



BEAMS 2017

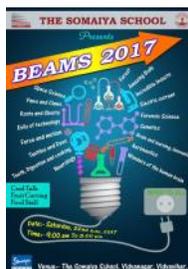


The recently concluded BEAMS (Annual Science Fest) was very well received by the students and parent community of The Somaiya School. This is the **3rd Annual BEAMS fest** and the enthusiasm of the students and teachers augured well to make this a grand success with over 1800 visitors thronging the day-long event .

Through this issue of RAYS— The Somaiya School Newsletter, we endeavour to showcase some of the events that were part of the fest. So, from fabric dyeing to DNA extraction to Seed Banks, read all the action here !

Quick facts about BEAMS

- Number of Parents who visited the stalls: 1482
- Total number of stalls : 40+
- Total number of models created from scratch : 50+
- Total number of visitors (non-parents) : 764
- Visitor Profile : Indian Navy, SIES, Gold Crest High, Garodia School, St. Gregorious school, Green Acres School, Arya Vidya Mandir, Godrej, National College (Bandra), Muktangan, Sri Sri Ravishankar School, Pillai College, Universal School.



Team TSS thanks each of its staff (teaching and non-teaching) and its students for putting countless number of hours putting this event together. Thank you to the parents too who encouraged your children to participate in these events, and your patience in nurturing their talent.

The success of this event belongs to each one of you.

Once again, Thank you Team TSS !



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From the Principal's desk



Dear Parents:

Welcome to another edition of RAYS—the Somaiya School newsletter.

At TSS, we believe in empowering our staff and students to absorb as much learning as they can from the numerous opportunities we provide in the school ecosystem.

In this direction, BEAMS as an event provides students to improve their scientific thinking, practical understanding of scientific concepts and various other important skills such as team building, communication, leadership etc. while working on their projects—big or small. This is a huge learning curve in the life of the student, and we are confident these skills will be applied earnestly in real-life situations. Do read on some of our CRED talk speakers

This month, we also had teachers from **Owego Free Academy (New York)** who held English lessons for Grades 9 and 10, and also conducted a workshop for our teachers. The lessons were very well received, and the teachers also had a shot in the arm on newer teaching methodologies. Student experiences are shared in this newsletter in the following pages.

I would also like to take this opportunity to ask parents and students to align themselves for the forthcoming academic assessments. While we are doing our best to help and support our students, as always, home is the foundation. Your role as parents is key in preparing your children for a successful school experience, including this assessment time. Do spend time with them ensuring they are well prepared, and follow a structured approach towards their studies, which prevents last minute cramming and anxiety.

As always, I look forward to views / feedback and any suggestions from our parents and staff alike. It would hearten me immensely to hear from you on principal.tss@somaiya.edu.

Warm regards,

Parveen Shaikh

(Principal—The Somaiya School)

My CRED talk experience

CRED talks was hosted by three enthusiastic students Of Grade 10—Ms. Rashi Shah, Ms. Chethna Rajesh & Mst. Abhishek Mathur. They introduced the speakers one by one with a brief intro on the topic, and conducted the event in a smooth and professional manner. Speakers for the day and their topics were as follows:

- Ms. Kashvi Kamath (8C) - The Doomsday Vault
- Ms. Anushka Gangane (8B) - Fabric to Style
- Mst. Soumil Sanghrajka (9A) - Theory of Relativity
- Mst. Deev Desai (9A) - Reptile World
- Ms. Hansa Kannan (8C) - Biomimicry



Shared below are some experiences from the student-speakers:

Despite having rehearsed my talk on the topic- **The Doomsday vault**- I was still nervous as it was the first CRED talk for the year, and on the day of BEAMS ! I recognized my father amongst a few others in the audience. And slowly but surely, the confidence seeped in gradually. I spoke about the vault's location, importance, its founders etc. It was heartening to hear a resounding round of applause at the end of my talk and I was also able to answer a few questions from my audience. This vault is at Spitsbergen, part of Norway's Svalbard archipelago and is essentially a huge safety deposit box, holding the world's largest collection of agricultural biodiversity to be used in the unfortunate event of an apocalypse- Ms. **Kashvi Kamath (8C)**

