and love. And what a time this has been, these months! Every dotting kin has watched over it with tender, loving care. Today, we look on fondly, as it stands proudly on its own, confident and ready to make history, to take on the world.

Ecole Globale is the vision of one man. A man who had the grit, determination and courage to dream big, to brave the odds and strive to translate those dreams into reality. It has been a meteoric flight. To be adjudged 6th best girls' residential school in the country in its second year itself is no mean feat. This is also an endorsement of the truth that if one works unrelentingly with single-minded purpose towards excellence, excellence zooms into the realm of possibility.

With just a handful of students in year one, we had the audacity to dream massive, king-sized dreams. The gumption to function like a big, big school - stretching out our reach in all directions. Every single pupil believed that she was special, destined for great things - and continues to believe the same! She believes she is a potential Nobel laureate, inventor, scientist, Pulitzer Prize winning novelist, poet, singer, artist and yes, even the future Prime Minister of the country! And why not? There is no copyright required for

dreaming. An Ecoleite knows that if she can imagine it, she has the power to achieve it!

This empowering atmosphere at Ecole Globale strives to foster an atmosphere of leadership, communication, sharing, and above all, respect for all. The multi-cultural classrooms promote the feeling of tolerance, celebrating diversity and the joy of working in teams.

By teaching skills of self-discipline and self-confidence, of taking responsibility and ownership, the school seeks to educate them to open the door to their future rather than waiting for the door to open.

This is the essence of being a global school. The essence of being Ecole Globale!

The pages that follow trace the footsteps that we have left in the sands of time. They tell the tale as it has been so far... So here you are, and in your hands, the very first Year Book of Ecole Globale!

- Editor



Editorial

The word 'great' isn't always a synonym of 'complex'. Sometimes, greatness can be the result of an overly simplified formula rendered with truth and sincerity. An observation. Retention. And then, a perfect reflection.

We see a lot of things around us. The question is, how much of it do we notice? How much of it do we allow to be absorbed by our busy, preoccupied minds?

Seeing. Observing. There is a world of difference between the two. Yet, yet, they seem the same to us.

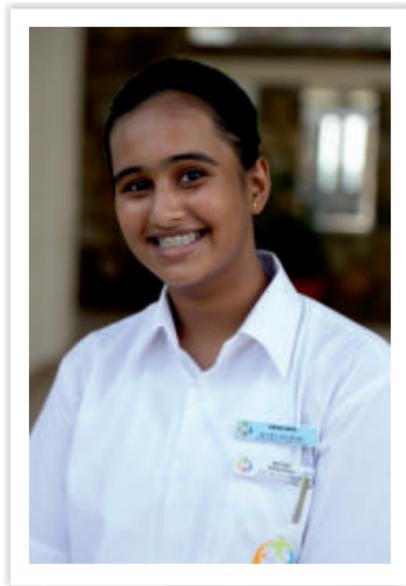
To us, but not to her. Not to the creator of that piece of Art that you saw when you lifted this incredible First Yearbook of an evolving 'Ecole Globale'.

Art in its finest form. The sketch is based solely on unconscious observation - a skill that sows its seed in fully evolved minds. Yet, Shabnam, a budding twelve-year-old artist, did it.

Every time I look at it, I am enchanted, spell bound. I'm transported to another world. A world so fine that I find it complex to define. All this, just because of a few deft Chinese ink strokes. God gifted, indeed. I say so, because I find it hard to believe the impact it has on us.

When I look at this piece closely, I feel excited as I recognize some of my friends and my teachers caricatured in it. It shows happiness. It displays love. Love for the ones we admire. It illustrates admiration. Admiration for the ones we have pure faith in. It reflects joy, faith and hope, because underneath the leafy boughs of the banyan, sits Gautama, the Buddha, representing a thousand things that simple words cannot decipher.

The very sight of the Banyan Tree from afar evokes in me a plethora of emotions that awakens my Soul. Its outstretched branches indicate to us that opportunities



are a million; they just have to be reached out to. The roots delving deep into the heart of Mother Earth, evince the bottomless, boundless depths of knowledge that is here to explore.

The Banyan Tree is magical. And it is miraculous how a manifestation of it, in pen and ink can have a similar effect! Added to all this is the local belief that the trio of the Banyan, the Buddha and the Peer Baba, is a good omen. Yes, it sure is. For right now, you are witnessing the terrific journey of Ecole that has been phenomenal, indeed.

Who said you need a Supreme Power to do great things? Sometimes, all you need is a plain, white sheet of paper and a brush!

-Editor,
Megha Rathi

Aer

Terra

Aqua

Ignis

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Credits



»President - Mr. Amarjeet Juneja

President's Message

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»Director - Mr. Tarun Juneja

Director's Message

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-Editor,
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»Honourable Chief Guest, His Excellency,
The Governor of Uttarakhand, Dr. Aziz Qureshi

Chief Guest Speech

Women's empowerment through education.

The biggest example of women empowerment through education comes with the example of Malala Yousuf Zai. This 14year old Pakistani girl has shown the world a fitting example of how education can liberate even women living in remote fundamental societies like her village of Swat. A girl's school like Ecole is indeed the need of the hour to inculcate in women a spirit of freedom and a crusading zeal. The state of Uttarakhand is a great example of women who were at the fore front of the struggle for forming this state.

The mother in a family is the one who nurtures and builds the character and moral fibre of her children. So isn't it important that she be educated in the right manner to do so. As the Chinese saying goes 'To educate a girl is to educate an entire generation.'

Women leaders in the world today have proven their grit and mettle and stood their ground against the might of military junta. The latest and the best example being that of Ang Sang Su Kyi, the leader of the opposition party of Myanmar today.

Our country and state also have given us enough examples of empowered women who have made a difference in the lives of thousands of people by showing them the right path. Aruna Roy of Tillonia village Rajasthan, who started also the famous barefoot college, Vandana Shiva of our own state, Gaura Devi of the Chipko movement are all pioneers in showing us what good education can do to make a difference in the society.

When we have girls growing with qualities of courage, integrity, strong conviction and the desire to bring about change, it surely results in a revolution.

I hope that the girls of this wonderful institution will grow up to be like these famous women whose lives have been worth emulating and who have been beacons of hope for generations to come.



»Principal - Mrs. Brinda Ghosh
Former House Mistress, Welham Girls School
& Principal JG International School, Ahmedabad

Principal's Annual Report

The Chief Guest His Excellency, The Governor of Uttarakhand, Shri. Aziz Quereshi, Guest of Honour, Ms Himani Shivpuri, The chairperson of Asian Educational Charitable trust Sardarni Kanwaljeet Kaur, The President Mr. Amarjeet Juneja, Distinguished members of the Board of Directors, Mr. Ramchandani, Mr Easwaran, parents, my colleague staff members and students of visiting schools-- Good evening and a warm welcome once again. Ecole Globale is in its infant stage, barely eight months old and so technically what I stand here to report is an account of the progress of the school since its inception on 13th April, 2012. The school has been affiliated to Cambridge International Examinations popularly known as IGCSE board and we have nine students who will take the AS level Examination in May 2013. Our process of affiliation to CBSE board is also complete and we hope to be on board by April 2013.

'Education is a social process, education is growth. Education is not a preparation for life but life itself.' In keeping with this progressive school philosophy of John Dewey we at Ecole have designed a curriculum that takes into consideration every aspect of a girl's growth. Opportunities are therefore created within the classroom and outside it to give the students something to do that demands thinking so that it naturally results in learning. An added feature is the inclusion of the elements of a finishing school which will train our girls in life skills

and give them a truly holistic education. Undeterred by our small numbers in the first year, we have gone on to plan and conduct all those activities that qualify a good residential school. Our students have been divided into houses namely Terra, Ignis, Acqua and Aer. Through a democratic process of elections prefects have been appointed. The first head-girl of the school is Vasundhara Yadav of class XI and the sports captain is Malika Gurnani of Class IX. We also have in place prefects to look after the mess, extra-curricular activities, literary activities and house prefects. We are sure that these opportunities will go a long way in inculcating qualities of leadership in our pupils. Intra-mural competitions like Just a minute, group singing, current events quiz, debates and recitation have been conducted, leading to the emergence of a house spirit. All students of Class XI attended the Mock United Nations conference as observers at the Doon School. Our moment of pride came with Shreya Agarwal of class vii winning the third position in the Sub-Junior State Judo Championship 2012, in the under twelve age group. A special feature of our assembly routine is a presentation by one house every week on a topic which is beyond the class syllabus. The condition is that every member of the team should have a part to play in the presentation which could be through any media. This ensures that every child gets the opportunity to research, gain more knowledge on the topic and



Principal's Annual Report (contd...)

to face a crowd and removes stage fear as every child gets a chance to either speak, recite, sing or emote in front of an audience. It also helps us in a new school recognize the special abilities that each child is blessed with.

In order to add on to their experiences of life visitors from various fields are encouraged to come and interact with our girls. We have had a number of such interactive sessions.

Noteworthy amongst them being a visit by Mr. & Mrs Swami who run the NGO purkal youth development society, Mrs Dutta Vice Principal of WGHs who besides her other accomplishments also happens to be India's first mastermind quizzier, acclaimed Examiner from British Council Mrs Murthy conducted a session in improving language skills, Mrs Mitra the first woman C A of W.Bengal gave the girls a talk on being independent entrepreneurs, Renowned actor and activist Kabir Bedi who spoke to the girls at length about his experiences in the acting world, well known danseuse Mrs Erika Nandi who conducted a dance workshop for the girls exposing them to four different forms of dances of India. Mr. Alok Ulfat is a familiar name in the world of theatre and in Dehradun city. We had invited Mr Ulfat and his talented team to be on campus and train our girls in theatre arts. The culmination of this workshop is what we will shortly witness as our annual play. This has been an extremely enriching experience for the girls who have grown to love and respect Mr Ulfat and his team. I take this opportunity to thank him for

his time and for being a part of the Ecole family. We believe that in addition to academia our focus should be on character shaping, developing a sense of service, courage, commitment, integrity and honour. Social service has begun in school with a strong desire to serve the village in which we are housed. On 15th August the girls began tutoring a group of children of the Dstaff. Interactions with the students of PYDS and other school students has given a different dimension to this aspect.

We are proud about the regularity with which our newsletter Ecolecho is published. We also have in place our wall magazine 'Grafall' which is completely managed by our students. Emphasis is also laid on adventure activities and outdoor experiences. The students have been on two long camping trips to Mussorie and Jim Corbett National Park. Educational trips like the trip to the silk farm and Stree shakti at Purkal are regularly organized.

It is a scientifically proven fact that physically fit children have better mental abilities and are more alert. Equal emphasis is placed on developing this aspect of our girls. Though on a small scale we had our first annual sports day yesterday with Yoga and Judo displays in which every single student in school participated. Not only special events but what happens on a normal working day that is really significant is the time given by teachers to understand the needs of a child, to listen to her, to talk to her and the effort that is put in to build relationships.



We at Ecole recognize the fact that it is people and not programs that make the difference and an all out effort is made to build on the strengths of those who matter to us. The support of the parent community is vital to our growth and here I wish to place on record our gratitude to all our parents for their co-operation in all our endeavours.

Our endeavour at Ecole is to create a school that encourages our girls to be themselves, to explore their strengths and find success. Not only our girls, we also promote an enabling atmosphere where staff can explore different ways and methodologies of making learning and teaching more effective and enjoyable. In-service training is a common feature at Ecole Globale. Teachers are also sent for the staff development workshops conducted by CIE and other training organizations.

