



The SJA Epistle

Inspire
Innovate
Imagine



Thirty second Edition
October - 2024

Principal's Message

Dear Students, Parents, and Staff,

As we reflect on the past quarter, I am reminded of a story about a young athlete named Mia. Every day, she would train tirelessly, often running laps around her school's track long after her peers had gone home. One evening, her coach asked her why she pushed herself so hard. Mia smiled and replied, "I don't just want to win; I want to inspire others to believe they can too." Mia's determination and spirit resonate deeply with the journey we've embarked upon as a school community.

As we mark the 90th year of our school's remarkable journey, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this incredible milestone. To the teachers, staff, students, alumni, parents, and supporters—thank you for your unwavering dedication, hard work, and commitment to excellence. Together, we continue to honour our rich history while striving towards even greater achievements.

I am proud to announce that our students achieved outstanding results in the board examinations, with an impressive overall pass rate that exceeded previous years. This success is a testament to the hard work of our students and the dedicated guidance from our teachers. Congratulations to all— You have set a high standard for future cohorts! I wish all the students, the very best to continue the academic excellence.

This quarter has been nothing short of remarkable, showcasing the unwavering commitment to excellence from our students and staff. Our sporting teams have made us proud, demonstrating teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship. We celebrated several victories at National and Regional levels; and in Inter-school competitions, wherein our athletes showcased their talent and dedication. I want to

commend both our players and coaches for their relentless efforts and commitment to achieving excellence.

This quarter was also vibrant with cultural and literary activities. Our annual literary events saw students express their creativity through poetry, drama, and storytelling. The talent displayed during these competitions were awe-inspiring, and I encourage all students to continue exploring their cultural and literary passions. Special thanks to our cultural committee and English department for organizing these events that helped to nurture special skills.

We hosted several seminars and workshops for both staff and students, covering topics ranging from professional development, cyber psychology, cyber - crimes, mental health awareness to career readiness. These sessions provided our students and teachers with invaluable insights and practical skills for their future endeavours. I want to extend my gratitude to our guest speakers and faculty for their contributions and to all students for their enthusiastic participation.

None of these achievements would be possible without the support of our entire school community—parents, teachers, and staff. Your involvement, whether through volunteering, attending events, or cheering on our students, plays a crucial role in creating a nurturing and empowering environment. Together, we have fostered a culture of excellence and growth.

Let us carry the inspiration of Mia's story with us. Let us continue to push boundaries, support one another, and strive for greatness in all that we do. Thank you for your continued dedication and support.

My sincere appreciation to the editorial board for their commendable job of piecing together all the important events for this publication. As we look forward to the rest of the year, I want to encourage each of you to set your own goals. Remember the story of Thomas Edison, who famously failed many times before inventing the light bulb. His perseverance and commitment to his vision led to remarkable success. Like Edison, I urge you to work hard, stay focused, and embrace challenges along the way.

Together, let's continue to strive for excellence in all that we do.

Bro. Joseph M Joseph
Principal





SJA Chronicles

Mar	21st	New Academic Session Begins
Apr	5th	Orientation Ceremony for LKG and Class VI
	27th	Investiture Ceremony for Junior and Middle School
	30th	Investiture Ceremony for Senior School
May	1st	Labour Day Celebrations
	4th	Rev. Bro. E.T. Dunne Debate (Middle School)
	16th	Farewell to Bro. Jeyaseelan and welcoming Bro. Joseph M. Joseph
	18th-21st	Confluence 2k24
	22nd	Summer Vacation Commences
July	8th	School Reopens
	10th	1st Unit Test Commences
	15th	Frank Anthony Memorial Interschool Debate
Aug	6th-7th	Cyber-crime Seminar and Workshop
	9th	Aquarium 2k24
	10th	Rev. Bro. E.T. Dunne Memorial Interhouse Debate
	15th	Independence Day Celebrations
	24th	Patrician Brothers' Interhouse GK Quiz
	28th	J.L. D'Souza Memorial Inter School English Debate
Sep	5th	Teachers' Day
	9th	1st Term Examination Begins



Editor's DESK

Once upon a time in the magical land of Epistle, stories were spun with threads of gold, dreams took flight on the wings of imagination and every page turned was a portal to a new adventure. And so as the sun sets on another vibrant season, we are elated to present the latest edition of our Epistle, a journey through the ideas which are crafted with the spirit of adventure, discovery and reflection.

In this thirty second edition, we invite you to embark on a captivating journey through the realms of wonder and creativity. From the hidden corners of the enchanted forests to the bustling streets of mythical cities, our writers have ventured far and wide to bring you tales that transcend the ordinary. Join us in unraveling the mysteries of this edition, where each story is a treasure waiting to be discovered. The past four months have taught me a lot more than I can put in words. Firstly, to be more organized and of course the twists and turns, the highs and lows- each experience shaped me and my artistic and ingenious team and contributed to the tapestry of our lives. I feel euphoric to be the editor-in-chief for such an exuberant crew without whom this epistle could have never come to a definite conclusion. I would like to thank each member of my hearty crew for being so cooperative and invariably working day and night to accomplish this milestone. Winsome Saanvi for efficiently managing the middle section. Eclectic Maanya for skillfully seeing through the senior school. Vivacious Alia for keeping us intact with the junior section and avid Shubhankar for being at the helm of the sports section.

This being the very first edition of the epistle published by us, nervousness and anticipation did have our backs but when you have the best team, nothing is impossible. The coming out of this epistle would not have been possible without the unwavering guidance of Ma'am Sanchita Thakur, Ma'am Rachna Gulati and Ma'am Kriti Bhanot. We would also like to thank our patron, Rev. Bro. Joseph for giving us this opportunity. And so with immense happiness and tears of joy, I present to you the very first edition of the Epistle for the academic year 2024-25. "Enter a magical world and let the enchantment of words carry you away. Here's to finding joy, wonder and a bit of magic in every word"...

Happy Magical Reading!!

Opinions

Bid farewell to

Rev. Bro. Jeyaseelan.

Welcome

Rev. Bro. Joseph M. Joseph, Mrs. Sneha Batra, Ms. Fazaila Quddusi, Mrs. Babli, Ms. Sakshi Kumar, Mrs. Neha Maithani.

Acknowledge

The SJA faculty for organizing Frank Anthony Memorial All India Inter School debate, J.L. D'Souza Memorial Inter School debate and Rev. Bro. Keogh Memorial Football Tournament successfully.

Congratulations

ISCE and ISC batch of 2023-24 for the remarkable result

Applaud

- ↗ SJA DEBSOC for winning numerous laurels for the school.
- ↗ Tennis team for yet again proving its mettle to the opponents.
- ↗ All the participants of Mindspree event held at St. Jude's School for bringing in the overall trophy.

Thanks

- ↗ Our Principal, Rev. Bro. Joseph M. Joseph and Community leader, Rev. Bro. Astinus Kujur for guiding the Josephites throughout.
- ↗ The entire ancillary staff for their undying support in all events of the school calendar.



TOPPERS



ICSE - ANUSHKA KOTNALA 99.4%



ISC - ANANYA VIJJAN 99.5%

Results after improvement

ISC

ANUSHREE BUTOLA - 94.25%

3rd Topper (92.25%)

RIDDHI GARG - 92.25%

(91.25%)

ICSE

SIYA MAHESHWARI - 97.6%

(97.2%)

RAKSHIT BHATT - 90%

(89.8%)

ROHIT PANTHRY - 90%

(89.6%)

-Titiksha Chauhan, XI-C



CO-ORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

SENIOR SECTION



'Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.'

After completing a fulfilling 2023-24 session, we started afresh in April with the heart full of vigour and a smile on our faces all set for another year of challenges, achievements and modifications.

'A farewell is necessary before we meet again.'

The school bid farewell to Rev. Brother Jeyaseelan in the second week of May and wholeheartedly welcomed Rev. Brother Joseph as the new Principal. I am sure all of us will flourish under the love and care of Brother.

I take this opportunity to congratulate all the students of the ICSE and the ISC batch 2023-24 for producing that phenomenal result as always.

As the school completes 90 glorious years, I take immense pride in congratulating the Principal - Rev. Brother Joseph and the entire SJA family.

Let's take a moment to thank the Almighty for all that he has provided us with and for all that he will.

God bless.

MR. RAMAN SETHI

"Change is the essence of life. Be willing to surrender what you are for what you can be."

Greetings and salutations.

An adage goes... "The only permanent thing in life is change," and change is what you have been witnessing in the junior school over the last couple of months.

On behalf of the entire junior school, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to our new Principal, Rev. Bro. Joseph. We look forward to your energy, vision, and leadership. As the junior Josephites involve themselves in the various co-curricular activities from music to sports, participating in public speaking to setting the stage on fire with their exceptional narrative skills, exhilarating dance moves and emotive acting, it is a pleasure to see them transform from hesitant tiny tots to confident achievers. They have learnt to work as a team, appreciate the achievement of their fellow Josephites and even take care of their immediate surroundings through the various cleaning drives, conducted from time to time in the school premises.

I would like to thank Rev. Bro. Joseph, Principal, SJA, Rev. Bro. Astinus, the Community Leader, and the Patrician Brothers for providing the young Josephites with a plethora of platforms to learn and grow. And to you too, dear parents, for your constant and unceasing support in our endeavors to help these young ones discover that they can change the world if they are willing to change their thoughts.

God bless, stay safe and healthy.

MRS. VIMMI SONDHI

JUNIOR SECTION





LKG ORIENTATION

"Walking through the doors on the first day of school is like stepping into a book of endless possibilities, waiting to be written by eager minds".