I have a keen interest in reptiles and the CRED Talk gave me a wonderful opportunity to talk about **Reptile World** on BEAMS day. It was a wonderful experience to talk about reptiles, their predatory behavior, hunting tactics etc. The audience were shocked and surprised to see many videos that I presented during the talk which included the death roll of the crocodile, the anticoagulant and the aposematic colouration of snakes and much more. Overall, a very satisfying experience – Mst. **Deev Desai (9A)**

I have been fascinated by physics, and talked about **"Theory of relativity"** as part of the CRED talk on BEAMS. The theory speaks about time dilation and light. It states that no object can be in absolute motion or at absolute rest. It was a very enjoyable and interactive session and I loved it a lot—Mst. **Soumil Sanghrajka (9A)**

Biomimicry is a new initiative by scientists across the world to create a sustainable world—this is basically implementing nature's time-tested patterns to solve human problems. The website www.asknature.com connects innovators and curious minds from across the world to make a better place to live in. I enjoyed my CRED talk and my audience was very impressed that they learnt about a new concept—Ms. **Hansa Kannan (8C)**

My speech on **"Fabric to Style"** as part of the CRED talk on BEAMS day helped build my public speaking skills and confidence. I loved the way the audience was involved and the questions / clarifications they asked motivated me to speak in more detail. Around the beginning of the 19th century, people and women in particular used to wear long and heavy gowns and dark coloured clothes with detailed embroidery. And children used to dress up as mini adults. However, towards the 20th century and onwards, lighter skirts became the vogue, and once women started working at offices and factories, pencil skirts came into fashion in the late 1950s. These made women more confident about carrying light weight clothes and the lines designed by famous fashion designers like Paul Poiret and Lady Kennedy were very well received by the fashionistas of the day.— Ms. **Anushka Gangane (8B)**



CRED-TALK
An initiative by TSS students
Be inspired

WHAT IS CRED ?

Based on the more popular TED talks, **CRED** stands for **Cool, Radical, Enthusiastic & Divergent**. CRED Talks commenced in the academic year 2016-17 and has captured the minds of young minds. This year, we have extended this to the primary section too. Students volunteer to register to talk on the limited slots available. The topics vary widely from Wildlife to Space exploration to EDM music to Genetics. It received a wonderful response last year, and we hope to replicate the same this year too !

Learning from across the seas...

We had two distinguished visitors to our school from **Owego Free Academy, New York** : Ms. **Ann Neuburger** & Ms. **Judith Hawkins**.

Ms. Hawkins has been an English teacher for over 16 years, and is the founder and advisor to Literary Club, which produces a literary magazine to recognize and give voice to students' writing, artwork, and photography. She has also developed English 12 curriculum, a full year program that focuses on expository and creative writing skills, public speaking skills, as well as multicultural and minority literature. She has also trained as adjunct in Syracuse University's Project Advance and taught writing & critical reading courses for college freshmen.

Ms. Neuburger is a software engineer who got her masters in Systems Sciences from Binghamton University. She runs Math Lab & supports students and teachers in all subjects of high school math curriculum, 9-12 (pre-calculus & calculus). She is also a certified Teaching Assistant and is recommended highly for her skills on Instructional Technology & Calculus.

Both these teachers taught students of Grades 9 and 10 , along with hosting a workshop for our working staff.

Seen below is a synopsis of feedback from our students.



