



The Loreto Lark



Issue 1

May, 2020

"We are not all in the same boat. But we are all in the same storm."



Community leader's message

I would like to send you warm greetings from the Loreto School Management. We are going through an unprecedented global predicament today. Each one of us and the entire world is affected by the corona virus pandemic. Our economy, families, communities and our entire way of life are adversely affected by the scare of infection and contagion. Our Guardians have been working tirelessly, putting at risk their own lives, as well as the volunteers, NGO's and health professionals all over the world. Let us in spirit wish and pray for all people who have been affected by the virus directly and indirectly. As you know, when the government announced the nationwide lockdown, we closed down the School taking a serious note of the impact by the virus.

My dear Students, keeping in mind your health and wellbeing, our talented and ever-willing to work, our teachers and non-teaching staff have been showing their care and concern for the students, working from home taking online classes, preparing notes and engaging classes for the benefit of students. I appreciate and congratulate them for their concern for the students, and commitment to academic.

Our support staff has been lending their hand in crucial administrative duties by going beyond the call of duty to meet the deadlines and to keep the campus clean and green. I would like to acknowledge their commitment and care for the institution.

This is the moment we are called to be our best selves in tune with the vision and mission of Loreto School

Thank you

Community Sister

Sr. Sunila, IBVM



Message from the Vice Principal

“Sometimes not getting what you want is a wonderful stroke of luck”

-Dalai Lama

The lockdown has given us the opportunity to bring out the Loreto Lark, a newsletter after a long hiatus. The best plans can fall apart and the impromptu moments may go on to become cherished memories. The challenges of grappling with modern technology, the frustratingly slow internet and the sea of uncertainty surrounding us cannot be denied. But what if this very chaos is the herald of a new dawn? Let us embrace this change.. to learn and correct our mistakes.

Normal life is on hold for the present. The Earth is healing and so are we. We now have time to reflect, to take that inward journey, to “stand and stare” at the wonders that we took for granted.

Our students have risen to the challenge by adapting quickly - contributing articles for the e-magazine and preparing videos for the events that were on the school calendar. The inter house art competition proved to be a wonderful platform for the enthusiastic artist wielding the brush and the pencil with the unbridled passion of youth. I thank the teachers for assisting the students in the Worker’s Day programme, the Crowning of Our Lady, the Art Competition, the Celebration of the Ecology week. There are more events on which teachers and students are still working.

The teachers have been busy with online classes, youtube lessons and whatsapp, guiding the children through lessons, motivating them, and in the process learning from them- the tech-savvy generation!! I thank the parents for their cooperation and help in forming whatsapp groups, uploading videos and with the deluge of messages. I also urge the parents to encourage the girls to stay physically fit and to access some of the fitness videos available online.

The sisters, on their part, have been reaching out to the marginalized in remote areas as well as in neighbouring Gausahla, with ration and essentials.

The future of education Post Corona can only be imagined in the present scenario. In all probability, we will need to reduce the numbers in the classrooms and arrange alternate days of classes. Lunch in classrooms to avoid crowding, and perhaps some outdoor classes, weather permitting.

We pray specially for all those who have lost dear ones in these very difficult times that God may grant them His peace. We pray for all the suffering and the sick all over the world and the migrant workers. We ask God to bless our leaders with compassion and wisdom that they may steer our country through these stormy seas and guide us to a safe harbor.

I ask each one of you to keep in your prayers that ISC and ICSE students, who must be going through so much stress, that they may remain optimistic and hold on to faith.

Together, let us pledge once again to nurture our children in the best way we can, let us adapt and move on and use this time constructively, and maybe, just maybe, not getting what we want may prove to be a wonderful stroke of luck. God bless each one of you with the abundance of his love and graces.

Mrs. Nima L. Yonzone
Vice Principal.

The Pillars of Loreto Convent Darjeeling



Mrs. Cecilia Edwards
Past Pupil and Former Senior School Teacher

Dear Sisters, Teachers and Students, in these turbulent times of the pandemic and lockdown it gives me great pleasure and joy to see “Loreto’s banner gaily” flying and I salute this great school, where I taught for twenty-five years and which I consider was the most fruitful time of my life. I congratulate all those who have forged ahead to open online teaching and even print an e-news letter from the school. Yes we shall overcome and will be the stronger for it!

As I write this I am overcome with memories of all the years spent in Loreto. First as a student in the mid forties and later as a teacher in the nineties. As I look back I realise that Loreto has changed a lot with the change of time. From pre to post Independence and to modern India. This shows the tremendous resilience of the Institution. Every change has injected new life. I see the faces of the students change, down the ages from the early British girls and girls from neighbouring foreign lands and other states to the local girls of our hills. The last change occurred when Loreto changed to become a neighbourhood school, to serve the local community. This was an exciting time for me when I would have loved to continue teaching but sadly I had to leave a few years later. However, through the LAA and my friends who are teachers I continue to keep in touch with the trends of the school. I congratulate the Editorial Team for finding new ways to connect us as the Loreto Family.

The school is facing new challenges at this critical period but I am sure that with the resilience shown in the past Loreto will be able to overcome the new demands of the time

Towards that goal I wish everyone God’s abundant blessings.

Cecilia Edwards



Mrs. Shalla Plant
Retired Senior School Teacher

This morning I was told “Mrs. Plant, be up with the lark”. Well, here I am ready and bright to wish you the very best with your publication. You are doing a great job by connecting and informing us as to what is happening at our alma mater.

Rally around all and keep the Loreto banner flying.

Keep smiling and God bless.



Mrs. Barsana Lama
Past Pupil and Former Senior School Teacher

Dear Loreto Family,

These have been challenging and trying times for us. We are surrounded by news of the pandemic, the uncertainties of the lock down, the air of fear and doubt which have put many of us at loose ends. We would all like to be on the other side of this as soon as possible. These were my initial feelings too but as the days unfolded I realized that God can bring the greatest blessings from the worst of circumstances.

There are so many times we have grumbled for being so busy and not being able to give enough time to our family, to ourselves, to our loved ones and yes even to God. In fact we had stopped being ourselves and were trapped in the mad race of the world.

The lockdown has given us plenty of time to recharge ourselves physically, mentally and spiritually. A time to learn new things, develop new hobbies, to exercise, to catch up on the phone or net with new friends, to shower enough love on our precious ones and to spring clean not only the house but Ourselves too. The lockdown has given us a chance to introspect, repair and reconnect with our Heavenly Father. This is not the time to panic. If God brought us out from the situation we once thought was the end of us let us not doubt Him on this current one. The situation may not get easier but we are definitely getting stronger.

Let us make sure we test positive for Faith, keep distance from Doubt and isolate ourselves from Fear. Let us Trust God through it all. Fear says “What if?”, “But Faith says “Even if.”

Dear friends, in this lockdown let us uphold each other in our love and prayers, specially the families who have lost their dear ones. May we always remember.... that we grow in the valley and not the mountains.

I thank the e-magazine committee for giving me this opportunity to share my thoughts. I wish them all the best.

Mrs. Barsana Lama (Ghissing).

Celebrating Loreto's Legacy while seeking Strength and Hope during the pandemic.



Dr. Nalini Subba Chettri
Senior Sustainability Scientist,
Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability,
Clinical Associate Professor, SFIS & School of Sustainability (SOS),
Associate Director of International Initiatives, School for the Future of Innovation in Society (SFIS)

Hello and Namaste, In 1977, more than 40 years ago, I had the privilege and honor of becoming Loreto Convent Darjeeling's first day-scholar headgirl. As I set out to pen something of hope during this most uncertain of times during the global pandemic, I thought it would be worthwhile revisiting another time and decade of similar nature. My name is Nalini Subba Chhetri, and I am currently a professor in Arizona State University, one of the largest universities in the United States. It is an honor to represent my cohort as well as my family to celebrate 175 years of Loreto's educational legacy. In recounting, albeit briefly, events of somewhat similar nature in the past, I hope we can see the light at the end of this seemingly dark tunnel from which we have, in the past, emerged stronger and more resilient, and can do so again in the future. The seventies, when we were students in Loreto Darjeeling, was a decade of great turbulence: India had gone to war with Pakistan and there were blackouts everywhere while

Bangladesh was being born; Indira Gandhi, India's first woman Prime Minister, declared Emergency and there was fear and uncertainties; flooding caused by cyclones in Andhra Pradesh and in Bihar caused great disasters; but the country took great pride in the explosion of its first nuclear bomb! We relied on radio and newspapers for news as there was no internet, neither mobile nor smartphones existed, and there was certainly no Google. But it was period of joy and pride also -Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize for her work among the destitute in Kolkata

Almost every generation has gone through trying times. It is my deep wish that students of LC emerge from this pandemic as women and (men) who are not only more innovative and determined but also more thoughtful towards others that are less fortunate than us.

Our 1977 cohort was a single class of 20+ students from all walks of life. I credit my current position in life largely to LC and to my parents who instilled in us the need for a strong academic foundation. The culture in our school shaped us not just to be studious and do well in exams but to be open minded and global thinkers. How did LC do that? By connecting us with the outside world: so we designed and participated in concerts to raise funds for flooding in Bihar, coordinated an intense Clean Darjeeling Campaign with the Darjeeling population, had Nepali/ Hindi/ Bengali/ Dzongka/Tibetan cultural celebrations; engaged in singing contests; worked with our sister school – St. Teresa's, and travelled for basketball competitions with schools in Kalimpong and Kurseong. These and other priceless experiences are etched deep in my memories, and I draw upon them constantly in the work I do in countries around the world through my university. To the students - please make the best of such experiences when things are 'normal' again – I promise you that they will be priceless gifts for your future.