On the 5th of April, 2024, our tiny toddlers took their first steps into our institution; into the classes of LKG by attending the orientation ceremony along with their parents. Our Principal Rev. Bro. Jeyaseelan S. welcomed the seven new batches of LKG students and their parents on the grand day. Our Vice Principal, Rev. Bro. Astinus K., Rev. Bro. J.C. Carroll, Junior School Coordinator, Ms. Vimmi Sondhi, Kindergarten Coordinator, Mrs. S. Lepcha and the middle and the senior coordinators were also present on this euphoric occasion. The programme was hosted by the students of Class I, who indeed made the special day truly memorable. The event began with a prayer dance by the students of class I, followed by an indulging cowboy dance by UKG students and lastly a graceful classical dance by Class V students. Junior school counsellor then shared an insight with the parents on how to make school a safe space for students. Rev. Bro. Jeyaseelan also requested the parents to be involved with their kids and face the challenges positively. The programme culminated with the junior school choir singing the School Song and the little ones leaving the campus with a balloon and a gift hamper.

-Alia Bist, IX-C



INVESTITURE CEREMONY

"Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others." -Jack Welch

On 27th April 2024, the Junior School of St. Joseph's Academy proudly commemorated its annual Investiture ceremony, marking a pivotal moment in the development of our young and budding leaders. The esteemed Chief Guest for this occasion was Mrs. Swati S. Bhaduria, IAS, Additional Secretary to Hon'ble Governor, Uttarakhand. Our Principal Rev. Bro. Jeyaseelan, Vice Principal Rev. Bro. Astinus, Rev. Bro. Carroll and the respected coordinators were also present on this gracious occasion.

The investiture ceremony is a tradition which symbolises the passing on of the lighting torch to a new generation of aspiring leaders from the four Houses- Bergin, Dooley, Duffy, and Donovan, to lead their peers by example, ensuring excellence and integrity in all endeavours. After lighting of the lamp, the school choir delivered a melodious rendition followed by students of class III and class V presenting a western dance on various songs. Ms. Vimmi Sondhi administered the oath to the 18 members of the council. The students of UKG then passed the candles onto the appointed council. As the event came towards an end, the Chief Guest inspired everyone with her motivating words encouraging the students to pursue their dreams.

The ceremony concluded with the newly elected Head Boy and Head Girl presenting their gratitude, followed by the chorus of the school song.

-Alia Bist, IX-C



LABOUR DAY

"A hand that shapes even an ordinary vessel is the one bound to herald an ever lasting impact."

This sentence could not be any truer for our helping staff and all other personnel whose tedious perseverance is often overlooked. So, to commemorate these heroes, the students of Class III, organized its special assembly on 1st May, 2024.

The show began with a marvellous dance. The little kids from all sections danced in pretty red suits leaving a mark on everyone with their grace and appealing dance moves. It highlighted the importance of our school's motto 'Work is Worship' teaching us about the equality of all work. Next came a fantastic fashion show where children gave an amazing runway walk dressed up in different outfits showcasing various professions and their importance.

The programme was indeed astounding, bound to be etched in every student's heart.

Alia Bist, IX-C

BRO. JEYASEELAN'S FAREWELL

"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile."

-Albert Einstein

On the 13th of May 2024, the students and teachers of the junior school gathered to bid farewell to our Principal Rev. Bro. Jeyaseelan. A special morning assembly was conducted for the same. The students of class V began the event by expressing their heartfelt gratitude to Bro. Jeyaseelan for his immense guidance and support to the young minds. To soothe the sad hearts of the children, a versatile fusion dance was presented which left everyone wonderstruck. In the end, Brother addressed the gathering, expressing his thoughts and gratitude as he wished success to all the children for their future endeavours.

Alia Bist, IX-C



CULTURAL DAY AND WELCOME CEREMONY

"We are on Earth to take care of life. We are on Earth to take care of each other."
-Xiye Bastida

On 17th May 2024, the junior school organised its annual cultural day with much pomp and grandeur. With our new Principal, Rev. Bro. Joseph M. Joseph, the show began with a prayer by the Kindergarten Coordinator, Mrs. Lepcha to invoke the blessings of the Almighty. This was followed by lighting of the ceremonial lamp. After a lot of excitement among the young minds, the event began with the theme '**'Save Mother Earth'**'.

First came the devotional dance dedicated to Lord Krishna followed by a breathtaking and exuberant Bollywood walk of fame by the youngsters of UKG. After astounding performances, a mesmerizing butterfly dance by the students of class 1 showcasing the life of a butterfly, left everyone joyous. To honour and spread the significance of saving our mother Earth, students of classes III and IV spoke on the conservation of water, igniting awareness among the audience. At last, our former Principal, Rev. Bro. Jeyaseelan was honoured with bouquets by the students of the middle and the senior school as we bid him farewell with a heavy heart. After much excitement, the event concluded with the junior school choir proudly singing the school song.

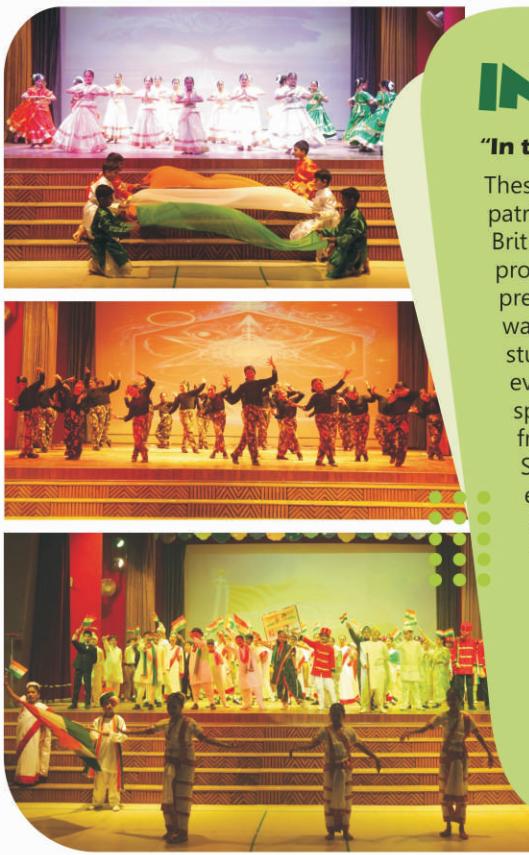
This day also served as a welcome ceremony for Rev. Bro. Joseph where the young students of the junior school gave Brother a hearty welcome and delivered stunning performances.

-Alia Bist, IX-C



DECLAMATION

On the 25th of July 2024, the junior school organised its prestigious Declamation Competition, a battle of words and wits among the students of classes IV and V to shape our future debaters and inculcate the skills of public speaking among them. Each participant put forth his or her views on the topics confidently, convincing the audience completely. The topic under fire for class IV was 'Country life is better than city life', and for class V 'Exam results reflect the true potential of a child.' The young orators won the hearts of one and all with their innocence and confidence.



INDEPENDENCE DAY

"In the truest sense, freedom cannot be bestowed, it must be won"

These words resonate with the spirit of the freedom struggle laid down by our patriotic freedom fighters in order to free their motherland from the clutches of the British. To commemorate this, the junior school organised its Independence Day programme on the 13th of August. This auspicious occasion began with a speech presented by the Head Boy. With great enthusiasm, a graceful semi classical dance was presented before the audience. Next came an electrifying performance by the students of classes I and II on the songs 'Rang de Basanti' and 'Lohe ka Banda' evoking a sense of patriotism among the audience. Next came an inspiring Hindi speech delivered by a student of class 5 telling us about the story behind our freedom and the importance of independence.

Soon came the artistic yoga dance by the girls of classes IV and V which left everyone awestruck. The school band presented patriotic songs like 'Desh ki Dharti' and 'Ae Watan' and a Hindi musical on the song 'Azadi ki Dhadkan' which depicted the struggle of the people in order to gain independence. These songs rekindled patriotic feelings in the hearts of everyone. Next came a performance on Vande Mataram by the students of classes IV and V. However, the highlight of the show was the tricolour formation by the students of LKG on the song 'Saare Jahan Se Accha' which left the audience amazed. Bro. Joseph addressed the gathering in Hindi which definitely took everyone by surprise. He emphasised on the fact that our independence is precious and that we must be grateful for it. The programme concluded with the school choir singing the national anthem.

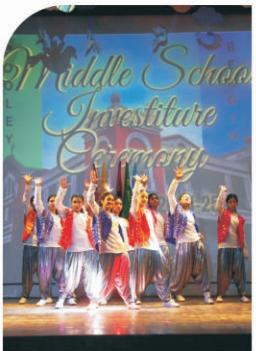
-Alia Bist, IX-C

SPELL BEE



Spell Bee is a competition that serves as a testament to the importance of hard work and perseverance of the students. The hours of study, the discipline required to memorise and understand thousands of words, and the courage to stand in front of an audience to spell challenging words are no small feats. With this thought in mind, the junior school organised its Spell Bee Competition on the 23rd of August, 2024. One contestant was chosen from each section to represent the class. The young participants performed brilliantly garnering praises from one and all.





"A great leader does not set out to be a leader, they set out to make a difference."

The eagerly awaited occasion of St. Joseph's Academy, 'The Investiture Ceremony' was witnessed on the 27th of April, 2024. The auditorium of St. Joseph's Academy reverberated with the rapturous reception of the Josephites as the school witnessed the Investiture Ceremony of the Middle School with full zeal and zest. The young leaders were entrusted with the huge responsibility of carrying forward the glory of the school. This is one of those momentous occasions wherein the school entrusts hope and faith in the newly elected school council. The occasion was graced by the Chief Guest, Rev. Bro. Arockiaraj, Deputy Province leader and Mrs. Ridhim Aggarwal, Special Secretary Home/ IG SDRF as the Special Guest. The Chief Guest inspired the newly elected student council with her motivational words. The Principal, Rev. Bro. Jeyaseelan addressed the students discussing the importance of education as a means to acquire knowledge and a tool to shape one's character.

