



INDUS VALLEY WORLD SCHOOL



Renasish Das
Grade XI

NEWSLETTER APRIL-JUNE 2020

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



On 16th March 2020, teachers were hard at work – packing prize books and medals and settling report cards in preparation for the end of term PTMs, when news filtered in that we would have to close school. The enormity of this did not quite sink in till a few days later when the entire nation went into lockdown.

We found ourselves in an unenviable situation. We were facing unprecedented challenges – we had about a fortnight to unlearn what we knew to be tried and tested methods of teaching. Overnight “chalk and talk” had become a thing of the past and we had to get adjusted to the idea of teaching through virtual classrooms – something we had thought belonged to the realm of Science fiction!

But our wonderful team of teachers proved to be more than equal to the task. We began our new academic year

exactly as scheduled – of course with a major difference. Lesson plans took on a new dimension as teaching – learning came alive through text and videos uploaded through the school app. Within the space of a few days, we moved on to a combination of synchronous and asynchronous means of transacting our lessons as teachers began to take “live” classes through “Zoom” and then through “Google Meet.”

Everything had a touch of the unreal. At first, we believed that this was all temporary. As weeks went by, we came to realize that this was the “new normal!” The IWWS team embraced the changes with ingenuity and transitioned beautifully “from brick to click” to ensure that learning continues uninterrupted. Their creative endeavour scaled new heights as all significant days in the school calendar were observed and celebrated in a way that set the standard for others in the city to emulate.

Of course, lessons through the virtual medium haven't always been smooth sailing. Sometimes students miss classes due to poor connectivity; teachers have had to face enormous difficulties balancing the load of increased house work and family responsibilities in the absence of domestic help with their school work. But kudos to our teachers – even against all odds, they are taking classes with their characteristic verve and zeal and are leaving no stone unturned to ensure that their children are kept engaged in the learning process – both in scholastic and co-scholastic areas. Where are we headed? What the “post COVID” school will be like remains a matter of speculation and discussion. We, at IWWS, reaffirm our commitment to provide quality education to our children even in these adverse circumstances. We place on record our gratitude to the school management for its unstinted support and to the parents who have expressed their appreciation for the enormous amount of work put in by the IWWS team and for the loving care extended to the children during these trying times.

I pray that the IWWS family – parents, teachers, staff and students – stay safe and well.

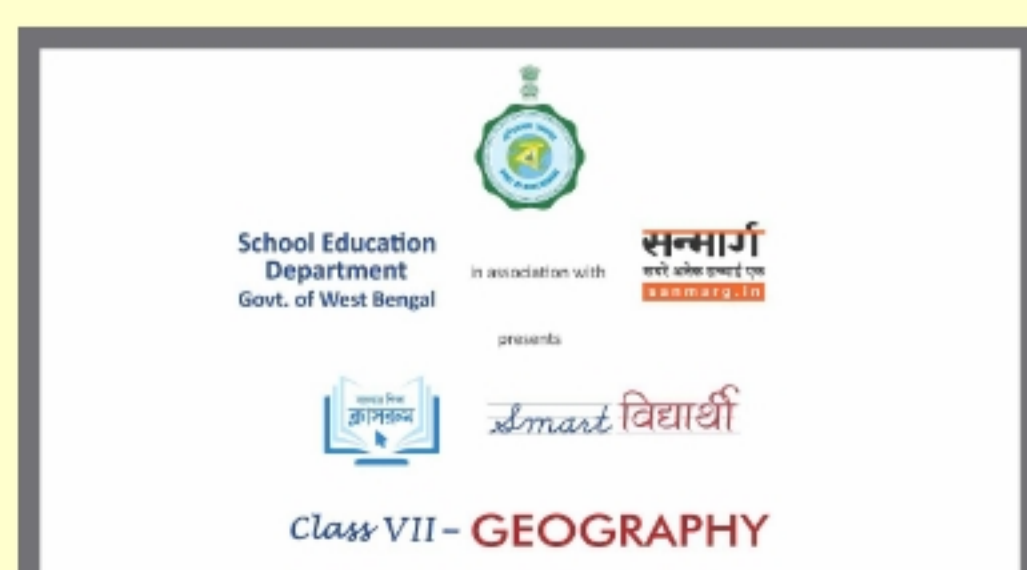
With my best wishes,

Amita Prasad

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME

We at IWWS are strongly committed to doing our bit for community outreach. We extended our help to the popular Hindi daily ‘Sanmarg’ as they used their columns to publish educational material to keep the teaching – learning process going for their readers who were deprived of access to school during the lockdown. Our team of teachers, with our Vice Principal at the helm, prepared worksheets and activity – based plans on a wide range of relevant topics which were published in the Sanmarg “SMART VIDYARTHI” column throughout the summer.