The pandemic has also given me time to be reflective, and so I would like to take this time to deeply thank my parents and teachers who valued the importance of education above all for us. To my mother who was a teacher, musician, poet, and a problem-solver and my father who was a career military man, who was away from home a lot, but a visionary who saw girls as equal to boys and strongly believed in educating daughters – thank you! We were a family of four girls and a boy and lived in a large extended middle-class family. Like most around us we led frugal but full lives: my mother taught us as well as stitched our uniforms, the older siblings fetched water before leaving for school, food was never to be wasted, and most nights we had blackouts and had to use oil lamps. Despite the challenges, we had to do our homework, do well in our exams, participate in everything in school, and tutor anyone who asked–no matter what. We knew our parents sacrificed for us a lot. It was just a way of life. Our teachers were extraordinary, and now having lived and taught in universities in the US and in other countries, I know that they were world class: Mrs. Plant who taught geography and gave us life lessons in hard work, Mrs. Edwards who taught biology and showed us what it meant to be a working mother, Mrs. Pradhan who taught us eloquent Nepali, my Chemistry, History, Math, Physics teachers, I thank them from the bottom of my heart. My deep appreciation to the late Mother John Berchman who taught us English, made us memorize entire unedited version of Shakespearean work such as the Julius Caesar and Merchant of Venice as well as infinite number of poems, and made us write essays almost every day! While groaning about reciting poetry daily she would tell us that one day we would thank her – and I do all the time - as these poems and stanzas pop into my head at times of stress and joy, and I regale my colleagues with anecdotes about her.

During the global COVID19 pandemic your generation and mine are confronting unprecedented events which are becoming part of our daily lives: *lockdowns, stay-at-home orders, online learning, social distancing, quarantines, contact tracing, reopening* – many of these phrases and concepts alien to us even a few months ago. Globally, there is much we are learning about the virus, and about keeping safe and much we do not know. Even in the US which is now the epicenter of the pandemic and with huge resources there are so many unknowns. That is why experts say we live in unprecedented times. What we know is that we have to rely on science, evidence, facts, and sound judgement whether in schools, politics, homes, hospitals to guide us along. The virus has spared no country, nobody is beyond its reach, whether rich or poor. Yes, it appears to be largely targeting the elderly population. So, a note of caution here for all – in societies like India where we live with intergenerational families – younger people have to be more careful about not infecting their older relatives. Public health experts warn that people can be asymptomatic – meaning that they may carry the virus and test positive but show no symptoms. It takes just one person to infect whole communities. While good hygiene and washing hands well are key, following the advice of

public health experts is what we must do, and also know that even their information is evolving.

For those of us who are teachers and parents and most concerned about how to continue to educate our students – we have the biggest challenge. The United Nations estimates that over 1.3 billion of school children are out of school – that is the equivalent of the entire population of India! While schools around the globe have made the unprecedented move to online/digital learning it is not possible for all. Even in the richest countries – many students do not have computers, cannot afford the learning software, nor are they able to pay for internet. This is called the *digital divide*. We are calling these times the “new normal” as we struggle to address the educational challenges when students must stay home. Even as I write schools and colleges in the US face huge challenges of online education. In my university of 110,000+ students even though we have made successful transition, as we have been doing online learning for over 10 years and have more than 30 thousand students already considered to be fully online, we know that many students face severe problems in accessing education because learning is not just about having technologies. There are short-term and long-term implications for the future of education, even though we know that things will go back to “normal” sooner or later. And so, we ask - have we lost an entire year of schooling? how do we do science labs? what about students with disabilities? what about exams? and when we return what do we do with small classrooms in the age of social distancing? We do not have all the answers and still we are improvising, innovating, and adjusting the best we can.

We also ask - If we cannot do online learning then can we do distant learning? Can we do remote learning through radio and television for the short term? If so, how do we get electric companies and TV stations to subsidize the costs so that it is not too costly to put educational programs on air or to broadcast them? Or is it wiser to let students just be out of schools for now? Even in US these are daily challenges. We are seeking answers all the time and experimenting. The best we can do is to have regular interactions and conversations to understand how students and people are coping, what the real issues are, how and what technologies can be leveraged, and how to we help the most vulnerable among the students?

What we do know is that there is much we do not know about the virus, its impact on education, on the economy, and on our physical and mental health. In Loreto we have a great educational foundation, and we have great teachers, parents and educators working behind the scenes. We know all this will come to an end. We have technologies that will allow us to learn how other societies are coping and emerging from this pandemic, and there are great stories from amongst ourselves that we can share and learn from to bring hope and light.

As I end, I want to deeply acknowledge my sister, Mrs. Anuradha Philip who has taught in LC extraordinarily for over 25 years, and my cohort members and other alumni who continue Loreto’s mission of education- to them all I tip my hat in gratitude and thank them. I also want to acknowledge my wonderful class mates (Usha, Kirti, Jayasthiti, Bhavana, Sandhya, Anjana, Sonam, Meekha, Poonam, Vidya, Indu, Sahana, Ajanta – and others whose names I have missed), my seniors and juniors from the 70s, my other siblings, niece, and cousins who have graduated from LC and are now giving back to the world.

As we **celebrate 175 years of great education**, on behalf of my class of 1977 I want to extend my congratulations to the school, its educators, staff, parents, and most of all to students. Our lives were made richer because of how Loreto shaped and informed us. We are very proud of being LC alumni and here’s wishing for another 175 years of similar legacy.

And to this generation of LC students – it is our deepest hope that this global pandemic will make you more resolute, more open-minded, kinder, and world-class thinkers and doers in solving problems while including those that are most vulnerable, now and in the future.

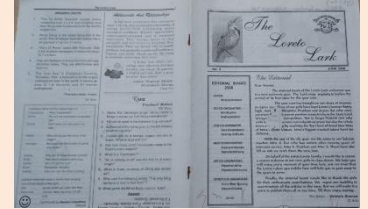
*Thank you, Loreto Convent Darjeeling.
Nalini Subba Chhetri, Class 1977.*



Letter from the Editor

To all our readers,

With pleasure and a sense of accomplishment, I put forth our first e-magazine for you to enjoy reading. The first 'Loreto Lark' commenced in 2007 under the aegis and enthuse of Sister Teresa Mc Glinchey IBVM and Mrs. N Yonzone, our present Vice Principal. It became a revival of the 'Palm Leaves' of yesteryears and a precursor to the present day annual 'Loreto Leaves'. So here we are in a humble attempt to make the larks sing once again.



All eyes remain fixed on the pandemic news. No sector of work has been spared. However in 'every curse there is a blessing' to be found. In the educational sector, all schools, colleges and universities continue to progress through online teaching and learning. This is perhaps the largest learning event in history! It is the need of the hour and the Faculty of every educational institution has risen to the occasion. Cheers to all the savvy women and a few good men.....many good men! In spite of the innumerable hurdles we face, the Teachers have certainly been empowering the children. We too are in transition, learning through trial and error, yet moving forward, achieving a great deal and being ever optimistic. Each of us is taking care of the community, turning every experience into precious tools for the future. So let us continue to support each other. **Stay Calm and Be Kind.**

I do hope that the current issue will be informative and interesting to our readers. We invite you to participate with your recommendation and contributions, so that this platform that we have devised, continues to evolve in the way it was intended to. We hope to foster a connection with all our students- past and present, teachers- then and now, parents, Sisters IBVM and the entire Loreto family. I believe this appeal will bear fruit.

With best wishes,
Anita Christina Lama



Head Girls 2020

Apoorva Gurung, and Trisala Gurung

The academic session for the year 2020 was definitely on a good start with fervent minds hungry for knowledge when a series of inconceivable calamitous events led us to where we are now, confined to our homes and desperately looking for ways to amuse our bored selves. As the abysmal situation outside is enough to leave us crippled with anxiety, we appeal to you to keep your cool and make the most of the ample amount of time. There is time to be productive and work on new hobbies, anything to keep your mind engaged and away from negativity and if you feel like you're way behind and have lost sight of the goal, this is your chance to bounce back. Wake up with purpose and intent. Show up and never give up. Believe that anything is possible and be willing to work for it. Believe that we are who we choose to be. Do not wait for things to get simpler, easier or better. Do not give up on your dreams. Remember that one thing you have that nobody else has is you. Your voice, your mind, your story, your vision. Prepare yourself for the worst for there is no minute to spare to pause in perplexity, the show must go on. With prayers for good health, happiness and peace without end.

Salvation through Obliteration



Apoorva Gurung, XII

“These are mad times we live in. MAD!”

-J.K.Rowling.

The state 2020 is in now definitely makes the quote extremely relevant to describe the past few months. The unrelenting pace of life, the dominance of hatred over love in a world of antagonistic dogma, the pursuit for dynamism, wealth and fame have led to the weird insanity of us being here now. COVID-19 has usurped the world.

This viral disease spreading rapidly like a wild fire during the fall causes illness ranging from common cold to severe diseases like Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), according to the WHO. Till date, there is a steady rise in the number of infected people and the threat makes people vulnerable with every tick of the clock as we mourn hundred-thousands of departed souls and immigrants who are trapped away from their homeland. In a nutshell, human life and economy are wrecked. Now for the silver lining of this adverse circumstance.

Mother Earth is healing.