-Saanvi Sadana, IX-E

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

"True leaders don't create followers, they create more leaders"

On 30th April 2024, St. Joseph's Academy organized the Senior School Investiture Ceremony with great enthusiasm and decorum. The programme commenced with the Josephites welcoming the Chief Guest, Mrs. Radha Raturi, IAS Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand, the Principal Rev. Bro. Jeyaseelan, the Vice Principal, Rev. Bro. Astinus Kujur and Rev. Bro. Carroll. The event commenced with the lighting of the lamp followed by a mesmerizing prayer dance. The newly elected council body received a huge applause as the young leaders marched up the stage with a vision to uphold the values and live up to the motto of the school, Laborare est orare.

The Principal administered the oath to the council body and motivated them to render their duties with diligence, humility and a sense of service. The Principal, the Chief Guest, The Vice Principal, the Senior School Coordinators and the House Moderators of all the four Houses pinned the badges onto the prefects and congratulated them.

The Chief Guest also felicitated the Runner-Up and the Best House for the academic session 2023-24.

As the day came to an end, Rev. Bro. Carroll addressed the gathering, motivating the Josephites and instilling a sense of pride and purpose among the newly elected council members.

Maanya Kaur Sethi, IX-E



LABOUR DAY

"Without labour, nothing prospers."

On the 1st of May, 2024, the Josephites gathered to recognise the contributions of the ancillary staff and to express their heartfelt gratitude for the same.

The event commenced with the lighting of the lamp by the Principal, Rev. Bro. Jeyaseelan, Rev. Bro. Carroll and our supervisor Mr. V. S. Rautela.

After an enchanting dance performance by the middle schoolers, the tech board of the Middle School acknowledged the dignity of labour by playing an incentivizing PowerPoint presentation.

The school choir entertained the gathering with soulful songs. The middle schoolers left the audience spellbound by a skit showcasing the importance of labour in our daily lives. The Principal, Rev. Bro. Jeyaseelan felicitated the ancillary staff and expressed his heartfelt appreciation.

-Saanvi Sadana, IX-E



BRO. E.T. DUNNE MEMORIAL

INTER-CLASS DEBATE COMPETITION - MIDDLE



"Debates are not a mere act of making gestures, they are an ART which connect people."

On May 4th 2024, the auditorium reverberated with cheers and applause as the budding debaters of Middle School stood eye to eye in the prestigious Bro. E.T. Dunne Memorial Inter Class Debate Competition.

Mrs. Manju Sharma and Mrs. Navneet Ganguly judged the English debate whereas Mrs. Lily Joseph and Mrs. Manju Thapliyal were the judges for the Hindi debate. The topic for Class VIII debate was, "The competitive nature of reality shows can destroy the self-esteem of the participants." All the speakers represented different states expressing their arguments either for or against the topic. Each speaker faced a challenging rebuttal at the end. The topic for Class VII debaters was, "Artificial Intelligence is a threat to humans." They too expressed their views upon the topic under hammer. This was the first time that the debate was conducted in a Parliamentary format. The event concluded with the prize distribution followed by the Principal, Rev. Bro. Jeyaseelan proposing the vote of thanks.

-Saanvi Sadana, IX-E

INAUGURATION CEREMONY

"The secret of getting ahead in life is to start a new thing."

On the 8th of July, 2024, the brand new floor of the Millennium Block was inaugurated with a hope that the budding Josephites of the middle school will now have access to better facilities. This ceremony was a moment of pride and celebration for the management, staff and students of SJA. The Chief Guest for this event was IAS, Shri Banshidhar Tiwari, Director General of Education and Information & VC MDDA, Government of Uttarakhand. Our Principal, Rev. Bro. Joseph M. Joseph and our Community Leader, Rev. Bro. Astinus Kujur were also present. They proudly inaugurated the new floor by cutting the ribbon. This was followed by a charismatic performance of the school choir which was nothing less than mellifluous. The esteemed Chief Guest praised the ideas which were kept in mind while planning the new infrastructure and urged the students to enjoy the best of facilities in school. The efficacious event culminated with a thank you card being presented to the Chief Guest.

Saanvi Sadana, IX-E



The cultural extravaganza of the budding Josephites of the Middle School was conducted on 18th May, 2024. The auditorium of St. Joseph's Academy echoed with zestful and energetic cheers of the middle schoolers applauding for their respective Houses. All the Houses showcased their talent to the best of their abilities. The identification of each House was kept anonymous for a fair result. A plethora of activities such as Hindi dramatics, movie making, the graceful classical dance, energetic Indian dance and the most awaited, western dance were judged by the experts. The hard work put in by the students and teachers in-charge of each House was palpable in their jaw-dropping performances. The first exhilarating day of the cultural fest ended with the encouraging words of our Principal, Rev. Bro. Joseph M. Joseph.

Saanvi Sadana, IX-E



Confluence 2k24 was a marvellous plethora of vibrant performances, mingled with immense joy and echoes of laughter as the Josephites enthralled everyone with their artistic creations. On the 18th of May, the event was set in motion. The dance performances by the four Houses left the entire audience and our esteemed panel of judges mesmerized. The lazy dance on iconic and evergreen Bollywood songs and the fashion show in unique eye-catching dresses were marked as the show stopping events, winning the hearts of the high-spirited audience. The band, the choir and other musical events carved gentle smiles on everyone's faces. The art and the tech events revealed the unseen hard work and efforts behind. The dramatics segment set an environment of suspense and thrill. The lazy dance of Bergin House, the English play of Dooley House, the fashion show of Donovan House and the 'adapt the tune' of Duffy House were the phenomenal performances of the week.

The Chief Guest of the event, Bollywood's popular singer, **Mr. Brijesh Shandilya** took the spotlight of the day as he mesmerized everyone with his euphonious voice setting the spirits of the audience higher.

As suspense climaxed, the event marched towards its culmination with Donovan House winning the Confluence 2K24 while Duffy House being adjudged as the runner-up House. The Principal, Rev. Bro. Joseph, congratulated each and every student and teacher for putting up a spectacular and commendable show. The three-day long Confluence proved to be a platform for all students to showcase their talent and receive recognition. The school maintained the legacy of extraordinary performances being put up each year by our young and talented Josephites.



Maanya Kaur Sethi, IX-E





A TRIP OF A LIFETIME GOA



On the morning of 14th March 2024, the students of class XI assembled to board the bus for Delhi airport for their trip to Goa with much excitement and anticipation. After landing, they reached their hotel- Hyatt Centric. On the second day, the students visited the beaches of Baga and Anjuna. From exploring the local markets to visiting historical sites such as Aguada fort, Dona Paula and the Basilica of Bom Jesus Church, the students had immense fun. They also went to the beautiful Calangute beach and experienced thrilling water sports. The next day, they proceeded on to a river cruise, further bidding a farewell to Goa, boarding back with unforgettable memories and glee in their eyes.

THE HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN MANALI



One hundred and five students of class IX assembled on the morning of 14th March, 2024 for their long-awaited trip to Manali. After an arduous bus trip, the Josephites were welcomed at the Grand Mastiff Manali Resort. They went for a visit to Kya Camps and participated in various adventurous activities followed by a challenging trek to Mata Hadimba Devi Temple, after which they ensued an exploration of the Mall Road. The students visited the Solang valley followed by a DJ dance night. On the final day, they visited the Rock Garden, Chandigarh, and made their way back to Dehradun with a heart filled with zeal and enthusiasm, marking the conclusion of this unforgettable trip.

Maanya Kaur Sethi IX-E





CLASS VII EXCURSION TO SHIMLA AND CHAIL

On the radiant morning of 16th March, 2024 the gleeful students of class VII left the school campus in pre-booked buses for an enriching trip to Shimla and Chail. The fresh air reverberated with sounds of the excited Josephites as they enthusiastically departed for their destination. Their first stop was Chail Villas whose beautiful ambience made everyone feel enthusiastic about the trip. There they enjoyed sightseeing and many enriching adventures to freshen their minds after their stressful final examinations. Then they headed forward towards Shimla where they visited The Mall Road and Monument of Advanced Studies which unveiled rich history of the region. The students returned after a cheerful trip having made cherishable memories.



CLASS VIII EXCURSION TO JAIPUR

On 16th March 2024, the students of Class VIII set out for a five day incredible tour to the pink city, Jaipur. The excited Josephites left Dehradun at 6 a.m. They took a halt and visited Sawai Bagh where they cherished the mouth watering flavours of Rajasthan. They witnessed a safari through Ranthambore National Park and came across the natural habitat and were thereby enthralled by the grandeur and charms of the city. The cheerful group visited Jantar Mantar, the World Trade Park Mall and the majestic Ajmer Fort which drove them back to the Era of the Rajputs. After having visited the beautiful city, the students returned to Dehradun on 20th March thereby making the best memories of their lives.



CLASS VI EXCURSION TO JIM CORBETT PARK AND NAINITAL

On the joy filled morning of 18th March, 2024 the students of class VI left for Jim Corbett Park and Nainital. They were welcomed at the luxurious Banyan Retreat Resort. Thereafter they headed for a thrilling safari drive through the park. This trip focussed on imparting knowledge about wildlife and the importance of nature to the upcoming generation. Exploring the untamed beauty of the park, they were reminded of the delicate balance between man and nature. The Josephites then moved with zeal and enthusiasm to the zoo at Nainital where they were taught about the endangered species and ways of safeguarding them. After a shopping spree at The Mall Road, they visited the Girija Devi temple and the Corbett museum. They returned to Dehradun with a cheerful experience and enthusiasm to commence the new academic session.