Our teachers also recorded educational videos which were used by Sanmarg (in collaboration with the Government of West Bengal, Department of School Education) to broadcast lessons for children in Classes 2 to 8 through the digital platform.



Pre - Primary Activities

Our teachers have engaged the little ones in the Pre Primary classes in a plethora of activities to ensure that they receive stimulating and creative inputs from their teachers in the safety of their homes. Here are just a few examples of their delightful "learn while you play" activities.

APRIL

Toy Zone – 8 April 2020

Children were asked to collect their scattered toys after playtime and made a "toy zone" of their own to teach them to care for what they own.

'The First Wealth is Health' 9 April 2020

It is important to cultivate healthy eating habits in children from a young age. Keeping this in mind the little ones were taught to make healthy vegetable sandwiches for themselves.

Learning Pre - Number Concepts 13 April 2020

Children sorted and arranged vegetables according to size. The lesson involved hands-on activities to make the learning fun and engaging.



'When we have each other, we are family' 17 April 2020

Children love to learn about the world they live in as well as the family they belong to. In order to do this, the children made a 'Family Flower'.

Earth Day Celebration 22 April 2020

Earth Day is celebrated around the world to pledge support for environmental protection. As part of the celebration, children of Pre - Primary classes grew saplings on their window sills, terrace or kitchen garden. Digging of soil, pouring water, nurturing the plant and watching it grow made the activity even more special.

'Home is where you pitch your tent' 24 April 2020

With the help of their teachers, children of Pre- Primary classes made tents with umbrellas, cardboard boxes and bed sheets and enjoyed the adventure of camping in their own homes!

Pre - Primary Activities

MAY

Beat the Heat with a Juicy Treat! 6 May 2020

With the summer heat soaring, everybody needs a refreshing drink or two! The children had a great time squeezing the lemon juice and sprinkling salt and sugar to make their own lemonade.

Mother's Day Celebration 9 May 2020

Mother's Day celebrates motherhood and the contribution of mothers in our lives. Children made beautiful cards as a gift of love for their mothers.



JUNE

'Tutti Frutti Time' 18 June 2020

As a part of their 'General Awareness' activity, children made delicious fruit salad. Through this activity children were encouraged to develop healthy and nutritious eating habits.

Father's Day Celebration 19 June 2020

To show their love for their fathers on this special day, children made special breakfast for their daddies and also presented them with pop-up cards made as part of their art and craft activity.

World Yoga Day Celebration 19 June 2020

On this occasion children (along with their parents!) performed yoga and learned some asanas.

Rath Yatra Celebration 23 June 2020

Children of Pre-Primary classes decorated their own 'Rath' and made paper idols as part of their art and craft activity.

"Let it pour" 26 June 2020

This fun-filled activity involved pouring of water from one vessel to another without spilling - a very important practical exercise which helps to develop fine motor skills, independence and concentration.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Teachers of the Junior Section have risen to the challenge of online teaching and structured their classes in such a way that children are encouraged to grasp their academic lessons through various fun - packed activities. Here are some glimpses:



GRADES 1 & 2

- The concept of ascending and descending order of numbers was reinforced through the arrangement of vegetables and fruits!
- To understand family relations, children drew family trees using paper cut outs in the shape of their palms.
- Keeping in mind the psychological and educational benefits of story – telling, a session was arranged where the students narrated little stories. It was delightful to watch the little ones present their stories all complete with expression!
- Children learnt about the sun and then enjoyed an interesting activity of making sun masks.
- As a tribute to Tagore, Rabindra Jayanti was celebrated through recitation of the bard's works.
- On the occasion of Father's Day, our little ones expressed their love for their fathers through speeches, drawing and beautiful craft work.