With about 90% of the vehicles off the road, the morning breeze has never been cleaner in the past few years. Satellite images show a significant drop in nitrogen dioxide pollution. Radley Horton, professor and researcher from Columbia University also a Climate Scientist claims the improvement of air quality by 30% in California. The murky and nebulous water from the canals in Venice have cleared up as the boat-traffic on the capital city's magnificent and renowned waterways are absent. Delhi, the of India has witnessed significant improvement in the quality of the air. A politician, writer who is currently serving as a Member of the Parliament of India Shashi Tharoor writes, “blissful sight of blue skies and the joy of breathing clean air provides just the contrast to illustrate what we are doing to ourselves the rest of the time”. The decrease in commercial and industrial activities has caused a decrease in pollution but temporary ones. When it comes to the environmental damages there are no reversals, just noticeable or so or during the weekends depending on the gravity of the mistake we make, as we all stay quarantined indoors (sort of like Mother Earth grounding us) let us reflect on the mistakes we have made. For a species that has only been around on the Earth for about 200000 years, Homo sapiens have had a gigantic impact on the future fossil record, so much so that if any event in the next few days were to wipe out the entire human race, the evolution that follows would be driven and compelled by the choices we make to date.

So it is high time that people understand and appreciate the importance of an environmentally cleansed and pollution free atmosphere and make structural and economic changes to declutter the environment and reduce our carbon footprint. The pandemic will eventually be eradicated and our goal is to eliminate our hatred, greed, jealousy and ego along with COVID-19 and work towards a remarkably pollution free tomorrow that the obliteration we face now changes our mindset and becomes our salvation.

Lockdown Period



Trisala Gurung, XII

Our school reopened after the winter vacation on 17th February, 2020. After nearly a month, on 16th March, 2020, a nationwide lockdown was declared by our Prime Minister due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Things came to a standstill but due to the coordinated efforts of our school teachers, students and the administration, our studies are going on by forming Whats App groups. Since then, our teachers have been correcting, sending assignments and also explaining the lesson through voice audios, Zoom video classes and You Tube videos.

On 22nd April, 2020, Earth Day was celebrated by our Loreto family from all over India. Like every year, Loreto Convent Darjeeling had also taken part. We had the JPIC 5th edition, e-magazine. Our students from the junior as well as the senior school showcased their talents and gave messages to save our Mother Earth through their beautiful drawings, songs and articles.

It has been a tradition for Loreto Convent Darjeeling and for the Loreto schools all over the world to celebrate the crowning of Our Lady, Mother Mary in the month of May. Like every year, the special ceremony of honouring Our Lady Queen of Heaven and Earth took place this year too on the 5th of May but through a wonderful video consisting of an introduction, background hymn, prayers and artwork of Mother Mary. Loreto Convent Darjeeling gives special thanks to Ms. P. Bharatee the Class Teacher, to all the Catholic Teachers of our school and to class XI 'B' for the ceremonial online video.

Like other celebrations, Rabindranath Jayanti was celebrated on 7th May through an online video by our students. It was a remarkable contribution from the Bengali Department of our school.

Triparna Gurung, a student studying in class V made Loreto Convent, Darjeeling proud by standing first in the online art competition on 10th May, 2020 organised by the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration, Department of information and cultural affairs. Uden Sherpa of class VII also made all of us proud by standing third in the singing competition, organised by the same department.

On the same day, 10th May, 2020, we lost a very dear student, Shreya Rai who was giving her ISC this year. Our Loreto family mourns for her loss and prays for the repose of her soul.

Thus, the students, teachers and parents of Loreto Convent, Darjeeling are trying their best to make this lockdown effective and not let it hamper our academics as well as our extra - curricular activities.



Tapashya Thapa, V



Baidehi Bipasana Dewan, VI



Nivedita Subba, VII

COMMONALITY

A Reflection on Social Media, Hate Speech and Online Abuse during a Pandemic



Ishita Chettri, XII

“Our condition as members of a totally interconnected and interdependent global human family could never be more obvious than at this time.”

“At this time”, when the world is in the clutches of a life-threatening pandemic with its deserted school corridors, vacated libraries with stacks of books but without a single soul to read them, empty marketplaces with the smell of fresh uncontaminated air, unoccupied offices and desolate, hushed streets, it can be said without any uncertainty that the aforementioned statement is wholly accurate.

Another wholly accurate fact is that we, as humans, are social beings. While it may provide little comfort to a few knowing that they have been isolated from the rest of the world (and almost in cold-turkey fashion), only to still be able to have access to it through the internet and social media where almost every second of every minute of every hour of every day, a new post goes up – a picture or a writing, perhaps – that is very much present and in front of them but evidently lacks the intimacy when shared online. Perhaps this very craving of intimacy and the awareness this lack of intimacy brings to one makes one lean more towards being less receptive to social media and all its advantages (and its disadvantages).

On the other hand, a majority would agree that social media is a boon, especially “*at this time*”, considering that even people who have been quite hesitant in the past about utilizing social media to reach others have now been actively taking part in this race to be “known”. We perceive ourselves in accordance with how others perceive us and the only way to convince ourselves that we still exist when we have all been made invisible is reaching out to others. It is quite a terrifying truth that now that physical ties between humans have been cut off, the only place we can all be together is online. Now, more than ever, we have become a “real” global human family because unlike ever before, what happens to someone in the Northern Hemisphere or the Eastern Hemisphere may quite possibly affect or have an impact on someone (and not in a good way) in the Southern Hemisphere or the Western Hemisphere respectively. The humankind, irrespective of geography, has been tied together and left to fight a singular enemy by making deliberate decisions that will definitely impact the population as a whole.

The Coronavirus has to some extent eliminated heightened levels of self-importance and ignorance from most (if not all), and lodged feelings of fear and awareness in their places instead. However, the extents of these feelings of fear and awareness are varied. For instance, the virus has merely made some fear for the continuity of their lives as they have now become aware of the debilitated condition of the life-sustaining forces inside them. In other cases, however, reality seems to have become completely warped due to the inclusion of fanatical ideas of race, religion, sex and/or sexual orientation by some individuals who don’t seem to get over these futile, self-generated ideas even “*at this time*” when we are living in a period of a pandemic that poses serious threats to human life. They, out of their own incapability to comprehend situations, have been brought to a point where the whole idea of “fear and awareness” extends to them becoming aware of other individuals and their differences and fearing them solely for them being different.

Now, it is true that many individuals that bear a feeling of hostility towards other groups have resorted to social media in the past to propagate hate speech but “*at this time*” these acts seem to have gained more weight and have become more evident than in the past. I propose two reasons for this.

First, the tweets, Facebook posts and/or Instagram comments initiating or containing hate speech in the past were directed mostly to specific denizens and were only viewed by people within a certain radius from where this tweet, comment or post was made. However, “*at this time*”, any such statement made online seems to gain international exposure almost immediately. **Any issue is now a global issue.** It is as if the need for survival “*at this time*” has triggered something that has offered transparency to the whole situation allowing people to bring to light any

injustice being done in the name of race, religion, sex and/or sexual orientation. This is of much importance since it allows the subjects of hate speech to react, respond and defend themselves, especially “at this time” when seeking asylum or being in quarantine in some foreign country might be their only chance at survival.

The other more obvious reason as to why online content, especially hate speech, has been made more apparent is that people, perhaps out of sheer boredom during their time at home, have been more in touch with social media than they were before. This allows them to encounter far more posts on their social media timelines and they might even have the time to read these posts now in the comfort of their homes, something which wasn’t entirely possible before, due to their busy schedules.

In the scenario that I might be incorrect in my aforementioned reasoning, it might be true (and quite possibly so) that these hate speeches online have in fact been increasing “*at this time*”. The individuals behind these hate speeches have been persistently blinded by hatred and prejudice that it has now become quite impossible to make them see the light. Even we ourselves see a person infected by the virus as an American, an Indian, a Chinese or an African. While it is wise to steer clear of anything unwanted or suspicious because “*precaution is better than cure*”, we fail to realize that we are constantly promoting racism in our own small ways while simultaneously preaching the opposite.

Right now, every government and leader in the world is trying their best to prioritize and protect their country - from the virus and from threats from other countries. With a little bit of responsibility on our behalf, we would be right to have faith in our governments and leaders to do their duties and to trust that we are safe. Sadly, even in the safe environment within the four walls of our homes, we are still threatened online.

“*At this time*”, while many find relief in the idea of avoiding school or their workplace or just not having to socialize in general, this quarantine has proved to be a difficult time for many. Many still struggle in gathering up the energy and the emotional investment required to perform simple tasks at home everyday. They are overall vulnerable, especially now, because isolation can have different effects on different individuals and not all of the effects are positive. It is especially difficult “*at this time*” when conversations with friends and family are reduced to phone calls and socializing to online posts. For some people, it is as if their simple and agreeable lifestyles heavily dependent on social ties which has aided them in their veering from negative thoughts has now been replaced by an empty room where time keeps moving forward and eventually escapes them and they are left all alone to be sucked into the dark abyss of deterioration. Most people struggling with chronic mental illnesses and gender identities have taken to social media platforms to vent, to talk about their daily struggles and to inspire and provide reassurance to others online who may be struggling with the same problems as theirs. It is no surprise that these individuals become the perfect preys of online abusers because they seem more vulnerable, emotionally and mentally.

We have a common enemy today – the Coronavirus but that’s not all we have in common. No matter what race, religion, sex and sexual orientation one belongs to, we are all still human and what we have in common is the ability to empathize, to accept, to spread awareness and to be patient. More than focusing on our differences, if we focus on what we have in common, we might all make it out alive of this current situation with maximum order.

The internet is a wily place with wily people in every corner of it. It is in our hands to decide how we perceive what we perceive. All information should be confirmed as true before it is circulated online and any instance of false information, hate speech and online abuse should be reported. Faith is belief and we, as humans, all have the right to believe but this belief should come with acceptance of others and without offence. When we truly accept acceptance, we will see that the world around us will transform. Then, the internet will be a safe space for all people regardless of their races, religions, sexes and sexual orientations and it will be utilized solely for inspiring and uplifting others.