INDEPENDENCE Day



"Our flag does not fly because the wind blows it; it does with the last breath of every soldier who died defending it."

As the celebration of the 78th Independence Day commenced, these words rekindled the patriotic zeal in each person who stood as a proud Indian in the gathering.

After the flag unfurling, the day trailed off with the welcome of the Chief Guest Major General Mukesh Agarwal who was accompanied by his wife Mrs. Jaya Agarwal. After bowing heads to pray to the Almighty, thanking him for the air of freedom, Josephites witnessed a series of mesmerizing performances which awakened a strong feeling of patriotism, love and respect for the nation. The programme marched towards its culmination with the august gathering standing proudly with love and respect for the country, recalling all the struggles and sacrifices, while singing the national anthem.



Teachers' Day is celebrated each year with great enthusiasm and respect, commemorating the birth anniversary of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan and honouring the efforts of our educators. This year, on 4th September 2024, the Middle School Council organised a special programme in the auditorium expressing appreciation for the teachers who dedicate themselves to this noble profession. The event commenced with a skit that highlighted the positive influence that teachers have on their students' lives. This was followed by a captivating fusion dance performance. There were many graceful and energetic performances which left the audience enthralled. The programme concluded with the presentation of planters to the teachers, symbolising gratitude and admiration for their hard work.

Saanvi Sadana, IX-E

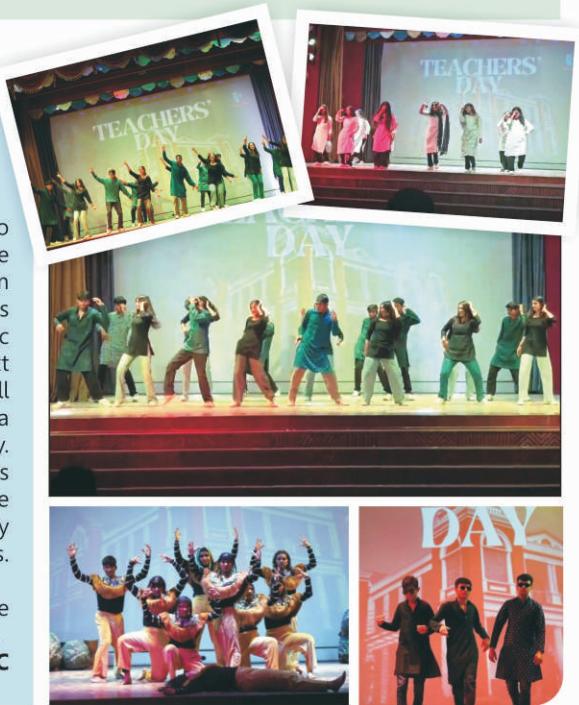
Middle Section

TEACHERS' *Day* CELEBRATIONS

"A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind and touches a heart"

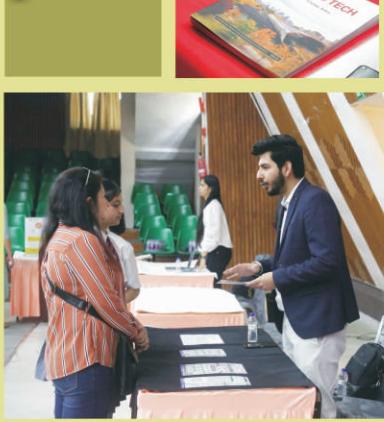
Behind every child who believes in himself, is a teacher who believed in him first. Our teachers have always been a beacon of guiding light for us. Their lessons go beyond textbooks and classrooms, they always show us the right way and are the architect of our future. And so on the 5th of September, 2024, the auditorium reverberated with cheers and applause for our beloved teachers as the Josephites gathered to celebrate the Teachers' Day. The event began with a very energetic dance performance by the Josephites, which was then followed by a prayer. Next was an invigorating dance performance on a beautiful rendition of songs from all eras. The event was hosted by our Head Boy, Akshat Gupta and Head Girl, Ayana Mehta who indeed made the special day truly memorable with their commentary. A video presentation titled 'The Goats' which was prepared by class XII students was then played which gathered the appreciation of every person sitting in the audience. Next came the most awaited performance of the day, a humorous play wherein the students of class XII were seen impersonating their favorite teachers. This play won everyone's hearts as the auditorium echoed with applause. Another video presentation titled, "Badmaashi in SJA" was cherished by all. The event ended with our hosts giving away various awards to our adorable teachers.

Titiksha Chauhan, XI-C





CAREER Fair



"Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life" – Confucius.
On the 20th of April 2024, St. Joseph's Academy organized a career fair for students of classes IX-XII. The Chief Guest for this event was Dr. Ashish Kumar Srivastava, IAS, Additional Secretary Higher Education, Information, Science and Technology. About forty-six prestigious institutions like NIIT Delhi, Indian School of Hospitality, University of North Florida, Webster University, Georgia State University and many more participated from all over the world providing students a broader spectrum to choose from colleges, overseas or India. Students were acquainted with various courses that the institutions offer and were told about qualifications, scholarships, fee structure, etc. The career fair led to exposure of young minds to various career paths.

-Titiksha Chauhan, XI C

SEMINAR FOR THE BIOLOGY STUDENTS



On 29th of August 2024, SJA organized an informative seminar for Biology students of classes XI and XII. The Guest Speaker for the seminar was Dr. Jayantika M.P. Uniyal, an ex-Josephite, who talked about various career options for students pursuing medicine in the U.K. This seminar provided students the exposure that they needed. She delivered a very detailed PowerPoint presentation and briefed the students about all major aspects like applying overseas, education loans and most importantly how to build an effective resume. Dr. Uniyal advised all the students to be consistent in their efforts throughout.

Titiksha Chauhan, XI-C



MONASH UNIVERSITY AT SJA

On the 2nd of September, 2024, the students of classes XI and XII were furnished with another career talk presented by Ms. Nimika Sharma from Monash University, a highly reputed university in Melbourne, Australia. Ms. Nimika presented a very informative PowerPoint including all points that the students should know about the university. It was a very interactive session with Ms. Sharma telling the students as to why they should pick Australia and the courses offered by the university. The students were told about scholarships, tuition fees, living expenses in Australia, education loans, internship programs and other such details. The session ended with the students asking their questions and queries.

Titiksha Chauhan, XI C



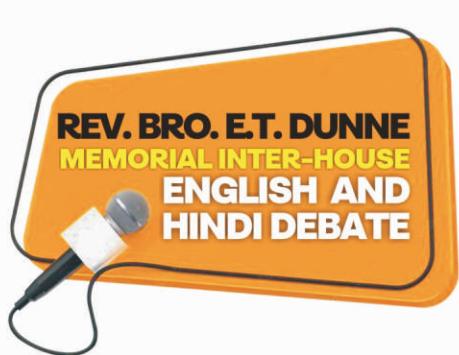


“Successful entrepreneurship starts with believing in yourself and your vision.”

On 9th August, Aquarium 2024, a platform for budding entrepreneurs to present their groundbreaking ideas and showcase their entrepreneurial talent, was held in the auditorium. The event was judged by an esteemed panel of industrial experts - Mr. Gaurav Jain, Mr. Harshit Gupta, and Mr. Uday Nanda.

The event comprised three main rounds-the presentation round, the question and answer round and the negotiation and investment raising round. Many entries were made in the initial rounds of aquarium out of which 7 teams were selected for the finale, namely- Meraki, Nuskhe, Raapchicc, Gairola Clean Tech, Daffodils, Grihavanam, and Evo. All these seven teams appeared in the presentation round and out of these, five were selected for the next round. After this round, four teams proceeded to the last round for negotiation which were- Meraki, Nuskhe, Raapchicc and Evo. Team Nuskhe emerged as runners up while Team Evo secured the first position.

Titiksha Chauhan, XI-C



“The art of debating lies in respectfully challenging ideas, not attacking the person behind them.”

In the arena of intellectual discourse, debating serves as both a battleground for ideas and a crucible for sharpening our reasoning skills. Focusing on holistic development, our school St. Joseph's Academy organized the 16th Bro. E.T Dunne Memorial Inter-House Debate on the 10th of August 2024.

The esteemed judges for the English debate were Ms. Vineeta Sharma, Ms. Poonam Jaiswal and Ms. Neelam Sethi. The debate competition among the four Houses was declared open, beginning with a turn-court round where one representative of each house spoke spontaneously for one minute each presenting proposition and opposition ideas. Following the turncoat round was the extempore round for which the teams were given a preparation time of about an hour. The topic of the debate was "This House believes that exposure to violent video games is detrimental to the moral development of young people." The four houses stood eye to eye in a tough competition as they weaponed their voices to win the battle of wits and oration. After a rigorous examination of debaters' abilities, the honorable judges took to the podium to admire the debate presented by the young budding stars of SJA, further expressing their views on the topic. As the participants held onto their breaths for the results, in the English debate, Duffy house bagged the first position. The English debate was followed by the Hindi debate, the topic for which was 'vikaas ke saath aaj hum asurakshit ho gye hain.' The participants vigorously presented their arguments setting fire on stage and

leaving the audience awestruck. After a tough fight of words, Duffy House secured the first position and bagged the trophy, an obvious win for the House leaving the audience in awe.