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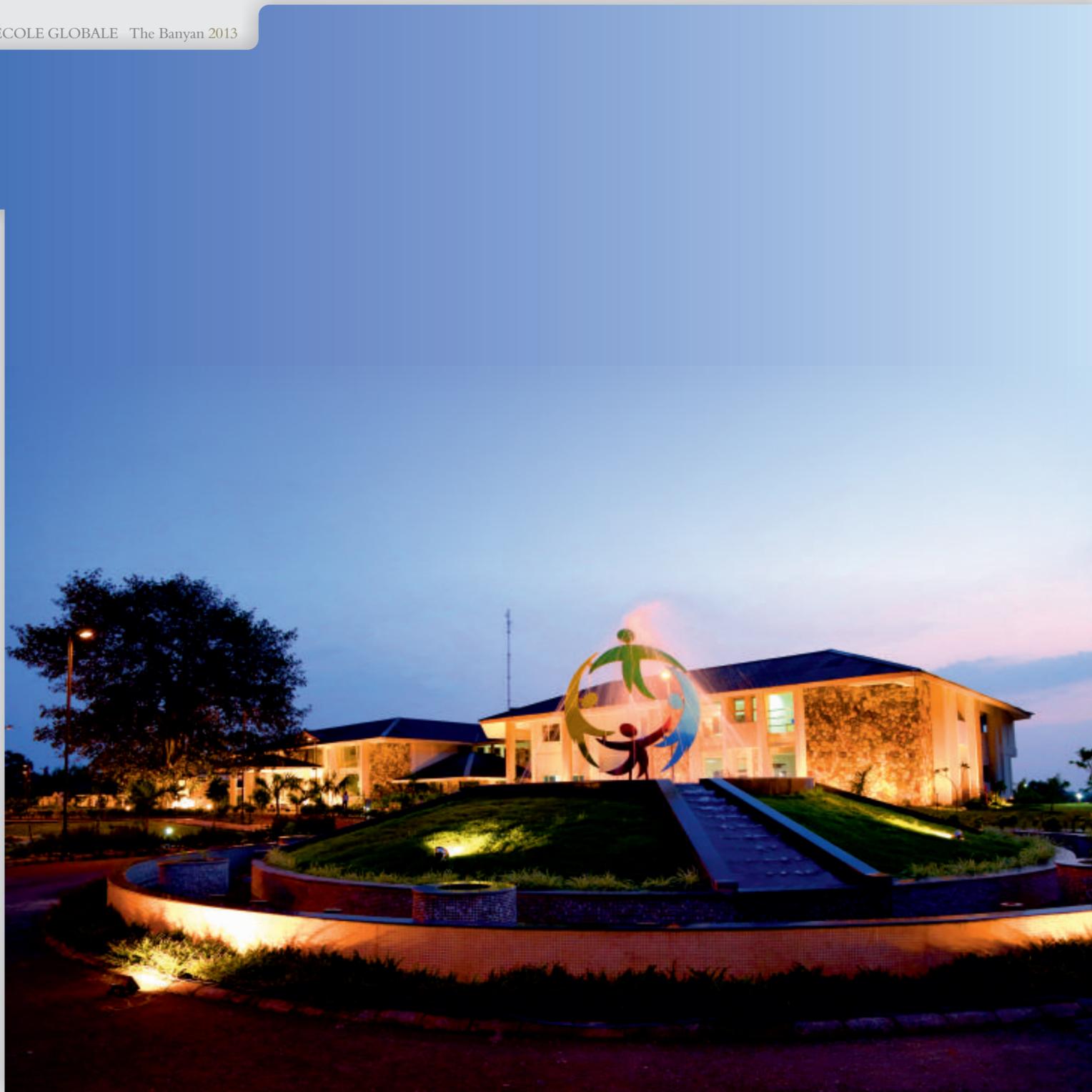
I greatly appreciate and acknowledge all the hardwork put in by my staff in all departments, academic and administrative, in shaping the ethos of this school. The relentless and untiring work of the administrative department and some members of the staff to make the first founder's day a success, is greatly appreciated. Thanks are also due to the management especially the President Mr. Juneja and the Director, Mr. Tarunjyot who have patiently put up with my endless requisitions and demands. Winston Churchill once stated 'Everyday you make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch before you an ever

lengthening, ever ascending, ever imposing path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb.'

Ladies and gentlemen before I conclude I'd like to leave you all, especially my young friends in the audience, with a thought. In 1989 a boy named Nkosi Johnson was born with HIV/Aids. He never knew his father and his mother died when he was eight. In the year that his mother died he gained International media attention because he was refused admission in a school because of his HIV status. When he was ten he opened Nkosi's Haven a refuge for HIV positive mothers and children. When he was eleven he was keynote speaker at the International Aids conference. He died at the age of twelve, the longest surviving child to have been born with Aids. In 2005 he was posthumously awarded The International Children's Peace Prize for his work with HIV positive children and the awareness that he created. The message I would like to leave you with are in Nkosi's words – "Do all you can with what you have in the time you have in the place you are."

Thank you for giving me a patient ear. I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.





HOUSE REPORT

Aer



Aer or Air
'Seekers and Achievers'

Ever flowing and omnipresent. It represents the source of life. It represents the thirst to explore and seek – the eternal quest for knowledge.

The symbol we have chosen is the alchemical symbol for air as defined by the Royal society of Chemistry.

Terra



Terra or Earth
'Grounded and Firm'

The solid earth represents firmness of mind and purpose. It holds in its depth an immense reserve of all that is reliable and stable. Dependable and tangible, this element represents qualities that a student should cultivate.

This Adinkara symbol means 'The Earth has weight' and represents the importance of earth in sustaining life.

Aqua



Aqua or Water
'Ever Nurturing'

Water is ever nurturing, providing sustenance to all creatures. Like the ocean we of aqua house have depth of character, are adaptable, imaginative and ever ready to experiment.

The symbol is a prominent water clan petroglyph sign from Arizona.

Ignis



Ignis or Fire
'Light to Lighten'

Fueled by enthusiasm, fire represents warmth and an uncommon passion. It has the quality of changing all that it touches, illuminates and ignites our minds.

The symbol is Uto-Aztec and Cherokee symbolizing the energy that ignites our inner fire.





Aer

Seekers & Achievers

Led by Arushi Gorski (House Captain) and Sakshi Lakhota (Vice House Captain), Aer House has been participating in various school events since the beginning of the year. The School Captain Megha Rathi and the Sports Captain Mohini Chhotra also belong to our house.

The members of the house have represented the school in various inter-school competitions-

- Megha Rathi and Sakshi Lakhota represented the school in DSMUN'13, held at The Doon School, Dehradun
- Megha Rathi and Arushi Gorski appeared on behalf of the school for the Turn Coat at Hope Town, Dehradun.
- Sakshi Lakhota and Natalia Teig went for 'Spoof it' also at Hope town
- Megha Rathi represented École in the Asian Challenge Debate on the topic "Women's Security was a myth, is a myth and will always be a myth in India"
- Megha Rathi represented the school at the Inter-School Turn Coat Extempore Speech Competition held at Summer Valley

Shreya Agarwal has constantly shown that Judo is her forte. She participated in the Sub-junior State Judo Championship in September, 2012 and won the bronze medal in the Open Weight group (+40 kg) in the under -12 category.

In February 2013, Shreya participated in the State Youth Judo Championship and grabbed a bronze medal in below 48 kg weight category. Apart from this, Aer house has put up several

presentations in the morning assembly monthly. The most appreciated were the ones on:

- Motivation
- Malala Yousafzai
- Poverty
- Female Feoticide

Aer House participated in all the Inter-house competitions and showed good results.

In 2012, Megha Rathi took away the First Position in English JAM (seniors) and Anusha Rathi secured the Second Position in the same competition for juniors.

In the same year, the house acquired the First Position in the Inter-house Music Competition. In the Quiz Competition, Aer obtained the 2nd position. In the Poetry Recitation Competition, Sakshi Lakhota got the 2nd position (seniors) and Anusha Rathi the 1st position (juniors).

In 2013, Chetanya Jhinjha took the 1st position in the Hindi JAM (seniors).

Aer house secured the 1st position in the Current Affairs Quiz. The students who represented the house were: Chetanya Jhinjha, Anusha Rathi, Shreya Aggarwal and Mohini Chhotra.

Anusha Rathi obtained the 1st position in the English JAM 2013. Megha Rathi acquired the 2nd position in English Creative Writing. The House stood 3rd in the Inter-House Music Competition.

Aer House participated in all the events and bagged quite many prizes.

All in all, a successful year indeed!





Terra

Grounded & Firm

The name Terra is a Latin word meaning Earth or Land.

Terra House has grown immensely in the year 2013, as compared to 2012, the reason being the hardwork the captains, the house members and teachers have been putting in. We managed to touch the first position and we promise to continue to maintain that.

We began our first academic year successfully.

In the first Inter House Current Events Quiz competition, -2012, Terra stood first. Vasundhara Yadav, our House Captain helped us to keep our heads high by winning the 2nd prize in English 'Just a Minute.'

Terra House took part in various competition and activities. The Hindi Debate Competition '12, which was one of the most thrilling competitions of the year, on the topic "Fashion", Terra house secured the 3rd position.

The House has been taking steps to make public speaking its strength and these activities have helped students improve their command over the language. This renewed confidence was clearly evident during the English Recitation Competition '12, with Heena Siddique securing the 2nd position and Palak Grover, the 3rd position.

Terra gave a presentation on France in the month of April '13. The House was fortunate to have Ms. Neerja Thapa

(French and History teacher) as one of the house teachers by that time and she undoubtedly was the one who helped us make this presentation, a success.

Year 2013 has been yet another incredible year for the girls of Terra House, full to the brim with activities and events.

In the Current Events Quiz held in 2013, Terra secured the 3rd position. English Creative Writing saw Jasnoor Mallhi of grade 6 in the 2nd place in the sub-junior category and Jiye Youn of grade 9 stood 1st in the Junior category.

What made us even prouder is that fact that Jiye Youn secured the first position in the entire school for her creativity!

We doubt if we would have been such a successful team without the juniors. To prove us right, next we had the Hindi Creative Writing competition, with Devanshi of Grade 6 securing the 2nd position in the sub-junior category and Gunisha Arora of grade 10 securing the 1st place and Abana Javed of grade 11 with the 2nd position in the Senior category.

The house worked really hard to make up for what they had lost in the first year. In the Inter House Music Competition, Terra House secured the 1st position by singing the song, "Tum samay ki ret par" paying homage to India on its 67th Independence Day.

A steady improvement has been noticed in the field of oratory too. In the English 'Just a Minute' Competition, Vasundhara Yadav of grade 12 bagged the 1st position and

Akshata Joshi of grade 5 secured the 2nd position.

Terra came in for a lot of praise for our second presentation which was a tribute to one of the greatest dancers, song composers and philanthropists Michael Jackson.

When it comes to social service the House has really done some great work. Terra has contributed to Adult Education by visiting the nearby villages for our project. We understand the importance of knowledge and believe that education leads to success in all that a man would ever need in life.

We will make sure that our house continues to maintain the first position. We take immense pride in being part of the Terra House. As Dwight D. Eisenhower has rightly said, « Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it. »

Our House Captain, Vasundhara Yadav and Vice House Captain Abana Javed have really fulfilled this criterion to the maximum. The two leaders have always been present to encourage and guide their team and little ones. They've also been quite successful at maintaining discipline in the house, even in the absence of teachers. We would like to thank all our teachers, Mrs. Manjeet Sandhu, Mrs Neerja Thapa, Mrs Purnima Agrawal, Mr. Naveen Sharma for becoming the backbone of our house, and supporting us in every step we took.





Aqua

Forever Nurturing

Aqua House is under the able leadership of Aarjoo Bahuguna (House Captain) and Mallika Gurnani (House Vice-Captain) during the academic session - 2013 & 2014. True to the name "aqua" which means water, the members of the house are calm and quiet but extremely talented from within. Aqua House participated in all the activities held in the school. In 2012, we took part in the Inter-House Current Affairs competition. Though we did not fare well, we did not lose hope, but continued to work hard. In the JAM (Just a Minute), Aqua stood second with Anusha Rathi bagging the second position. In the Inter-house English Recitation Competition, again Anusha Rathi stood first and Heena Siddiqui grabbed the second position. It was a joyous occasion for the house. Aastha Soi of our House gained the first position in the Inter-house Hindi Debate. On the Sports Day held in November, 2012, Aquaite, Aman Sethi gained the first position in 100m race. She bagged the junior championship in running, too. Year 2013 witnessed many changes. Many new teachers and students joined our group. In the Inter-House Quiz competition, we didn't do well. But we prepared well for the JAM. Aquaite Arushi Gorsii stood third in the Seniors Category whereas Ananya Gupta stood second in the Juniors Category. Aqua stood first in the Inter-House Singing competition which was held on 15 August. The credit goes entirely to House teachers, Ms.