“It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.”

– Charles Darwin

We have lost many brave souls to this pandemic but must refuse give up hope for a future where we will all arise, triumphant because after all, we are all just undergoing a change. However, our victory will be guaranteed only as long as we remember one thing : **our COMMONALITY**

It's a world without humans and the birds don't care: a humorous short story.



Christine Edwina Allay, XII

It's been forty sunrises and we're at a point that we think the humans are going extinct.

My home has always been in the forest so it's not like I saw a lot of them in the first place but its been awfully long since any of them passed by in their noisy vehicles. Sooty, the marketplace pigeon, said that most of them are hiding away in their nests but Sooty is also a dimwit and no one really believes him. What could possibly be threatening enough to make the big humans want to hide?

According to Sooty, the humans only come out once in a while and they always have their beaks covered. "The market is so quiet I scared myself when I knocked against the wall of the coop.", he'd said. "The sound echoed, guys, that has never happened before."

Pengweng, my neighbour, thought he was speaking rubbish so he flew out mid morning to check on the humans. When he returned, he looked completely nonplussed. "I went to speak with my town friends but they were too busy trying to out-sing each other, I think they're celebrating their newfound peace. It was strange not seeing any of the humans around."

"Very strange indeed, but be honest-", said Lululuo, ruffling her feathers. "How many of us really care what happens to them? It's good that they're being quiet for a while, I was beginning to get hearing damage." Everyone murmured their agreement and went back to their day.

Effect of Corona virus on the Environment



Shrity Allay, VIII

I believe that everything has a good and a bad side. This virus too has its good and bad side. People often forget that and panic but we should always try to see something positive in every negative situation.

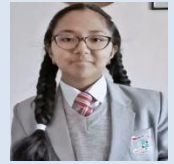
This pandemic has taught us many lessons, one of them is to not run after money and materials; money and other luxuries are useless without a family. We were so busy slogging for the perfect life that we forgot to lead a good and simple life. This pandemic has brought many families together like mine. My family was never together but this quarantine has made us closer as we are under one roof for the first time. We all enjoy each other's company and spend quality time together. I wonder if God wanted all the families to spend time with each other.

I think it has had a good impact on the environment as well. Due to this lockdown pollution has reduced. Since people are not allowed to come out of their homes, water and land pollution have also been reduced. As most of the shops are closed, there has been very few usage of plastic.

Before this lockdown I could hear the honking of cars all day and night, now I can hear the musical psithurism of nature. This pandemic has also taught us the importance of silence. Due to the fear of coronavirus people are keeping their locality clean. Overall it has a very good impact on the environment. Earlier trees were cut down and human population was increasing rapidly. The virus has balanced the ratio between human beings and nature.

I would like to conclude that "Everything happens for a good reason" and this virus has a good impact on the environment as well as on human relations. It has taught us that if we are together we can fight anything.

World without Humans



Anvesha Kabir Basnet , X

Every species in the history of biology that has reached the end of its resources has suffered a population crash. And we are going to. We've been stretching our food supply, force-feeding our soils with chemicals, and we've gotten to the point where it's starting to really bite back at us.

“Whether we accept it or not, this will likely be the century that determines what the optimal human population is for our planet. It will come in one of the two ways:

Either we decide to manage our own numbers to avoid a collision of every line on civilization's graph, Or nature will do it for us, in the form of famines, droughts, epidemics, climatic chaos, crashing ecosystems, mass responses to chemicals, diseases and wars over dwindling resources that will finally cut us down to size”, Alan Weisman has said in his book ‘Countdown: Our Last, Best Hope for a Future on Earth?’ which was originally published on 24th September 2013.

Unfortunately, the years 2019-20, and maybe even longer, had/have/will have to face nature's wrath (although many claim it to be a ‘bioweapon’) in the form of a new type of coronavirus- Covid-19- a deadly virus that has claimed 178,281 deaths so far (22nd April 2020) all over the world. There is a dread gripping the hearts of humans (unless they do not know about it). However, some people are optimistic and believe that the earth will, inevitably, be a better place if humans decrease in number or are completely wiped off the face of the earth, while others strongly disagree with these thoughts, claiming that the humans were made for this world, and the world, for humans.

Let us assume two scenarios -
Humans never existed on this planet,
Humans suddenly disappeared from the earth.

Many scientists believe that humans are not from earth. They think that maybe that is the reason why our behaviours do not match that of the animals, and why we look at the sky while praying to God. Howsoever humans had appeared on earth, they changed the planet drastically. Some say that had humans not appeared on this planet, many of the extinct species would still roam on the earth freely. Scientists also say that the other species of humans would still be there, and maybe they would be the ones to start a new civilization. However, there is no doubt in the fact that without humans, the earth would not be facing the challenges it is facing now. The biodiversity would still remain. . Data says that eighty percent of the mammals have been extinct because of our selfish reasons.

Every organism is indispensable for the mother Earth, but, human activities have damaged that balance irreparably. Every bacterium, insect, fungus, reptile, fish, and even the virus, is essential for regulating the system. Among these, even if one organism disappears, there will a fluctuation in the ecosystem. If this happens, there will be a damage, which will lead to another, and then another, thus imbalancing the whole of the earth. Unfortunately, one of the main reasons for this has been – humans.

If humans never existed on this planet, there would have been low pollution, no excess global warming, low deforestation, no artificial wastes, lesser hunting, low extinction rate, no automobiles, no fishing, no exporting and importing of goods, no smuggling of hides, horns, tusks, and most importantly, no cities, towns, villages, and political divisions like continents, countries, states and districts. In short, all of the man-made things would cease to exist, including the musical instruments, and the discoveries we have made so far. But, on the brighter side, music and dance shall never be lost, for, I hope you have not forgotten the peacocks, the canaries, the cuckoos, have you?

Nature would work at its own pace. Without us, it would not have to worry about being unstable, and the method of how it would cope up to fill the void. It would be how it was before the humans arrived, green, pleasant, generous and pure, but with some small changes here and there, for change is something natural. Every organism

would have sufficient food to eat and clean water to drink. The ozone layer would never have a hole in it, unless some organism evolved to that extent that it was able to do the things we have done till now. Some people believe that the predatory cats, passenger pigeons, giant sloths, ground sloths and mammoths would still be alive had it not been for homo sapiens, who might have also been responsible for the deaths of their cousins, Neanderthals and Homo erectus.

In the second scenario, the results would be quite frightening. About a second after the disappearance of humans, chaos ensues. Without drivers, planes, trains, ships, and automobiles collide, trail and tumble down. Within an hour, mass blackouts occur across the globe. The next day, computers act of their own accord to shut down nuclear reactors in order to prevent disaster. On the third day, the last gong of the BIG BEN sounds, while the drainage system, which are now abandoned, will be busy flooding the tunnels. Some days later, the electricity grid fails, as the fuel supplies run out, and there is nobody to override the power stations' failsafe mechanisms. Some may even explode, irradiating the local ecosystem and causing much damage to the plants and animals. The radiations lead to mutations in others, creating new evolutionary lines.

Emergency generators shut down and once all the fires have gone out, the earth goes dark for the first time in centuries. After the first catastrophic month, changes come more gradually. Mould flourishes on moist surfaces in homes and offices, ice burst pipes, and plants begin to take over buildings, as there is no one to cut them back, giving an impression of converted natural theme parks. Within twenty months or so, sidewalks are torn apart by weeds and tree roots. Around this time, flooded tunnels erode the streets above into urban rivers. In temperate climates, the cycle of seasons freezes and thaws these waterways, cracking pavements and concrete foundations, which once seemed indestructible to us. Leaking of pipes causes the same reaction in concrete buildings, within two hundred winters. Most of the skyscrapers buckle and tumble down. In cities built in river deltas, the buildings are, eventually, completely washed away, filling nearby tributaries with the crushed concrete. Countryside and sub urban areas decay more slowly, but in largely unsurprising ways- leaks, moulds, bug and rodent infestations. In about thirty years, the satellites that were sent up to space, will come crashing down, back to the earth, but unfortunately, there will be no one, absolutely nobody to receive the data.

However, the biggest problem- global warming will continue till forty years. The conditions will, without doubt, be much better, and maybe, in another two hundred and fifty years, excess carbon dioxide will be completely eliminated. Nature has tried all this time to fill the void left by humans, and make the planet stable, but it will take ten thousand years more for the forests to grow enormously and fill the whole earth, and perhaps another fifteen thousand years for aluminium dishwashers, stainless steels and most importantly, plastics, to be completely eradicated from the earth and its oceans. Maybe some particular bacteria will evolve to digest plastics but this will take millions of years.

In other words, the world would mostly look as it did before humanity came along – like a wilderness. “The planet is a living organism and would thrive without us” although it has lived a fraction of its life with us. The earth would then be like a person who has lost the people who had the most impact on him (in both good and bad ways), and has been trying to move on with a life without them, ever since. However, they will never be forgotten by the person, and nor will we, by the earth. For, in any other case, we have left our mark, be it in the form of radioactive materials, ceramics, bronze sculptures, or Mount Rushmore, haven't we?



Sushanta Pradhan, IX



Kunsang Lama, IX

Effects of the Corona virus



Riddhima Rani Pradhan, IX

The Corona virus or COVID-19, which is supposed to have its origin in Wuhan, China has taken the world by storm. It has affected millions of people around the globe and also the world economy at large. In general, labelled a pandemic by the World Health Organisation (W.H.O), it has caused havoc around the globe.

