



THE VALLEY

Rishi Valley School • Newsletter



Editorial...

To see the world in a grain of sand or the ocean in a drop of water is to touch infinity itself. It is a marvel how so little can hold so much. A term is only all of four months, yet it is amazing how much has happened in these four months as the newsletter reveals. But then, are these movements just ripples and eddies which die where they are born with no further movement? Browning said that 'less is more' but at moments such as these one feels that 'more is less'. When one ponders on how many years have rolled by since the school began, one cannot help but ruminate on how so much happens in a little time, yet not much changes in the long term. We are struggling with the same problems and issues.

When Krishnamurti says to the students, 'I feel you ought to leave this place highly intelligent--not just pass some exams, but be tremendously intelligent, aware, beautiful persons'; one is both inspired and awed by the tremendous challenge it holds to students, teachers, parents and in fact the entire community.

One thing alone is true. There is no space for stasis. Relationship with one another and nature will ever be the cornerstone of a dynamic community.

Do you know anything about meditation?

Krishnamurti: Do you know anything about meditation? You are interested in sex, aren't you? You are interested in being entertained; you are interested in learning geography, history--interested casually. You are interested in many things, aren't you? Meditation is part of life--don't say it's something outside for some silly people--it's part of existence. So, you must know about it as you must know about mathematics, electronics, or whatever it is. Do you know what it means to meditate? The dictionary meaning of the word is to ponder, to think over, to ruminate, to enquire into. Shall we talk a little about it?

When you sit very quietly, or lie down very quietly, the body is completely relaxed, isn't it? Have you ever tried to sit very, very quietly? --not to force it because, the moment you force it, it is finished--to sit very quietly, either with your eyes closed or open. If you have your eyes open there is a little more distraction, you begin to see things. So, after looking at things--the curve of the tree, the leaves, the bushes--after looking at it all with care, then close your eyes. Then you will not say to yourself, "What's happening, let me look." First look at everything--the furniture, the colour of the chair, the colour of the sweater--look at the shape of the tree. After having looked, the desire to look out is less. I've seen that blue sky and I've finished with it, and I won't look again. But you must first look; then you can sit quietly. When you sit quietly, or lie down very quietly, the blood flows easily into your head, doesn't it? There is no strain. That's why they say you must sit cross-legged, with head very straight, because the blood flows easier that way. If you sit crouched it is more difficult for the blood to go into the head. So, you

sit or lie down very, very quietly. Don't force it, don't fidget. If you fidget, then watch it; don't say, "I must not." Then, when you sit very quietly, you watch your mind. First, you watch the mind. Don't correct it; don't say, "This thought is good, that thought is not good"--just watch it. Then you will see that there is a watcher and the watched: there is a division. The moment there is a division, there is conflict.

Now, can you watch without the watcher? Is there a watching without the watcher? It is the watcher that says, "This is good and that is bad", "This I like and that I don't like," or, "I wish she hadn't said this or that," "I wish I had more food." Watch without the watcher: Try it some time. That's part of meditation--just begin with that--that's good enough. And you will see, if you have done it, what an extraordinary thing takes place... your body becomes very, very intelligent. Now the body is not intelligent because we have spoiled it. You understand what I mean? We have destroyed the natural intelligence of the body itself. Then you will find that the body says, "Go to bed at the right time." It wants it, it has its own intelligence and activity. And also, if it wants to be lazy, let it be lazy.

Oh, you don't know what all this means! You try it. When I come back in April we'll sit down together twice a week and go into all this, shall we? Good! I feel you ought to leave this place highly intelligent--not just pass some exams, but be tremendously intelligent, aware, beautiful persons. At least, that is how I feel for you.

- Beginnings of Learning, pp. 79-80



Brand New

- Laundry has two 25 kg industrial washing machines. The last replacement was in 1992. These machines have in built spinners which means that akkas and annas do not have to haul wet clothes into a separate spinner.
- Soon Dhobi Ghat residents should be able to shift to their new quarters which are being built near the Alumni Guest House.
- A new RO plant has been installed above dining hall.
- Two staff quarters were renovated during the vacation. Two more quarters are being extended near the estate area.
- Funds are being collected by an alumni initiative to renovate the Hoopoe House and make it into a part research centre and part archive.
- For water conservation, school started collecting rain water from the roofs of Golden, Silver and Neem house. The water from the roofs goes through a semi cylindrical pipe which leads to an underground pipe. The underground pipes transport the water for use.



New Beginnings

Exits and Entries

Jyothi Akka has taken over as the Principal from the current academic year. Siddhartha Sir and Paritha Akka have taken sabbatical for a year. Siddhartha Sir makes many surprise visits and has delighted the 11th Lit students by taking some extra classes too. Valli Akka who was on sabbatical last year has rejoined school. Tanuj Sir is back in Valley and is now teaching Mathematics. He is also the junior school coordinator. Chandrika Akka and Alok Sir have moved out of their old office and have moved into their new home. Deepak Sir, Vijaya Akka, Madhumita Akka, Rajat Sir, Arsh Sir and Hitesh Sir have left School. Aniket Sir too is no longer an active teacher, but he substitutes when other teachers are not well or are out of station. Is he taking more classes now than when he was a teacher? He also plays tennis regularly and is a part of the film committee. He was the RV Quiz coordinator. Deepak Sir visited recently and regaled students with tales of his new-found passion – urban and roof top farming. Vijaya Akka too visited recently and reconnected with the school. It felt like old times to see her in the library. The new teachers who have joined are Harikrishnan Sir who teaches Chemistry in middle and senior school. He is a serious teacher who thinks academics is a serious business. But he is fun loving too. The other teacher who also teaches Chemistry is Jimble Sir whose actual name is Srinivasa Subramaniam. Jimble Sir is an old student whose other passions are tennis and cooking. He also teaches junior science along with another new entrant Ranjit Sir who teaches junior science and senior Computer Science. Ranjit Sir is very kind and friendly. Sai Jagan Sir who is primarily a senior Physics teacher is like a whirlwind who has swept many an unsuspecting student into Maths club. His enthusiasm for

science and math is infectious. All those who used to slink away on Saturday noon for an early siesta can now be seen bursting their blood vessels over some math teasers and theorems. He is also a hockey coach for a brand-new girl's hockey team in making. Three young ladies from the academic portals of Delhi have stormed into the humanities faculty. They are our sociology teacher Aanchal Akka, English and Literature teacher Harlene and History teacher Lekshmi Akka. They may be young but are even more strict task masters than their older counterparts. Another Shailendran Sir has joined Sailendran Sir in the finance department.

June Orientation Meetings for Teachers

The overarching theme during the orientation was 'Quiet Mind as a Condition for Learning'. Since there were a large number of new teachers it made sense to begin with an introduction to the culture, ethos and history of Rishi Valley School convened by Radhika Akka, Kumaraswamy Sir and Rajan Sir.

Taking up on the theme of quietness there was a general discussion on 'Spaces' that need attention such as class rooms, assembly hall, dining hall and houses; drawing special attention to time before and after classes, break times, moving between classes, movie time and on the occasions of special programmes; Role of teachers: as subject teachers, class teachers and house parents; more importantly, understanding roles of individual teachers and as a collective whole. Faculties met to discuss the general guidelines and matters specific to their faculties.

There was a special interaction with the Parivartan group. The purpose was twofold. Since Parivartan Group was going to work closely with

the issues of mental health in school and was offering counselling services to the students, it was a good way to get to know one another. This was later followed by a series of meetings with teachers over 4 weeks called 'Care for the Caregivers'.