Monica Chhibber, Ms. Bhashwati Ghosh, Ms. Netrapreet Kaur and Ms. Vatsla Bhanot. Under their guidance, we were able to bring our house up to the second position over all. In the Inter-house English Creative Writing competition, Aquaite, Aditi Dixit won the first prize in the Seniors' Category and Ananya Gupta bagged the first prize in Sub-Juniors category. In the Hindi-Creative Writing competition, Riya Jamwal and Heena Siddiqui grabbed the first position in the Junior and the Seniors' category respectively. Our house also participated in the Hindi JAM with Junior, Ananya Gupta winning the first position. Aqua House presented the house assembly on 26 July, 2013, portraying the culture of Japan through posters. We sang Japanese songs and said a prayer too in the same language. To conclude, we would specially like to mention the efforts of our house teachers who have put in more than their share of hard work, making the tasks, easier for us. In the years to come, we will strive continuously to take the House to the greater heights and we will continue to honor our motto "Forever nurturing".





Ignis

Fueled by enthusiasm

Aqua House is under the able leadership of Aarjoo Bahuguna (House Captain) and Mallika Gurnani (House Vice-Captain) during the academic session - 2013 & 2014. True to the name "aqua" which means water, the members of the house are calm and quiet but extremely talented from within. Aqua House participated in all the activities held in the school. In 2012, we took part in the Inter-House Current Affairs competition. Though we did not fare well, we did not lose hope, but continued to work hard. In the JAM (Just a Minute), Aqua stood second with Anusha Rathi bagging the second position. In the Inter-house English Recitation Competition, again Anusha Rathi stood first and Heena Siddiqui grabbed the second position. It was a joyous occasion for the house. Aastha Soi of our House gained the first position in the Inter-house Hindi Debate. On the Sports Day held in November, 2012, Aquaita, Aman Sethi gained the first position in 100m race. She bagged the junior championship in running, too. Year 2013 witnessed many changes. Many new teachers and students joined our group. In the Inter-House Quiz competition, we didn't do well. But we prepared well for the JAM. Aquaita Arushi Gorsii stood third in the Seniors Category whereas Ananya Gupta stood second in the Juniors Category. Aqua stood first in the Inter-House Singing competition which was held on 15 August. The credit goes entirely to House teachers, Ms.

Monica Chhibber, Ms. Bhashwati Ghosh, Ms. Netrapreet Kaur and Ms. Vatsla Bhanot. Under their guidance, we were able to bring our house up to the second position over all. In the Inter-house English Creative Writing competition, Aquaita, Aditi Dixit won the first prize in the Seniors' Category and Ananya Gupta bagged the first prize in Sub-Juniors category. In the Hindi-Creative Writing competition, Riya Jamwal and Heena Siddiqui grabbed the first position in the Junior and the Seniors' category respectively. Our house also participated in the Hindi JAM with Junior, Ananya Gupta winning the first position. Aqua House presented the house assembly on 26 July, 2013, portraying the culture of Japan through posters. We sang Japanese songs and said a prayer too in the same language. To conclude, we would specially like to mention the efforts of our house teachers who have put in more than their share of hard work, making the tasks, easier for us. In the years to come, we will strive continuously to take the House to the greater heights and we will continue to honor our motto "Forever nurturing".

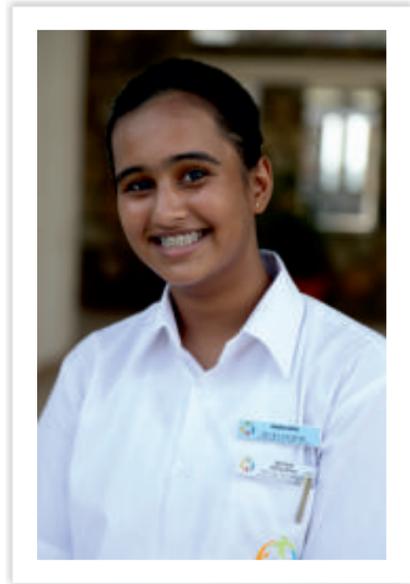


STUDENT PROFILE

École to me...



Megha Rathi

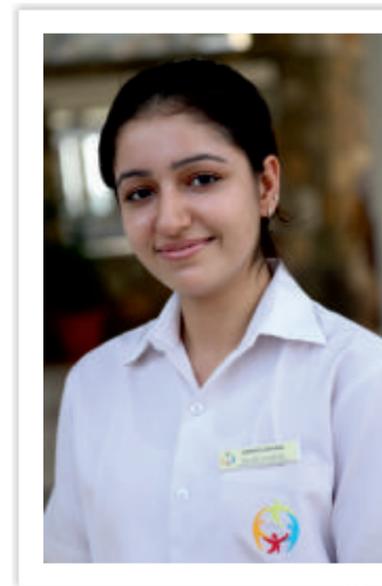


House – Aer

- Achievements
- Headgirl for the year 2013 -14
 - Editor for the year 2012 – 13
 - Editor for the year 2013 -14
 - DSMUN for the year 2013 – 14

Some reflections on École – Having witnessed École's growth in two years' stay is great. The school has given me innumerable chances and opportunities to explore and exhibit my talents. Along with leadership and other soft skills, I have learnt all about myself here. École provides holistic education in the truest sense of the word. The school is a true reflection of boundless greatness which it will achieve in its upcoming years.

Mohini Chhotra



House : Aer

- Achievements :
- School Sports Captain-2013-14
 - Gold Medal in Javelin Throw-2012
 - Gold Medal in Shot put-2012
 - Gold Medal in 100x4 mtrs Relay-2012
 - 1st place-Current Events Quiz-2013
 - 3rd place in Inter-House Group Singing-2013

École to me : The chilly, morning breeze struck my exposed skin as soon as I opened the car door. As if on cue, tiny bumps arose all over my nervous, quivering arms. This was the first day of my École' journey. I walked tentatively through the main door and headed towards the best moments of my life.

Two wonderful years with École' has made me what I am today . For me, École' is everything; An ENTICING place to live in, a COMPREHENSIBLE companion, an ORCHARD full of young omniscient leaders, with LIBERAL legislation and an ENIGMATIC elite.

I AM PROUD TO BE AN ECOLITE!





Trisha Malhotra

- House : Ignis
 Achievements : • House Captain 2013,
 • Sports - 3rd in Javelin throw,
 • 3rd in Relays
 • 3rd in 200m race ,
 • School Photography official,
 • 2nd in Inter-House Quiz- 2013

Some reflections on École: I can never really express what École means to me. I never thought I would end up studying in a boarding school, and that to, a girl's hostel. I would have almost freaked out at such a thought, a year and a half back.

Woah! What has École done for me? École not only guided me to follow my dreams but also made me believe in and love myself. The fact that my talents, especially in photography was given a chance to blossom was something I am truly grateful for.. Ecole is the best and the most beautiful thing that has ever happened to me., I would have been an aimless Trisha wandering around without direction!

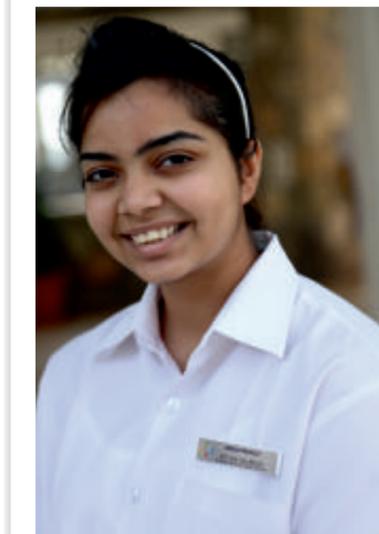
And also, had I not come to École, I wouldn't have met an adorable bunch of people, Aditi Dixit, Megha Rathi & Arushi Gorsl. I will not forget to mention this, Mrs. Tulsi Bhatia & Mrs. Ghosh, thank you so much for all the love, care and guidance. Believe it not, whoever I am, it's because of you.

Aditi Dixit

- House : Aqua
 Achievements : • Mess Prefect (2012-2013)
 • Mess prefect (2013-2014)
 • House Captain (2012-2013),
 • First in English Creative Writing Competition,
 • First in 200m Race,
 • Second in 100m Race,
 • Second in 4x100m relay race.

Some reflections on École: My first boarding school as well as my first non co-educational school experience has been École Globale. In fact, in the span of these two years, École has given me many firsts, not all necessarily pleasurable ones. But, each one of them was important in moulding me into who I am today. I watched École grow from 24 students to what it is today.

It has been an honour. These two years at École were probably the best two years of my 17 years of existence. I will cherish the memories of École till the end of my lifetime.



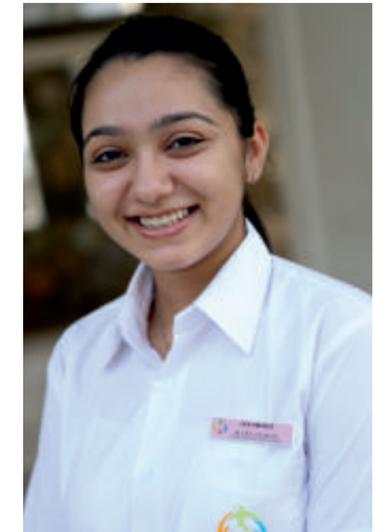
Riddhi Sarvaiya

- House : Ignis
 Achievements : • Co-curricular Prefect of the school-2012 & 2013
 • 3rd in the Inter -House Hindi debate
 • 3rd in the Inter -House Music Competition-2012
 • 3rd position in the Inter- House Current Events Quiz
 • 2nd in the Current Events Quiz -2013
 • 1st position in the (4x100m) relay race
 • 2nd in 200m race.

Some reflections on École: École has been a wonderfully enriching experience. It is the best thing that has ever happened to me. It has made me realize my hidden talents, my efficiency and abilities to perform various tasks by building a lot of confidence in me.

Days just turned into birds and flocked away. I did not even realize how time slipped through my fingers so fast. It is hard to digest that in just a few more months, I will go but I m sure that I am not going out of this home, empty handed. I am going to take along École and memories associated with it in bits and pieces.

I will surely miss the time spent with my teachers and the wonderfully talented Écolites. I would actually miss all the hands that reached out to wipe off my tears. I will miss the tonic of hope provided for my perpetual examination fever by the École family. I would really miss École because it has found a permanent place, a place at the core of my heart.



Vasundhara Yadav

- House : Terra House
 Achievements : • School Head Girl-2012
 • 2nd in Extempore speaking- English-2012
 • 3rd in Inter-House Music Competition-2012
 • 1st in Inter-House Current Events Quiz-2012
 • House Captain 2013
 • 1st in English Extempore Speaking -2013
 • 1st in Inter-house Music competition-2013,
 • Tarang Entrepreneur Conference 2013 held at The Doon School.

Some reflections on Ecole – I'm proud to be an Ecolite from the inception of the school. Have had the best of times here, had amazing experiences in Ecole, which I surely wouldn't have had anywhere else. I have enjoyed watching the growth of Ecole. Each day spent here is a happy memory, that I will never forget. Thanks to Ecole for making me realize my own talents and abilities. After spending one year, Ecole seems like home to me, I wonder how I'll be able to adapt to anywhere else!