COVID-19 has affected almost all the countries around the world but the worst affected countries are the U.S.A, Italy, Spain, France and China. World Heads had to come together to find a solution to this problem and the only one big solution for everyone was “Lockdown” for a certain period of time. Lockdown means to shut all kinds of movement by people including transport and communication. Due to this a lot of problems arose for people who had either gone for a pilgrimage, vacation or students studying outside of their homes nationally and internationally. The worst hit though was the migrants of the world. Even in India, we saw a huge number of migrant workers struggling to reach their native places and many of them who took the journey by foot also ended up losing their lives. It was heartbreaking to hear the news of migrant workers and their plight on television almost daily. People were asked to stay indoors and to work from home if possible. Social Distancing was the main agenda for one and all and those people who violated this rule were often beaten by the police and sent home or even arrested, thus driving home the seriousness of this situation we are in and that our lives are hanging on a thin line. This we realise as we listen to the news and hear that so far, more than two lakh people have died due to the Corona virus.

However, like there is always two sides to a coin and everything else, the COVID-19 though grim also has a positive effect. The lockdown has resulted in giving Mother Earth a chance to rest and nature has flourished due to it. The pollution level has come down everywhere and where skies were covered in smog, people are beginning to see the Milky Way and a starlit sky, and mountain ranges are being sighted in places like Punjab after thirty or more years. Sightings of animals walking fearlessly on the roads without the fear of being poached are being seen on social media. Whales have been sighted near the oil rigs in Mumbai and many other tales fill social media everyday whereby we know that nature and animals are happy and rejoicing without the harm caused by humans. Busy lifestyles have been curbed and families are spending quality time together. It is a pleasure to have my parents and sister home together after a long time and it is fun learning to bake and cook with them. This must be the case with most families at this time. COVID-19 has also taught hygiene and cleanliness and people are more aware about how important a simple thing like washing hands frequently can save lives.

At this time, when churches, temples, monasteries, mosques and other places of worship have been closed, we must realise that there is no greater religion than humanity. It has brought out the good in people and we see and hear people reaching out to help others in every level of society be it with cash or kind. People have come together to help one another without thinking about their caste, creed or colour. The Corona virus has affected every living species on this planet, leaving an indelible mark in everyone’s heart. We all will have our own stories to tell and I am sure this event is one which will go down in World history and how we battled it as one.



Malini Pradhan, LKG



Suhani Thapa, VII

Humans at Risk



Nivedita Subba, VII

The world is in danger! A severe disease has broken out. This disease is called the Coronavirus. The virus spread from Wuhan, China to the rest of the world. We can overcome this virus if we take action against it. This disease can spread through human contact. It is very difficult to detect and you would never know if you had the virus and were spreading it. If this virus is not handled properly with care, the entire mankind could be wiped out. There are many preventive measures such as washing hands very frequently, keeping yourself isolated, maintaining the social distance, etc. As this virus spreads through human contact, the governments of most countries have announced a lockdown. This has helped a lot and we must follow it.

However mankind is not at risk only because of Coronavirus. Littering of plastic bags and pollution are also great causes affecting mankind and nature. It is true we are in danger because of our carelessness. If the lockdown for Coronavirus had not been in place, we would have continued using plastic bags and unknowingly polluting the world. Right now we must follow the preventive measures seriously to keep ourselves safe and fight the virus.

We can fight and rise up again if we are a little more careful, serious and secure.

No Replacement for School



Apeksha Rai, VI

I have never been so sad. I wish everything was back to normal and that our school reopens soon. For the last few days, I had a nice time as I had the whole day to myself. Waking up late, watching TV and playing with my neighbors had become a daily routine and I felt that this was the perfect life. But as days turned into weeks and then to a whole month, I started missing school, my friends and above all, my teachers. After getting the study materials via WhatsApp, messages and Youtube, I started realizing how hard our teachers work to make us learn our lessons. But I prefer to learn in school than online. Now I know that I used to take them for granted and now I realize their importance when I don't have them.

Even though this pandemic has brought about death, sorrow and despair in the whole world, it has taught us a lot. We now know the importance of our family, our friends and above all, our teachers. Thank you teachers for taking the time to send us home-work. I pray to the Almighty to bring an end to this sorrow and make everything as it was before. I promise I will never take anything for granted again.

Online Classes during Lockdown



Janvi Agarwal, V

As I am writing this article, the world is in the grip of the clutches of the demonic corona virus pandemic. We in India are in the third phase of lockdown and it is really unprecedented. Not only has the daily livelihood of one and all been affected, but almost all the schools and colleges in India are also shut temporarily. The lives of millions of students have fallen into turmoil. But even at this crucial stage of fear and grief, we find that most of the educational institutions are imparting education to their students via e-learning and online education. This is because there is no surety when we shall be able to overcome this pandemic and when this gruesome lockdown will be permanently lifted. Hence the gap created by the closure of schools and colleges needs to be bridged and in the present scenario, online education holds the upmost importance.

As far as our school, Loreto Convent is concerned, how can a school holding such high stature and eminence lag behind. We are attending virtual classes via e-learning. We are being given various assignments and home-work and have been told to read and learn various topics. We are being given various instructions by our teachers on all the weekdays. The chapters are being explained through various videos and pdf files sent to us. The teachers are monitoring us and helping us with the difficulties we are facing. We are also inspired to learn new words and read story books. The teachers have asked us to learn about health and hygiene and to indulge in co-curricular as well as noncurricular activities such as cooking, gardening and learning music and dance.

Instead of just playing games on mobile phones, we have now felt a new beneficial importance of these gadgets. We are studying online in the comfort of our homes with the help of mobile phones and technology.

The experience of online classes is remarkably good and the response is overwhelming. This is our testing phase and we need to overcome this pandemic by staying safely at our homes and remaining positive that sooner or later we will surely crush this fearsome virus.

My Parents, My Precious Gift



Tenzin Yangden Bhutia, V

My mother is a beautiful homemaker and a pure soul. My father is a dashing and a responsible man. Words fail to describe them. Both of them are living examples to me and my brother. We both feel so fortunate to have them as our first teachers. Above everything they taught us how to be kind and good human beings. My mother takes care of the house, does chores, cooks delicious food for us, helps us with our studies and spends ample time with us. Whereas our father, a government servant, an army man by profession is very disciplined and strict but has a down-to-earth nature. He hardly spends time with us physically, but never fails to connect with us through video calls. We feel his presence though he is away most of the time. Somehow this time I am very grateful to our honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for the lockdown during this COVID-19 situation as we get to spend a lot of time with our father. I am getting to know more about my father during this quarantine. I am studying hard and spending a wonderful time with my parents. It's like I am having the best of both worlds.

I thank my parents for the love and blessing they shower upon us. They call us Angels but they are the real Angels for us. Thank you mom and dad for everything you do. I hope I will stand up to your expectations and make you proud.



Karma Tseyang Bhutia, X

Good Health and Well-being



Angela Shreya Gurung, IV

A healthy person enjoys good health, food and sound sleep. By good health and well-being we mean a state of complete physical and social well-being. In the present day, humans are facing a problem due to a deadly virus named Covid -19 which originated from the Wuhan city of China.

The deadly virus originated from a Wuhan seafood market where wild animals including birds, rabbit, bats and snakes are traded illegally. On December 31st 2019, the World Health Organisation heard the first reports of the virus. The Wuhan market was shut down for inspection and cleaning on 1st January, 2020. Covid -19 is a large group of virus that infects both humans and animals and in humans it causes respiratory illness and common cold. The common symptoms of which are dry cough, fever and respiratory tract illness. After China, the virus spread outside the country through physical contact within a very short period of time. Italy has seen the highest number of deaths and in Europe there are 17,669 deaths still on rise and 1, 39,422 confirmed cases. As of now there is no vaccine to cure Covid-19. There is a lot of research being done to make a vaccine for the virus.

We can prevent and keep ourselves safe from the virus by washing our hands regularly for 20 seconds with soap and water. We should cover our nose and mouth with a mask, avoid close contact with people and stay at home and isolate ourselves from others. We should also eat healthy food and stay safe.

Due to this virus, the Indian government has shut down all educational institutions till June 10th 2020. Apart from India there are a lot of countries who are facing problems due to the virus.

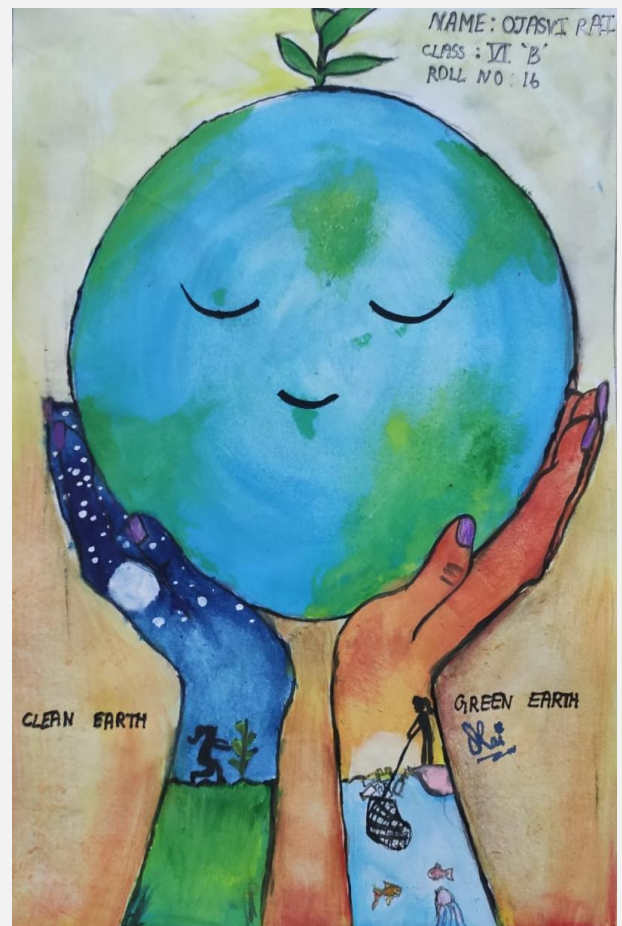
In order to overcome all the problems, our Prime Minister has instructed us to stay at home. He has called for a national lockdown and is doing his best to help the citizens in every way possible. Let us help to save our nation and our world by obeying the rules given and by getting quarantined and not going outside our houses.

