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INSIDE INTERACT

BY THE INTERACT CLUB OF SRI SRI ACADEMY UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA CHOWRENGHEE



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INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

8th September was declared International Literacy Day by UNESCO on 26th October 1966 at its 14th General Conference. It aims to highlight the importance of literacy for individuals, communities and societies at large and was celebrated for the first time in the year 1967.

This issue of 'INSIDE INTERACT' commemorates International Literacy Day.

International Literacy Day 2020 focused on "literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond" with a greater emphasis on the role of educators and changing pedagogies.

The day provided an opportunity to explore questions regarding the impact of this ongoing pandemic on youth and adult programmes and to analyse the role of educators, as well as formulate effective policies, systems, governance and measures that can support educators and learning.

The global celebrations featured a virtual meeting on the role of educators and changing pedagogies, and another online event celebrating the Laureates of the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes.

ABOUT US:

'INSIDE INTERACT' is a bi-monthly newsletter by the Editorial Team of the Interact Club of Sri Sri Academy to keep the Interact Club members abreast of the club projects, provide a platform for creativity and most importantly, bring awareness about the youth as agents of change.

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Sri Sri Academy is a temple where knowledge is revered.

We believe that providing a world-class holistic education that facilitates cognitive, physical, emotional, social and spiritual growth is conducive to the comprehensive development of each student's personality.

Imbibing in students such human values as love, compassion, empathy, caring and sharing are vital to the development of a morally and spiritually strong character.

Equipping students with not only the tools of learning, but also the moral and spiritual strength needed to face the challenges of life encapsulates our Guruji, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's philosophy of education.

Literacy is culturing. We must know that mere information is not education. It lies in culturing our behaviour and attitude. An education provides us with perception and insight. It teaches us to be all-embracing and inclusive in our approach to life. The very purpose of education is to increase our awareness of the world around us. We believe that only an education that nurtures innate virtues can build character.

The Interact Club journey of the school has been one that fills me with pride. They have grown from strength to strength over these past 6 years and have emulated the philosophy of our Guruji. Students have learnt to balance their academics with their passion for community service. The projects undertaken by them have honed their leadership skills as well as helped them value humanity above all else.

I wish them all success in their continuing endeavours to bring about change in the world. They are indeed the architects and leaders of the future.



MRS. SUVINA SHUNGLU
PRINCIPAL
SRI SRI ACADEMY.

THE INTERACT CLUB JOURNEY



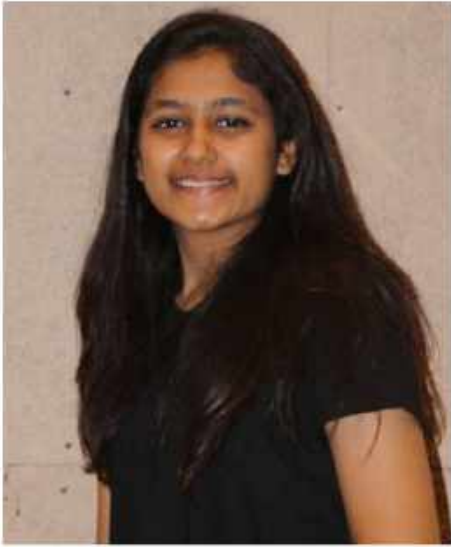
It has been a matter of honour for me to have been associated with the Interact Club of Sri Sri Academy for so many years. I still remember the first Installation Ceremony and the enthusiasm with which the students enrolled as members of the Club.

Rotary International is a worldwide organisation committed to the welfare and upliftment of society.

Recognising the youth as earnest and dynamic front runners, they began to reach out to the young people knowing that their earnest eagerness and commitment to spread goodness would have far-reaching consequences in community outreach programmes. The Interact Club of Sri Sri Academy has certainly proved this to be true. So many wonderful projects have been initiated by them in the course of the last few years – the most notable being RYLA. Students from various under-privileged schools and organisations, including institutions for children who are physically and mentally challenged, have been invited to participate in this Fest, replete with performances in dance, art and craft, recitation, music and other categories. The Interactors have also visited and donated to “Chhaya”, an animal shelter that looks after injured and abandoned animals. One of the most important things that they have learnt is the ability to work efficiently as a team and how to handle moments of crises. They have proved themselves to be responsible citizens with all the makings of true future leaders and all this while adopting the school motto of humility and humanity. My blessings to the Interactors. May you continue to ascend greater heights. Jai Gurudev.