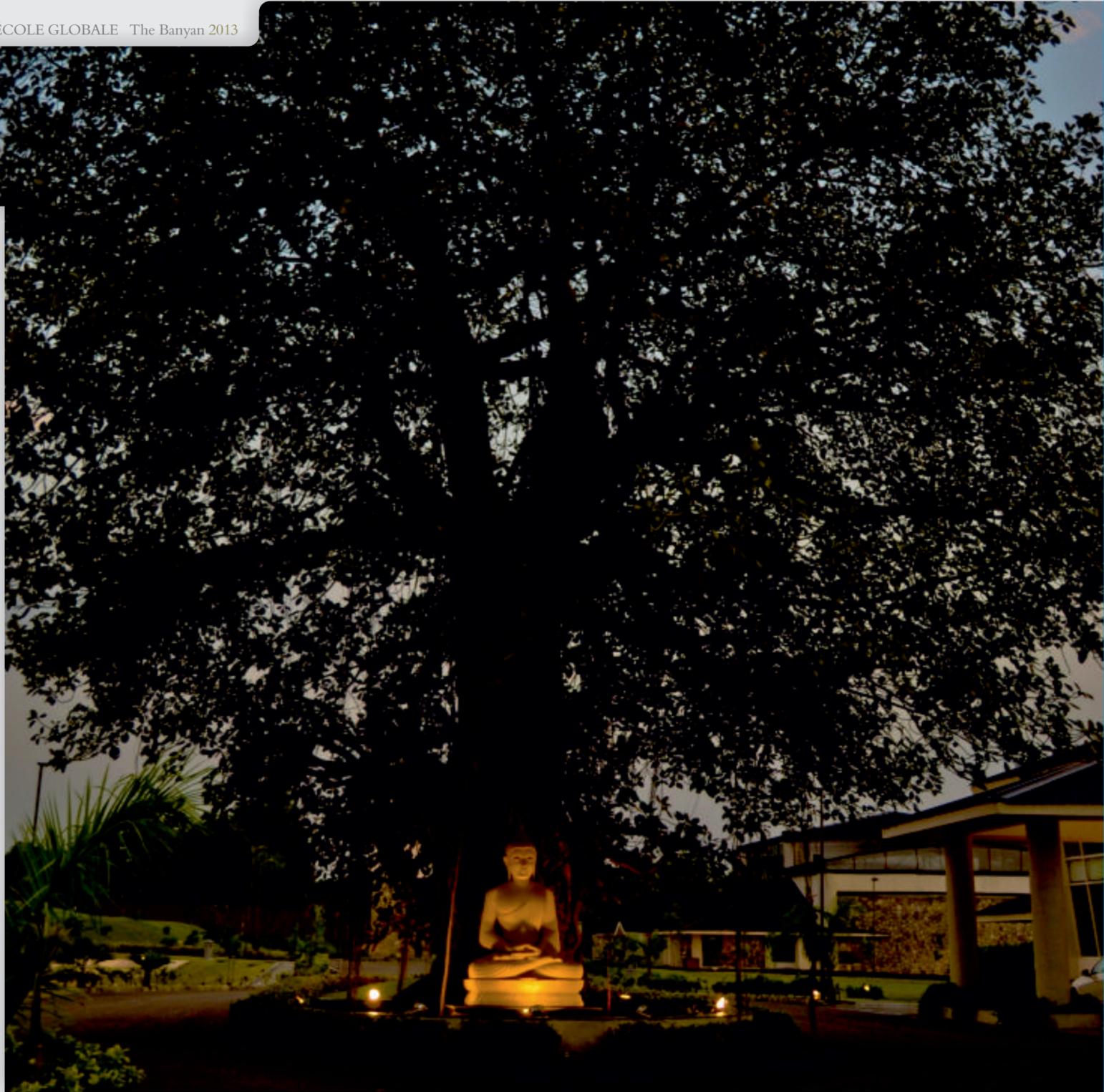




LIFE @ ÉCOLE

Life @ École





ENGLISH SECTION

Creative Trunk



A Meal

Vasundhara Yadav



Eight o'clock in the evening. That's not when I have dinner, because dieticians say that it's best to have dinner before seven. But I was left with no choice. I waited for another one hour, which made it nine. Depressing, but now I can't opt out.

At 9:03, my stomach was making enough sounds to embarrass me in a restaurant full of people. As though it were full of bees, running amok. It was then that I realized, that had I not said yes to this meal this evening, I could have been carousing with my troupe.

I am distracted when I see this voluptuous woman, blessed with a euphonious voice, singing her deepest sorrows. It kept my attention for some time. My stomach was getting jealous and started to cry again for attention.

9:12, I backslide. Now what drew me was her skin. Glowing in the rays of light that fell from above, she was radiant. The texture belied her years. Baby soft and silky! I finally see her, the one I was waiting for! I take a deep breath of relief. By then it was 9:16.

My hunger had evaporated.

Life

- Aarjoo Bahuguna, XI

Life is a journey dotted with eventful phases; some of which brings the joy of fulfilling experience and well being. Some others make us morose and pensive.

Both kinds of experiences have their own significance in shaping the goals and our objectives. But one thing that remains unchanged throughout this sojourn is our individual spirit.

The spirit that thrives deep in our inner self, the spirit that paves directions during achievements and defeats, the spirit that renders us a unique power to defy destiny in our own way and motivates us to etch our own marks in this beautiful universe!

This is that motivational spirit that unlocks numerous hurdles along the way, helps us to reach the right place at the right time when that rendezvous with success is just a step ahead.



An Angel

- Abana Javed

God put her on this earth to care for me. I can feel her love and gentleness as she walks through life beside me. She does great things for me everyday. She whispers soothing words of love in my ears. She holds me in their her heart and comforts me when I am filled with fears. She is always there to give me a hug to make me smile. She treats us with respect and love. She continues to treat me like a child though I am not one anymore!

God blessed me with an angel I am proud to call my own. She's been with me throughout my life and through the years, she has guided me in the best way she could. She taught me like no other and I am thankful that I am the lucky one who gets to call her ...MOTHER



The idea hit me like a tornado...

- Aditi Dixit, XII

The idea hit me like a tornado! A tornado that was as destructive as Hurricane Katrina. Why hadn't I thought of this earlier? Would've saved a lot of time and the friendship of one special someone. Let's just stop here for a while and rewind the sands of time to gain an insight into the unusual happenings which started about a week ago.

The table tennis room. Harmless as a feather. Although, it's not common knowledge, it is the location where 'joints' are manufactured. Ingenious, isn't it? Who would've thought that a room meant for playing sport could be a place where the nicotine of the cigarette is replaced with marijuana?

I had just entered this business, a month back, thanks to the rejection of every one of my college applications and also thanks to a few of my friends who were failures like me. They guided me. The room is supposedly closed on Saturdays and Sundays, but a little bribing and the room was ours for the weekends. Two hundred joints. That was our quota. 'Our' that is Wolf and I. In this business, real names are never revealed. I agree and Voila! I break bad.

Things were running as smooth as silk, when we were discovered by the room owner's son.

Apparently, we hadn't bribed the guard enough. The son, astonished at seeing what we were doing, was about to tell his father. Somehow, we calmed him down and struck a deal. Twenty grand a month to keep his mouth shut.

One joint cost 20 bucks. We realized we were in loss and the son would not accept less than that amount. The bargain had to be struck. As soon as he left, Wolf, with whom I'd gotten really close, threatened to leave the business. I tried my best to make him understand but he said he couldn't face our boss. He left. I was heartbroken.

It's Saturday right now. Let's resume from where we paused. The idea is simple, really.

I call the son. He picks up the phone at the second ring.

"I need to talk. It's urgent."

"I'm free. Meet me in half an hour. You decide the location", he replies.

"Good. The View Point. Don't be late"

The View Point is a cliff, overlooking the Arabian Sea. It is famous for the breath taking view of the sea.

I wait for him. He arrives on his bike a few minutes later. He takes off his helmet and approaches me.

"What's up?"

"I just wanted to say that twenty grand will not be delivered this time."

"Why?", he growled.

I started walking backwards. Towards the edge of the cliff.

"Why?", he repeats, angrier this time.

I continue walking backwards and I realize, I've reached the end of the cliff.

"Because you're going to die."

I grab his collar, get him to fall on top of me with my foot on his torso, I push him backwards, and let go of his collar. His frightened screams continue till I hear the spine-chilling crunch of his bones snapping as his body hits the rocks below.

Well, that takes care of twenty grand now, I can persuade Wolf to return. Then, both of us will make joints happily ever after.

Disaster in Uttarakhand

- Devanshi



16th June 2013 was a black day in the history of India. A sudden disaster was sent by the Rain Gods to Uttarakhand and a tsunami lashed across Kedarnath.

A very severe cloudburst took everyone by surprise. There was very heavy rainfall which was followed by landslide.

The disaster brought with it destruction to thousands of lives, damaged a lot of property and the whole state suffered. More than a thousand people died.

Many children were orphaned. Thousands lost their entire families. Many were left starving. People died because of hunger, thirst, and pain. There was no shelter from rain. Several hundreds lost their homes.

The Indian Army, the Air Force, the Indo-Tibetan Police Border Police helped the people stuck in the tragedy, without caring about their own lives. We thank them for all that they have done for us.



A Dilemma

- Megha Rathi

“Live for the present,” said the New Age gurus.

“But you must think about your future,” scoffed conservative elders.

Which view do you subscribe to, and why?

Every night when the sky becomes a dark ceiling and stars look like bright lights protruding out of it, I get cosy in my blanket and make plans for the next day. Somehow, unintentionally though, this activity has become ingrained into my everyday routine. It comes naturally- to do a mental recap of the day gone by, followed by a mental display of the day coming up!

Everybody's Today goes through a roller coaster ride, makes a landing and becomes her Tomorrow. What matters here is the landing- whether it's a smooth one or a rough one. And this is in our hands. Our present shapes our future. In other words. So, why not bedeck, beautify and better it when we have the power to do so?

Don't we all have desires, ambitions, plans positioned for tomorrow? Ask a child as young as one without even his pair of incisors, and he'll tell you what he wants to become in the future! What I imply is that thinking about the future is a quality that is innate. Whether we like it or not, we intend to or not, but we must think about our future.

God gave us our past so we could learn from it. We were given our future to build it. The present was given to us to perform the other two tasks- learn from the past and establish our future.

To say that the future is not in our hands is like washing our hands off our responsibilities. When we say that tomorrow isn't within our control, we're making an external attribution- also, a wrong one! It just shows that we are off-loading ownership to some other agency.

We must take responsibility of something that is ours- Our Life.

Don't get me wrong. Thinking about the future is by no means an equivalent to not fully enjoying the present or 'living the moment'. Only if you live every minute in the right manner, will you have a good future. Provided that minute wasn't one where you gave in to temptations and instant gratifications.

We're all thankful to God for having given us this incredible chance of walking on the Earth with just the right nervous system, empowered with the ability to think, and think right. This chance, sadly, we don't get twice, so we might as well do it right. Regrets are futile.

But how can we achieve it? By keeping in mind that it's not just the present that we must perform well in, but also in the future.

We can't foresee the future, agreed. We can't always be right about the future, agreed. But can't we rely on our instincts and intuitions, too?

You will tend to agree with me that at some point in life, you too have had a vague picture of how you will be some years down the line. Believe it or not, it is human tendency to think about the future. Thus, we must do it, and do it well. After all, we all see dreams and hopes.

Thinking about the future doesn't mean we set unachievable and unrealistic goals. Also, the step following 'Setting a Goal' is 'Start working towards it. That is how we can be masters of our lives.

A few lines that I read somewhere, just popped into my mind: Life is a game with one fault in it- there is no restart button. Hence, we must all learn from our past, live in the present with our heads in the future.

It was the most embarrassing day of my life

- Megha Rathi

Making me leave my small town, Bareilly, my parents sent me to a boarding school located amidst the hills of Shimla. I joined mid-term. On the very first day, right after my introduction in front of a huge gathering of three hundred students, I was asked if I could participate in the Inter-House Debate Competition which was to take place after two weeks. Too scared to say no, I simply nodded my head.

The next thing I knew, I was offered a pen and a paper. I knew exactly what that meant. I was on my own. So, for the next fourteen days I devoted my entire being to this competition. My initial days at the hostel consisted of hours of reciting and re-reciting the speech in front of the mirror!

When the time really came for me to show- case my hard work, I don't know what went wrong! The day of the debate was a string of heart- breaking, embarrassing moments!

Oblivious of the fact that there would twelve thousand eyes staring at me from the audience, I took my position on the stage. I could feel the butterflies moving- rather, somersaulting- in my

belly. One by one, my competitors were giving their speeches, each one better than the last. When my turn finally came, I felt the sudden urge to use the washroom. It was out of question, of course! I was neck deep in my thoughts, so, when my name echoed in the hall, I continued to sit. When I finally realized that it was my turn, I gathered courage and stood up.

And then it happened!

I stood up and immediately fell to my knees. Yes, it was a case of jelly legs! I forced myself to get up and continue. I marched to the podium, ignoring the shaking shoulders in the audience. And boom! I did it again. Instead of wishing 'Good morning', the words I spoke sounded something like 'Good night'. Immediately, I corrected myself, but all I got in response was a thunder of laughter from across the auditorium.

Anyway, I moved on. I don't know how many times I stopped during the speech. I even had a black-out phase. To my rescue (or maybe not) the 'time-up' bell rang, dragging me out from my day dream to hard, harsh reality. As I walked back to my chair with

my shoulders drooping low, I heard loud applause and abominable laughter.

As if, all this wasn't already enough, yet another gag took place. When the results were being announced, for funny reasons that I cannot mention, I imagined my name being called out for the first position. In my head, I stood up, tall and proud, smiling from ear to ear, to receive the first prize. Alas, my over-dormant brain could not distinguish between imagination and reality. So, when the Head master announced, "And the first position goes to..." I stood up from amongst the participants, flashing my set of thirty twos. Of course, encouraging further chuckles from the audience.