JUNIOR SCHOOL



GRADES 3 - 5

- To reduce screen time and promote learning of life skills through fun – filled activities a unique version of the popular game “Bingo” was designed for all the classes to keep children constructively engaged during the summer vacation.
- A series of fun quizzes were arranged for the children to create a joyful learning environment in class.
- To encourage flights of fancy and foster creative imagination, children were asked to design tents of their dreams in which they would like to stay during a camping expedition!
- Story bags are a fantastic literary resource to nurture the observation, imagination and speaking skills of the students. This is an activity where the teacher takes out an object from her bag and the students weave a story about an incident that revolves around the same. It was a delightful experience for the students!
- Bengali Elocution was organized and kudos to the children of Grades III, IV and V for their active participation. Their involvement was acknowledged by the school through the presentation of e-certificates.
- Children created stories based on their chosen objects in an extremely enjoyable activity entitled ‘Kahaaniyon ka Pitara’ which helped to build their Hindi vocabulary.
- Peer learning activities, quizzes, interactive games and puzzles have been used to inspire and pique students’ interest in topics related to Social Studies.
- Children celebrated Mother’s Day and Father’s Day by making magic cards and gifts such as bangle stands and photo frames.
- Different co-curricular activities like music, dance, chess, aerobics, yoga, art and craft were designed and balanced with the academic curriculum so that all students would get opportunities to develop their interests and hone their talents.



POILA BAISAKH 14 APRIL 2020

The entire nation was in complete lockdown and spirits were at an all-time low, but we at IVWS would not allow that to dampen our enthusiasm.

On 14th April we welcomed the new year through a special presentation that spoke of faith and hope - the essence of Nababarsha. The exquisite programme of music and dance was put together by some senior students and our music and dance faculty members.



WORLD DANCE DAY 29 APRIL 2020

Our extremely talented dancers from Grade 10 namely, Srijoni Majumdar, Prarthana Prusty, Aishna Chauhan, Adhyata Jana, Disha Banerjee and Anangsha Dutta came together to present an outstanding composition on the occasion of World Dance Day. The piece was artistically choreographed by our dance teacher Ms. Ritwika Ghosh who spared no effort to train the students. The presentation was suitably enhanced by the creative editing by Rohosen Bhattacharya of the CBSE Batch of 2020.

"AMRA KORBO JOY!"

CELEBRATING RABINDRA JAYANTI

8 May 2020

Amidst the fear and panic caused by the outbreak of the threatening pandemic, we at the Indus Valley World School celebrated Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary. The theme of the virtual celebration was "Amra Korbo Joy" - a message from Kabiguru that is especially relevant today. Scripted by our Bengali Department, the programme was a mix of Tagore's poems and songs befitting the theme.



Forty students spread across Grades 2 to 11 participated whole heartedly, rehearsing with their music and dance teachers daily over two weeks to achieve something never done before. The challenging task of editing fell into the talented hands of Rohosen Bhattacharya (a student of the CBSE Batch of 2020) who achieved the seemingly impossible by putting together nearly 100 video clips to create the final presentation. It was the teamwork of our teachers and students under the leadership of our Dean of Arts, Ms Priyadarshinee Guha, which made this possible and that is the true spirit of IWWS! The enthusiastic involvement of all the parents of the participants is also noteworthy.