“Liberty cannot be preserved without general knowledge among the people, who have a right... and a desire to know” – John Adams

On the 24th of August 2024, our school organized the 6th Patrician Brothers' Inter House Quiz. With excitement and anticipation coursing through their veins, the students of all the four Houses bowed their heads to pray as the programme commenced in the benign presence of the Principal, Rev. Bro. Joseph. The quiz comprised ten rounds with the four teams -Bergin, Dooley, Donovan and Duffy – exhibiting the best of wit and knowledge. The audience round was introduced after every two rounds to keep the atmosphere lively and entertained. The event was a resounding success and was highly engaging. The day ended with Donovan House bagging the first position whereas Dooley House secured the runner up position. The winners with a smile carved on their faces and trophy in their hands made their way back to their classes.

Maanya Kaur Sethi, IX-E



**Debate is power:
debate is to
persuade,
to convert and
to compel.**

The annual J.L.D' Souza Inter-School English Debate Competition was organized by our school, St. Joseph's Academy on 28th August 2024 with bright and effervescent energy of the young and talented students participating from fourteen prestigious schools such as Ann Mary, The Asian School, Wynberg Allen Mussoorie, Summer Valley school, St Jude's school and Convent of Jesus and Mary to name a few. The debate was chaired by Ms Rekha Tandon and judged by an esteemed panel of judges comprising- Ms Divja Pandey, Ms Swarleen Kaur and Ms Mubashir Ahmed. Four teams were selected in the qualifying round – Convent of Jesus and Mary, Ann Mary School, Welham Girls School and St. Joseph's Academy. The final round was debated on the topics – 'This House believes that the upheavals all across the world are a manifestation of the vested political interests.' and 'This House believes that Indian Sports persons are the kites that fly against the winds of indifference and callousness.' After engaging arguments and witty answers, the debate ended with Convent of Jesus and Mary being awarded the winning trophy whereas Ann Mary being adjudged as the runner-up team. The audience was captivated and filled with appreciation for the commendable debating skills of the participants.

Maanya Kaur Sethi, IX-E



FRANK ANTHONY MEMORIAL ALL INDIA INTER SCHOOL DEBATE COMPETITION



**Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak;
courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen**

On the 15th of July 2024, the initial round of category I of the most prestigious debate of the year, the Frank Anthony Memorial All India Inter School Debate Competition was held in our school.

The auspicious event began with the prayer which was then followed by lighting of the lamp. The chair person for the debate, Ma'am Rekha Tandon, a senior teacher at SJA, was then introduced who read out the rules of the debate. The debate was adjudged by a distinguished panel of judges- Dr. Annie Singh, Ms. Divija Pandey and Ms. Veena Kalia.

A total of four schools participated in the round - Ann Mary School, Summer Valley School, Raja Rammohan Roy Academy and Krish Jyoti Academy and to maintain anonymity, the representatives of each school were dressed in formals and each team was given names based on different flowers. The topic under hammer was- "Search for the new world spells doom for the world we live in". Each team consisted of two representatives, one would speak for and other against the motion. The speakers put forth their fiery arguments one after the other and each of their speeches was followed by an intense rebuttal question asked by their opponents.

After a great war of wits and an engaging session, Ma'am Rekha Tandon expressed her views on the topic and spoke about the paradox of plenty. The much awaited results were announced by Ma'am Navneet Ganguly who declared Soham Chhabra of Ann Mary School as the best speaker and Mansi Khandurie also of Ann Mary as the runners up. Overall, Ann Mary was adjudged as the Best Team followed by Summer Valley as the runners up team. Both the teams qualified for the next round.

Titiksha Chauhan, XI-C



SEMINAR ON CYBER CRIME



To increase awareness about the biggest existential threat of the present scenario, an event on Cyber Security awareness was organized by our school, St. Joseph's Academy on 7th August 2024, in collaboration with local law enforcement and cyber security experts. The esteemed Chief Guests & Speakers Dr. Rakesh Kriplani, Dr. Nilesh Anand Bharne (IPS) & Mr. Ankush Mishra took the initiative to enlighten the Josephites.

There were 2 sessions especially designed for students & parents. Students & parents gained a clearer understanding of various cyber crimes and how they can impact individuals and communities. Emphasis was placed on the following safety measures- creating strong passwords, recognizing phishing attempts, and avoiding risky online behaviours. The seminar was an eye opener for students to understand and learn about the right use of social media and how and where to report cyber incidents and seek help if they encounter problems online. Real-life examples and statistics paved a way for clearer understanding in the session.

The combined effort of organizing the seminar fulfilled the sole purpose of it, 'to help and to aware.'

Maanya Kaur Sethi, IX-E



FAREWELL TO REV. BRO. JEYASEELAN AND WELCOMING REV. BRO. JOSEPH

"The influence of a great Principal can never be erased"

As the Josephites entered into a new session, Rev. Bro. Jeyaseelan, after five years of leadership with continuous hard work, dedication and unwavering support and guidance to each and every one of us, bid goodbye to the SJA family. A special morning's assembly was held to bid farewell to Rev. Bro. Jeyaseelan and to welcome our new Principal, Rev. Bro. Joseph M. Joseph. The Josephites welcomed the brothers with plants and a bouquet of flowers as a token of love and appreciation. The day began by praying to the Almighty and a welcome speech. This was then followed by a farewell speech proposed by Head Boy, Akshat Gupta and Head Girl, Ayana Mehta who expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Brother on behalf of the entire school for all his commendable efforts. Further on, we had the choir sing showers of blessings and sing their goodbyes to Rev. Bro. Jeyaseelan. Alongside, the choir also took the opportunity to sing to our new principal and give him a hearty welcome. As the assembly trailed off, Brother gave his final speech, taking his moment to thank the SJA family and welcome our new Principal, Bro. Joseph, who further addressed the assembly.

"A great Principal builds character, inspires dreams, encourages creativity and instills a lot of learning."

Looking forward to a new era, the students and teachers warmly welcomed Bro. Joseph to the SJA family.

Saanvi Sadana, IX-E

Nature's Reign

Nature's intricate tapestry is a marvel of balance and complexity. From the resilient cactus thriving in the arid desert to the venomous snake with its unique digestive system, each creation is a testament to nature's ingenuity. Even in the harshest of environments, such as the frigid polar regions, animals are equipped with adaptive features, like fur, to ensure their survival. Exciting isn't it?

The delicate interconnectedness of the food chain highlights the fragility of our ecosystem. The extinction of even the smallest species can have catastrophic consequences on the entire world as we know it. This is the power of nature and this highlights the need for environmental stewardship.

In our pursuit of materialistic gratification, we often neglect the invaluable gifts that nature provides, our soil, air, lakes, valleys, and landscapes. Our exploitation of natural resources has led to severe environmental degradation. The way we keep exploiting our resources and then we wonder why we suffer.

We pay the prices for our actions. We are unable to breathe because we set up industries that exploit the composition of air. We are unable to get clean water because we treat our rivers and lakes like a drainage system. We threaten wild animals as we destroy their natural habitat for construction. Though humans possess the ability to reason and understand the consequences of their actions, they often choose to disregard the environment for short-term gains, creating a paradoxical situation where they destroy the very resources they depend on.

To build our homes we destroy someone else's.

All this because nature has the power to take away what it has given us. It remains to be the inevitable, unforeseen force that can make us or break us. We must reconsider our relationship with the environment and strive to live in harmony with it. By doing so, we can ensure a sustainable future for ourselves and for generations to come.