It was been five years since this incident happened. My credentials as a public speaker have also surprisingly improved. But no matter what, that first day will remain crystal clear in my memory and also a source of deep embarrassment.

It has also constantly served as a source of inspiration, reminding me of how far I've come.

A Bird and Me

- Jasnoor Malhi



I was playing in a park. Suddenly I saw a bird lying under a tree. She was hurt. I picked her up and took her home. I made a bed for her and she liked it. When I saw her leg was badly hurt, I could see tears in her eyes. I was surprised by the fact that even birds cry.

After some days, the bird was happy and playing with me. I asked her 'Don't you miss your parents?' She moved her head right and left.

The bird was enjoying herself a lot.

One day she was chirping very loudly. I thought she wanted to roam around outside. So I opened

the window.

Suddenly, I saw a crow flying behind her to catch her. I was scared and angry. So I took a book and threw it towards the crow. The crow flew away.

I was really worried now. I thought it best to release the bird.

I told her 'Go and live on your own.' I think, she understood and flew away.

I can never forget my experience with her. She was and always will be very close to my heart!



Do things differently for once

- Arushi Gorsri

Are you just another piece of furniture lying in the drawing room?

What is your daily routine? What all have you achieved? Do you make it a point to set a daily, a weekly, a yearly goal and also achieve it?

The purpose of life is a life of purpose. If you live your life just for the sake of it, you are wasting away the gift of God. Trust me, life is too important to be just squandered away.

Imagine yourself 60 years old, surrounded by regrets. At that time, you'd want to live your dreams; you'd want to do something worthwhile; you'd want to achieve your unfulfilled dreams and repressed desires. But at that time, your knees would probably be too weak to allow you to do anything.

People, you won't get another life! This is your life! You only get it once! Make the most of it. Stop killing time. Stop lounging. Pull up your socks and get off that couch. Go out and show the world what you have got.

By lolling on the couch, you are becoming just another piece of furniture and decorating your room. Stop beautifying your room. Go out and embellish the world, instead. In that way, you will also make your life worthwhile. And the best part is that you will not drown in the sea of regrets!

Do you still think it's a better idea to crowd your drawing room by becoming a couch-potato?

Don't Leave Any Itch, Go Unscratched

- Arushi Gorsri

Each one of us walking on this planet has got something or the other that's knocking at the back of our brains, waiting for attention.

Everyone has unfulfilled dreams and desires. Some might want to go on a world trip. Some might want to write a novel. Some, to direct a short film. Some, to learn how to cook amazing dishes. Some might want to learn how to paint, dance or sing. For some, their dream might be to mountain bike. Whatever it is, it is an itch that won't go away until it is scratched.

An itch scratched can make a whole lot of difference. Martin Luther King Jr. had the itch to grab equal rights

for the blacks. He scratched this itch and today he is an idol for many. Mother Teresa wanted desperately to raise the standards of living of the poor. She scratched this itch and today when we hear the word "mother" we are reminded of her. Mahatma Gandhi wanted to work for the cause of independence of India. He scratched this itch but at the same time did not put the principles he stood by, on hold, while he fought the British.

Just scratch your itch when you feel the urge! Whatever it is - to pick up a broom and clean the cobwebs (literally or figuratively!), to change something in the society. Scratch it good. After you have scratched your itch, you will get a feeling of deep fulfillment, and who knows, how many people would have benefitted from that action of yours!

KATIE'S Adventure in the Forest

- Serena Grover



Once upon a time there was a girl named Katie. She lived in a red brick house near a big forest. She lived with her parents and her little brother. Katie was a disciplined girl and she always took care of her teeth. She had a special floss made of golden silk thread.

One day she went to the nearby forest for a walk. She had never gone to this forest before. Katie was very excited. She had packed some food and sweets for herself. She had lots and lots of fun while exploring the forest. Suddenly, she heard some rustling noise. So she quietly went there and she saw seven little puppies, playing with each other.

As soon as the puppies saw Katie, they got scared and started running. Katie wanted to play with them so she followed them. After sometime, they disappeared into the bushes.

Now, Katie was feeling very sad and she was very hungry too. So, she decided to have her lunch. She was very tired, so she went under a peepal tree and slept for sometime. When she got up, it was beginning to get dark. She was lost in the middle of the forest. She heard the rustling again and she went to check what was there. Katie was a little scared, but still she told herself to be brave. This time it was not an animal, it was a big demon!

The demon saw Katie and he said 'ATTACK!' to his army of bacteria. The bacteria ate all her milky white teeth and the bacteria fell asleep. At night when the demon and the bacteria were fast asleep, the tooth fairy came out and she gave Katie permanent teeth. The fairy freed her and she took Katie home.

My desires are many, but

- Megha Rathi

My desires are many but life is a story not written by its protagonist. In my story, I happen to be a mere puppet whose strings are controlled by 'foreign' hands. I still have not been able to figure out whose hands these are. I wish I could. I wish I could do so many things. But I can't help it. Such is life.

I stare at the four interviewers sitting in front of me and find them staring back at me. For a moment, I'm paralyzed. I'll never get through this interview. I can sense it. The feeling is palpable.

As if one of the interviewers could sense my

discomfort, I hear her repeat her question. "What are your desires?"

Suddenly, with a force like that of a volcanic eruption, I am reminded about the gravity of this question. This question is of just four words, yet it caused a maddening cyclone of thoughts and emotions in me! The question echoes in my head. I am pulled back to reality. I stiffen. Again.

For a second, I think I should answer exactly what they wanted to hear: get into this college. But my conscience doesn't allow me to do so. In a hurried, nervous fashion, I open the lid of my bottle and gulp down a thousand sips. They say water helps one calm down. They're wrong. Terribly wrong.

"My desires are many," I manage an audible whisper. All I get in response is silence. Heavy, uneasy, unwanted silence.

The same interviewer who took the pain to repeat her question, in a voice so calm that I envy her, says, "Go on." That's it. That's all that is required.

I take a deep breath. Then, followed her instruction.

"I was born in the middle of nowhere. I say so

because I don't know the truth. I don't know why my biological parents didn't keep me and why this man I call my father did. Ever since I learnt this, he has been more than an ordinary man to me. He became an incarnation of God. He asked, I did. He ordered, I followed.

I pause. "But, now I have desires of my own. I've broken the custom. I want to become a doctor. My father won't let me. But, here I am, amidst you-" I stop.

Reality hits me.

I look up at the interviewers to apologize. Instead, I watch the lips of that same interviewer move. I'm numb to the extent that all feeling had deadened. But by the way her lips moved, I know she has said Thank you.

Without a word, I make an exit.

Two days later, I get a call from AIIMS. They say that I have been 'chosen' as a student.

For the first time in thirteen years, I feel tears roll down my cheeks.

I'm thankful.



Yeh Hai Mumbai Meri Jaan!

-Shubhangi Dua

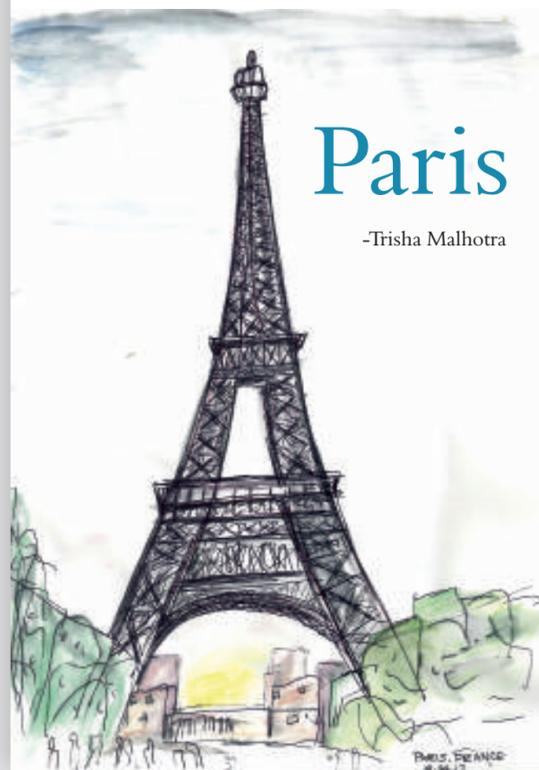
Mumbai 'meri jaan!'. The city of fashion, Bollywood, adventure and an incredible place for a shopaholic like me and mom. How can I forget, the designer clothes at 'AZA' that inspired me!

Malls like Infinity, Akria, Pheonix.. oh lalala, they are astounding! I feel like grabbing dresses, shoes, accessories from every store. I literally feel like eating them all. They cause my hunger for food to evaporate. But my appetite for branded clothes, shoes, accessories? My craving is limitless!

Mumbai is not only a place for shopaholics or workaholics, but also a good family spot. Long drives, street food at Juhu Chowpatti, unlimited stretches of beach and sand. What more do I say? Ironically, the over-crowded city makes me feel snug, comforted and safe!

I feel so secure and loved in Mumbai. My all time favorite spot is Nariman Point, where the Trident is situated.

Mumbai means the world to me. It is the only place in the world which makes me happy.



Paris

-Trisha Malhotra

As soon as I reached my hotel, I drew the curtains but just that very moment, I was spellbound by the dilatory change happening in the sky. I could still see the sun's rays spreading its colour across the sky. The sun was yet to arrive.

The sun was welcomed by a shading of demure orange to yellow. There, it is so different. The cryptic bevy of clouds was trying to find their way out. It's neither hot nor cold, it's just so pleasant. That happiness which lies within you is evoked by this place, this is what this place does to you. It brings you happiness, its brings you heaps of love. Paris, a city of love.

I envy the people there. They have fair complexions and rosy cheeks. Not the looks, but the fact that they are in a place like this, draws my envy. Everything is felicitous here. Whether you want it or not, this place makes you fall in love.

I was astonished to see the beauty all around me. For a 11 year old kid, all the lights and a new place was anyway amusing. The time I was there, I couldn't stop staring out of my window at the Eiffel Tower. I thought of it as a man-made

pointed mountain. The way the lights were tangled all over the Eiffel Tower and the yellow light just hitting my eyes made my head reel!

The next day, I went to the yellow mountain (That just remained with me). I can't even say how happy and crazy I was. As we were guided, we entered the lift.

As soon as we got out, I could see PARIS spread before me. I felt like a little princess conquering the whole of France.

Paris is the most beautiful jewel of Europe. Back then, I was too young to understand the division of the countries and which city belonged to which country. At the most, I was concerned about the kind of chocolates found in the place and how many cartoon characters i can meet.

Oh, I forgot to mention. The Disney Land in Paris is a million times better than all those water parks and adventure islands around.

Paris Paris Paris. I can never get over this place. I can just go on and on about it.

I wish I could fly back..

My Ambition

- Aman Sethi



My ambition in life is to become an athlete because I am inspired by P.T. Usha, Milkha Singh and others. It means a lot to me.

When I joined Ecole, I discovered my talent. After that it became my PASSION, and I started participating in almost all sports competitions. And yes, I was successful in all these events, in these short term goals.

When I run, I do not run just for the purpose of winning but also to improve my speed to show myself that yes, I can do it and make my parents proud of me.

Never say I can't do it and never give up. We should have a never-give-up attitude and a strong will power. Gradually we will be able to attain our goal and become successful.

Sydney - You Rock

Oh wow! In Australia is a beautiful place called ' Sydney '.

Sydney does not just have shops and malls but many spectacular places like the Opera house and the big Harbor Bridge. It is too cool. Just to think of the friendly Australians all zipping round on skateboards is so exciting! Just being in Sydney means wandering around the shops. The toys and games that you see in the shop windows will make you shiver with joy. Beautiful clothes, sports wear and what not!

Beaches of Australia are marvelous! The clean, impressive beaches with so many seashells, the different birds with long beaks and huge wings flying around, will make you sit back and admire the dilatory changes happening.

Go to Sydney if you get a chance. You'll love it, I promise!



That night I saw...

It was a dark, winter night, I was alone in the house watching horror movies. After some time, I was sleepy so I walked towards my room. I was half asleep.

Suddenly..."Tringtring"...the phone rang! I jumped up to pick up the phone call but it got disconnected before I reached.

I was thirsty. I went to the kitchen and suddenly, all the lights went out. Perhaps it was a short circuit or maybe it was...