The other topic that was closely discussed was 'Bullying: The Dark Reality and the Grey Areas'. The session focused on building awareness and more specifically on how to act on peripheral knowledge and bring it centre stage; understanding patterns and trends. It closely discussed the role of teachers in having an ear to the ground and understanding the conflicts and dynamics within a group; building relationship with students; mechanisms of reporting/action/intervention; understanding the pros and cons of swift and visible intervention; understanding the significance of what it means to have a 'zero tolerance'.

Sports is a key area in school life and harbours many passions both amongst students and staff. It is an area rife with conflicting views on its role in school life. Sunil Sir convened a seasoned and mature discussion on 'What kind of sports culture do we want in our school?'

There was a light hearted session anchored by the new teachers which tested and challenged the rest of the faculty through some fun games and activities. This was followed by a serious session on 'Understanding the various functions of teachers'.

It looked into the role of coordinators; communication channels and information flow: teachers (general) -subject teachers – class teachers – house parents – coordinators – principal – students – parents; movie policy; mentoring and support systems; stressing the need for active presence in the school during school hours; leisure; leave policy amongst others.

Parivartan for Counselling Services

To nurture mental health and well-being, the counselling services of Parivartan have been sought. The group made a presentation during the June orientation meetings to highlight several issues of mental health. They conducted workshops over 4 weekends called 'Care for Caregivers' to orient the teachers, especially house parents. The sessions touched upon how to be an effective listener to one's own feelings and that of others; recognizing and learning to express and deal with emotions, especially negative emotions such as anger and anxiety; understanding and learning to handle various stages of the psycho-social development; methods of communication and understanding interpersonal spaces and boundaries; self care and assessment. Though these sessions were long they were done in a manner which alleviated stress and boredom. Teachers often came out

of these sessions feeling refreshed.

Counselling services have been offered to students by a system of self-referral and teacher referral. Maitri gave an introductory talk to the senior students which established an instant rapport with the students and instilled confidence in her. This has been a much-needed facility for the students wherein they are able to talk freely about their fears, anxieties and confusions without the fear of being judged.

Freshers Galore

"I first thought Rishi Valley to be an ordinary boarding school, where freshers were unprepared for events in the first few months, but I was wrong".

"My experience as a fresher in RVS has been great so far".

"My fellow classmates have been very kind and informative towards me, and I have always been up to date with upcoming events here at RVS".

Thus spoke some of the freshers who have entered the portals of Rishi Valley. Some of the freshers' events were:

Freshers games was a series of small games for freshers such as dog and the bone, chain, dressup etc. They were pretty fun and a good way to interact with fellow freshers and peers.

Freshers hike was a half-hour long hike to 360°, the highest point in the entire Rishi Valley. The hike helps freshers to understand teachers and students and see the beauty of Rishi Valley.

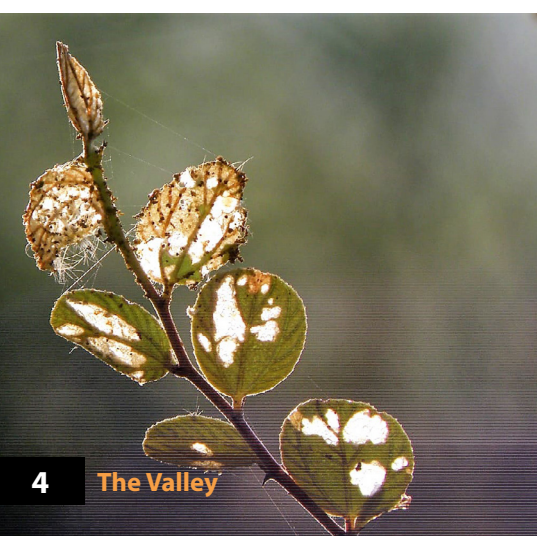
Freshers assembly was a melee of programmes spread over two morning assemblies. There was a humorous Telugu play about a wannabee king who dreams of being a warrior and uses ladoos as missiles. There were a series of Hindi poems on animals. Tashi had audience in splits with his silent acting. Two pairs of twins (the third pair left school) presented a funny but philosophical skit on mirror images which brought out the difference between what we want to be and what we are. Sanjana gave a solo bharatnayam performance. Venu Sir choreographed another dance to the song written and composed by REC teacher Ramu. The other dance numbers were a bhangra dance and Waka Waka dance. Juneili gave a brilliant piano recital. Devbratt gave an impressive table recital as did Ahan on his guitar. The other songs rendered were a Punjabi song which was an energetic number and some calming Odiya songs under the tutelage of Ranjit Sir and Biji Akka.





And as the sun rises a little higher the leaves begin to flutter, to dance. And each hour seems to give to that tree a different quality. Before the sun rises it has a sombre feeling, quiet, far away, full of dignity. And as the day begins, the leaves with the light on them dance and give it that peculiar feeling that one has of great beauty.

- Krishnamurti to Himself Brockwood Park
Friday 25th February, 1983



What Lies Behind the Words?

Assemblies

Junior Assemblies

Junior assemblies are the most sought-after assemblies by the staff. Sometimes it is their children's (their own or those in their house) performance which draws them. Mostly it is the simplicity and freshness that they look forward to starting their day with. Not the least, no matter what the young ones do, it is heartwarming and delightful.

It is always a wonderful recourse to the teachers when they give holiday homework and gleefully use these to fill the junior assembly slots. Thus, the term began with students of classes five and six presenting their holiday homework. This was followed by a mixed assembly wherein all the language teachers (English, Hindi, and Telugu) made the students present the poems they had taught in the class. Kusum Akka and Viswanath Sir did a combined assembly of two small skits and the poems from 'Hindi Ki Duniya' with their sixth graders. Three to four assemblies were taken by Natarajan Sir's EVS students, now in grade 6 to present their holiday projects about different civilisations. There was one more mixed assembly by students of grades five and six who recited back to back some Hindi and English poems. Nirmala Akka's sixth graders did an enjoyable JAM session in Hindi which had the participants thinking on their feet and the audience dissolving into fits.

Sonali Akka's grade six social studies students presented two assemblies with skits written, directed and performed by them. Meena Akka's grade 4 students presented one assembly on water and butterfly poems. In the last assembly of the term, fourth and fifth grade Hindi students presented a few Hindi songs and poems.

Poetry is not all. There have also

been many plays, music, dance and drama presentations, the details of which can be seen in a different section of the newsletter.

Staff Assemblies

Rajashekhar held the first junior Tuesday Assembly. It was a welcome address to the new children while looking at the basic rules of life in a boarding school. He also emphasised on the physical boundaries beyond which students could not venture without the company of adults. Radhika Akka spoke on the old days in Rishi Valley School. Ramola Sir spoke on boredom and numerous ways in which one could beat them.

Sai Jagan spoke about hockey. He spoke about Rani Ramphal the Indian women's captain and Men's captain Sardar Singh who is considered to be one of the best hockey players worldwide followed by Dhyanchand – also one of the best players of the world. He was so good at the sport that even a person like Hitler was impressed by his style. Hitler even congratulated Dhyanchand personally after a match in Germany. He also spoke about a great former Pakistani player Shahbaz Ahmed. Sai Jagan's purpose of this assembly was to spread the awareness of our national sport. Krishna Menon spoke about chess and a few great chess players of the world with special mention of Viswanathan Anand, Garry Kasparov and Magnus Carlsen.