Good Health and Well Being



Aadhya Subba, IV

Our health and well-being are the most important things in life. It is very important for all of us to be healthy and we must exercise regularly, eat healthy food, keep ourselves and the surroundings clean. We must also keep our houses, schools and classrooms neat and clean. Today the whole world is fighting against the Coronavirus. To prevent the spread of this disease I am staying indoors. We should not go outside the house and mix with our friends or other people. We should always maintain a distance. To maintain good health and well-being is a good habit for all of us. Good habits need to be formed right from the childhood days and our parents help us a lot in forming these good habits. It keeps a person in good health and improves the overall environment.



Ojasvi Rai, VI

Will we meet again?



Dhritya Giri, XII

Thinking about then and now, I wonder
'Will we ever get to meet again?'
Well I'd never thought,
Forwarding Whatsapp messages would be so
in the Trend.
But on a serious note,
'Is this the way we'll be meeting the end?'

Laying on my couch I ponder,
'Was it just some days ago that
everything was fine?'
I remember the world working steadily,
But now I can't even call the FREEDOM TO
SOCIALIZE to be mine.
Oh Yes! It is called QUARANTINE.

Frustrating it is but responsibility
too.
A person going out will be infected too!
With all the fear and anxiousness I ask
the same question
'Will we meet again?'
Will we meet again?

The Warfare



Aastha Bhattacharjee, X

Everyone is a maladroitness now
For we are in the lockdown
The cause of lockdown and quarantine has been Corona
Which has been infecting people in plethora.

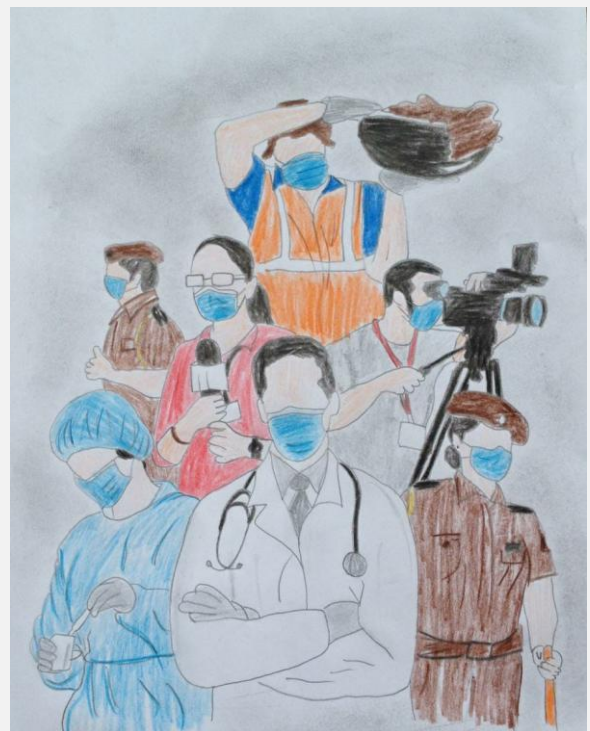
Life is so different now,
Seems like we have forgotten the word "Wow"
All of us are rhapsodic
The news is never idyllic.

Now the only option we have
Is to stay at home and coalesce
And unite
We know our future is not bright.

How to fight this situation
Is indeed a stupendous question,
To prove we are obedient and clever
We have to stay at home and defeat corona forever.



Afreen Butt, XII



Muskan Lama, IX

The Final Plight



Ishita Chettri, XII

As you try to adjust your eyes
To the new-found piercing light
And scan your surroundings with defeated sighs,
You try hard to recall the final plight

Your hands feel hefty
It's stained black with mud
And you try your best to move your naked feet
Concealed in a pool of thick red blood

There's a dead man to your left
A dead man to your right
Spirits levitating all around
Quite ready to take flight

You gather up the strength
To drag yourself through the streets
To see a thousand human bodies scattered,
Dead and beat

Dust rises in the air
As you venture out under the Red Star's glare
And as soon as the dust settles, you can see
A new world in place of where the old one used to be

It's a world without humans,
A world of the dead
The once thriving land of the humans
Now altered, alas, to a death bed

You rise but not in triumph
You shoot up to the sky
You glide over the oceans
And pass the rich fields of rye

There are a thousand thoughts in your brain
With frantic eyes you search the wasted terrain
The loud whistle of the wind in your ears is on the rise
And there's a stench in the air that is quite hard to disguise

You are now above the Bondi Beach
Where last month there was a territorial breach
There were people in swimsuits, equipped with their gear
Carelessly having a good time as their deaths drew near

You are now above an Indian city
Known for its beauty and equity
But that is a matter of the past
Because everything in front of your eyes is now in contrast

You are now outside the Anne Frank House
Where a woman lies lifeless next to her lifeless spouse
Where tourists once showed up dressed in their best attire
And called those talking about the deadly virus a liar

You are now above the Amazon
Where once nature had ceased to exist;
But now there is a flourish of all life possible
Which now the dead humans cannot offer to resist

You are now above Times Square
Where people have succumbed to their own snares
And the skyscrapers in New York seem to gleam
Against the tears of the angels from heaven - a deadly stream

You are now above a neighbourhood
Lined with smooth, angular streets
Where your old ignorant self once walked
Looking through your phone at dead men wrapped in thick white sheets.

You wish you were alive
But now it's too late
So you hold your ghostly breath
And ascend towards the Heaven's gate
You look down for the final time
In stupified dread
At the world without humans,
The world of the dead



Anoushka C. Subba, X



Lakshita Chettri, VII

World without Humans



Soumyashree Thapa, IX

The gift of life
In this very place
Is a boon to us humans,
The superior race.

The world is fabulous
No errors to detect,
Its beauty is incredulous,
Everything is amazingly perfect.

But look at us humans,
Beings that are never content!
Are constantly trying to change the way things are
Gradually leading to the world's miserable end.

Chopping down trees,
Slaughtering beautiful beasts
Some for their teeth
And others for their luscious meat.

Destroying animals' homes
Just to build our own,
Leaving them to their doom,
Altogether getting ready for our own tomb.

And thinking how the world would have been
Without humans nowhere to be seen
Is something that'd make me think
A thought so deep in which anyone would sink.

The birds would sing
A happier song
They would have a home
Where they would always belong.

The fish would swim and splash and spin
To the rhythm of the waters gushing and washing
On the algae-covered boulders,
Home to the king of the pincers, the legendary lobsters.

The air would be cleaner,
Surroundings would be greener,
The waters would be clearer,
Heaven would be nearer.

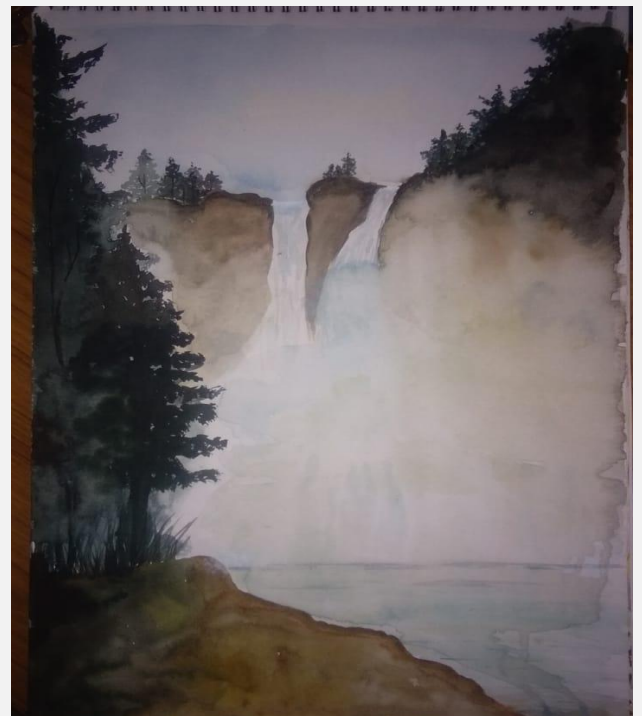
All beings would be living
Without any interruption
If it weren't for us humans,
Our minds swoon over by corruption.

And now that we're aware of this,
We can change this sorrowful state of things.
We can show that we do care
And are no longer trapped in the evil snare.

As a world without humans
Would have been so nice
Let us, the humans
Change and restore the spirit of life.



Karma Tseyang Bhutia, X



Anarsha Rai, X

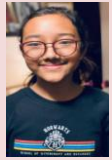
The Pandemic



Sanjana Gupta, VIII

Everything falls within the yardstick,
But we are unable to control it.
We have got other equipments
But just a vaccine can solve it
Plague, Cholera, Spanish Flu , Coronavirus has
ruined the world,
It seems history repeats itself every 100 years.
Weeks and months of isolation,
Feels we are caged.
Animals have got freedom
Nature is awake.
Physically apart but emotionally connected
If the world unites we might win the race
Rich countries have surrendered,
Letting armies to fight the Pandemic won't help
Money is not going to solve this
It's the mask which can fight
Social Distancing is the word for the day
One small step from us all might help end this .