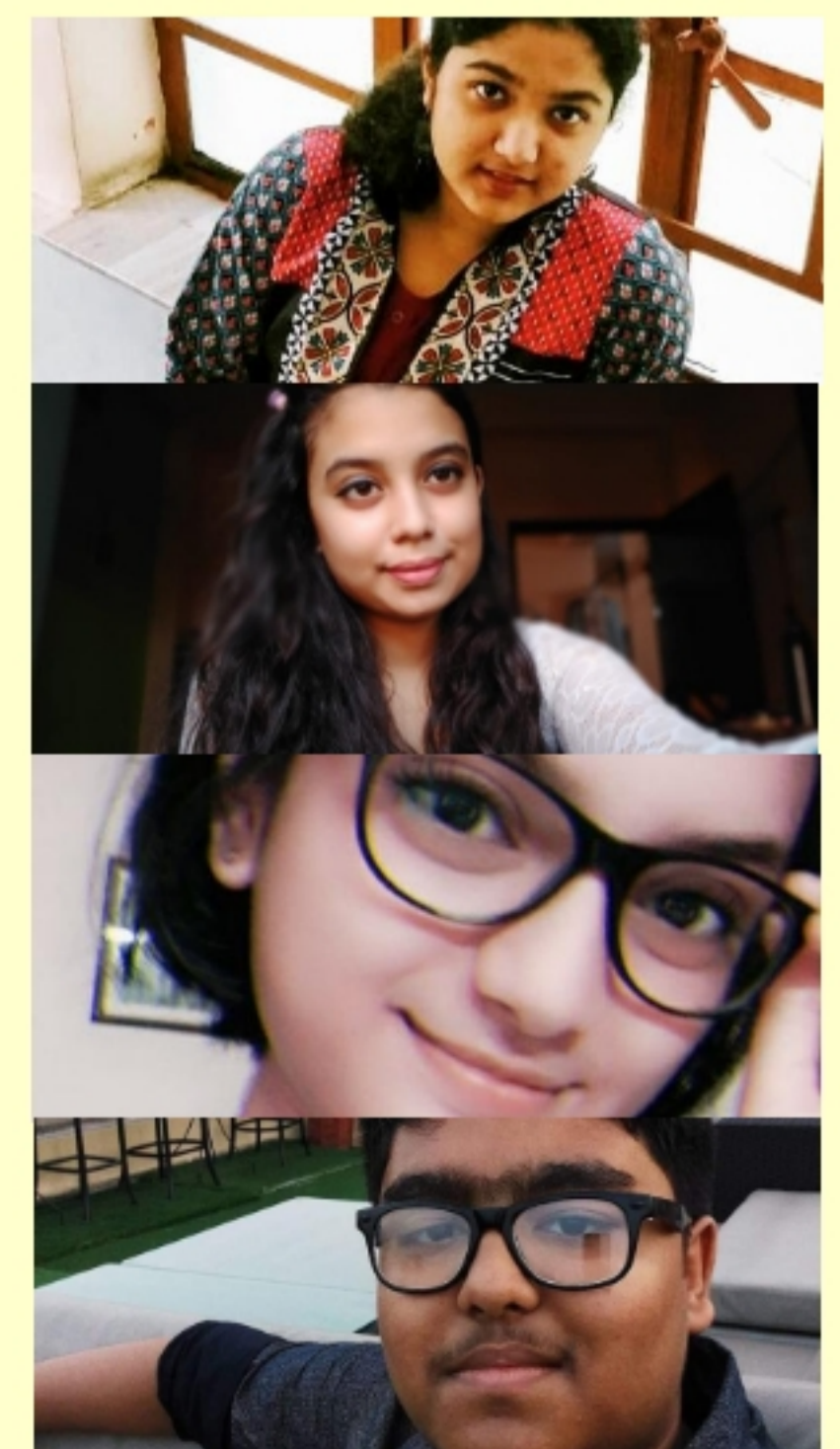
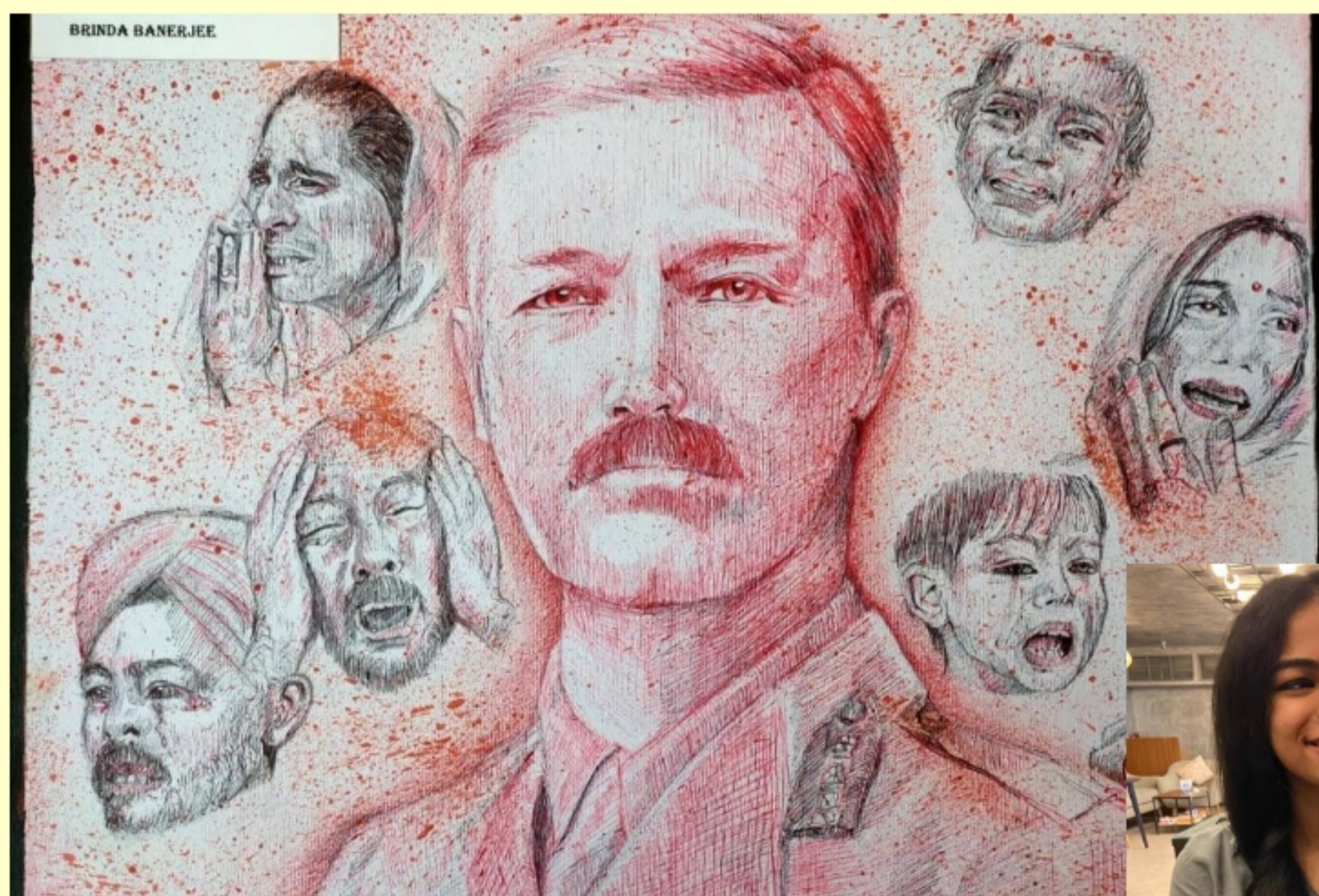