Afshan presented a very engaging session on the beauty of poetry. She read out an assortment of her favourite poems. She said that reading poetry was as much fun as reading novels. Anushka gave a very interesting talk on the daughter of famed poet Lord Byron, Augusta Ada Byron, Countess of Lovelace—better known as Ada Lovelace, a woman mathematician and computer programmer. It is said

that once Ada and her mother went to a party where she met Charles Babbage. Charles Babbage told her about his idea of the calculating machine. Ada got fascinated by the concept of the machine and soon, after many trials she was successful in making a complete computer program. Babbage created the first ever computer which was designed by Ada. Rahee showed some interesting cartoons by Zagreb Animation. Harikrishnan Sir related the story of Swethakethu and the lessons that could be learnt from his life about knowledge and quest. Jyothi demystified the notion that several youngsters held of the Principal as someone who was free to make and break rules. She related two simple but profound zen stories.

Santharam spoke about Amur falcons which fly from Siberia, go through China, Northeast India and finally reach South Africa. But when a reservoir was built in Nagaland, they stopped there for a long time. The locals began to hunt them for their meat. A journalist from Nagaland intervened and sought action from the government of Nagaland. The local schools too led campaigns by children writing poems urging people not to hunt Amur falcons. The locals have now stopped hunting these falcons.

Sonali spoke about Dia de Los Muertos—the day of the dead—a festival celebrated by the Mexicans. They celebrate the 'Day of the Dead' on Nov 1 and 2. It is believed that the family's dead relatives come and meet them on that day. They keep the dead relatives' pictures and their favourite things on a place called ofrunda in their homes. Coco which is an English movie is based on Dia de los Muertos. Aniket played a few good songs under the genre 'Protest Music' from around the world. Geeta Akka read a few beautiful stories meant for children and adults alike. The best of the lot was the story of an over dramatic dog with a splinter in his paw, *Winston was Worried*. These stories were followed by some beautiful songs.

Harleen talked about how we often grumble about little problems in our daily life. She showed a few books from the Mr.Grumble Series. Aanchal's assembly was about her *Teach for India* Fellowship experience teaching slum children in Delhi for two years. Srinivas (fondly known as Jimble) spoke of Intel based on his experience. Sonali and Jayesh took us on a photo journey of their trip to Kenya and Masai Mara.

The last three assemblies were music based. Shantaram played Carnatic Music on morning ragas. This was followed by Seshadri's presentation on his recordings of different musical compositions and vocal music. The curtains on the Tuesday assemblies of the term were brought down by Siddharth and Madhura, with their

melodious duets - the last one on going home - Take me Home, Country Roads.

In the senior school, the teacher assembly began and ended with Dr Kumaraswamy. He spoke on Sciences and scientific spirit with a touch of humour and laced with philosophy. He opened his last assembly with a provocative statement, 'How many of you believe in God?' In his characteristic style he asked how anyone could answer that question without understanding or defining what or who god is. Harikrishnan educated the students who would soon be dealing with money on how to manage finance and investments. Anagh spoke on microbiomes, the world of microbes including those we carry on our bodies. Dhanya spoke of her research on ataxia, a motor disorder.

Parekh spoke about his experiences in Rishi Valley and with Krishnamurti. He also played some of his favourite old Hindi film songs. There was a special assembly on the occasion of M L Vasantha Kumari's 90th birth anniversary. Santharam and Dr Kumaraswamy reminisced about her stay in Rishi Valley and remarked about her simplicity and generosity. Aarthi (an alumna who was here at the time) shared it with her friends. Many of her friends and batchmates got together and sent a beautiful eulogy complete with pictures of their memories with MLV.

Sreevani who is herself a sarpanch gave an insider account of what politics and how it played out in the minds of the commoners who had no idea of the various schemes and programmes of the government. She also criticized the government for some of its arm twisting tactics to ensure audience when a politician came by. Jyothi spoke on the current debate on spaces in the European universities and something similar that is playing out in our own universities and even in Rishi Valley School.

Lakshma's talk was based on a book by that Howard Gardner titled 'The Five Minds of the Future'. Chinmay aided by Lakshma drew a colourful mind map of these five minds namely the disciplined mind, the synthesizing mind, the creating mind, the respectful mind and the ethical mind. It was quite an engrossing talk.

Earlier in the term, Dr Kartik and Radhika akka took a combined assembly on mental health. While Kartik spoke on the medical aspects of it, Radhika Akka just spoke on meditative practices of quietening the mind and building one's own mental strength. A friend and visitor of the school, Mr Stephen Douglas gave an engrossing talk on UN peace keeping with live examples from his own work in geopolitically sensitive border areas.



Middle School Assemblies

Middle school assemblies have been dominated by talks on video games and bands. It is sad to note this narrowing down of their interests to popular culture. Teachers are engaging with them on this matter and hopefully it will bring some change next term.

“Pokemon is anything – you want it to be. You can make your own decisions and learn your own lessons. And that in itself is true learning”, said Siddhant and Atul who conducted an assembly about the world-famous animation series ‘Pokemon’. They talked about the creator Satoshi Tajiri and five most powerful Pokemon short for pocket monsters – in TCI card sets.

“Jesy, Jade, Perrie and Leigh Anne – 4 girls, one for each of us”, said Sanvi, Nandana, Siya and Mohini who presented an assembly about the British girl Band formed at the X factor – Little Mix. They drew attention to the problems the girls faced before and after fame. Discrimination, sexual harassment, cyber bullying, and eating disorders. They ended the assembly by rendering the song, ‘Change your Life’. Tanaya, Saanvi G, Yukta and Damini did a presentation on a very recent kind of music Cringe Pop.

Shwethan and Yashvardhan did an assembly on dictators who they thought had made an impact on history – Franco, Mussolini, and Hitler. Srivar and Jigmet did a statistic driven assembly on FIFA world cup. Sritan, Vignesh, Jayesh, Devesh, Prahasit and Jidvish brought out the wit and humour of a popular Telugu Comedy show ‘Viva’.

There were two assemblies connected to environment. Gargee gave a convincing assembly on why we should move towards solar energy. Santharam Sir stepped in to fill one of the assembly slots and spoke on garbage in the oceans. The term ended with an assembly by Kavi

and Vedant on ‘The Star Wars’. Many claimed that this enabled them to understand the weekend movie.

Senior School Assemblies

June assemblies: Trusha, Meghna, Nitya, and Vindhya spoke about conspiracy theories, some examples, and consequences of them; Anish spoke about the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, the status of the search, financial aftermath for the company and associated conspiracy theories; Mrigank and Prajwal spoke about Kingfisher airlines debt and escape of Vijay Mallya case.

July assemblies: Aman (Class 11 boy) spoke about the problems of the electric motor as an alternative to fossil fuel run motor; Vineeth explored some excerpts from the book ‘Sapiens’ by Harari. Praneeth took the audience through the highlights of FIFA 2018 and journey of the finalist in the tournament; Anurag, Dushyant, and Niloy covered workings of Wikileaks, some criticism faced by the organization; and Utsa and Sandhya spoke about the effects of global warming and how we can contribute to the solution.

August assemblies: Megha, Vanya, and others gave a demonstration cum talk on the spoken word poetry; Ipsita and Meghna gave 13 reasons why NOT to read ‘13 reasons why’ book. Tanvi reviewed the work of Hayao Miyazaki and aspects of the characters in his films that she adores; Anish spoke on neural network coding and demonstration.