GUEST EDITOR
MRS. JUNE DUTT
FORMER ACADEMIC ADVISOR
SRI SRI ACADEMY

SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST



"Taking up a new role was my choice
I had to become a voice
For the aged
For those differently abled
For those less privileged
For those four legged
I had to become a voice."

3 years of Interact Club has greatly transformed me as an individual. It was a privilege to be a part of the Club and to head it. It has taught me lessons of compassion, gratitude and leadership and has made me strong enough to serve without expecting anything in return. The service motive will forever be a part of me. I do not see Interact Club as an organisation but as a family, a family where we hold hands together and serve the community in order to keep humanity alive.

IP President,
Nehal Mehta

A year ago, when I was inducted into the Executive Board of the Interact Club, I was left wondering if I would be able to balance it with academics and if I had determination enough to carry it through. But immediately after our first event, I realised that I was not part of an association which had any defined boundaries but a new family which was held together by a very simple motto "Service Above Self". Since then this "family" has stood by me rock solid, encouraging me to overcome all the challenges that we have been faced with. We experienced the same energy course through our veins while serving others and felt privileged to give back to society and to the world at large.

This "Interact family" is not limited to the school but includes many members from NGOs like the Navanir, a home for the elderly, and Voice of World, a home for the differently-abled and the destitute. It was always rejuvenating to spend after-school hours with the innocent little children at "Sri Kripa", a learning center for the underprivileged children of the neighbourhood. Their laughter still reverberates in my heart and their energy infectious. The Interact Club has not only given me several sets of grandparents but has also honed my organisational and communication skills during the process of hosting events like Fundraisers and other inter-school fests. With great mentors and excellent teacher coordinators, this family has helped me to become a better individual and to cultivate a sense of humanity in myself and my team.

I cannot but quote Mahatma Gandhi in conclusion.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

IP Secretary,
Mehek Aggarwal



INSTALLATION CEREMONY

OF THE 6TH EXECUTIVE BOARD 2020-21

The 6th Installation Ceremony of the Executive Board of the Interact Club of Sri Sri Academy was held on 8th August 2020 on the virtual platform Zoom. We were honoured by the presence of the DICC 2020-21 Rotarian Sulagna Daw, PDG Rotarian Rajani Mukherjee, PDICC Rotarian Moushumi Bhattacharya, the President and the Secretary of the Rotary Club of Calcutta Chowringhee, Rotarian Deepak Saraf and Rotarian Vikram Tantia, our Guest Speaker Mr. Ryan Shaw and many other Rotarians.

The event commenced with a welcome address by our incoming President Dhriti Kumar. Interactors Arunima Paul and Sanjana Chatterjee chanted a Shanti Shloka which marked an auspicious start to the morning after which our outgoing President Nehal Mehta declared the meet open.

The National Anthem was followed by a video compilation of an enthralling dance performance by Interactors which left everybody in awe. A video summarizing all the projects undertaken by the Interact Club during its 2019-20 tenure was much lauded.

After a series of inspiring speeches by Rotarian Sulagna Daw, Rotarian Rajani Mukherjee, Rotarian Moushumi Bhattacharya, Rotarian Deepak Saraf, our Guest Speaker Mr. Ryan Shaw's inspiring words captivated the audience. The "virtual" pinning of badges of the 6th Executive Board of the Interact Club of Sri Sri Academy was the highlight of the event. This was followed by a heartwarming speech by our Immediate Past President Nehal Mehta and an enlightening speech by our Immediate Past Secretary Mehek Agarwal. Our Principal, Mrs. Suvina Shunglu addressed the audience, highlighting the ethos of our school encapsulated in the principles of our Founder, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. Our incoming President Dhriti Kumar shared her vision for the upcoming year with a moving speech. Our teacher coordinator Radhika Ma'am, bestowed her blessings upon us and gave us her best wishes. A Vote of Thanks by our new President Dhriti Kumar concluded the ceremony.