Slumber



Maya Tshering Rai, VI

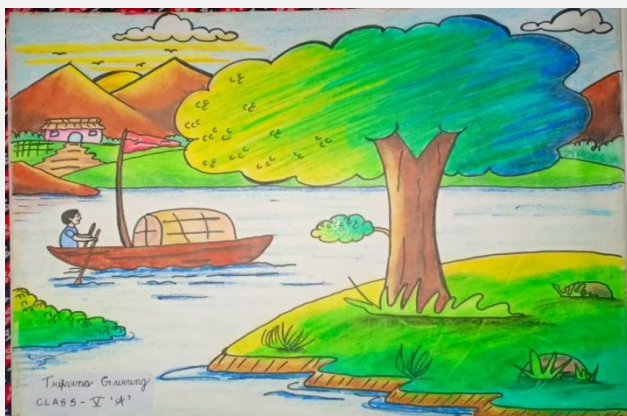
When I close my eyes and let my
Thought drift away;
I think about the people who follow
Their own wayward way;
Would they live a life of peace
Because they listen to themselves
And no one else?
Or would I forget they exist and leave them
With the price to pay?
I think about the people in the world
Who ignore those who need our help,
Would they ever put the needy first before their
own self?
With these thoughts somersaulting through
My mind like a tumbler,
I fall into a dreamless slumber.

Lockdown



Aadhya Baraily, III

My mother, father and I are home
We do not go out to roam
We wake up a little late
We don't know what's the date
When the weather is gloomy
I like to watch my favourite movie
The virus is everywhere
I say a little prayer.



Triparna Gurung, V

कोरोना



प्रणमय छेत्री
तेस्रो श्रेणी

कोरोना तिमी आयौ,
हामीलाई सफा बस्न सिकायौ।

पाठशालाहरु सबै बन्द गराई,
हामीलाई घरमा कैद गरायौ।

लाखौं मानिसहरुको ज्यान लिई,
विश्वमै हलचल मचायौ।

भो अब अति भयो,
तिमी फर्कि जाऊ
बिन्ति यो छोरीको सुनि देऊ।

Community Activities

Amidst the lockdown Loreto Sisters made an eight days online retreat, prayed for the entire human families and especially remembered our past and present Loreto Family.

The whole world was suffering due to the Lockdown caused by Corona Virus. We felt the suffering of Jesus in humanity and moved to serve them on Good Friday. Loreto Convent Darjeeling lent helping hands to the needy people in the poor areas where NGOs and Government personnel had not reached for help.

Dhotrey Simrik Sumarpani the Tea Garden has been closed for 6 years. There are forty families whose income depends on selling homemade tea leaves alone. In collaboration with the NGO Marg we located the place where people needed our help. We distributed ration to forty families who were very grateful and happy as they were in need. They said that we were the first ones to reach there for help.



On 22nd April we distributed ration to 30 coolie family in the Darjeeling market area and 34 families in Goushala by the help of social worker Ms. Devika, Sisters Shanta , Sunila and Mr. Bhaskar. On 23 April with Anughlaya NGO the ration was distributed to 85 families in Sukhia Pokhari Tea Estate , Nagri Tea Estate, and Tarzam Tea Estate . From there we went to Pulbazar Tea Garden where 40 families received ration and masks.



Since the masks were given importance in maintaining the hygiene during Covid -19 The Darjeeling Community lent their hands to stitch 1200 masks with the help of the staff .

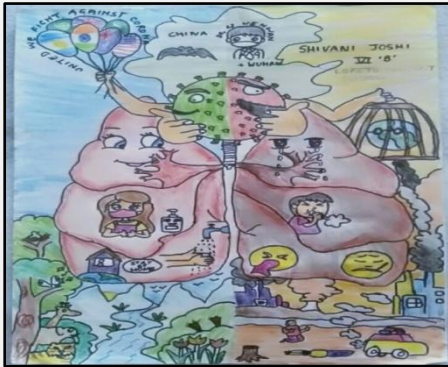
The material was provided by the Jesuits in North Point and stitched masks were distributed by Jesuits Fathers and Loreto Sisters in different Tea- Estates.

Laudato Si week celebration –



Art Competition 2020 Winners!!

Theme for Middle School: *Merits and Demerits of Corona virus pandemic.*



Shivani Joshi, VI - 1st

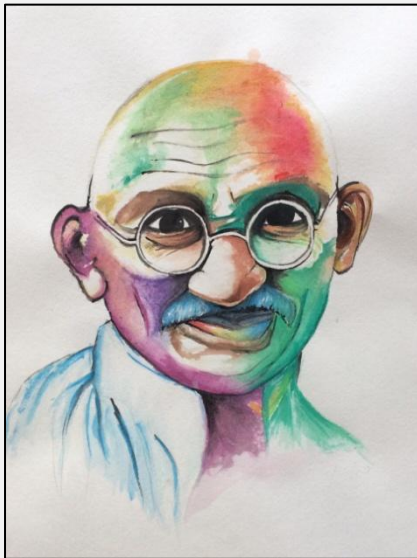


Ojasvi Rai, VI - 2nd

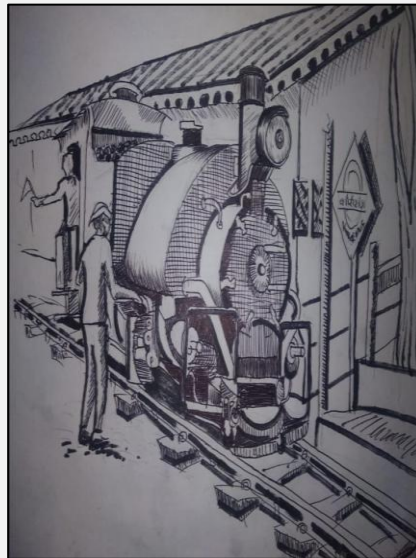


Tashvi Sharma, VI - 3rd

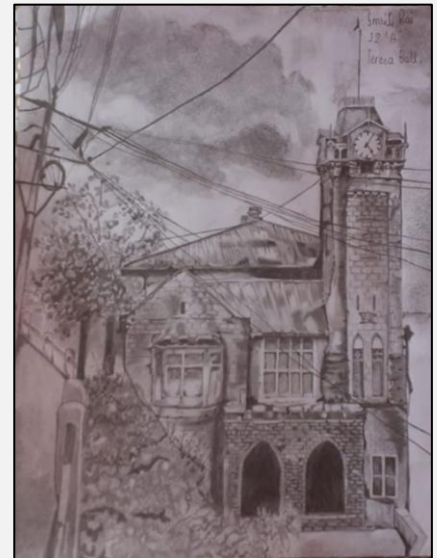
Theme for Senior School: *History and Heritage.*



Lasata Pradhan, X - 1st

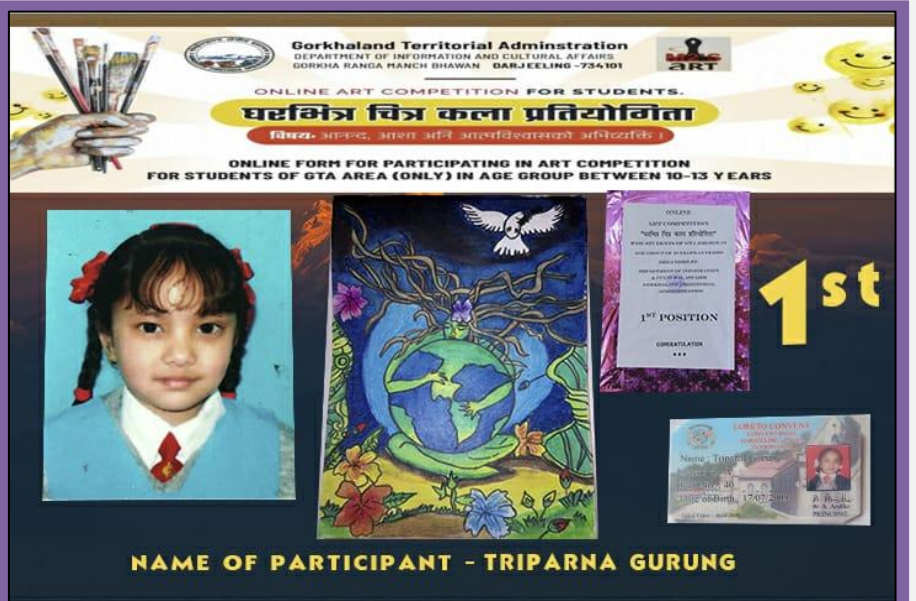


Azrabel Chowhan, X - 2nd



Smriti Rai, XII - 3rd

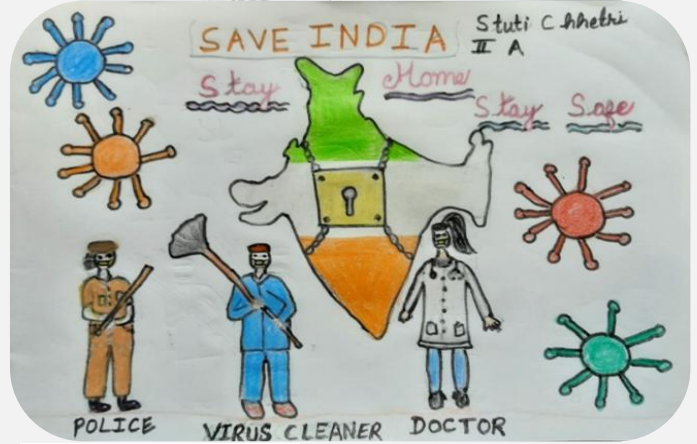
GTA In-house Art Competition Winner!!