September assemblies: Shriya, Kshitija, Shrimadhi, and others performed music; Vivek spoke about the crisis in Air India, its history and the way ahead; Sanjula, Ria and Aashni spoke about gender equality and feminism.

October assemblies: Shriya, Madhura, and co gave a music performance; Ayaan spoke on how language affects our thoughts and nature of language per se.

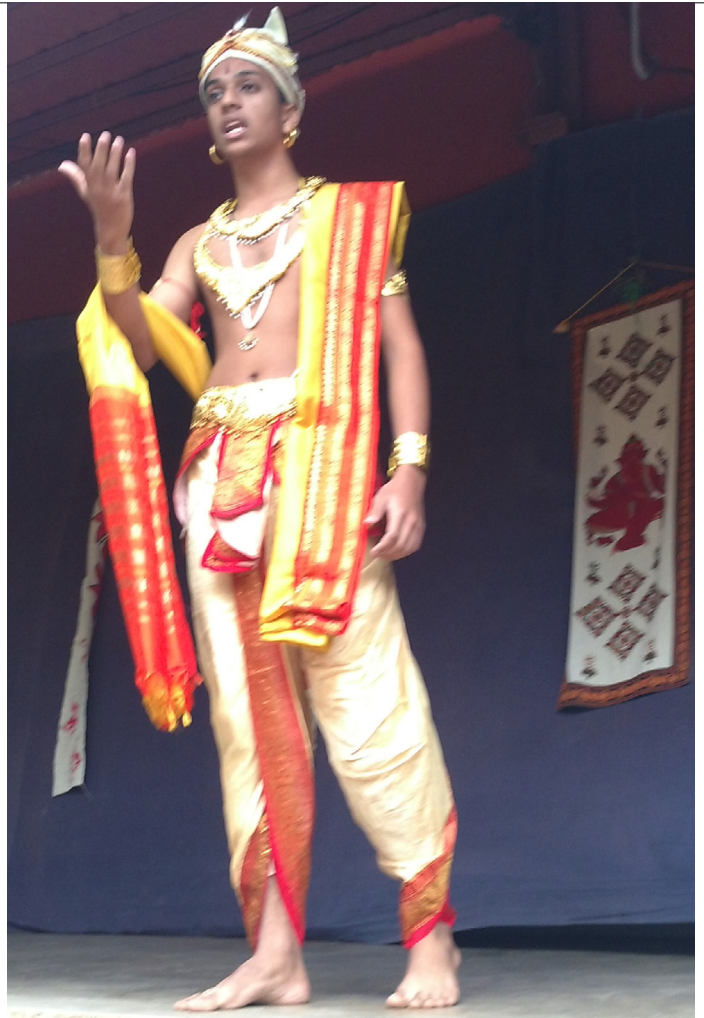
Alumni assemblies

It is always a good feeling when alumni visits school, especially to share their work. Chinmay Tumble introduced his book ‘India Moving’ which was released just three days prior to his talk. His book talks about





Scenes from Monoaction: Guess who they are?



Indian migration and how every place in India has a migrant. Then he talked about the reasons for migration – being forced to move, moving for education and food or moving for better environment. He talked in length about these and opened the session for questions.

Dr Gopal Menon, a surgeon from New York, now working under the aegis of Global Public Health gave an informative discourse on work with several governments on issues of public health and safe surgery.

George Mathew, founder and Artistic Director of MUSIC FOR LIFE INTERNATIONAL and the UBUNTU-SHRUTI gave an engrossing account of his journey into music and the work he does especially with refugees like the rohingyas.

Dr Ritika Aulakh, also a surgeon from US, spoke about her time in school and her journey through life.

Specially interesting was the many old photographs that she shared. It gave a rare glimpse into the Rishi Valley of the old.

Vedant and Ananth had bonded over music when they were school boys here. Vedant was trained in Carnatic music and Ananth was a self-taught artist and guitarist who loved Simon and Garfunkle. The duo went down the memory lane as they sang many of their favourite songs including 'ud jayega...'

Special assemblies

One has heard multiple screenings of movies but who has heard of repeating assemblies for different audience. That is what happened with Arko and Abhigyan who first regaled the junior school with their talk on Satyajit Ray which was accompanied by their rendering of his songs. So popular was the assembly that it was soon repeated

in both senior school and middle school.

The other such assembly was the mono-actions done by Keerthan of Class 12 and Siddharth on Krishnadeva Rayulu and Alluri Seetharamaraju respectively. The first monologue was written by Rangacharyulu Sir in Telugu. The second was written by Shri Tyaga Murthy Sharma in English. These were rendered to multiple audiences – senior school assembly, junior school assembly, REC and BT College in Madanapalle. It marked a special occasion in Madanapalle as Shri Tyaga Murthy Sharma was releasing his book on Annie Beasant. The make-up was an added factor as it brought alive these characters. A special attraction in Junior school was Nandakumar Sir dressed up as Sri Raghavendra.





Kailashnath Temple,
Kanchipuram

Across the Hills and Beyond the Valley

Hikes, Trips and Excursions

Class and House Hikes

Usually hikes happen more in the second term than in the first. June and July heat are usually merciless and by the time August is around people are getting ready for the mega sports events. Post September teachers are too busy to think of hikes. This year weather sprung some wonderful surprises. It has been pleasant right from June with a cool breeze caressing the skin. There have also been a few rains which has greened the valley. What better way to celebrate it than with hikes?

It was Sunil sir who first capitalized the weather and took the tenths to Bodi Konda hills. Soon the 11ths

were taken by Rajan Sir to a place which is not the usual destination. Students roughly described it as getting on this big hill and, going down and getting onto another hill. Needless to say, they were all exhausted, but Rajan Sir seems going strong. He was his chirpy self even after the long exhaustive hike. The ninths were guided by Nirmala Akka and others to the place beyond Krishnamurti Sagar dam which touches Karnataka border. So they literally walked to another state. The eights went to Nandu's organic farm, a new hiking destination initiated by Santharam Sir and Afshan Akka. Nandu is a young lad who studied in Marudam school and has begun

his own organic farming. What is remarkable about Nandu is that he has collected hundreds of seeds and has grown saplings which he tries to afforest the land with. His latest desire is to build a small education centre which could house some books and games and has some resource persons visiting now and then to enrich the lives of the youth in the village. To this end he has borrowed some bamboo and eucalyptus trunks. Knowing Nandu, he will build with his own hands. Class 4 were taken by Jaisree Akka to the Shiva temple. Apart from the class teachers the other enthusiastic hikers are Rajesh Sirs (there are two of them), Aanchal Akka, Dhanya Akka, Anagh Sir and Reddy Sir.

The Golden House went to the Three Sister Rocks. Mini Akka was a little worried about the fourths but the young champs scaled it with ease. Raavi House went to the Elephant Dyke and beyond. The Green House went across the Mouth of the Valley to the hill beyond. Tanuj Sir took a bunch of interested sevenths to explore the Caverock Hill. Sonali Akka took the sevenths up the Durranta Hills as a part of the Geography Walk

Commerce Trip 2018

As part of the commerce trip, students of class 11 visited three business units on the 18th and 19th of August. Based on their visits, interactions and interviews conducted with the people representing these entities they prepared a report which was both informative and educative. They interacted with STUDIO ABD, Cirel Systems Pvt. Ltd and Dastakar with nearly 200 stalls. This gave them an opportunity to study diverse business models and livelihoods.