Navya Bhatt, X-B





Swara Maheshwari, VI-C



Aritro Biswas, VIII-D



Shireen Danny, XI-A



Titiksha Chauhan, XI-C

Objets D' Art



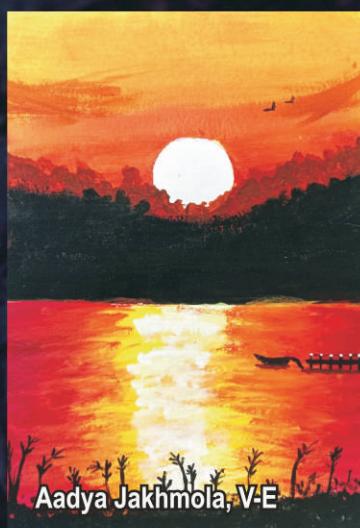
Araina Arora, XI-C



Arshbir Singh Japra, VII-D



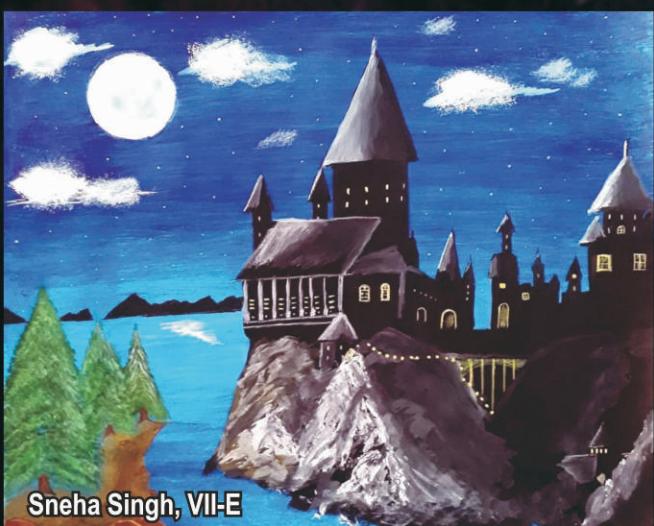
Aavishkar Chauhan, VIII-C



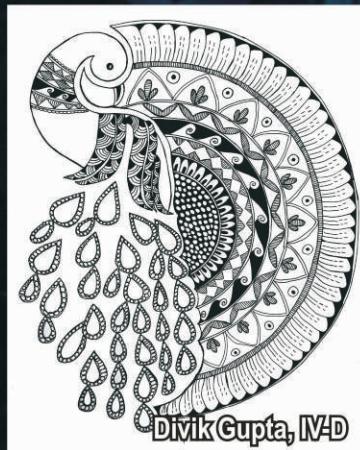
Aadya Jakhmola, V-E



Samriddhi Negi, X-B



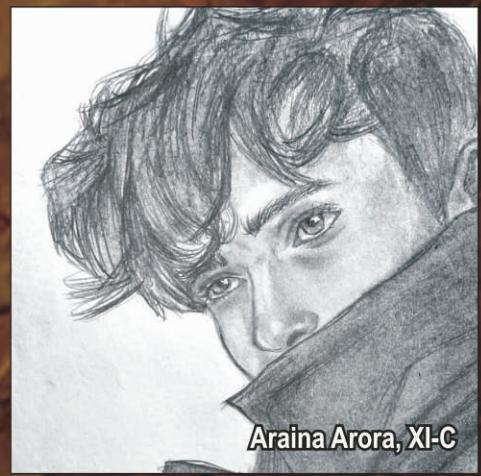
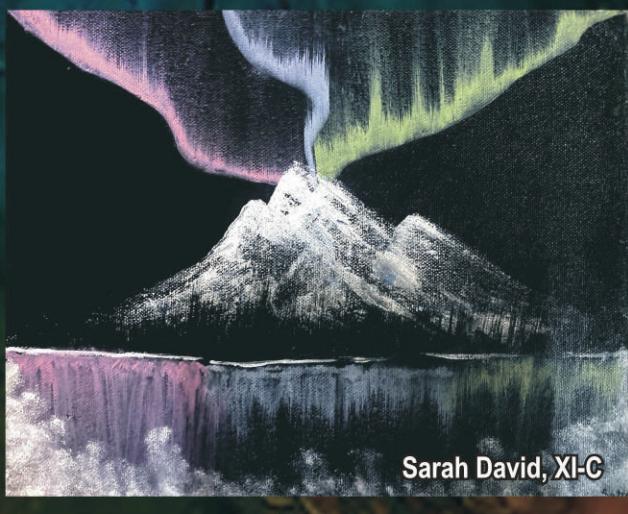
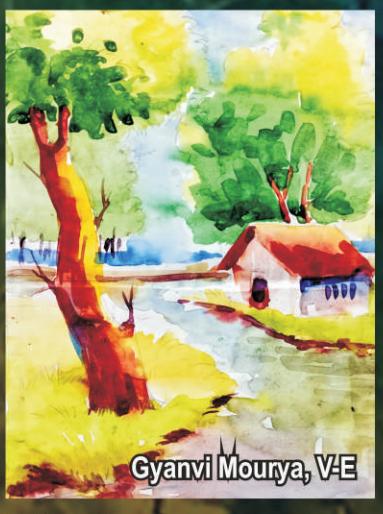
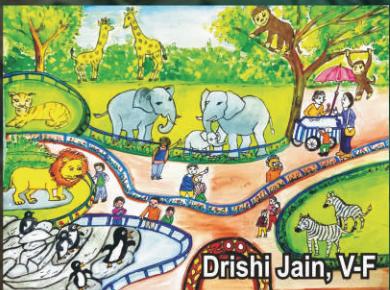
Sneha Singh, VII-E



Divik Gupta, IV-D



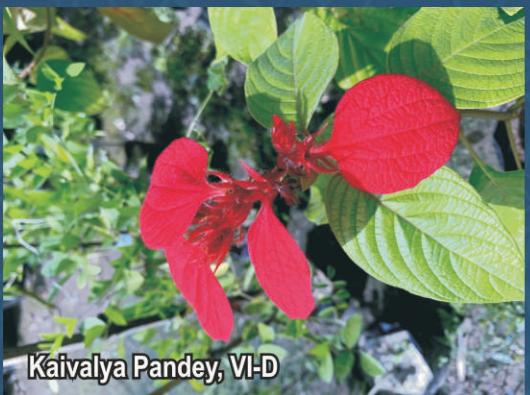
Medhansh Narula, V-E





CLICK-A-MANIA

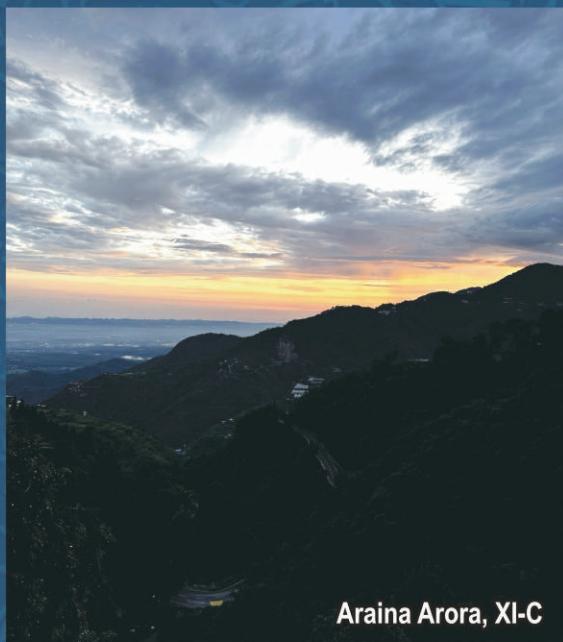




Kaivalya Pandey, VI-D



Samriddhi Negi, X-B



Araina Arora, XI-C



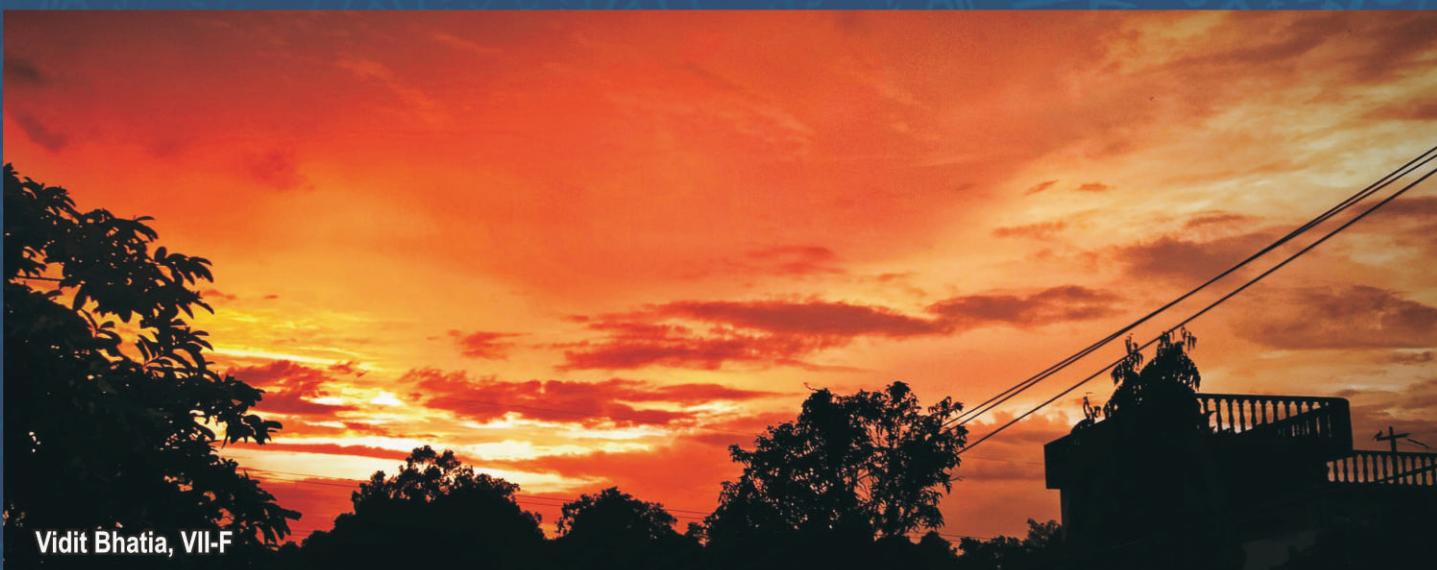
Shivay Sablok XI-B



Saket Gairola, XII-F



Suyash Barthwal, IX-F



Vudit Bhatia, VII-F



THANK YOU MOM!



Thank you mom for all you do.
Packing lunches, cleaning clothes
Even wiping my runny nose
Driving me here and there,
Teasing knots out of my hair.
Helping me in my homework of Math
Making sure I take a bath
Fixing different things I break,
Hugging me when I make mistakes.
Reading books, playing games
You are my umbrella when it rains
There is no end to what you do
You are my angel, Mother,
Thank you.

Aishani Joshi, III-B

An Aimless Discovery

I was strolling through nature one day,
When I realized in my path mid-way,
What secret Mother Nature upholds,
The one which we were never told.

The harmony of birds and the majesty of trees,
The aid provided by the cool, soothing breeze,
The purity and the murmuring of swift flowing stream,
The splendor of nature filled with a gleam.

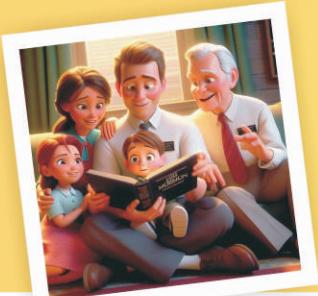
Where the process of continuous renewal takes place,
Ecstasy, nature provided me with a perfect solace,
Nature's embrace, a refuge from immense strain,
Healing the wounds of anxiety and mental pain.

I was enraptured by all this when my heart surged,
What wealth this scenic beauty to me had urged,
A wonderful essence of love and self-being,
Was bestowed upon me by this aimless wandering.

Viraj Kumar, XI-C



"Timeless Echoes"



Cherish life like time as it is more valuable than gold,
Remember every single memory from your past no matter if it is bitter or sweet,
But keep it in your heart.

