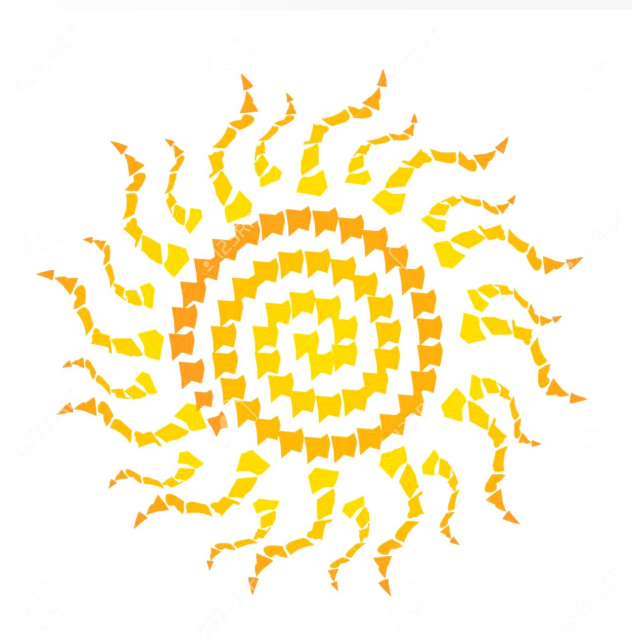




RAYS —The Somaiya School Newsletter (Jan 2018)



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Foreword



Dear Parents:

Welcome to a new edition of RAYS—The TSS Newsletter.

As Melody Beattie says, “*The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals.*”

So many events in January in and around TSS that we present to you in this edition and the next :) It gladdens to see our students getting more competitive and confident with each passing day. Our grade 10 students are done with the first round of prelims, and are writing the second round as I sit and write this. We wish them the best.

Our Students from Pre primary to Grade 9 are participating in more and more competitions - be it inhouse CRED Talks or Interschool Music competitions or sports tournaments- which gives them a sense of fair play and competitive spirit, along with team work and life skills.

This edition of RAYS also showcases various field trips / visits that our students are exposed to—that gives them a kinesthetic extension of the classroom learning. These exposures along with academic finesse is sure to be a winning combination.

The Annual School Magazine commemorating 5 years of TSS is also being created by our mighty-talented young editorial team, and the magic is to unfold in your hands soon enough :)

The school is all geared up and planning for the next academic year commencing in April, and plans are afoot to give a bigger, brighter canvas to our students and parents in 2018-19. I am keen to hear on how we could build on this synergy together. Do reach me at principal.tss@somaiya.edu

Happy reading and warm regards

Ms. Parveen Shaikh

(Principal—The Somaiya School)

CRED Talk # 54 : Sheroes—Ms. Gunjan Kulkarni

Ms. **Gunjan Kulkarni (Gr.9B)** highlighted the condition of **Sheroes** (Acid Attack Victims) - She mentioned three victims : Sonia Chaudhary, Ms. Sonali Mukherjee and Ms. Laxmi Aggarwal, and how they have taken life head-on in spite of the setbacks. Reports —

“This was unlike any other that I had heard. It described in heart wrenching detail, the emotions undergone by an acid-attack survivor. In spite of this, it spoke about the ray of hope these women have found in their lives. Awesome work by Gunjan” - Mst. **Debanjan B (9B)**

“A profound presentation by Gunjan along with a Q & A. A statement made by one of the victims stayed with me -‘He threw acid on my face, not on my dreams.’ Gunjan also mentioned the main causes of acid attacks to be a combination of revenge, rejection, anger and frustration.” - Ms. **Sree Prabha Nair (9A)**



CRED Talk # 55 : Aeronautics—Mst. Vedant Thakkar

Mst. **Vedant Thakkar (Gr. 7A)** spoke about the different kinds of aircrafts and presented technical know how on the same. An avid enthusiast of planes, Vedant shared his knowledge on the same via CRED talk #55.