I was very scared. It was all dark. The first thing that came to my mind was "Candles!" I ran to the kitchen and started looking for the candles. In the dark, I opened drawers and ran my fingers over the shelves. Nothing!

I looked out of the window, into the pitch black garden and what I saw made my blood run cold! A reflection of a hand. I panicked and looked around for the candle in a hurry. Unexpectedly I touched something, smooth and round- something that felt like a skull.

A thought suddenly struck me and I picked up a knife to protect myself from whatever it was. It was very hard and some sticky liquid came out of it. I was very frightened.

Suddenly the lights came on again and in the glittering light... I saw it! It was a... WATERMELON!

WATERMELON!

Saloni Singh, IX B

Your Enemies are Your Best Friend

Surbhi Khatri

Though it is a general truth that a friend in need is a friend indeed but a close friend of yours will ignore your weakness and an enemy will expose it. As a result you become conscious of your weak points and try to rid yourself of them. An enemy therefore is sometimes better than a friend. Moreover it is because of enemies that you are cautious otherwise they may have the upper hand.

You are forced to apply your best to give a strong reply to the enemy. Pakistan and China are mainly responsible for our progress in the field of space and nuclear technology. Competition and rivalry infuse enthusiasm and test for better and higher work. There is a proverb which says that "a man can save himself from his enemies but it is very difficult for him to save himself from his friends."

She & Me

It all started with her standing at the entrance to our school. I could only see huge drops of water rolling down her rosy cheeks. That usually happens when you decide to come to a hostel, away from your family. My instincts didn't permit me to console her at first whereas my heart pushed me to walk towards her. She had something. I knew she was the one. I walked towards her and stared right into her eyes. I have never seen such beautiful eyes in my life.

The Most Enigmatic Character that I've Come Across

- Aditi Dixit

There he was, at seven in the morning, carrying home his can of milk. We exchanged greetings as we passed each other.

"Good Morning" he said in his low, deep and soothing voice.

He was actually around thirty, but he looked over forty. The principle reason, his wife died a few months back. My family and I had gone to pay our condolences. He looked grimmer than he usually did, but that's it. All of us knew that the death was eating him up from within, but we also knew that he did not want to look weak and emotional in front of everyone. In the four years that we'd been acquaintances, I've never once seen him lose his composure.

He was a tall man, about six feet; fair of skin, black hair and muscular in build. But the feature that stood out the most was his eyes. They were as black as the night. I could never look him directly in the eye for fear of losing myself in their abyss. He had an angular face, which contained hints that he was once a handsome lad before life took its toll on him. I also mildly remember that he always smelled of fresh laundry and soap.

He was a man of few words. Never spoke much. The longest sentence I've ever heard him say was-"The shopkeeper gave me toffees instead of change, do you want one?"

When I accepted his offer, he delightedly handed me four or five candies. It was one of those rare moments when I saw him smile and when he did, he looked like a young boy. But for some reason, he doesn't smile much.

I reckon that he was once in the army, or still is. His gait as well as his aura suggests as much, but still I'm not too sure.

They didn't have kids, his wife and he. People thought they weren't fond of children but I don't think so. And, as far as I know, he has no living next of kin either. I sometimes feel sad for him. So forlorn, he must be. My mother, at times, would invite him for meals, but he always refused, though he gladly accepts food when my mother has it delivered to his home.

To this day, we have no idea as to what his occupation might have been, but whatever it was, it seemed to pay well. When he was giving me those toffees, I happened to glance at his watch, a Rolex; he also has a Mercedes which I see parked in front of his house from six in the evening till eight in the morning. God only knows where he goes. I once tried asking him about his profession. He said it was a secret.

There was never much interaction between him and me, and then we were transferred. So still now, my ex-neighbour is the most enigmatic person that I've come across in my life.

Utilizing Your Reward

Imagine that you have met the tooth fairy. She would like to grant you three boons as a reward for your good deeds. What would you ask her for and why?

I think that I'm situated in one of the most serious mess-ups which visit me often. To describe this particular one, I'm suspended in the midnight sky, right above my house which is looking like an ant hole from above, staring at the bright-lit night sky-by the full moon and a weird-looking, tiny, bug-sized creature is floating right beside me.

Want to know how? Well... I don't know it myself! I can only remember being in my room and chasing a shiny bug which didn't turn out to be a light worm as I thought it would be. It started like this...:

I was lying on my bed trying to get some sleep. I was too exhausted from helping my mom for today's Harvest Full Moon Festival. Perhaps, the full moon was the reason that kept me awake. I stared at the moon for a minute or so before turning my gaze to my alarm clock. 11:35 PM. Great. My entire family will be sleeping soundly, when I can't get my sleep.

Thinking that a little walk might help, I stepped out of my room, trying not to make any noise. That's when I spotted the creature which I really thought was a light worm. Totally amused by the light worm, I slowly started following it. I slipped through my brother, Jun's slightly cracked door and I stayed out, hesitating whether to enter or not. I decided that I would just steal a glance of the room, not knowing that the little creature was already out of it.

Right after it realized that I was spying on it, the creature dashed towards me, and that was surprisingly kind of painful!

When I opened my eyes, I found myself suspended and before I could shout, the creature spoke to me.

"Stop if you are about to scream!"

When I shut my mouth, it continued. "I'm a tooth fairy and I just came to collect your brother's tooth.

Speechless, I managed to say, "Tooth fairy? Fairies really do exist?"

Nodding her pretty head, the tooth fairy took out a list from thin-air and said, "Even you believed in us till you plucked out your 20th tooth, if the list is correct."

Suddenly remembering, I realized that I did. Anyway, it was the next sentence which surprised me.

"I'll grant you three wishes, but I'm going to make you forget what happened tonight. Alright?"

Unable to speak, I just nodded and started thinking. Well, I didn't need to think long, as I've always had these wishes ever since the first grade.

"My three wishes! Well, I want to have a cat, my family to approve of her and to have her really close to me all day."

She looked a bit surprised, but soon asked, "What kind of cat? A pure breed?"

Before she continued, I just said, "A stray cat which doesn't have anyone to take care of it."

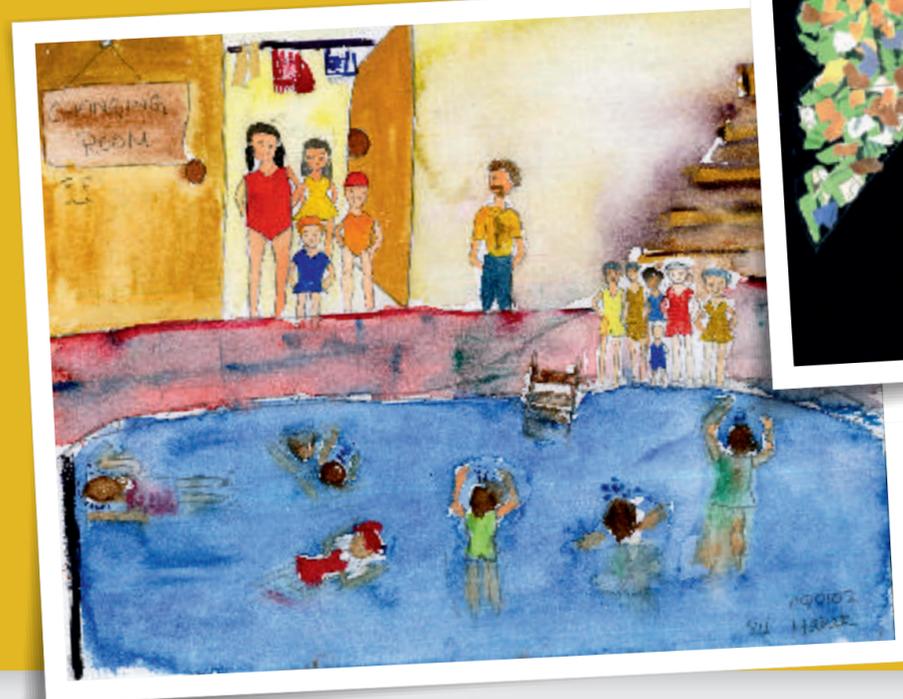
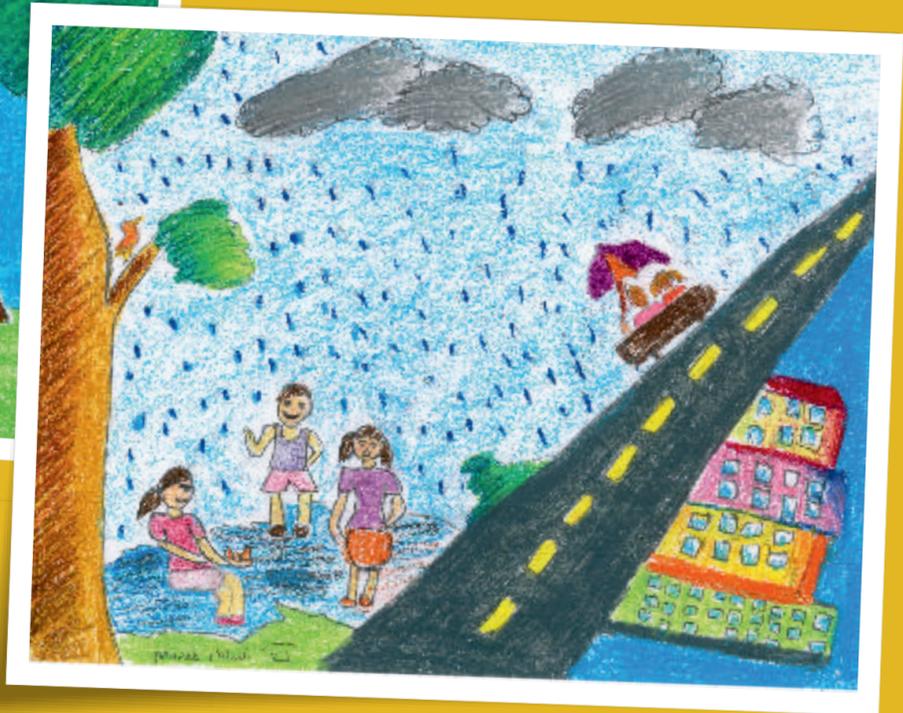
Just nodding, she waved her hand in some weird pattern. Suddenly very sleepy, I closed my eyes, knowing that I won't remember anything tomorrow.

Je Yuen

First Prize Winning Entry
(Middle school) Inter- House
Creative writing Competition-2013



Creativity at its best @ École





Founders' Day

The First Founders' Day of École Globale Girls' International School was celebrated with pomp and grandeur on 25th November, 2012.

The chief guest for the day was, Dr. Aziz Qureshi, the Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand. The popular theatre and television personality, Himani Shivpuri, was the Guest of Honour.

The evening began with the school choir, invoking the blessings of the Almighty. The chief guest and other invitees were welcomed by Mr. Amarjeet Juneja the President of Asian Charitable Trust., In his speech he spoke about how the school was first conceived and his pride in seeing it already evolving into one of the leading institutions of the country. He congratulated the students for their efforts in all the fields in the first year.

The Principal, Mrs. Brinda Ghosh, presented the Annual Report, in which she elaborated the achievements of the School in the months since its inception in April, 2012. Her report clearly enunciated the vision and the ethos of the School.

Mrs. Himani Shivpuri, in her address, lauded the efforts of the students and staff for their various accomplishments.

The Honourable Governor, Dr Aziz Qureshi, spoke at length on the importance of educating the girl child. He specially pointed out the need to make every girl in the country strong, self-reliant and economically independent, especially those living on the fringes of society, in order to take the country forward.

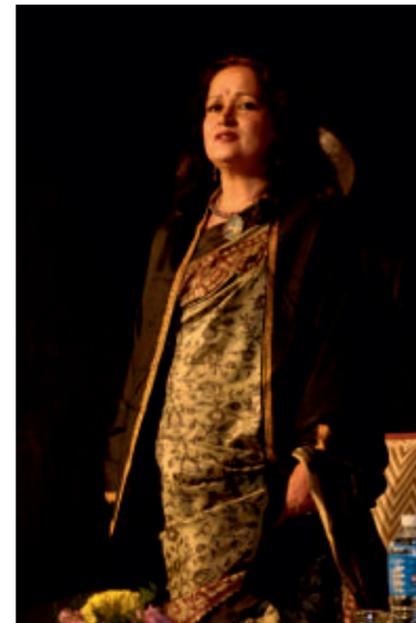
The piece de resistance of the show was, undoubtedly, the English play, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, directed by Mr. Alok Ulfat and his team. Written by the German modernist playwright Bertolt Brecht, the play is a parable about a peasant girl who rescues a baby from the hands of insurgents when the state is in a turmoil. As the drama unfolds, the adoptive mother proves to be a better nurturer than its natural mother!