Class 12 Science Trip

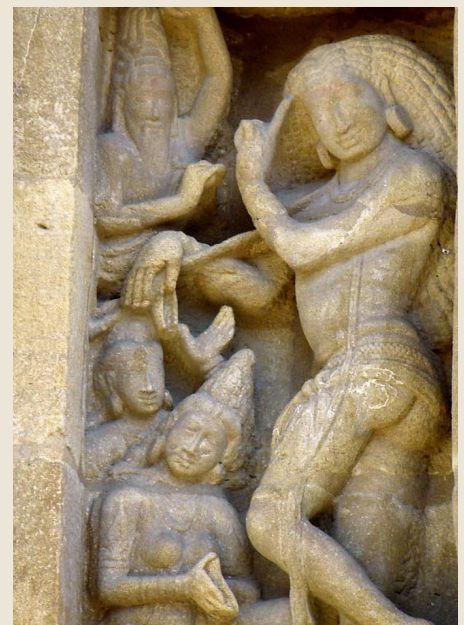
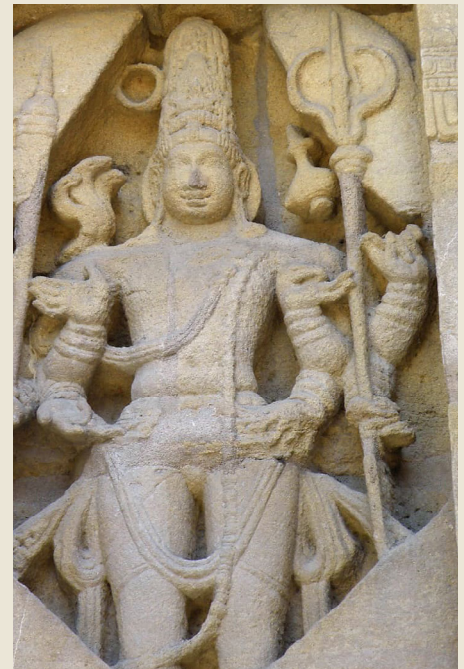
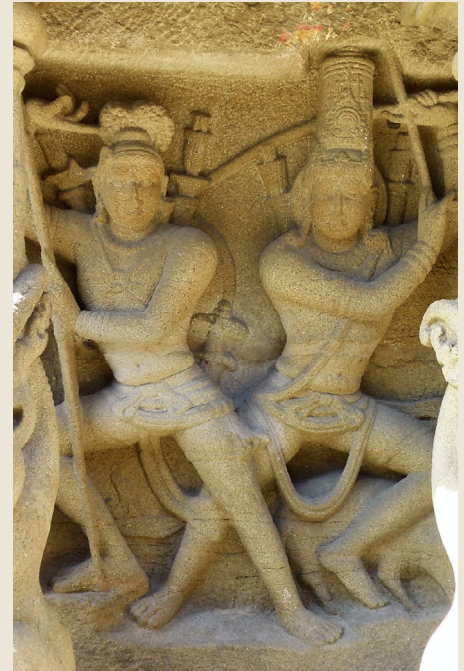
Class 12 Science students were taken to IIT Madras for their Science trip. Primarily organised by their Chemistry and Physics teachers Harikrishnan Sir And Atul Sir, its purpose was to serve as a taster to students who may later consider science as their career path. They saw state of art equipment and sophisticated laboratories across both the departments and some engineering departments too. They were truly awed by the technology that they saw but they also had deeper questions on how the sciences served humanity and environment.

Class 6 Village Trip

Students of Class 6 spent a good part of the day and night at Sundara Vanam, a satellite school run by Rishi Valley Rural Education Centre. Nestled among hills, in a really rural interior, the students had a glimpse of what lay on the other side of the valley. They interacted with teachers and young children and gained some insight into an alternate system of education called the MGML. The students also had a taste of the rural life and hospitality. It was an enjoyable and moving experience for many.

Class 8 Temple Trips

Quite some years ago, the History teachers were concerned about the class 9 history projects that were part of the board requirement for internal assessment. A large number of projects were written in an uninformed manner and were often taken from the internet. To get students out of such dreary and blind research, it was decided that the school could arrange for some of these trips and educate them on how to look at monuments. The groups were kept deliberately small so that the focus was on the study and not so much on 'group' entertainment. Though it is called temple trip, it often included study of forts, monasteries, weaving units, NGOs, schools and such. This year in early September, Class 8 students headed in 3 directions. Their main study was on Kanchipuram temples especially Kailashnath Temple and Vaikunta Perumal Temple, Somnathpur and Tiruvanmalai. This gave them exposure to different architectural styles from different periods of history. In the past years, they have also been to Thanjavur, Madurai and Alampur and Mahabalipuram.



Saturday Club Time

Current Affairs Club

This term at current affairs club, hosted by Radhika Akka, the main thrust was on events leading to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections under which we the following were touched upon:

- The 2019 elections and its possible turn outs with an emphasis on the current political and socio- economic scenario in India and the current governments move to consolidate the judiciary, executive and legislative bodies of the government into one party rule that borders on a theocracy.
- The Rafale scam and the governments unscrupulous decision to 'reliance' a defence company in its infantile stage, the Indian representative in the Indo-french partnership – a stipulated clause of the defence contract to fighter jets where 'the French' company would have to work with Indian HAL – giving Anil Ambani one of the government's major oligarch patrons, no small amount of leverage in the socio-political theatre.
- The growing coalition of the lower classes and the radical religious with either the BJP or its rival the Congress

Philosophy Club

Philosophy club has been the addition in the array of clubs offered by RV with Rajan Sir as the anchor. Due to its recent conception it is still an informal fledgling club.

Owing to the relatively few members , there is no clear agenda but whatever subject snags the focussed attention of a member even if it doesn't strictly fall under the purview of philosophical study is discussed.

There has never been a failure or inability to relate to the discussion as it has enabled and removed the mental block that makes people to believe that philosophy is an abstract and removed topic.

On the contrary it is very much relevant and grounded in reality and our lives which helps dispel those misconceived fears. Philosophy being a very complex

layered subject it cannot be explored in a short span of time and is even harder to be explained in a few hundred words. But what can certainly be said is that these sessions have collectively made one receptive and questioning in equal measure of the ideologies or philosophies one is confronted with.

Math Club

This year is our first year in Senior School. One of the things we were really excited about was clubs. When we found out there was math club we knew which club we were going to be in. About 6 of us were there from the very first time the RV math circle met, but by the next meeting Sai Sir had gathered a few more followers. In case you're wondering why we bother to spend an hour every Saturday solving math problems, well, we're wondering too. I suppose it is a search for an answer, but more than that it is about finding a way that takes you to the answer. The questions that we do often don't display a straight forward approach but once you have a way the answer's often not far behind.

Being a part of the RV math circle we also do math that is not a part of our syllabus but is very interesting nonetheless. This is also math that we may not have known if it wasn't for the club. This term we mainly focused on geometry, modular arithmetic, and number theory. Using these we were able to do questions we most certainly could not have done earlier. We also saw how very complex problems could be broken down into simpler steps to reach the answer.

Math is about thinking in new ways, trying out things, finding one more way, and keeping at it no matter what. In the process you may lose your wits and some of your hair but going bald is proof that you ...