“Vedant spoke about the different types of planes, how they take off etc. He also mentioned interesting data about how the flaps move and that the plane flies a bit lower than the direction of the nose. Super Sonic Aircrafts were also part of this talk—Ms. **Chiara Verghese (6A)**.

“The topic was described in a very detailed manner by Vedant who used simple language and spoke at the level of the audience’s understanding. Overall a good effort.” - Mst **Nived Pillai (9B)**



CRED Corner

This edition features CRED

Talk # 54 & 55. Talk #54 focus-

ses on “Sheroes” which is

about Acid Attack Victims.

The young speaker. Ms. Gun-

jan Kulkarni enthralled the

audience with her research

and presentation.

As most members mentioned,

it was truly an eye opener.

Talk #55 was about Aero-

navtics by Mst. Vedant Thak-

kar which was well re-

searched.

We present student reporters

covering these two events.

Spotlight : Ms. Kamal Daruwala

Q: What was the impetus to take up teaching as a career ?

A: I have spent close to 7 years in the Banking profession and although I loved banking, it was listless after a while. I was looking for something that would give me a reason to look forward to the day, week after week. I zeroed in on teaching as I love young children and did my B.Ed from **K J Somaiya Comprehensive College of Education, Training and Research**. I was selected via campus selection into TSS and have never looked back.

Q: What is your take on technology getting into younger hands these days, especially school going kids ?

A: Technology is here to stay. Parents and teachers need to learn to harness the power fruitfully and to the advantage of the kids. As much as teaching is demanding, we can always find ways to use technology and make teaching more interactive and impactful. Parents can install multiple filters / net nannies to keep their children from exploring uncharted websites / apps.

Q: Children need to read books to open their minds. In this age of technology, how much of that actually happens outside the school hours.

A: At TSS, kids are encouraged to bring books that have excited them at home—it could be on GK, Cricket, Dinosaurs or pretty much anything else. Reading should not become a chore. Parents can lead the way with a lot of bedtime reading—even if it is one story a day.

Q: What are the life skills that kids of Gen Y need to possess to be successful ?

A: 1. Problem Solving Skills: Today's generation lacks the problem solving skills. They do not want to find ways to solve a problem independently. Even for minor issues they go running to parents.

2. Acceptance: Kids today do not want to hear the word no and are not ready to accept failure as a part of life.

3. Value of Hard Work: Today's generation believes in instant gratification of needs. We have to teach them the value of hard work and achieving things based on hard work.

Q: What has your experience of working at TSS been so far ?

A: My experience working with TSS can be described as rewarding and fulfilling. I changed my career path because I wanted to do something that made me happy. My job here, no matter how demanding it is at times gives me immense happiness and satisfaction. I have learned skills that will serve me lifelong both professionally and personally. A hug from my students no matter what classes they have graduated into is the most satisfying result of working with these young minds

Q : One quote / mantra that you believe in ?

A:



A banker-turned-educator, Ms. Kamal is a very optimistic and talented teacher at TSS.

She loves working with young children and moulding their minds. Ms. Kamal shares that the career shift to a teacher in 2014 at TSS has been extremely gratifying and she feels immensely happy spending her time in the company of young children at school. A B.Com and B.Ed. graduate, she currently heads Grade 2A as the class teacher. TSS Communications team thanks Ms. Kamal for her valuable time and inputs for this Spotlight Interview.

Spotlight : Ms. Lakshmi Vaid



Formerly a Corporate executive including being the centre head at The Design Institute and handling various PR roles , Ms. Lakshmi Vaid is a very creative and popular teacher at TSS. She holds an MBA with specialization in Personnel Management along with a B.Sc (Botany and Zoology) and a B.Ed (Science and English). Ms. Vaid had her early schooling in New Delhi (Army Public School) & Sacred Heart (Amritsar) and has now made Mumbai her home for over a decade with her family. She has also worked in Amity International School and Army Public Schools before joining TSS in June 2015. TSS Communications team thanks Ms. Lakshmi for her time and valuable inputs during this interview.