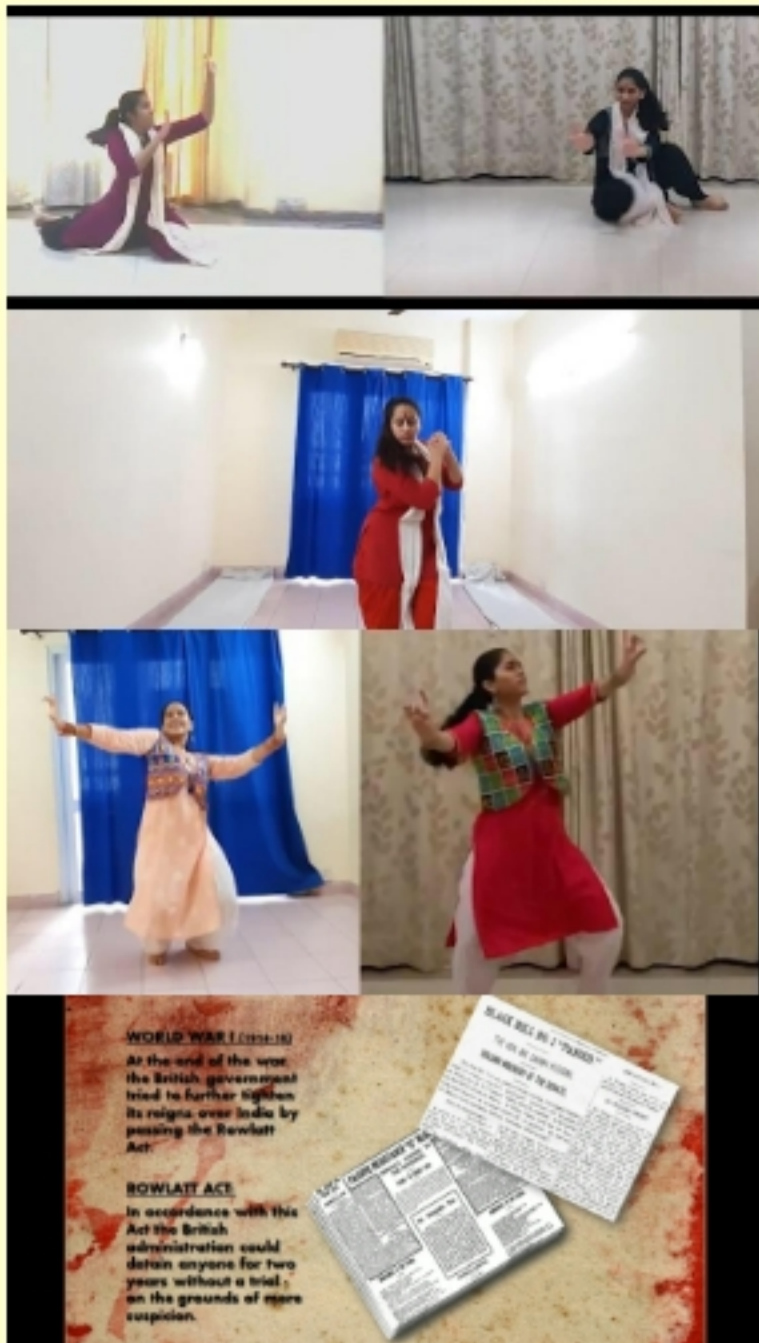