Experience is the best teacher,
Memories may be painful, bitter, sharp or sad,
But see the good side,
Experience teaches you on every turn of the hurtful path.

And what about those sweet voices you like to hear every day,
Would you like to gulp and forget those many years of ups and downs?
Pleasant and merry, delightful and sweet,
Please oh please think before you want to slash those memories.

Ahana Bhandari, VII-B

Spider in my bed !!



One day when I went to sleep
I saw a spider in my bed
It was black all over
And a little bit of red
I didn't scream or call my mom
But instead my puppy came along
He barked at the spider
As hard as he could
But the spider, he did not move
I stared at the spider, the spider stared at me
He had no plan of leaving
And that I could very well see
Then I picked up the spider
With a piece of my magazine
And threw him out of the window
Where he could no longer be seen.
One battle won, though a small one.

Nimeelita Mishra, VI-C

Mr. Doofinshmirtz



Mr. Doofinshmirtz woke up late,
Tripped on his dog and went flying straight
Into the wall with a mighty THUD,
Behold! on his head was a big red cut.

He grabbed his shirt, inside out,
Did he wear socks? I seriously doubt,
Shoes on the wrong feet, but who would know?
He rushed outside, tripped on a garden gnome.

The bus left without him on,
As Mr. Doofinshmirtz gave a small mourn,
And in his rush, oh what a sight,
He'd forgotten his pants—oh what a fright!

At work, he gave his boss a wink,
Accidentally spilled his coffee—black as ink
On the report that took all night,
Now it looked like a ghastly sight!

He tried to explain and make things right,
But his tie caught fire from a candle light,
The sprinkler burst, oh what a scene,
Now everyone's as red as lightning McQueen!

Now Mr. Doofinshmirtz, looking so tired,
Asked his boss, 'Am I fired?'
The boss looking like his mom screams,
"Wake up you moron from your stupid dreams!!"

Sharvik Aggarwal, XI-C



It is a child begging for love

It is a child begging for love, affection and some care
it lives in pain and misery, shadows and despair.
It wonders where all the time got lost
and wonders where it is at fault?

It cries and cries at night
and is cheerful and happy once the sun is up and bright.

It wishes to speak its heart out sometimes
Speak about some unspoken crimes.

After-all

It is a child begging for some love and time
It wishes it had a warm embrace at nights
To tell all its secrets, stories and silly little rhymes.

Its cheerfulness is all but lies
that is not noticed by plain old eyes.

Aanya Bist, XI-F

Justice



I wish to impart justice,
To child laborers and victims of abuse,
I wish to say that justice is blind.
As I sit in a throne of irony crafted brilliantly by tiny skilled minds,
Twirling a pen gifted along with money by some mafia's muse,
I wear a blindfold and blindly sign justice.

Whom do I follow: Head or heart?
Whose life do I destroy: deliberate victim or unaware perpetrator?
I wish to say that justice is blind.
I ignore the thunder which rattles every fiber of my heart and mind,
I quote 5 laws without context making the unaware suspect a traitor,
I wear a blindfold and blindly sign justice.

I wish to impart justice,
In a world where justice loves to see everything go wrong.
I wish to follow my heart,
As each piece pulls through a different path.
I wish to say that justice is blind,
But should justice really be blind?

Anwesha Singh, XI-A

Seniors



It's great when you have best friends
But it's a blessing when you have best seniors
The people who guide you without making you feel dumb
They are only some.

I am immensely blessed to have them in my life
They are the ones who for us have strived.
A person who spent her entire vacations for us, so we could learn
In return, just expecting us to learn.

It is a person whom we call to ask doubts any hour
And is always available with a light in the hand
With whom our every problem is freely discussed

A person who keeps guiding and motivating
Her words, always elevating
The one who shares her varied experiences
Preparing us to gather accolades.

This is for the four who inspire us
From whom we desire to learn evermore
Thanks to the Debsoc seniors, for guiding us throughout.
You four are the best
Searching for people like you is a quest.

Saanvi Sadana, IX-E



Three years of teenage life have flown by,
A rollercoaster ride, I've wondered why,
Low grades at thirteen, tears fell like rain
At fourteen felt like an outcast, the pain remained
Fifteen's stress and trauma took its toll
Good marks in boards, a burden, fear of my downfall
But at sixteen's dawn, a new light shines bright
Excitement for favourite subjects, a heart alight
Motivating friends and peers, spirits lifted high
Support by parents and teachers, a sweet sigh
Early teenage years, behind me they go
Late teenage years, ahead, unknown
But sixteen, I want to call my own.
A stage of life where I am free to be,
No looking back, no rush to see
What's ahead I'll face it with a grin
But for now let me be sixteen within

Jahnavi Tripathi, XI-A





Allen's Magical world

Once there was a poor boy named Allen. He lived in a country named Ghana, along with his father, mother and grandfather. One day he was sleeping when a cute little fairy appeared and said, "Hello! Will you be my friend?!" scared, he woke up and saw the mysterious creature. She said, "I will take you to a magical world", and Allen agreed. She used her wand to open the magical door. They went inside and were teleported to another dimension where big creatures and fairies were dancing and mermaids were playing instruments. Then they went back and the fairies disappeared. The next day, the boy told his father about this strange yet fascinating incident. The father ignored it but a few minutes later, a shrill whistle came and said, "Allen is a magical child and has the privilege to enter into a magical world". The father was stunned and amazed.

Daksh Behl, IV-B

Girl : SAFE OR UNSAFE ?

I'm pretty sure that we all have heard the phrase "beti bachao, beti padhao". But is it just a phrase? Are we as a society actually going to put efforts so as to make girls feel safe?

Safety of girls in India still remains a pressing concern, questioning how safe the society really is.

According to recent reports, India ranks poorly in terms of safety of women and girls. While India is a developing country, reports of crimes such as sexual harassment, domestic violence, trafficking etc. remain a major concern. Public spaces, which should be accessible to everyone still pose a threat to girls. The case of Dr. Moumita Debnath, which I'm sure we all must've heard of, is a tragic reminder of all the dangers and struggles a girl faces throughout her life.

According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) conducted in 2019-2021, about 5% of women aged 18-29 reported experiencing sexual violence. This includes acts like rape, attempted rape, and other forms of sexual assault. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reported that in 2021, over 31,000 cases of rape were reported across India, which translates to roughly 86 rapes per day. It's important to note that these statistics only reflect reported incidents, and many cases of sexual assault go unreported due to fear, shame, lack of trust and societal pressure. The actual prevalence is likely higher.

Several factors contribute to this unsafe society for girls:

1. In many parts of India, boys are still preferred to girls. Which, I must say, is a myth, as girls can prove to be as good as, or even better than boys in many fields.

2. Education is a powerful tool for change. However, (according to a recent survey) the female literacy rate is only 65.46%, compared to males which is 82.14%. This lack of proper education makes girls more prone to exploitation, abuse etc. Many girls in India are married at a young age and drop out of school after they complete their primary education due to societal pressure.
3. India has laws to protect girls and women, but these laws are not always enforced effectively. Corruption, delays in the judicial system, and societal pressure often prevent justice from being served, leaving girls at risk.

The safety of girls in India is a complex issue, not just for girls, but for the whole society and it is only right that we take some initiative to make this world a safer place for women. This issue needs immediate attention. The story of Moumita Debnath and numerous others highlight the need for change. While progress is being made, much more needs to be done to ensure that every girl in India can live without fear, pursue her dreams, and realize her full potential. The safety of girls is not just a woman's issue—it's a societal issue that demands collective responsibility and action.

Mannat Singh, VIII-B



Vipers

In a canvas of black and white,
Bleeds my heart in the hues of night.
My numb soul and eyes intertwine,
Longing whispers forming a belladonna vine.

Shadows of doubt creep and crawl,
Opening the windows to anxiety's relentless call.
Haunting echoes play on the wall,
My forlorn emotions pierce my heart as they fall.

In a river so dark, my light of reason draws,
Lingering promises, my graveyard of love mourns.
Oleanders of my despair's spectrum bloom,
Vipers of vain, prey in this world of gloom.

Deepanshi Chamoli, IX-D

True love

True love is a bond,
Like the two fishes in the pond.
It is not about correcting mistakes,
It is about accepting them, without thinking what it takes.
The day you walk sadly,
The mountains will weep badly.
My achievements will not be counted,
In front of your endless love which is unbounded.
I may have been a bit too crazy,
For you to accept my love easily.
I spend my day thinking about you,
When I don't see you, the sky shows glooms of blue.
No one can ever break this love,
The most true and endless bond of the two doves.
You have been my strength in this journey,
This happiness cannot be bought by money.
Stay with me, I wish,
We were once together, I miss.
You cannot be replaced by anyone,
Because you are my number one.
Love you, miss you, and hug you,
Each day I see you.

Tia Nanda, X-C



Where are you?

Oh wish! I cannot find you!
Are you in sunset valley, our favorite spot staring at the fine view?
Or the meadow of peace which we made when I was five?
And if you are, then are the people greeting you so happy and alive?

Do you remember where we met?
In that corner of my mind,
You were splashing in puddles, making me mad
Asking me with a twinkle in your eye, "Hi! Have we met?"

You came to life with a simple thought,
The innocence of a child that the world forgot;
Wish! My dear I'm older now,
But I still don't understand where you went and how?

Anika Kathait, VII-C



Was she asking for it?

'Well she was wearing a dress. She asked for it.'
A dress was also worn by a 4 year old.

Was she asking for it ?

'She must have been too frank.'
It was the stranger who spoke.
Was she asking for it?
'She must have said something.'

The newborn in the diaper couldn't even speak anything.

Was she asking for it?