It was our maiden effort, but the show that evening showed no traces of the teething problems we faced during the making. Braving the bitter cold, the audience watched the programme with rapt attention and the girls gave brilliant performances.

Surely a shape of things to come!



»Dr. Aziz Qureshi
The Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand
Chief Guest at the Founders' Day



»Mrs. Himani Shivpuri
Guest of Honour at the Founders' Day



»The Caucasian Chalk Circle

Directed by Mr. Alok Ulfat and his team. Written by the German modernist playwright Bertolt Brecht.

The play is a parable about a peasant girl who rescues a baby from the hands of insurgents when the state is in a turmoil. As the drama unfolds, the adoptive mother proves to be a better nurturer than its natural mother!



Sports Day

"Sports do not build a character, they reveal it"
- John Wooden

It seemed as though the weather was favouring us too much. After days of back breaking preparations, the girls were ready for the first Sports Day that was held on the 24th of November, 2012. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Mr. A. K. Das, Principal of the Asian School, Dehradun. The programme began with the March Past led by the smart military band and our friends on horseback. Mr. A. K. Das then declared the meet open.

Following that were the Yoga and Judo displays by the girls under the able guidance of Mrs. Purnima Agrawal. Soon, one after the other, the sounds of the clapper board could be heard marking the running start of the numerous races for both the juniors as well as the seniors. It was as if the Sports field had come alive that day with all the applause from the appreciating audience and screams of the girls from all sides, cheering their pals on the tracks.

Then, it was the chance for the parents to try and excel where their wards already had! Can you imagine, the lucky Dixit family swept all the prizes away!

But there were more treats in store for the children! The Teachers' race. It was gratifying to see the teachers trying to catch their breaths after their race had ended! However, that wasn't the best sight of the day. The Prize Distribution ceremony was!

After the Closing March Past, the girls received their well-deserved medals and certificates and basked in the glow of their achievements. The title of the Best Sports Person was awarded to Aman Sethi of grade VIII in the junior category and to Varnika Jaiswal of grade IX in the senior category.

The event concluded with the Vote of Thanks presented by the Deputy Head Girl, Varnika.



Finishing School



Manners maketh a man ' and the Ecole lady! Following table etiquette, speaking politely, being considerate of others' feelings- these are what we are known for!

Grooming to soar

The Finishing school curriculum is a path-breaking value addition to the academic program of Ecole Globale. The learning of Life Skills and Social Graces is longer an elitist exercise. The world is getting flatter and smaller and the need of the hour is to provide the young people with skills and training that are beyond what text books can provide. Everyone wants to adapt, shine stand out!

Ecole Globale seeks to equip the students with the skills that she requires to be a global citizen. By the time she is ready to leave the portals of her the school, and step out into the world on her own, be it to college in another country or city, or later on when it's time for her to carve a niche for herself in the corporate world, she has to be savvy in the real sense of the word.

To this end, the Ecolite learns, during the course of the academic year, a host of skills; to meet and greet people smartly, to fend for herself confidently in a crowd, to speak publicly. She learns to make decisions, to speak her mind fearlessly, to form opinions. She can take care of herself at home without outside help, learns to handle difficult people at work and to be able to organize events efficiently.

Her attitude is being sculpted to be that of a winner; to be able to adapt to tough situations without a grimace. The Ecole lady is being groomed for tomorrow; one capable of playing a round of golf, giving a presentation, baking a cake and negotiating a difficult business deal, all in the course of a working day.

All this has become more relevant today, given the changing scenario of our country in particular, and the world in general.



The Ecole girl has an edge that makes her special!

The subjects taught here include



• Self Defense /Yoga



• Personal Hygiene /Grooming/Dressing



• Social Graces/ Etiquette/Protocol/Deportment



• Cooking / Menu planning/ Gracious Hosting



• Embroidery/ Home management /Clay-modelling



• Event planning /Organizational skills



• Current Affairs/ Public speaking/ Group discussions



• Goal setting/Attitude change/Leadership



• Banking/ Personal taxation





Manners maketh a man ' and the Ecole lady! Following table etiquette, speaking politely, being considerate of others' feelings- these are what we are known for!

« Culinary Skills

» Leader in the Making
The Ecole lady is a Leader in the Making. She is never allowed to forget that for even a moment.



» Pottery Workshop
Shaping Young Minds
Every activity at the school is geared towards moulding the girls into smart, self sufficient, go-getters. Cooking and being a gracious hostess is something the girls are trained in and an exercise they look forward to.



» The First Impression is the lasting Impression.' Ecolites are told everyday how important it is to be well-groomed. Cleanliness, hygiene, the right posture, gait - these are things that are drilled into them.

It is an established fact that nothing helps build self confidence in a person more than Public Speaking does. Ecolites are put through the grind on a daily basis and no one escapes the routine of speaking in public. Morning assemblies, introducing guests at functions, anchoring events, no one knows who will be roped in next for these.

Group discussions, conducting interviews, making speeches and performing poems- all the students are compulsorily trained in all these.



» Manners maketh a man ' and the Ecole lady! Following table etiquette, speaking politely, being considerate of others' feelings- these are what we are known for!



Encounters



Tete-A-Tete with a Star Kabir Bedi

The morning of the 21st October dawned crisp and clear and there was a slight nip in the air and the warmth of the sun was quite inviting. The school was gearing up for a special person; someone we were all looking forward to meeting. As we gave last minute touches to the welcome charts, the wheels rolled in and our visitor emerged. Tall, suave and gorgeously handsome, Mr. Kabir Bedi met all of us warmly. What was most endearing was his disarming smile and his unassuming manner! Success sat lightly on his shoulders, as he answered our questions during the Q&A session:

- Sir, a very warm welcome to you. Tell us, when did you know exactly that acting was what you want to do for a living?

Acting happened to me when I was in school, at Sherwood College, Nainital. You see, I really belong to these hills and I love being here. In school I got the opportunity to work in school plays which I enjoyed thoroughly. Later at St. Stephen's, again I took part in several plays. It was here that I won the Kendall cup for acting which really spurred me on.

- What are the qualities you think a good actor must have?

First and foremost, a person needs to be extremely observant. One must observe minutely what one sees around one—the people, their reactions, responses, expressions. Secondly, you need to be a good listener—you must keep your ears tuned to nuances of tone, modulations...to what people think, their opinions, world view.

- Mr. Bedi, you have acted in movies like 'Octopussy' as well as daily soaps like 'The Bold and the Beautiful', both in India and abroad. Would you now say that acting is a fantastic career? Would you recommend it to youngsters like us? (Smiles)

No! What each one of you must realise is that acting, like any other profession, is a lot of sweat and grime. Ups and downs. Even the best of actors have to be prepared to slog it out for long hours. There are no short cuts, no easy way outs. The glamour and stardom attracts people to it but what no one sees is the tears, the frustrations, the long periods of no work, which can take a toll on the best of people.

- What are your other interests, other than films?

I write. Mainly film scripts. I have recently taken to film production. Then, theatre! I'm passionate about the stage and I do not let go of any opportunity to do a good play. I'm also into a lot of social causes now. I'm really passionate about my work in the field of empowerment of women and for freedom of expression especially in what's going on in Myanmar, in Aung San Suu Kyi's struggle. I feel that today whatever we are doing is not enough. Each one of us has to put our weight against these causes to make things happen.

Thank you very much, sir. We really enjoyed this interaction.



Encounters



Friends Across Continents

It is not every day that we get to meet someone from a distant land, someone who comes as an intern and readily agrees to share their skills with you. Giulia Stevanin, our guest from Italy has turned our cooking classes into a hang-out zone that every girl looks forward to. BetselotTane and SessenAmare from Ethiopia, with their braided hair and brightly coloured togs are the envy of every Junior on the campus! Here they share their views and thoughts with Anusha and Bhargavie in an informal chat.

• **Hi Giulia! We would like to ask you a few questions if we may. What are you studying at present?**
I am studying Political Sciences in Italy.

• **Why did you choose Dehradun, India for internship?**
I always wanted to visit India and then when I heard that there was an exchange project that would give me the opportunity to join this wonderful school, I was very happy.

• **What are you planning to do after your stint here? Are you going to study in India?**
I am at the first year of my Masters and I am planning to complete it over there itself.

• **How are Indian schools similar and different from the schools in Italy?**
The difference is that there are only a few good schools for boys and girls over there. They do not wear Scottish skirts; they have a different type of uniform. The only thing is that the subjects are the same.

• **How has your experience in Dehradun been till now?**
Very good, I like it. It's all very comfortable.

• **Betsy, Sessen, what was your main aim coming to India?**
For our internship there were options only in India and Ethiopia. So we chose India as we wanted to go abroad.

• **What do you both hope to achieve at the end of your internship?**
We hope to get experience, exposure, an exchange of cultural ideas and also to share information about our country, Ethiopia.

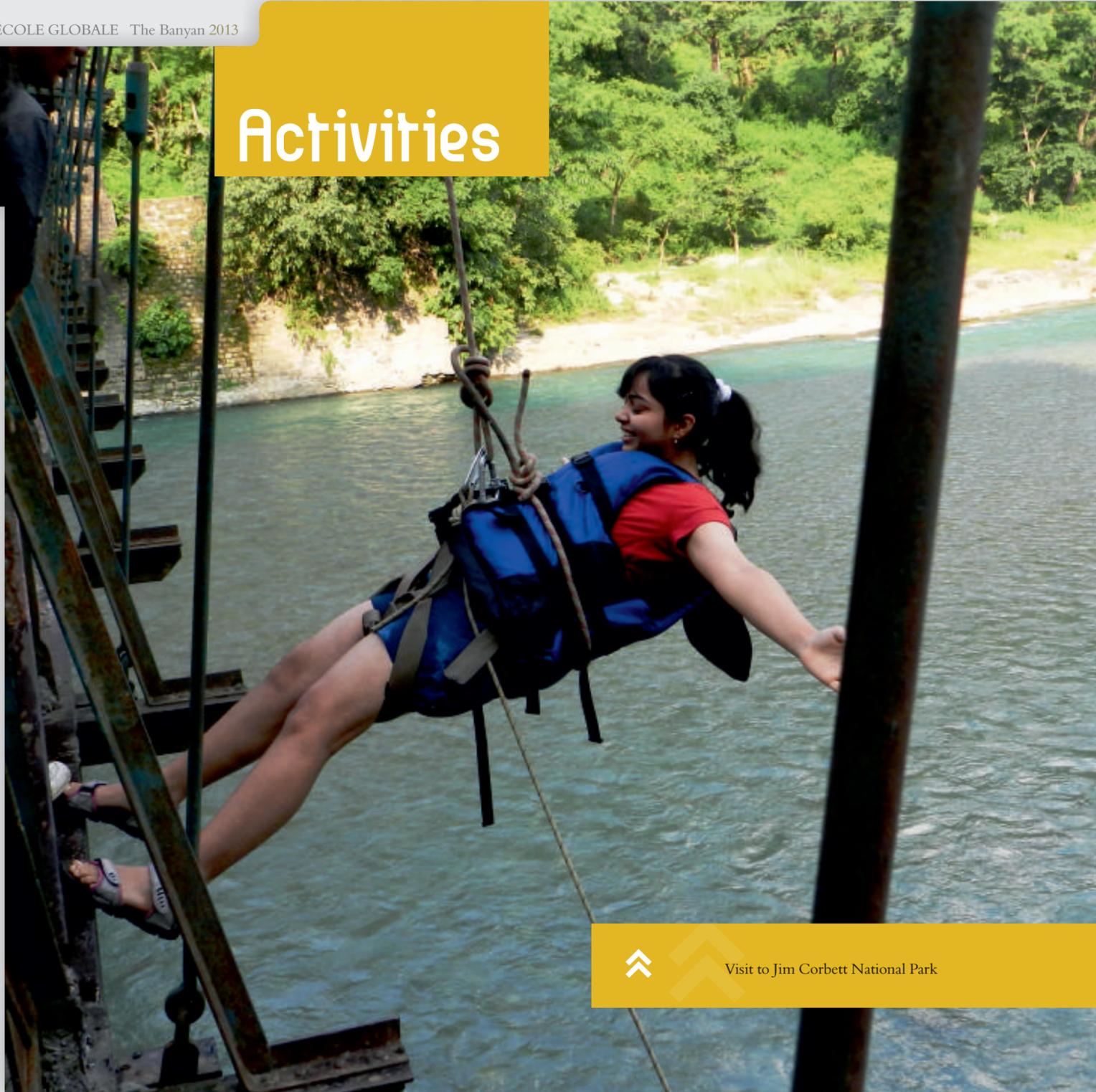
• **Do you like the whole new environment with students? What has impressed you the most?**
Yes, we surely like it. The discipline of your school has left a good impression on us.