The activity of Memoir writing conducted by Ms. Judith was very liberating as it helped us handle our emotions and pent up feelings in a cathartic manner. At the end of the exercise, we were able to express freely and the idea of writing something so personal was very exciting - Ms. **Rashi Shah (10)**

We express our gratitude for this workshop : we thoroughly enjoyed the personal memoir writing and it was an extremely interesting and new experience for us. Thanks to Ms. Judith for this quality experience and knowledge—Ms. **Diksha & Ms. Naina (10)**

Ms. Ann & Ms. Judith were one of the first teachers who I feel we could be completely ourselves with. Great learning experience and I particularly loved the way Ms. Judith drew us into the wonderful world of poetry and literature was amazing ! Their excitement was infectious and we saw how particularly life can be. Hope you both fall in love with our beautiful country :-)) - Ms. **Chethna Rajesh (10)**

More glimpses of BEAMS activities & visitor feedback



A well thought out program to present science in a holistic manner—Mr. Bhushan Desai (parent of Mst. Dhruv Desai—Grade 8A)

Innovative & Out of box thinking. Kudos to the entire TSS Team—Mr. Jeetu Milwani (parent of Jai Milwani—3C)

Great attempt involving children in teaching and learning science through project work—Mr Alpish Kothari, Ms. Savita Pereira & Ms. Yvonne Pereira, MHS, Kurla



Love it ! Love it ! Love it ! What absolute fun for all ages—Ms. Ruchika Gupta (Parent of Mst. Anay Chandra—Jr kg B)

A wonderful mela, a treat for all senses — Ms. Mamta Ashwin (parent of Mst. Ansh Ashwin—Grade 5A)

Very informative and overall an amazing experience—Ms. Maitri Vira (SIES DCE—Sion)

An exciting journey of Science—Ms. Mukta Dhamankar (parent of Ms. Mihika Dhamankar 5A & Mst. Arnab Dhamankar 8B)

Great to see the concepts and confidence exhibited by kids—Mr. Prahlad Gandhi (parent of Mst. Dev Gandhi—Grade 9)



Teacher Spotlight—Ms. Kripa

With her trademark smile and a go-getter attitude, Ms. Kripa Krishnan is a popular teacher of The Somaiya School. Always ready to be part of the school events, she juggles her academic schedule at school teaching Mathematics and Science. TSS Communications team met Ms. Kripa for a short interaction. A mother of a 6th grader and an avid reader, Kripa shares some insights and experience from her teaching career. Her qualifications are B.Sc., B.Ed.

Following is a snippet of the conversation. Team Communications thanks Ms. Kripa for her time and inputs.

What motivated you to become a teacher ?

My primary school teacher Ms. Lily who taught me English in Grade 5, was a constant source of enthusiasm and motivation for us. She imbibed in me the joy of teaching, and was a great role model. I am still in touch with her, and it gladdens me that I am able to emulate some of her professional qualities.

On her teaching experiences

Post my B.Ed., I started off with SIES School, and then moved to Chennai. At St. Francis School in Chennai, I learnt a lot about being a teacher including how to interact with parents & how to give feedback to peers, parents and students. At this school, I also understood the nuances of correcting worksheets / exam papers. My supervisor and the principal of the school provided a lot of direction on these aspects.

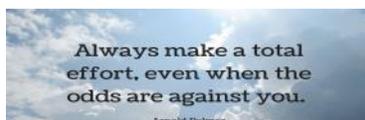
Teaching @ TSS

I started teaching at TSS in Aug 2013, and the past 4 years have been very rewarding for me professionally. I learnt to harness technology in addition to honing skills, and my experience as a House Master and being a core team member of school events like BEAMS and MATHEMAGICA augmented my leadership skills. I am very happy with the support and encouragement that my team members and Ms. Parveen Ma'am in particular provide to grow professionally.

Challenges of a teacher

I teach both Mathematics and Science. These subjects, especially the latter, require lots of preparation. As teachers we need to anticipate the questions well in advance, and therefore research forms the backbone of well presented class. Although Mathematics and Science are equally demanding, there is so much more research required in Science that a teacher need to be well-equipped with information all the time.

One Quote that I believe in:





Teacher Spotlight—Ms. Akshata Shetty

An excellent sportswoman, Ms. Akshata wanted to be a badminton champ, but instead followed her heart and instincts and became a teacher. A very popular science teacher at TSS with qualifications of M.Sc. (Analytical Chemistry) & a B.Ed., she is a self-starter and loves to learn at every opportunity. She shares some of her experiences as a teacher, snippets of which follow. Team Communications thanks Ms. Akshata for her time and inputs.