Q: Tell us about your journey leading to your profession as a teacher.

A: After about 8 years in the Corporate life, I was looking at changing gears into something more satisfying, and it was my mother who propelled me into the area of teaching. She has tonnes of experience of bringing up her children and niece and nephews and I trusted her instinct while entering the world of teaching. I completed my B.Ed. when my child was 3 years old, and it has been a wonderful experience so far.

Q: What are the challenges in teaching, especially English to students, who have access to technology these days ?

A: Thorough preparation is a must and although one learns with time, students' questions can sometimes trip you at times. Frankly, technology is here to stay, and as teachers we must learn to anticipate most of the questions. The canvas of teaching is very vast, so every time I teach a chapter it is a learning experience from where I better my skills all the time. As teachers, we must also learn to adapt to using and leveraging technology. And as a class teacher, one has to be a child at heart, with no prescriptive way of living. Leading a group of pre-teens also means that as a teacher, I need to distinguish between various areas—the learning spaces, when to keep quiet , when to listen , when to sort issues or handle arrogance.

Q: As a mother and a teacher, has reading taken a back seat in today's fast paced lives ?

A: Social media has definitely changed the way we write or speak. Spellings and vocabulary are often compromised by the students these days. Abbreviations hitherto unknown like brb, Lol etc., are appearing in answer sheets too !! I take these aberrations as learning opportunities of engaging the child in a humorous manner and most of the times, the student realizes he/she has attempted the answer wrongly. At home, parent engagement with the child (with due censorship and supervision of their screen time) along with reading to / with the child are methods that have long term positive impacts.

Q: What has your experience of working in TSS been so far ?

A: It's been a very enriching experience. My role and the wide canvas that TSS and its management provides brings out my creativity and passion to try out new things.

Q: What are the life skills that gen Y need to possess to be successful ?

A: Students need to have a sense of gratitude and empathy. That combined with taking failure up chin and being compassionate will help them grow into wonderful human beings. I think its also necessary for them to be flexible with plans but not goals.

Q: One motivational Quote / idea that you believe in.

"Rise to the level of your hopes, Fall to the level of your hard work"

Republic Day Celebrations



The republic day assembly conducted by grade 5 depicted the importance of the Indian constitution along with telling the audience about Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birth anniversary that had recently gone by. A song was put up as well. The children took the national pledge. Some of the students also sang in the SVV campus as part of the Republic Day Celebration

Students of the secondary section presented an assembly on Republic day. There was a small quiz on



Republic Day which was followed by a group song accompanied by live Guitar music. The assembly ended with a healthy discussion among a group of teachers and students on the importance of Republic Day and Patriotism.



Experiential Learning—Grade 8 : Agra, Bharatpur & Fatehpur Sikhri

Students of **grade 8** visited **Agra-Fatehpur Sikhri and Bharatpur** bird sanctuary between 26th & 31st Jan 2018. It was a well-curated trip organised jointly by TSS and Somaiya Centre for Experiential Learning . The following teachers accompanied the students and sent live updates to the parents about the students' activities and well being : Ms. **Gomathi**, Mr. **Pankaj**, Ms. **Huma**, Ms. **Vijeyta** and Ms. **Kamiya** from TSS, along with Ms. **Sudha** and Mr. **Shashank** from SCEL (Somaiya Centre for Experiential Learning).