Chess Club

Chess Club has been a long standing club anchored by Krishna Menon. This term, we studied the strategy and style

of several legendary ground-masters including Karlson and Fisher the youngest ever. Focus was especially placed on the different styles of openings favoured by each and the moves to counter them. These games are played out by sir in order to identify the errors of each competition and club-members are often required or request to correct them or provide better alternate moves, thus improving one's understanding of the nuances and tactics of the game and developing skill as well as intuition. Chess is an excellent way to improve logical thinking and strategic perception as well as overall mental growth, thus making chess club a recommended haunt for those who want to develop logical or calculational thinking skill or just want to enjoy and learn the game of chess.

Music Mixer

Music is a constantly unfolding vast topic that takes a lifetime or more to explore. Some say and quite rightly that there are too many genres and aspects to it. To illustrate this observation only recently was I introduced to a new genre of music called cringepop. But let's not get into the finer details of the aside for obvious reasons and instead recognize the unified effort of a teacher and few RV students to discover the many, many genres of music to the fullest degree possible. These amazing and much loved discoveries are being made in a small corner of the school, where each week students meet at the allotted time in the dance cottage. This club, which is named music mixer was started a nd is being anchored by Aniket Sir for a year.

Music mixer has transported us to various places on both the physical realm ranging from Africa, to the Middle East, India, Korea and of course U.S.A. and the mental, personal realm where horizons are expanding endlessly.

The genres like the place also range widely starting from Jazz, Soul, Rock,

Club27, and many more. Recently the themes explored were Reggae Calypso, R'n'B, Electronic music and Spanish (latino) to name a few.

The primary aim of the club is not to listen to the widespread mainstream music that we all undeniably listen to in our hostels and homes, but learn to appreciate the music we haven't previously been introduced to. And in order to fully understand the essence of the song we are given a short introduction to the artist. Aniket Sir, to both achieve a full audience and ensure people listen to music other than the main stream, tends to withhold the theme because if he does so and the theme fails to 'mainstream' then it unfortunately discourages people from attending it.

And for anybody who has attended the club it is obvious that it has fulfilled its purpose of widening the ambit of people's choice in songs and musical pieces.

Design Club

Before joining design club, we didn't really know what design was or had really rigid views about it. Joining Design club made us question our beliefs and limitations about Design. This happened during discussions, documentary films, videos, and hands-on-activities that we engaged in during the sessions.

We were encouraged to think out of the box and try out new things, which is essential for design. We started learning the fundamentals: abstraction, managing space, and blending forms with one another. Many of these things were learnt by doing work and later analysing it as a group, which helped to find what was missing in it.

We were also introduced to many new aspects of design like: set design, direction, light, animation, music, product/commercial design, architecture, and sustainable design. Interesting discussions after sessions made us pay attention to things we had never noticed earlier. (I can never watch a movie without noticing

particular details anymore!). We realized how much thought and effort goes into the smallest details in things in our everyday lives that we take advantage of.

We understand that true design was in the things that were the most inconspicuous and that went unnoticed. From the handle of a tooth brush to the tunnels of a railway station, we could now see the way design is incorporated in our lives in both subtle and bold ways. This all-encompassing discipline befuddled us by its universality.

Whittling Club

Whittling is an art of wood carving and sculpting which was introduced by Atul Sir in Rishi Valley two years ago as a part of wood craft as well as a club. Over time it has attracted a large number of members and has produced several innovative projects from both students and teachers.

Some of the most interesting projects are a miniature cat made of dark 'cravegareni' wood by Swayambhu, a range of intricately designed cutlery carved by Murali Sir, wind chimes that were carefully designed with scientific applications of air column length and several other simple and elegant projects like knives, clocks and bun sticks. Whittling has managed to strike the right balance between utilitarian value and aesthetic beauty in the pieces. In the initial stages of whittling, one is taught the different methods of using the whittling blade. Once the strokes are learnt, one is ready to start off with a block of wood. Although striving for the desired object is necessary, the grains of the wood may not always agree, therefore adapting to the quality and nature of wood is essential. As a result, whittled objects display unique patterns.

Drama Club

One step at a time, slowly emerging from the darkness into the light. The light blocks out everything, everything except the moment, the faces and the action a second away. This is the magic

of the stage, the beginning, middle and end of an actor's endeavour.

Drama club introduced me to this world. For a lot of us, Drama club became a medium for us to express ourselves, builds up and releases something pent up.

A group of about a dozen individuals thrown together by nothing more than a shared interest, soon we knew each other in the most unique and often amusing ways. People develop traits when they are shown an audience and told to be someone imaginary. Acting as someone else, brings the actors together. You know who laughs when they're supposed to be crying, who says i.e. fog boots and marsh horns" when put under the pressure of a peeling moustache.

In other words, Drama club offers a space to express and have fun and a glimpse or a peek into the world of theatre.

Magic of Sound

Magic of sound is a club founded and anchored by Geeta Akka for the past two years. It is not a club that can be explained using the traditional and conventional meaning in the sense that it is not confined to defined aims and objectives. Rather it is an exploratory journey where the themes are ever changing and boundless in range.

But broadly speaking it is a platform where members are introduced to deeply meaningful and technically brilliant movies, music and an expedition down memory lane where people revisit children's stories with beautiful illustration accompanying them. The stories have the uncanny quality of being imbued with deep moralistic meaning that transcends age and resonates with anybody who is attuned to intelligent thought.

It has been both tremendously enjoyable and memorable because all of us were able to appreciate and immerse ourselves in all the activities wholesomely and in the process discovered many new things. ◆



Rhythm and Harmony

Drama, Dance and Music

Drama

The Real Inspector Hound: A production of the Drama Club, seven of its members came together to put up this play by Tom Stoppard. Last year the eleventh put up 'The Mouse Trap'. As this was a parody of that play, it evoked much interest in the drama club. The play was a play within the play of two drama critics watching an over the top whodunnit. The actors performed very well, often doubling up for two parts and playing parts of the opposite gender. The question remains however, through the falling moustaches and scripted and unscripted double and triple roles, can anyone remember who was the real Inspector Hound?

Moliere's Hypochondriac: The comedy play, also titled 'The Imaginary Valid' was one of the eleventh's play. It was an in-house production wherein the costumes, setting and direction was all managed by the students with help from their English teacher. The play revolves around the central character Argan, a severe hypochondriac constantly outwitted by the maid Toinette. First premiered in 1673, the play does not seem to have lost its appeal even after four centuries. It was a whole school play and the juniors delighted in the play as they are often kept out of senior plays. Though lengthy, it kept the audience enthralled and in splits owing to some brilliant performances.

Patrick Hamilton's Gaslight: This too was an eleventh play meant only for senior school audience; perhaps rightly so for it looked into the darker aspects of human nature. Adapted from an American play in 1938, it portrays the life of a woman who is slowly being manipulated by her husband that she is becoming insane. It is a psychologically disturbing play, in which the students, young though they were did justice to the roles with a brilliant performance.

Gulaami Hamme Manzoor Nahin: Adapted from a production of Jan Natyamanch a Delhi based organisation, the play was staged on the Independence Day, August 15th. It was in the genre of 'nukkad' a form

of street theatre. It was innovatively done with minimal props and pungent punch lines. It dwelt on the hegemony of English over other languages in India. It was a forceful appeal to revive regional languages. This was a Class 10 play directed by Vishwanath Sir.

Save Water: It was an assembly play by the Silver House which was extremely well executed. Adapted from the popular TV series 'Satyameva Jayate', it was a play warning mankind what would happen if water was not used carefully. Interspersed with songs, dance and action it was well received by the audience. Costumes and props too were done imaginatively. The prop of a pitcher with a crow on it was iconic in its appeal.