What motivated you to become a teacher ?

There were two major influencers on the way to becoming a teacher : Ms. Ahilya who was my Grade 10 class teacher as well as taught us English. I loved the way she managed the class and influenced students. The other was my B.Ed. teacher Dr. Kamat from whom I learnt the technicalities of teaching. My mother was also a great influence as I used to watch her take tuitions for young kids, and growing up, I was pretty much convinced that teaching was something I wanted to pursue as a career.

On her teaching experiences & Teaching @ TSS

I started teaching at TSS in June 2015, and the past 2 odd years at TSS have been extremely enriching. I have worked at another school earlier, but the access to resources, training, workshops and self development that are available at TSS is unparalleled. This motivates the teacher to put in his/her 100% which in turn is a win-win for students and parents alike. This school also provided me a wonderful opportunity to host the Primary Annual Sports Day last year, and I discovered so many new facets of my personality while doing so. Its totally up to the teacher / staff to grab the numerous opportunities and present them to the ecosystem.

Challenges of a teacher

In today's world, Google is the biggest challenge. It's important that a teacher guides the student to sift through all the information out in the digital world and conduct independent research to understand the subject better. As a class teacher, its important to also try and resolve inter personal conflicts by getting down to the level of the student and understand their un-stated needs.

On family support:

I cannot stress enough on the support that my family has played in my journey as a teacher. My parents gave me a great value system and always encouraged me to face my challenges and give my best shot, no matter what. My spouse is also extremely supportive about my career, and its important for me to treasure this system. This support brings out the best in me that translates to a great working relationship with my students. Am very fortunate to be part of the TSS family too, which has supported me in every way.

One Quote that I believe in:



Posture correction Workshop—22nd July 2017

A posture correction & training workshop was conducted by Dr. Vijayalakshmi Rao on 22nd July 2017. Primarily targeted at parents of Grades 6—10, we had over 50 parents attending this rather informative workshop. It included demos, dos and don'ts of proper posture not only for the students but for parents too. We often overlook the importance of correct posture, and this workshop threw a lot of light on the same. It was highly appreciated by parents, and many of them who missed it asked if the workshop could be conducted again.



Little hands, big ideas !

Students of Grade 2 had the following activities as part of BEAMS :

1. **Visit to Botany department**– Students experienced the process of organic farming, growth of bonsai plants ,Grafting, self pollination. They saw different types of roots, medicinal plants.
2. **Paper mache**– They made magical paper with recycled old newspapers along with some seeds to grow a plant from those papers.
3. **Bio diversity**– With the help of environmental studies department and their students our kids learnt about the various plants, trees and insects in our school campus



No Fire Cooking !!

Several grades in the Primary Section participated in the No Fire cooking project at school. From Corn Bhel to khakra Pizza to Fruit Rockets, it was interesting to view so many innovative culinary ideas that came from the kids. Needless to say, the kids enjoyed them thoroughly. Some excerpts from the same.



PROMOTING SCIENTIFIC ENQUIRY

“Science is Nature's interpreter” - James Basford

In an effort to promote scientific enquiry, TSS partnered with the Nutraceutical & Botany departments of Somaiya Vidya-vihar Campus and conducted many experiments for young minds of students from Grade 4 –6.

Attached alongside are a few experiments that were part of this project.

DNA extraction & Organic farming workshops



Organic Farming :
A session to create awareness about organic farming was conducted by Mr. Anand Gaikwad and Ms. Snehalata Gaikwad in the school on 04th July.

History of farming, difference between organic and chemical farming The different methods of organic farming like natural farming, Zero budget spiritual farming, Permaculture, Biodynamic farming, Homa organic Farming etc were discussed.

Mr. Gaikwad emphasized on the importance of integrating livestock with organic farming. The session concluded with a journey of evolution of the organic farm owned by him and a Q & A session.