Questions that I ask,
Which will never be answered;
By neither men nor women.
But deep down in our hearts,
We all know,
The answer is a NO.

It's about time we realize,
A line should be drawn.
Not on the basis of gender,
But on the basis of who have respect;
And who don't.

The problem is not a 'SHE'.
It's US, mostly a 'HE'.
And for the misogynist ones,
Not ALL men but ALWAYS men.

Pragya Vashisht, IX-A





BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

Oasis School hosted an Inter School Badminton Tournament from August 5th to 7th, 2024, featuring strong competition from schools like Summer valley, St. Thomas College, St. George's College, Wynberg Allen and many others. Our participants walked away with the winning trophy, showcasing their exceptional skills and team work. In the individual events, in the under 14 category, Vaibhav Rawat secured the first position and along with Advaib Dhiman secured the first position in the team event. Arohi Negi also managed to secure the first position in the U-14 category. Whereas in the under 17 category, Aadya Uniyal and Gauri Aswal secured the first position.

UNISON WORLD SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Our school kicked off with a wonderful start as it defeated Him Jyoti School in the first match of the Unison World school invitational basketball tournament with a score of 29-6, an obvious win. The team after its consecutive victories, played its semi-final match against Unison World school and won yet again with a score of 40- 19. After a tough fight, unfortunately our school lost to Wynberg Allen in the final match and ended up in the second position.



CISCE BASKETBALL NATIONALS

The time had finally arrived for the best of our basketball players to prove their mettle and display their skills as they made their way to Bhopal for the CISCE Basketball nationals. Ballavi Badoni and Gayatri Sharma of our school represented the UP- UK zone. They emerged victorious against teams like Tamil Nadu- Puducherry zone and Bihar- Jharkhand zone. Continuing their winning streak, the team won their semi-final match against Andhra Pradesh- Telangana zone but unfortunately could not withstand the stiff opposition from Maharashtra- Goa zone and hence the team emerged as the first runners up.

CARBERY FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

The Carbery Sub-Junior Football Tournament was organized at Carman School with our Principal, Rev. Bro. Joseph M. Joseph being the Chief Guest for the tournament. Held from 1st to 7th August, 2024, our team won many matches against several schools and managed to reach the semi-finals but regrettably lost to Wynberg Allen, Mussoorie by a slim margin of 2-1. The team's performance was highly appreciated.

CISCE ATHLETICS REGIONALS

CISCE Regional Athletics boys' tournament was held on 26th and 27th of July. In the various events of different categories of the tournament, 14 students represented our institution. Amidst tough competition, Soham Sehgal, Anamitra Goswami and Paras Parth brought home truckloads of great laurels and excelled in running and relay events where Soham Sehgal secured the second position in 100 metres race in under 19 category. Anamitra Goswami secured third position in 3000 metre race in under 17 category and Paras Parth secured third place in 4 x 400 metre relay under 17 boys' category.

CISCE REGIONAL CRICKET TOURNAMENT

The CISCE Regional cricket tournament was held from 25th to 27th July, 2024 at Prayagraj. Eight talented cricketers from our school represented Uttarakhand in the under 14 category. The team led by Aditya Pratap Rawat comprised Aarav Gupta, Shaurya Negi, Samarth Singh, Ritvik Dhiman, Riyaansh Veer Singh and Arnav Maithani as the other players. The team remained unvanquished for several matches and marched on to the semi-finals. They maintained their winning streak by triumphing over Kanpur south in the semi-finals. However they lost to the Prayagraj team in the finals by a slim margin and landed up in the second position.

CISCE BASKETBALL REGIONALS

CISCE Girls' basketball regionals were held at Kanpur from the 4th to 6th of August, 2024. 14 students representing our school plunged into the angry flood of the competition. Battling the waves with their energetic spirits, our U-14 team unfortunately lost to Meerut in the semi-finals. Our under 17 team could not reach the semi-finals but to turn things around our U-19 team led by Ballavi Badoni dominated not only the semi-final match against Lucknow but also the final match against Agra and emerged as the overall winners of the tournament receiving appreciation from everyone.

CISCE Boys' U-14 Basketball Regionals were held at St. Conrad's Inter College, Agra wherein Anjaney Anugreh Bhhardwaj secured the third position.



Shubhankar Arora IX-E

CISCE FOOTBALL REGIONALS

The 17th, 18th and 19th of July witnessed the prestigious CISCE Regional football tournament organized by the Agra zone at St. Peter's college. Three skilled contenders from our school including Akshatra Kamboj, Parth Chauhan and Adamya Chauhan represented Uttarakhand in the under 14 category. The team was a hair's breadth away from securing the first spot and ended up receiving the runners up prize. Akshatra Kamboj and Parth Chauhan were also selected for the nationals.

SENIOR COUNCIL FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



The air was filled with excitement and enthusiasm as our school, St. Joseph's Academy organized the prestigious senior council football tournament and we witnessed the first match on 27th of August, 2024. Beating New Doon Blossoms School by a massive margin of 6-0 was a piece of cake for our talented players. On the 29th of August, SJA beat the Heritage School by an impressive score of 7-0. The third group match too came to an end with SJA emerging victorious over Hilton School. With another conquest over St. Xavier's School, our team marched towards the quarter final match, maintaining its winning streak by defeating Moravian School in a neck to neck competition with a score of 1-0 in the extra time. As our team went on to be victorious in the semi-final match with St. Jude's as well, the final match against Raja Ram Mohan Roy Academy was also won by team SJA. Our team definitely showed the virtues of perseverance and dedication as it lifted the overall trophy.

Shubhankar Arora, IX-E

BRO. KEOGH MEMORIAL INTER-SCHOOL

FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Our school, St. Joseph's Academy organized its annual Rev. Bro. A. Keogh Memorial Inter-school football tournament with the first two matches being played on 16th August, 2024. In a thrilling match between teams from St. Joseph's Academy and Col. Brown Cambridge School, team SJA won by a score of 4-0. Witnessing the second match between SJA and Summer Valley School, team SJA yet again won by a massive margin of 3-0. Our team got a walkover in the quarter final match but unfortunately, on 17th of August, in the semi-final match against St. Jude's School, our team lost by a slim margin of 1-0. However, our team's incredible determination and resilience were highly appreciated and earned everyone's respect. Overall, the tournament was won by St. Jude's School.

Shubhankar Arora IX-E



DEBATES AT THE DOON SCHOOL



Chuckerbutty Debates



JEDI



Kamla Jeevan Hindi Debates

Achievers



Winners - Table Tennis Tournament at Heritage School



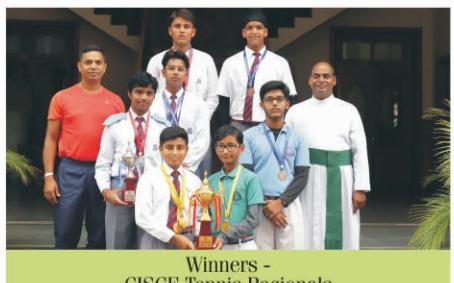
Winners - CISCE UP vs UK Regional Athletics Tournament



Winners - Javelin Throw State Tournament



Winners - Asian MUN



Winners - CISCE Tennis Regionals



2nd Runners Up - Kasiga Interschool Chess Tournament



Runners up - Boys U-14 CISCE Regional Sports and Games



Winners - Mindspree 2024 held at St. Jude's School



Achievers



Runners up -
Doon Girls' School Hindi Debate



Runners up -
Masterson Bergin Debates



2nd Runners up -
The Doon School Quiz



Sai Supraja
Ranked highest in
Indian Contingent at
Harvard World Schools
Debating Championship
and Senior Best Speaker
Frankenstein Debate at IIT Delhi



Shaurya Makin -
Diplomatic Commendation,
Harvard MUN India 2024



Runners up - Interschool English Elocution Competition
at Doon Girls' School



Runners up - Interschool English Elocution
Competition at Doon Girls'



Runners up - Naveen Agarwal Memorial
Hindi Debate



Runners Up - Second Interschool Science Competition



Runners Up - 29th Rajeev Khanna Memorial Quiz



Runners up - Woodstock Entrepreneurship Fest



Runners up- Summer Valley School
Hindi Debate Competition



2nd Runners Up - Hugh Catchpole Debate



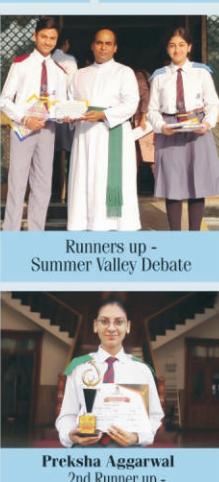
Runners Up - Viral Vines Showdown,
Negotium Agon



Runners Up - The Asian Challenge
Interschool Debate



Winners - 35th Maharaja Jodha
Shumshere Memorial English Debate



Runners up -
Summer Valley Debate

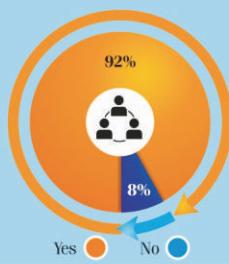


Preksha Aggarwal
2nd Runner up -
Senior Debate at Fr George Hess
Memorial Literary Events

Opinion POLL

All the students (Class VI and above) are hereby informed that a poll will be conducted on the following question:-

Should behaviour of the students be considered for positions like the Head Boy/Girl?



Should locker rooms be introduced in school or not?

The Editorial Board - 'The SJA Epistle'



Row 1: Ms. Kriti Bhanot, Titiksha Chauhan, Ms. Sanchita Thakur, Ms. Rachna Gulati
Row 2: Shubhangar Arora, Alia Bist
Row 3: Maanya Kaur Sethi, Rev. Bro. Joseph, Saanyi Sadana