SOME FORGOTTEN HISTORIES OF JALLIANWALA BAGH

Students from Grades 10 and 11 participated in a thought – provoking project in collaboration with ThinkArts to explore lesser known facets of this significant episode in our history.

Prompts were given to students in the form of poetry, photographs and quotes from testimonies pertaining to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre to stimulate their creative thinking and expression. They were also encouraged to independently research and create responses which took the form of painting, an audio play (written and performed in Punjabi) and a video expressing their anguish and pain through dance and striking visuals. Their work was displayed on the ThinkArts Facebook page on 30th May, to observe the 101st year of Tagore's returning the knighthood through a letter to Viceroy Chelmsford.

Their work was greatly appreciated and for the participants, it was an extremely enriching learning experience.





WORLD MUSIC DAY CELEBRATION 21 June 2020

Originating in France, World Music Day has become a celebration spanning countries world wide. Musicians and lovers of music give expression to their emotions and creativity through various genres of music. It has been our constant endeavour in Indus Valley World School to give varied avenues of expression to our young artists. Children from different sections of the school from Grade I to students of the CBSE Batch of 2020 presented a bouquet of musical treats - vocal and instrumental - ranging from the classical to folk and also original compositions to mark this special day.



WORLD YOGA DAY 21 June 2020

The aim of Yoga is to heal the mind, body and soul. It facilitates a connection between ourselves and Mother Nature. Not only does it enable us to maintain a healthy lifestyle but it is said to help combat stress and chronic conditions. Yoga is an integral part of our school curriculum and to celebrate this special day in the school calendar, 6 children from Grades 3 to 8 under the guidance of our expert teachers, recorded presentations showcasing their skill and expertise in executing various asanas.



WE WERE ON A SUMMER HOLIDAY!

This summer was surely one with a difference. We knew that parents had been forced to cancel all plans for travel during the vacation and we wanted to offer opportunities to our students to pursue their varied interests during this time.