DNA Extraction:

The faculties of Nutraceuticals helped the students of grade 4 & 6 in conducting the experiments, also explained the importance of DNA. Later the students formed 3 groups and extracted DNA of onion
Faculty – Ms. Veena Prakash (HOD) Ms. Tejal Namdeo, Ms. Purva Prakash

Students who participated :

Grade 6: Chiara . V, Krish .D, Rudra .J, Alisha.M Sharavil. T

Grade 4 : Bhavya .S, Neil, Ruhaan. B & Sohama.K



How garlic resists the growth of bacteria

The faculty of Nutraceuticals along with their P.G students helped the TSS students in conducting the experiment. They explained the antioxidant property of garlic. The students were asked to observe the procedures involved in setting up the experiment like preparing the agar medium, 3 test specimens and placing the specimens in the petri dish and then later in the incubator. The students will observe the petri dish specimens for 3 days and note down the bacterial growth in each and will reach into a conclusion that garlic is effective in resisting the growth of bacteria

Student participants :

Grade 6 – Dhruv. B, Deep.C, Aditya

Grade 4 - Bhargav.C, Prisha, Anvika, Hetansh, Riya, Aditi.A

Food preservation techniques:

TSS students along with faculty of Nutraceuticals conducted an experiment to choose which method they think will preserve the bread best: dehydration, treatment with salt, treatment with sugar or treatment with pepper. Students had to explain why they think the chosen method will be the best. The students placed the bread slices in zip lock bags as per the instructions given. Later they kept the laid out the labeled bags in a tray and will be observing the fungal growth in the bread slices for 7 days and record it which will help them to a conclusion which method of food preservation best protects bread from spoilage.



Student participants :

Grade 6- Aryan .C, Jinay, Zoha, Vignesh, Dharmee
Grade 4 – Kohinoor, Harshita, Vedant, Devansh

Food storage methods:

The faculties of Nutraceuticals along with their P.G students helped the TSS students in conducting the experiment. The experiment was to choose which method / container they think will help in increasing the shelf life of food.



For this experiment the specimen taken was banana. 4 types of bags cotton, mesh, paper and polyethylene bags were used in which the banana was kept. The students will observe the specimens for 7 days and note down the bacterial growth in each and will reach to a conclusion food stored in which bag has more shelf life compared to others.

Student participants :

Grade 6 – Shloka. S, Chandramouli, Shreya.S, Hishita

Grade 4 – Aditi .N, Aarav. S, Ebrahim

Inputs & picture credits– Ms. Kripa (Teacher—TSS)

Textile dyeing and best-out –of-waste workshops : a students' perspective



Remodeling of Old Fabrics

Old T Shirts were used to demonstrate how to make crop tops, and I really enjoyed making it—

Ms. Stuti Dube (7C)

I learnt so many things but also wished apart from using old T shirts, if accessories and bags also could be taught from old fabrics. All in all , a great workshop—

Ms.Sania Shah (7A)

3D Digital Printing workshop:

RIIDL conducted an extremely entertaining workshop. The technology was fascinating and we got a hands-on experience. —

Ms. Jiya Kanani (7A)

We also discussed new technology in digital printing which was very interesting—

Ms. Freya Halgekar (7C)

We got to know the different types of machines used in Digital printing—

Mst. Malap Kothari (7A)



The machine in which we worked was called “Flash Forge”. It used PLA on

plastic to make things. We printed BEAMS on a T shirt using this printer. Very interesting workshop, indeed—

Ms. Mythri Anand (7C)



Natural Textile Dyeing

It was a very entertaining and interactive workshop. The best part was making our own dyes by tying the pattern of the marigold flower. I look forward to more such workshops—

Ms. Jia Wadhwa (7A) & Ms. Krisha M.D (7C)



Contemporary Khadi

This was one the best workshops I have attended till date. It was an eye opener which changed my perspective towards Khadi. We also painted on



Khadi. Thank you for such a wonderful workshop. —

Ms. Janani Jagannarayan (7C)



THE BEAUTY OF INDIAN TEXTILES

TSS partnered with SIG (an esteemed textile promotion body) for students in the secondary section.

Seen alongside are student experiences shared verbatim and their report on the project they were part of.