Editor,

Vanshika Gourisaria.

THE 6TH EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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OUR PROJECTS : JULY - AUGUST

1 . CODE-IT

A 12 HOUR ONLINE CODING WORKSHOP CONDUCTED BY FORMER SRIAN ABHISHEK TIWARI AND ASMA FURNITUREWALA SPREAD OVER 4 WEEKS: EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE STUDENTS OF SRI SRI ACADEMY .

This is what some of the students have to say



Being a student who faces difficulties when it comes to coding, I wasn't quite sure about enrolling for the Code-It Workshop initially but I'm glad I did. It has changed my views about coding and now, I thoroughly enjoy it. All the classes were very interactive which gave us the opportunity to better understand concepts. I remember how our instructors would constantly remind us to "play" with the codes and to "have fun with it". Eventually I observed that I was reluctant to give up if I couldn't crack the correct code. The workshop was very informative and a great learning experience for me!

- Nitya Sikaria 10C



The Code-It program intensified my interest and knowledge in programming. The instructors were very approachable and happy to help us. They made learning Python- a complex programming language- fun and easy. These interactive sessions encouraged us to write programs on our own and come up with different ways to do so. We learnt something new and exciting every class. We started from the basics like printing simple words and the sum of two digits and went on to write and solve more elaborate problems. I am grateful to have been given this opportunity .

- Arunima Paul 10C



The online Code-It Workshop was a wonderful experience for me. The mentors were easy-going but well-versed with the course and the syllabus. I learnt an array of new things throughout the course ranging from simple commands to formulating new websites. Learning a completely new programming language was both enriching and exciting for me . It was really great to have enrolled for this course and I look forward to more such golden opportunities. Thank you!

-Aryaman Khandelwal 12 A .

Learning something new is never easy, but when you have the correct teachers and the correct guidance, everything falls into place. That is exactly what happened in this year's Code-It workshop. Two young instructors, following a controlled syllabus and having regular sessions was the best combination for us to learn a new Computer Programming Language from scratch. Seeing a familiar face was like the cherry on top of a triple chocolate sundae! Overall, it was a very enlightening and fun experience.

- Isha Nevatia 12A



OUR PROJECTS : JULY - AUGUST

2 . WEBINAR ON DATA PRIVACY :



On 18th July 2020, the Interact Club in association with the Child Protection Committee, SSA, organized a webinar on Data Privacy Protection for Adolescents. Dr. Debarati Halder, Advocate and Honorary Managing Director, Centre for Cyber Victim Counseling conducted the session. She shared her knowledge about cyber crime and its importance in the lives of young adults. She talked about how cyber harassment has become increasingly common amongst teenagers particularly on social media sites and how in the contemporary world cyber laws protect people from being victimised. She spoke of the exponential expansion of the digital sphere, explaining how it is imperative that we make ourselves aware of our legal rights to combat cyber bullying. She also suggested some measures that one could take recourse to in order to maintain confidentiality of vital information online. This webinar was attended by Interactors, parents and teachers, making them aware of the significance of cyber security.

Editor,

Vanshika Gourisaria.

OUR PROJECTS : JULY - AUGUST

3. 14TH INSTALLATION CEREMONY OF THE INTERACT CLUB OF MCKV:



The Installation Ceremony of the 14th Executive Board of the Interact Club of MC Kejriwal Vidyapeeth was held on the digital platform Zoom on 13th August 2020. The newly inducted Executive Board of the Interact Club of Sri Sri Academy was honoured to have received its 1st invite from them and excited to have the opportunity to attend this ceremony.

The District Interact Committee Chairperson Rotarian Sulagna Daw as the Chief Guest, Past District Governor Rotarian Rajani Mukherjee and President of R C Belur Rotarian Alope Kumar Kanodia as Guests of Honour were some of the luminaries present.