DIFFERENT STROKES



Prathista Tamang, V



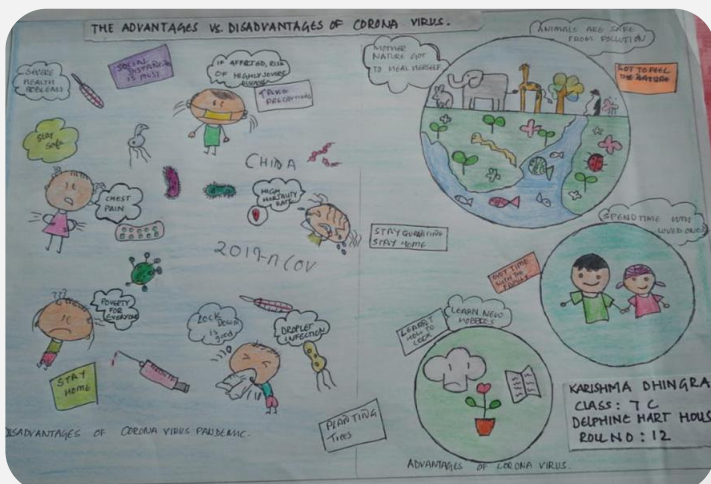
Stuti Chhetri, II



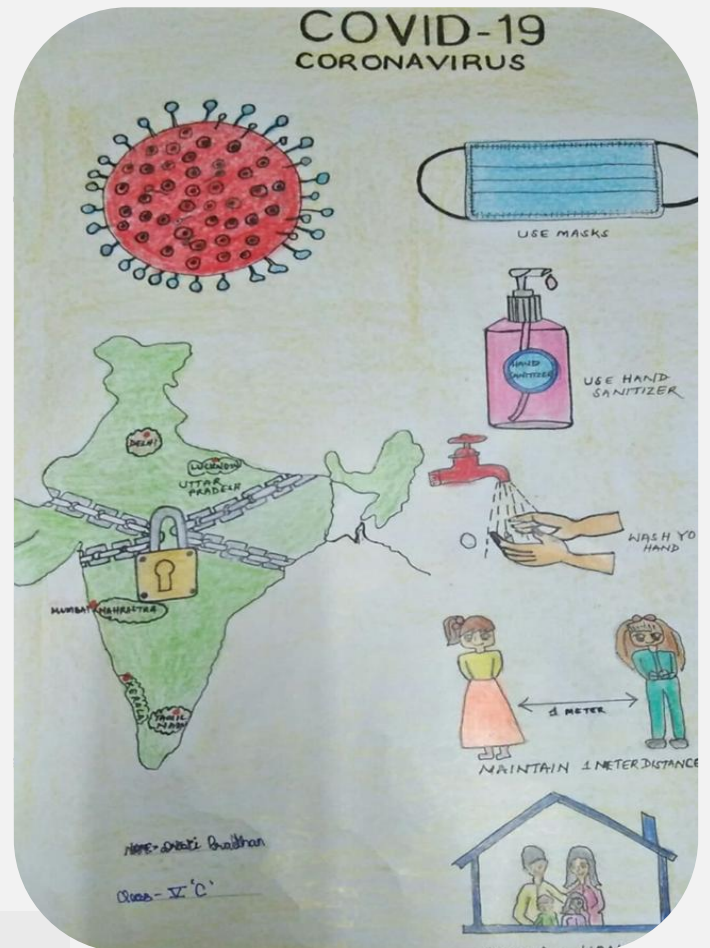
Nishang Tamang, II



Riona Sunam, II



Karishma Dhingra, VII



Dristi Pradhan, V

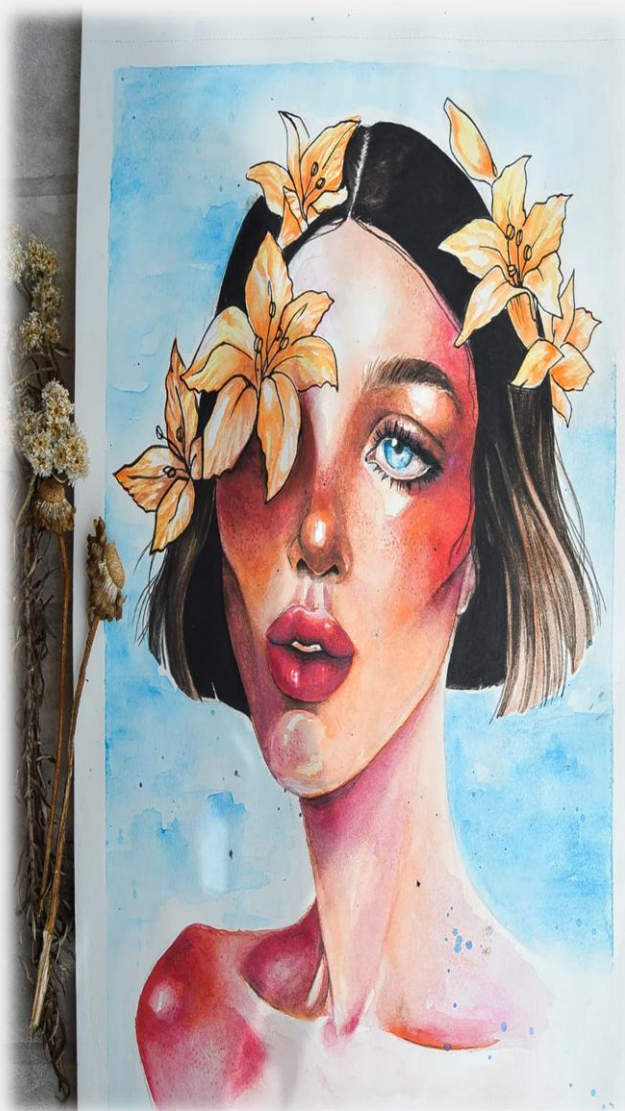
ARTISTS OF SENIOR SCHOOL



Tashi Lhamo Bhutia, IX



Merab Vani Rai, X



Afreen Butt, XII



Preity Sardar, IX



Utkrishta Chettri, VII

OBITUARY



Sister Magdalene Monro

Born: 9th December 1924

Entered Eternal Home: 28th April 2020

Sister Magdalene Monro IBVM was born on 9 Dec 1924 in Kolkata, West Bengal and was baptised as Cynthia Monica on 31 December 1924. Her father was Late Mr. Joseph Monro and her mother was Late Mrs. Alice Marian Stanislaus. She had three siblings - two brothers and a sister.

Sister Magdalene was a student of Loreto House, Kolkata. She graduated from Loreto College with a Bachelor's degree in Education and also studied English, French, Botany and Commerce. Thereafter she became a teacher at Loreto House. Sister Magdalene was a late vocation and had worked fourteen and a half years as a teacher, before she entered the religious life.

Most of her fifty-nine years in religious life were spent in educating young children. She initially served as the Mistress of the School and then gloriously led the Loreto Convents as the Principal in eight different schools across India, namely - Elliot Road, Darjeeling, Shimla, Entally, Ranchi, Shillong, Delhi and Sealdah. In the latter part of her life, she transitioned to the accounts department and worked there as the Province bursar. She also served as a Community Leader in Ranchi and Darjeeling in the early eighties. Sister Magdalene was known to be a strict disciplinarian. However, though she was firm in demeanour when dealing with students, parents and teachers she was also very kind hearted, had a great sense of humour, was a voracious reader and loved to play scrabble. Sister Magdalene was keenly interested in her surroundings and harboured a special love for the poor. She was actively involved in the Loreto House School Alumnae and will be remembered fondly.

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul Rest in Peace.

"Only a moment you stayed, but what an imprint your footprints have left on our hearts." (Little Footprints, Dorothy Ferguson, poet)



Shreya Rai

Born: 19th September 2002

Entered Eternal Home: 10th May 2020

Shreya Rai was a hardworking student, an avid reader and a beautiful soul. She was adored by all her teachers for her obedience, innocence and affectionate nature. A humble and shy girl she was to others, however she never failed to charm the hearts of her friends with her cheerful and fun-loving nature. Shreya was able to strike a perfect balance between academics and external affairs. This interest of hers in worldly matters won her the first position in the General Knowledge event hosted by the Chota Batasia Youth Club in the year 2017.

Shreya had a very imaginative mind which is clearly visible through her artistic paintings and her keen interest in astronomy. She had a deep passion for marching and never failed to impress others with her dancing and rapping skills. At the age of 15, Shreya was awarded first position in the sit and draw competition held in Batasia. Gifted with a good sense of humour, she also performed comic roles in school plays. Shreya was extremely skilled at handwork and kept up with the expectations of her teachers with her beautiful works of art.

Apart from her academics and extracurricular activities, Shreya also offered her service to the society. She was an active member of the Students Against Trafficking Club, Loreto Convent Darjeeling. She was an active member of the Chota Batasia Youth Club where she invariably offered her service with dedication and consistency.

Shreya left for her Heavenly abode on the 10th of May 2020. She was a strong being and faced every difficulty with a brave front. Although she came across many difficulties, she never hesitated to move on with an optimistic attitude. She was a born fighter who fought to the very last.

Shreya put her heart at everything she did, be it playing around with her friends or being a loving and supportive daughter to her family. With her kindness and playfulness she won the hearts of all. For her friends she was like a child who was loved dearly. We thank God for making her a part of our lives and filling it with beautiful memories that are to be cherished forever in sweet remembrance.

Diksha Tamang
Vice Captain, Hart House
ISC 2020



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