• **What are your future plans? Your career plans?**
We have already graduated from Economics, so in the future we want to do our Masters in Economics. MBA would also do.

• **Any advice for us?**
You girls should enhance your general knowledge and read other subjects too.



Activities



Visit to Jim Corbett National Park

Synergy Camp

- Natalia Teig

Riiiiinnnggg...went the bell! I woke up with excitement for the first day of the Synergy Camp. I rushed down to where my closet was and picked up various things and rushed into the bathroom. I brushed my hair and teeth and changed into the sports uniform. I ran down to the cafeteria and felt stifled with the rush of kids crowding everywhere! Soon after breakfast we were briefed and led to the first activity that was pottery. This was the first time for many of us and actually being able to create one's own little clay pot thrilled us. After 45 minutes of pottery we went for Juice Break which is always welcome.

The next activity for my group was Zumba. I didn't really have the knowledge of what Zumba was all about, until someone said "dancing" and I was like, "Whatttt!" because I thought I disliked dancing, and honestly, I am not very good at it. However, when the activity was over, I was so sad that it got over because surprisingly, I really, really enjoyed myself, especially the music.

The next 45 minutes were spent playing team building games under the guidance of Mr. Bhandari and Mr. Dutt. It was great fun but of course, very tiring too since we were in the hot sun most of the time.

Time was flying and before we knew it, it was lunch time- another usual favourite time of the day!

Soon after lunch, we went for 'bamboo craft'. If I asked anyone they would probably say it was boring, but we did make some pretty cool stuff.

The BEST activity of the day was indeed aerobics! I have to admit that this was extremely enjoyable not because two young boys were

teaching us but because of the way we moved! My friends and I could hardly take it seriously, it was a lot of fun.

The activities weren't the only part of the day... it was followed by training for various sports. At the end of it all we were only too happy to be back in our dormitory and just relax. Some of us played, some sang, a few danced and the rest watched T.V. Later in the evening, we went for the bonfire and sang some really nice camp songs. The dinner, that followed, no doubt, was great! I loved it!

Then was the moment I had been waiting for...Sleeping in the tent! It was a fantastic experience, except for when the dogs began barking at midnight. I would do anything to get into that tent again. The most amazing part was that I got to spend the night with my best friends. We spent the time talking about all possible things (will keep the details of this to myself). We must have fallen asleep after midnight. It was really great!

The next two days were the repeat of the same routine. The only thing that changed was that sadly it was not us but the seniors in the tents.





Celebrations at Ecole

Independence Day Celebrating Free India!

- MeghaRathi, XIth

After 'to love' the best verb is 'to serve'. With this thought in mind, the girls of Ecole were all set to do some social service. On the 15th of August, our Independence Day was celebrated beautifully at Ecole. The hoisting of the flag had taken place early in the morning. We had invited the kids from the nearby village to pay a visit to our school for a very basic learning session.

There were about 30 kids who had joined us. All of us were extremely excited and happy to teach the little ones whatever little we could. We had come full circle. The students had turned teachers!

We started by introducing each other. Gradually, groups consisting of some students from our school and some from the village, were formed. We taught them how to write their names in English and how to say "My name is....." For reasons unknown, a feeling of complete bliss came over us, when one of them, stood up and announced triumphantly, "My name is Kamlesh"!!!

The hour ended with dances, songs and echoing claps. The learning session was a complete hit and by the end of it everybody present in the room had smiles that reached their ears! We are all looking forward to having our next interaction with those wonderful tutees. Independence Day this year was surely a different one. All thanks to you know who!



The Odour of Celebrations

Have you noticed that the smell of Dusshera hangs in the air much before the advent of the Dusshera itself? It is as if Nature pre-empts the festive season. Generously and liberally, She sprays the atmosphere with Her special fragrance. The air is thick with the aroma of flowers, incense, aromatic leaves, and the fresh, clean earthy smells! Hmmm...Isn't it a divine feeling!

If we Indians celebrate Dusshera for ten days, then ten days it will be at Ecole too! The festivities continued almost through the month of October; the preparation for things to come.

It all began when Team Fire decided that they would like to anticipate Pooja and kick start the mood early. So Goddess Durga made an appearance as the protagonist of the Team Fire assembly. Resplendent in her MahishasuraMardini avatar, she arrived well in advance one morning. And you could smell her in the air!

The presentation narrated the saga of Mahishasura.

Vivid and evocative, it brought out the various facets of the legend; the prelude, the battle and the annihilation!

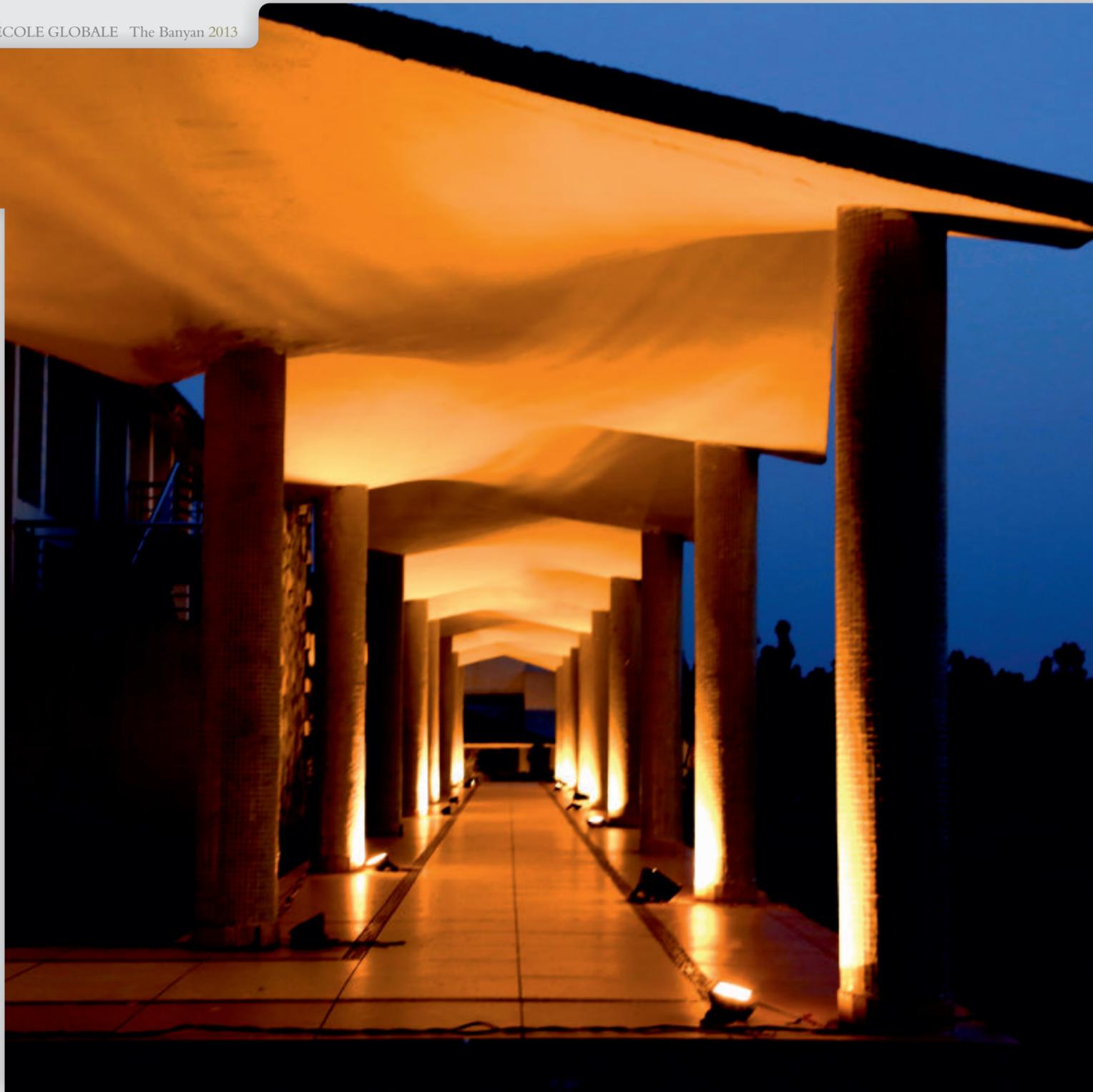
Chants of 'Ya Devi Sarva Bhuteshu' echoed in the hallway and there was no doubt that evil had been vanquished once and for all.

The other aspect of the festival made itself visible on the "Special Class of the Week" display board a day later. Grade 7 decided to feature Ravana as their central figure on the board. The 10-headed demon king of Lanka in his entire splendor.

The Dusshera mood continued and the festive mela-like atmosphere was all-pervasive that evening when the ten-headed Ravana went up in flames and with him all the sins of mankind were symbolically blown away. All the food stalls at the site were busy feeding the hungry Asianites and Ecolites, and what a time they had!

The fragrance had filtered into everyone by the process of osmosis and magically metamorphosed into smiles. Everywhere you looked, people were smiling. Today, it was 'saatkhoonmaaf'!





Celebrations at Ecole



Holi hai

'Holi the festival of colours was celebrated with grace and colour at Ecole. Although it was a holiday all the Ecolites woke up early in order to get ready for the celebration. After all the girls had applied oil on themselves as guided by the teachers, not a single minute was wasted by them...they ran out and collected the 'Gulals' (the Holi colors). They were provided with various colors so that by the end of it they would end up in shades of green, blue, yellow, purple, red, etc...

When they reached the ground to celebrate the festival, they found a number of buckets that were filled with coloured water and also some 'Pichkaris' (the water pistols), awaiting us. They ran, got hold of whatever came their way and started playing Holi. Very soon all the girls were dripping wet with the colourful water. All the Ecolites were transformed into multicoloured aliens.

As they continued to play, Mrs. Rai, Ms. Soni, Mr. Mike and other members of the staff joined in the celebration. When Mrs. Ghosh was spotted in her white suit they were glad to still have enough colour in their hands, but such was their luck that they were told not to put any colour on her as she is highly allergic to it.

To add more excitement to the celebration, Mrs. Ghosh played a trick on Ms. Afifa. She managed to get her out of the room and call all the girls to colour her. Now Ms. Afifa was also a part of their 'Coloured Aliens Gang'.



All of them were coloured in different shades and now all they wanted was to show Mr. Ghosh to see this work of art. To fulfill this wish, a few of them along with Mrs. Ghosh called him from the garden. Sir ended up clicking plenty of photographs of all the girls.

All good things must come to an end but this end was delicious. The 'gujias' added to the charm and fun of this festival.

'Holi hai holi haibura na mano holi hai' !!!!

Riddhi Sarvaiya

Garba Nights at Ecole...

'Garba Nights'! Aren't they exciting and lots of fun!?

After the Dussehra fete, we began our Garba Night. I never expected to be able to celebrate this festival as we did. Being a Gujarati, this celebration meant a lot to me. At 8:30 pm, on 24th October, we all dressed in glittery Garba dresses' "ChanyaCholis" and were all set for the Garba dance. We were soon all dancing to the catchy rhythmic music. The tempo of the Garba songs is so fast that one gets magnetically pulled to the dance floor. Not even our Principal was spared. Thanks to the captivating numbers, everyone was dancing or at least learning to do so.

The word Navratri have been derived from the words 'Nav' meaning nine and 'Ratri' meaning night. This, to us in Gujarat, means nine nights of Garba. It is believed that the nine nights are dedicated to nine Goddesses. Navratri is a festival that brings joy in the lives of all Gujaratis, and we at Ecole were not far behind and joined in the celebrations. The hour of Garba elated our spirits.

Riddhi Sarvaiya