The ceremony began with a beautiful pre-recorded welcome dance. The Annual Bulletin of Interact Club was unveiled by the outgoing President, Madhav Nand Garg who then shared his thoughts and experiences through a presentation highlighting the projects of the year 2019-2020. This was followed by the incoming President Pratik Jhunjhunwala delivering a motivating speech and introducing the Executive Board for the year 2020-2021. A presentation highlighted the Projects undertaken during the last Interact year. Inspiring speeches by the guests focused on teamwork, discipline and 'Service Above Self'. An enthralling rendition of 'Believer' by Imagine Dragons concluded the ceremony.

Jt. Editor,
Arunima Paul.

ARTISTS' CORNER



Devanshi Doshi 10E



Samkit Samsukha 10A



Dhriti Rai 10C



Shivam Jodhani 11B

SCRIBBLES

All I Ask

The books were hidden away
The kitchen was where I belonged,
Scrubbing clean the stairway
For a life of my own I longed.

Well I had dreams too
I fantasized now and then
Of reading the newspaper,
Being able to hold a pen.

But right from birth,
Decided was my place,
Set aside was my dowry and
My bridal necklace.

A chance to learn is all I ask,
A name of my own to write,
A chance to live on my own terms,
A chance to forge my own light.

Sanjana Chatterjee 10C



What Does Literacy Mean?

Literacy refers to the ability to understand, read and write. It is the art of reading and writing, the ability to understand things beyond the surface level of words. However, this ability only comes with education. Often, literacy and education are considered interchangeable terms. Education is at the core of literacy — without it, literacy becomes an empty vessel. While an educated person can be literate, not every literate person can be educated. Elementary education and literacy have been made into Fundamental Rights of Indian citizens. This owes itself to the work of early scholars such as Macaulay, Raja Ram Mohan Roy and their contemporaries who established the earliest schools and colleges. Today, the government has over five large schemes and several state-wise schemes that provide education to promote literacy among sections of the population that do not have equitable access to it.

Sania Thakrar 10A

SCRIBBLES

Education: The Path to a Better Tomorrow

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

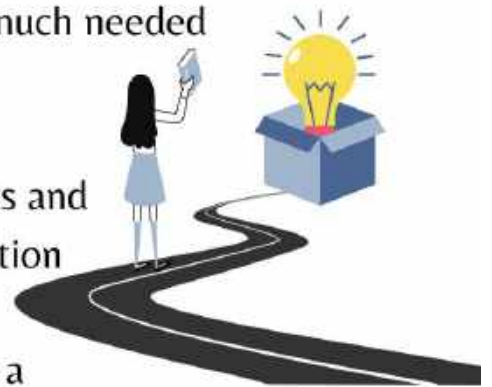
Nelson Mandela's quote is indeed, thought-provoking. How is education the most powerful weapon of them all, when nations all over the world are constantly developing nuclear weapons to wipe out the entirety of humanity in seconds? How can education bring much needed changes in present-day society?

Education provides people with knowledge and skill. It makes people aware of their various rights and duties towards the society and the nation. Education has the power to expand one's outlook, helping them to see the world in a new light. It develops a

person's ability to fight against social evils and injustice. Education helps in the reduction of poverty as it enables people to fend for their families. An educated nation's trade and commerce is bound to flourish. Customs like Sati and child marriage were abolished because social reformers realised that educating people would make them comprehend how these were social evils. Lack of education makes people become victims of discrimination such as untouchability. It is only education that can lead to the upliftment of the oppressed.

Next time you whine about homework you must remember there are children of your age who dream about having the same quality of education as you. Not only are we fortunate but also privileged to have education that most can only aspire to.

Thus, we must build a better future where each and every child gets the education he or she deserves without any restrictions.