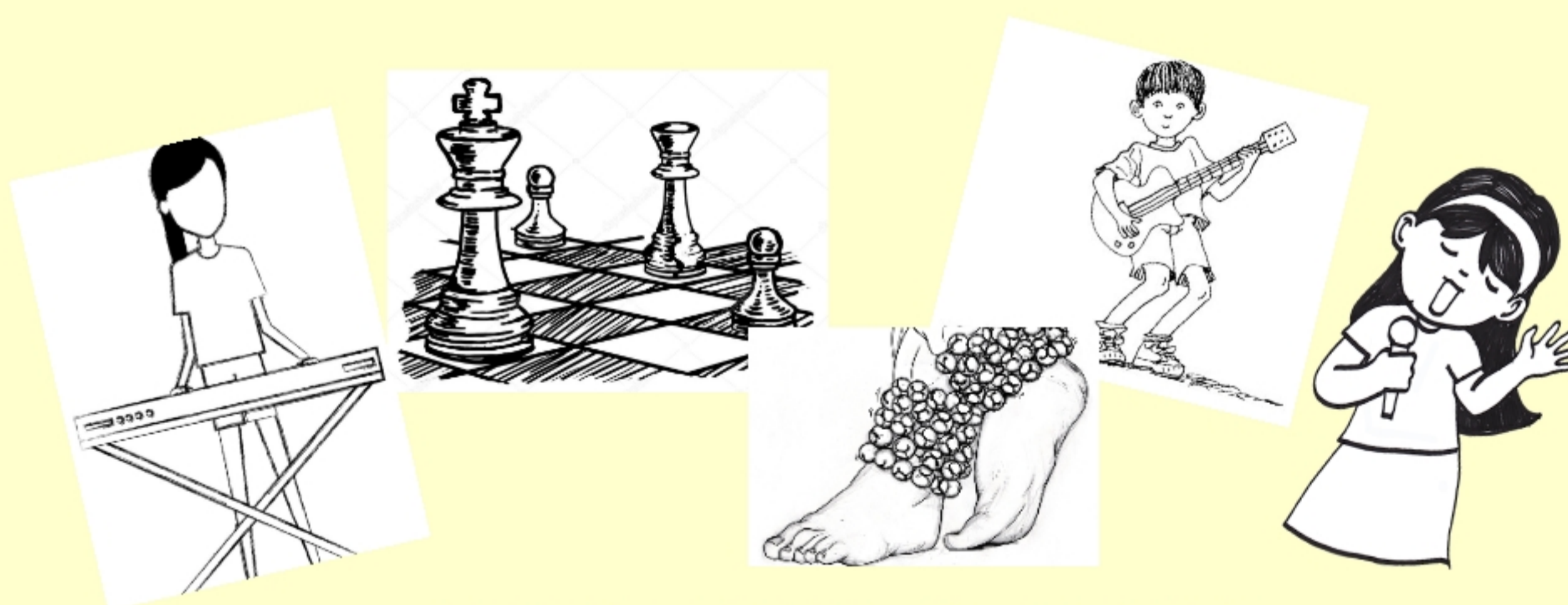
35 children from Grades 6 to 9 took music lessons (playing the guitar and the synthesizer) while 59 students participated in a public speaking boot camp. Even the terrible cyclone Amphan could not dampen our spirits as our teachers and students battled network issues but refused to give up. We are proud of their never - give - up attitude!

SUMMER SCHOOL IN COLLABORATION WITH BRITISH COUNCIL

8th – 12th June 2020

123 students between the ages 7 - 12 years attended Summer School offered exclusively to IVWS children free of charge. The courses were especially curated by the British Council to give children a wonderful online experience of learning – through - fun activities under the guidance of specially trained teachers who engage through internationally tested methodologies that improve learning. Through these, children were able to:

- improve their English and 21st century skills and grow in confidence
- develop their creativity and critical thinking skills and
- be inspired by working with peers on a series of creative projects



SATURDAY CLASSES

We at IVWS are committed to the holistic development of our children. We believe that co-curricular activities are an intrinsic and essential part of our curriculum.

With this in mind, we are offering a bouquet of activities on Saturdays to our middle school students so that they can pursue their interests and hone their talents and make the most of their free time.

The classes on offer include music (vocal and instrumental), dance, chess and public speaking. We are delighted to see the enthusiastic participation of the children under the guidance of our expert faculty members.

LOCKDOWN CREATIVITY



RENASISH DAS
CLASS XI



RENASISH DAS
CLASS XI



AHON DASGUPTA
CLASS XI



RENASISH DAS
CLASS XI



SHREEYA KULKARNI
CLASS 4B



RANAK SEN
CLASS IVB



RANAK SEN
CLASS IVB