Music

Sitar Concert by Shri Prabir Bhattacharya accompanied by Priyobrata Goswami on tabla: Prabirji is not only a sitarist but also an excellent vocalist. He gave an evening concert with Sitar followed by a morning assembly of vocal music including some of the familiar assembly songs. Both the recitals seem to have impressed the students. It is noteworthy that though the juniors had the choice of not attending after dinner time, most students returned to the musical feast. Sangeet Ratna Prabir Bhattacharya is one of the torchbearers of the new generation of Sitarists. He continues the internationally acclaimed legacy of the Maihar Gharana. Prabirji has been extensively trained by the doyen of Maihar Gharana Pt. Deepak Choudhury, a senior disciple of Pt. Ravi Shankar. His musical journey started in 1988 at the tender age of twelve with his father Sri Amal Kumar, and under the tutelage of Pandit Deepak Choudhury he developed into an artist of great maturity and aesthetics. He is the recipient of prestigious National Scholarship, sponsored

by Govt. of India. He has also been awarded the title of "Sangeet Visharad" by the Pracheen Kala Kendra, Chandigarh and of "Sangeet Ratna" by the Sarba Bharatiya Sangeet O Sanskriti Parishad, Kolkata. Recently he has been empanelled with ICCR, a project of Govt. of India. Prabir has been awarded by All India Radio (AIR) B-HIGH Grade. For more than 10 years, he has been presenting this art-form to discerning audiences in several cities of India and abroad.

Special music assembly by the music students: Ananya P, Mahati, Sloka, Shruti and Madhura presented five Carnatic compositions on the 4th of August. The first of these compositions was 'Smaranyaham' in raga ramapriya. It is a kriti composed by Muttuswamy Dikshitar and is a part of a group of kritis called navagruha krittis named after the nine planets. This kriti which was about the planet Rahu was set in adi talam. Three compositions in raaga vasantha were sung – a kriti, swarajatha and a varnam. Varnams are compositions which bring out the colour and nuances of a raaga in a nutshell. The last composition was called *natajanapalini*, in raaga *nalinakanti*. It is sung in praise of goddess Ambika. This raaga is derived from the mother raaga *sankarabaranam*. The kriti was composed by Thanjavur Shankar Ayyar.

Under the tutelage of Phani Kumar Sir, a mridangam assembly was rendered by three students: Saaketh Reddy, Kirtan Kumar and Aditya S.

Senior Musical Evening: The senior musical was well compered by the eleventh. They did away with their usual interspersing skits. Instead, they gave some interesting information about the song. There was a collective calmness throughout the programme which heightened the sensitivity of the audience. By doing away with the comic skits, there was space for

more songs. The songs showcased the talent of many senior boys and girls. Although there seemed an apparent lack of solo instrumental music, many songs came with the accompaniment of instruments. There were also many delectable solos and duets.

Dance

There were quite a few morning assembly dance programmes mainly by the senior dance students Devaki Priya, Eeksheka, Sanjula and Prabhanjana. The school dance programme though initially washed out by the rains was soon shifted to the inner stage and competed with the pattering feet of rain.

Nritya Ravali (Resonance of dance) was collection of dance items performed by 24 dancers ranging from classes fourth to twelfth. Venugopal Sir also performed a piece along with Prabhanjana.

The eight pieces performed were a mix of the Bharatakalanjali and Kalakshetra banis. It began with 'Ganesha Vandanam', where the dancers sanctify the stage with flowers and invoke the blessings of Lord Ganesa, the remover of all obstacles. The other pieces were mostly devotional pieces on Lord Shiva such as the Shiva Stuthi, Anandathandavam and Jathiswaram. There were also a few pieces on Lord Krishna and Goddess Saraswathi. One varnam was depicted from *Bhagavatham* and depicted episodes from Krishna's life from birth to death. There were scenes of butter smeared Krishna, Krishna with the Gopikas and Krishna in the blood-soaked world of angry men.

The performance concluded with an energetic rendition of Thillana which was accompanied by live vocal support.



Sports

Sports carries the pulse of students in a manner that no other activity does. Battles are lost and won in this arena. Conflicts are unfolded, and comrades are forged. This term has been a vibrant season for sports.

Coaching: A new sport has been introduced for junior girls: hockey. Sai Jagan Sir is their primary coach. He himself used to be a university player.

Cricket: Senior students played 3 matches. They won two and lost one. 6th and 7th played one match and lost. So did the 8th and 9th.

Boy's Football: Senior boys played three matches and won all the three despite competing with players much older than them. B team and C team too played one match each and won.

Girl's Football: Once again despite playing district level players, the girls won both the matches that they have played. The other teams have better skills, but our girls have the speed.

Boy's Basketball: 3 matches were played. One match was won by RV. One match was stopped because of rain. The other was stopped because of roughness.

Girl's Basketball: Two matches were played of which one was lost and the other was won. B team played one match and won.

Girl's Handball: Though they had coaching they had coaching they could not play any matches as there are no teams in the neighbourhood.

Hockey coaching: Classes 6th and 7th.

Tennis coaching: Coached by parent Mr Srinivas Davuluri. He has procured a ball feeding machine. He also videographed the matches to show where the game could be improved.

Some of the tenets of how selections are made in games and athletics:

- Focus is on inclusiveness rather than excellence.
- Everyone gets a chance, not just the best players.
- Sometimes the same student excels in many sports. The student then is then asked to drop some sports to give others a chance.
- Many open events have been introduced to encourage participation.
- All games are compulsory in Junior games. This makes them all rounded.
- In each category there are at least 15 to 16 events to choose from for sports meet.

Marathons:

For the last few years Rishi Valley has been encouraging senior students to take up long distance running. Thinking about running 21km, when you have never run more than 5km can seem like a daunting prospect at first. However with a regular training schedule, it is achievable. At the beginning of the year class 12 students are invited to join the training schedule- this consists of an easy paced long run of varying distances once a week and two shorter but faster runs during the week. The pace is entirely determined by the comfort level and prior experience of the participants. This year Vindhya, Rinchen, Sahana and Anish joined the running club and took part in the Hyderabad half marathon on the 26th of August. This is considered one of the toughest courses amongst all the major marathons because of its elevations. There are lots of places where you find yourself running uphill. It was a great experience for all the participants and left them with the feeling of wanting to participate in more of these kinds of runs. After the run we were invited for lunch at Rajesh sir's place (a parent of Rishi valley) who is the main organiser of the event. He had also invited one of the coaches who trains the Kenyan runners and it was a real treat interacting with him.

School arranged a quarter marathon on September 30th. Juniors ran 5.5 km and seniors ran 10 km.

Three teachers ran in the Coimbatore marathon – Rajagopal, Vijayendra Ramola and Sai Jagan. This is what Ramola Sir would like to share about running:

“One can run as many marathons as possible. One can walk, jog, cycle or swim. Wherever one can save one must save fuel, save environment and stay fit I am running every day and at least 3 to 4 half or full marathons every year for the past ten years. You can see a change in you when you make running your passion”.



Miscellaneous News

Accolades for teachers:

Swathi Akka was recently interviewed by the 'Andhra Jyothi' literary page on 24th September. Besides her two poetic anthologies, *aaviri* (vapour) and *koneti metlu* (steps into a temple pond), enquiries were made about her upcoming series *gaddipochalu* (blades of grass) and her perceptions on conceiving poetry.