Some of these projects were demonstrated during BEAMS too.

Natural Dyeing Workshop , Contemporary Khadi , Digital Printing , Textile Fibres and a workshop on Re-modelling of old garments were part of this project

Secondary parent workshop



A workshop on **Building self-esteem, confidence and developing study skills** was conducted by Ms. **Aysel Engineer** on 15th July 2017 for parents of **Grade 6 – 10**. She first spoke on the meaning of self-esteem and how it develops, and also provided some pointers on what can be done to improve the self-esteem of children. She also shared a few Brain gym exercises to improve attention, concentration and academics. Parents were thrilled to know about it. She also shared some techniques of study skills like SQ3R and graphic organisers. Study skills are an effective method of studying.



Some of the parents shared the following feedback on the event:

- Workshop was informative and touched on many points which we let go. I would request a bigger session on study skills - Mr. **Revaant Mahipal** - 6 A



- Please do graphic study technique session with kids. It will be of great help. Thank you - Ms. **Lakshmi Aiyar** - 6 C
- The lecture was excellent. Lots of information was shared. The school has a good system (resource room) and students should use it in the best way they can - Ms. **Smrita** - 9 A

Inputs – Ms. **Kamiya Thakker** (Counsellor and Special Educator – TSS)

Self Esteem Boosters

Students of **Grade 7** presented **Self Esteem Boosters** as part of their **Learning Skills (LS) project**. This was led by our LS Teacher **Ms. Trupti**. Games, questionnaires all formed part of the project. We received ample encouragement from our fellow classmates and also Parveen ma'am and Sharvari ma'am. We enjoyed the brain storming too as part of the project that brought out so many ideas to make this project more exciting

Inputs : Mst. **Akshay R Chitre** (7A) & Mst. **Vivek Lakshman** (7B)

Picture Credit : Ms. **Trupti** (LS teacher)



From the sports corner

The Annual Carrom Tournament was held on 29th July 2017 at the school. We had some very enthusiastic players as part of the Tournament and they were ably led by our sports teachers—Mr. Manik and Ms. Reema. Students enjoyed themselves and it was heartening to see that they fought hard to not only win the prizes but also gather points for their house. Seen below are glimpses of the event along with the prize tally.



Prize Tally— Boys

Name	Grade	House	Position
SHAURYA BADHWAR	5A	R	1
SHAURYA SHARMA	5B	S	2
MADHAV TANEJA	5A	Y	3
PURAV MOMAYA	6B	Y	1
RAJ KADAM	6A	S	2
MIT TURAKHIA	6B	A	3
KOVID GANGRADE	7C	S	1
GAJANAN NERURKAR	7C	R	2
URAV MEHTALIA	7C	A	3
ANMOL BAJAJ	8A	Y	1
SHREYANSH GALA	8C	A	2
AKSHAT DHODRE	8B	R	3
VIDHIT JAIN	9A	R	1
PRIYANSH THAKKAR	9B	A	2
MANAY MEHTA	9B	S	3
MALHAAR SAPRE	10	A	1
AINESH SENAVA	10	Y	2
VISHWA DESAI	10	R	3



Prize Tally— Girls

Name	Grade	House	Position
MIHIKA DHAMANKAR	5A	A	1
SAISARIKA SHRIRAM	5A	Y	2
NITYA NATESH	5B	S	3
TEJASVI BHOSLE	6B	S	1
RIYA MAHULKAR	6C	Y	2
DEVIKA RAMKRISHNANI	6A	A	3
RHEA KAMAT	7B	R	1
BHAKTI MHATRE	7C	S	2
SIDDHI VICHARE	7B	A	3
HEER MEISHERI	8A	A	1
SHIPRA YADAV	8B	Y	2
AISHANI MISHRA	8A	R	3
SHAMBHAVI MAHAJAN	9A	A	1
YASHVI SHAH	9A	Y	2
AAHILYA SESHADRI	9A	R	3
DRASHTI BHANUSHALI	10	S	1
YESHA SONI	10	Y	2
SHRUTI CHAVAN	10	A	3