Harshita Upadhyay 10E

SCRIBBLES

A Girl's Education: A Right, Not a Privilege



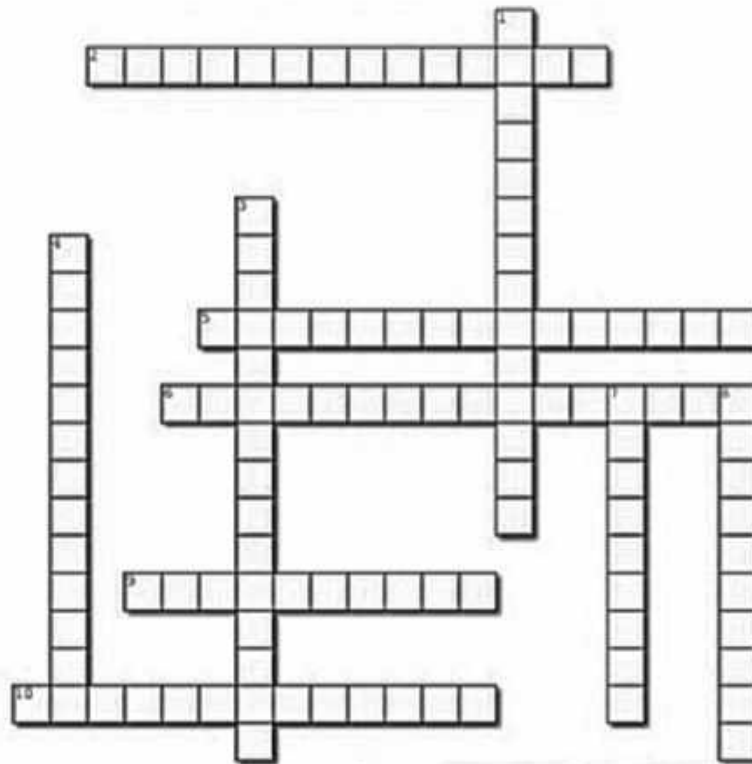
Education is a right, not a privilege and yet millions of children do not receive a proper or any education at all. They are being deprived of their rights, girls more than boys. Private schools do not provide an education free of cost. In such cases, parents have to pay a substantial sum to send their children to school and many fail to do so. Social evils like child marriage and child labour also prevent children from acquiring an education.

Due to society's regressive mindset, girls have to fight for their education. Some people still believe that a girl child should only look after the house and work in the kitchen. Girls are victim of gender discrimination and child marriage. This prevents them from receiving quality education.

However, it is encouraging to know that there are many individuals who have taken the initiative to help girls. Many of them have gone to extreme lengths and put their lives in danger as well. One such example is Malala Yousafzai. At the tender age of 11, she began voicing her opinions on girls' rights. She stood up to the Taliban and made sure that every girl's voice was heard. She is a ray of hope for every girl out there.

Arunima Paul 10C

MYSTERY MAZE



ACROSS

5. The first female teacher of India; also a social reformer.
6. A Hindu monk whose birth anniversary is celebrated as 'National Youth Day'.
9. A British actor who debuted in a film based on a fantasy drama series; also an activist for female education.
10. A religious reformer born in 5th Century BC in Nepal.

DOWN

1. An English physicist, who postulated the Second Law of Black Hole Dynamics.
3. A Pakistani gunshot survivor fighting for the right to education.
4. The African-American First Lady of the USA who launched 'Let Girls Learn'.
7. A Greek philosopher and polymath, contributing to nearly every aspect of human knowledge.
8. The 11th President of India also known as the 'Missile Man'.

Mail your answers to arunima.paul004@gmail.com between 3 pm and 6 pm today. We will give a shout-out to the first reply with maximum answers correct in our next edition.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MENTOR



I welcome the new Executive Board led by President Dhriti Kumar into the Interact family and wish them success in all their endeavours during the year ahead. I urge you, the Changemakers, the movers and the shakers of the world, to commit yourselves wholeheartedly to the cause. You will soon see how rewarding and enriching the journey is, despite being demanding.

These are challenging times but I have faith in the conviction and zeal of my Interactors. I have faith that they will rise to the occasion. They are a committed lot and their enthusiasm is infectious. I say this with pride that they are my inspiration and I stand here today because of them, learning from them each day and bonding with them over a common cause... a sincere commitment to community service and above all else...to keep humanity alive.

Radhika Bagadthey

Mentor

Interact Club of Sri Sri Academy

The Editorial Team

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