In the course of her interview, Swathi akka says that her present series are similar to the musings of one's observations and thought processes that are produced with a poetic imagery and context. Subtle details add seasoning to the political situation of various elements; for example, a girl who couldn't attend her exam in time may reflect upon her situation at home or the transport issues, but her pain is about being helpless at the point of not giving her exam. She says that a poet's pain in his or her poetry can never be compared to the pain experienced in a regular life as the former is more vast and intense considering all the universal aspects involved at the point in time that produce the situation. This may linger on to the poet for ages, gathering all the emotions named and unnamed that push the poet to conceive a poem.

Her recent writings reflect the varied spectrum of needs that different people have for their emotional wellbeing/needs. This variation in needs creates a lot of power dynamics and emotional exploitation which is presented from a women's point of view. The writer or the poet should always be prepared to collapse one's pyramid of beliefs and limitations built in the course of time, as truth is relative, and it is dynamic in aesthetic/creative field of literature. She emphasizes, "like all other emotions, poetry is a primary instinct for me to express my core self."

On a different note Murali Sir has received a grant for senior fellowship award by Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Bird Preserve Anniversary

The Bird Preserve Anniversary was celebrated on July 27, 2018. Dr A J T Johnsingh, who inspired by Jim Corbett embarked on a journey of wild life sciences and has trained scores of young biologists and wildlife managers at the Wildlife Institute of India, gave a remarkable presentation followed by several interactions with several group of students including a bird watching session wherein every step was punctuated by his vast wisdom and knowledge. On the occasion, he also released a Telugu-English booklet on 'Reptiles of Rishi Valley'. This book has been compiled by Dr Suresh Jones. A Telugu compilation will also be released soon in order to be distributed in the surrounding villages to spread an awareness about snakes.

Movies This Term

Les Miserables
The Second Mother (Brazilian)
Wonder
Coco
12 Angry Men
A Little Princess
Welcome To the Sticks (French – Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis)
The Little Prince
The Greatest Showman
The Secret Life of Pets
Newton
A Dog's Purpose
Murder on the Orient Express
Cool Runnings (Sports Day movie)
Yevade Subramanyam (Telugu)
Jumanji
Truman Show
Star Wars – The Last Jedi

Documentaries This Term

1. The Amazing Octopus
2. Inventions of the 20th century
3. Mystery of Easter Islands
4. Finding the snow leopard
5. Hyperloops
6. Spy planes
7. The Biggest factory in the world
8. Safari by balloon

Subabul Stripping

On October 2, the entire senior school took time off until juice break to deleaf subabul. Some years ago subabul was used to afforest the land. But it soon began to grow prolifically and became an invasive species. It is believed that if the trees are deleafed two years in a row, they will soon die. This was Radhika Akka's idea to commemorate Gandhi Jayanthi. Many students were happy to miss two periods and do work for the land. Some came up with innovative ideas of swinging from the branch tops and breaking it. Many felt that an activity such as this once in a month would connect them closer to the land.

DH News

The Rishi Valley dining hall has hard working staff who work eight hours a day. The dining hall (popularly known as DH among students) opens at 4 in the morning. The staff starts cooking breakfast at 4:30 am and ends at 6:45 am. For lunch, they start cutting at 9:00 am and end at 11:00 am. They start making chapattis at 11:00 am and continue till 1:00 pm to serve us hot chapattis. Cooking for dinner starts at 3:00 pm and ends at 6:30 pm, just before junior dinner. They make 1300-1800 chapattis depending on the days. The fire for cooking is powered by LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas) and bio fuel steam. The vegetables come from Rishi Valley Veg Garden, Rishi Valley Estate,

nearby villages and Madanapalle. The DH has not introduced many new dishes this year. They have only introduced Multigrain and cheese dosa and also sprouted green gram mushroom masala. These dishes are only available in special dinner.

RiVAA Initiative

RiVAA's first internship happened in June When Arati brought her son Nakul. Nakul gelled well with senior students from day 1. Whether he was playing games with them or sitting with them at meal times, there seemed to be an instantaneous bond between him and the students. His internship included working closely with the estate and preparing an introductory video on Rishi Valley for the future internees.

The School (KFI)

Twenty five Class 12 students and three teachers from The School (KFI) visited Rishi Valley . They dined and danced with the students, played a match, climbed the hills, watched the birds, saw the outreach programmes and left their own indelible mark on the people they have met here. They said that it felt like being with family. The feeling was mutual.

Student Forum : Some Pointers

1. The DH seating issue - the students wanted a new way of sitting in the DH. Some of the ideas brought out were musical dinners where music liked by all is decided by teachers like Aniket Sir and Rahee Akka and played once a month during dinner time.
2. Involving more students in games by offering activities like cycling and trekking.
3. Keeping up with the world -- suggestions for regular articles to be put up on boards in various places as it was felt that it is important to put up hard copies of these articles up as no one has time to read

them in mailing and current affairs discussions on Saturday evenings. To keep people interested it would be nice if this could happen next term.

4. Pairing -- we discussed the issue of pairing and felt that a lot of teasing etc starts in the 7th and 8th and wanted to talk to them about the problem; however, the discussion was left incomplete when it came to the topic of relationships in sr. school. No ideas were given as to how to stop it.

5. Field work to be done in large groups as and when real work is required. The area behind the DH has been cleared and many students were interested in landscaping it.

6. Talk on girls' clothing was left mid-way where many girls felt the policy was too strict.

7. We wanted to set up programs for the school. There was an idea of setting up a concert but could not be done this term as people performing were not ready and hope to do it next term.

8. The 11th wanted to have Assembly and DH committees back and have assured that if given a part of next term as a trial period for these committees they may be able to assure the teachers that they can handle the responsibility.

9. Issues of cameras: there was an idea that digital cameras may be bought class wise and stored with the class teachers so it may be brought out on special occasions and hikes etc.

10. Teacher student relationships were discussed and there were ideas to do activities as a community to help build up this bond.

Senior RV Quiz 2018

Written by the RV Quiz Committee

Some of the most memorable traditions in the valley are those that bring students and teachers together in a group activity. One of these is the annual Rishi Valley quiz, which was held in August 2018. The quiz was organised by a committee

of nine 12th grade students, with some assistance from the teachers.

The focus this year was on ensuring that the quiz wasn't just a collection of trivia nuggets. Ideally a good quiz question sparks curiosity and further inquiry into a new area. Emphasis was also placed on encouraging diversity both in the composition of teams and the range of topics covered.

This year's quiz received enthusiastic participation from over 100 students and teachers. Eight teams qualified for the semi-finals, both of which turned out to be close contests. Four teams made the finals with the team consisting of Aman, Aashini, Ria and Anagh Sir prevailing in the end.

Would you have made the cut in the RV quiz? Here are 3 questions to test your knowledge:

1. This body of fiction was created by a person named 'Georges Remi', but under his pseudonym. This pseudonym was created in an interesting way. The author took the initials from his name, reversed their order and then spelt them out the way it would be pronounced in French. What body of work did he create?
2. Complete this quote by Gary Linekar: "Football is a simple game. Twenty two men chase a ball for 90 minutes and at the end,"
3. The very first Indian movie that had sound in it was made in 1931 and directed by Ardeshir Irani. Name the movie.

Answers:

- 1) Tintin
- 2) "The Germans always win..."
- 3) Alam Ara