A few snapshots from the trip and some student experiences:

"We saw a few rare birds at Bharatpur, and this was one trip I was keenly looking forward to. Very informative trip especially about the Mughal Architecture" - Ms. **Eva Sheth** (8A)

"It was one of the most adventurous trips of my life. Watching those birds and visiting the magnificent structures built by the Mughals was mesmerising." - Ms. **Radhika Dhavle** (8B)

"The entire trip was very informative, and with adequate food and accommodation provided by the Anubhuti and TSS teachers, it was a memorable trip indeed." - Ms. **Hansa Kannan** (8C)



Happenings from around the school

Field trip to Tilaknagar Police Station - Grade 1



Children of **Grade 1** were taken for a field trip to a nearby **police station (Tilaknagar)** on the 5th of January, 2018 to become more knowledgeable about the community helper 'Police Officer'. They were excited to see the police officers dressed in their uniforms and were curious to see their equipment's. The head of the station showed the children their pistols, revolver, shooter gun and a walkie-talkie. Children had a look at the control room and lock up. They were inquisitive to learn how police officers catch

thieves and safeguard lives. They were thrilled to interact with the respective officials and ask questions to them. It was a day filled with enriched experiences, which the children cherished (Pic Credits: Mr.Pankaj Patil)



Under-11 Golf Championship Winner

Our student Mst. Ranveer Patil (Grade 5A) has won the Inter-school Golf tournament in the Under 11 Category held recently under the auspices of "Western India Inter-school Gold Championship 2018." The school is mighty proud of Ranveer and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.



Library Workshop



Two members from the library team - Ms. **Nirupama** and Ms. **Ishrat** attended a workshop conducted by **Parag Trust** on 17 Nov 2017. The focus of the workshop was on how to make libraries an inclusive space for learning. Thirty two participants from different schools across Mumbai came together to explore books on diversity, multiculturalism and childhood. This was followed by a rich discussion on the need to introduce children to stories that were different from their own lives. The workshop also emphasized on highlighting the collection of books in the library through innovative ways (for e.g. treasure hunt). It was an event filled with deep learning and a refreshing change from the regular routines of the library. The team looks forward to more such professional development workshops.

Happenings from around the school.. Contd...

Inter School Competition Winners @ Prempuri Ashram

Students of TSS participated in an Inter-school competition held at **Prempuri Ashram** at Babulnath recently. The following are the winners. TSS music teachers Ms. Anita and Mr. Sagar accompanied the students.



Event	Winners
Group Singing	Consolation prize winners: Grade 3C : Ms. Riya Shah, Ms. Shaivi, Aglawe, Mst. Sharan Chopra Grade 4A: Ms. Aadya Nayak, Ms. Anvika Paharya, Grade 4C : Ms. Aashna Arora, Ms. Aahana Shinde, Ms. Devyani Desai Grade 4D : Ms. Vaniya Patel, Mst. Kartik Vishwanath, Ms. Janvi Vira
Bhajan Singing	1 st Prize : Ms. Shaivi Aglawe (3C) Consolation: Mst. Arya Jayram (6C)
Classical Vocal	2 nd Prize : Mst. Vidyutganesh S (5A)
Classical Instrumental	Consolation : Ms. Nithya Kannan (5B)
Story Telling	1 st Prize : Ms. Tamara Khanna (1B)

CBSE Master Teachers Training Workshop

A workshop was held for **Master Trainers in English Language** at The Somaiya School on 13th and 14th Jan 2018. Around **52 teachers** from **28 schools** in and around Maharashtra (including Beed, Nagpur, Satara, Pune, Nashik) attended the workshop.

The nuances of teaching English especially to Grades 9 & 10 were discussed in detail. The School has received wonderful feedback for this workshop and we look forward to host many such events in the future too.

Ms. **Uma** and Ms. **Ruchi** (English teachers from TSS) anchored the workshop.



Diplomathon Assembly

The **Diplomathon** is an annual inter-school conference that takes place in **Sep 2018**. The assembly held at our school by the organisers and the head of Diplomathon was very encouraging and informative. Students from various schools represent their school in the conference and the topics are allotted age-wise. Harry Potter, Star wars and other such exciting topics are on the anvil for the conference this year. The students will be trained on the same and we are all excited to see many more participants in this edition.

- Student report by Ms. **Mythri Anand** (7C)

And some more events...

Jarul Book Awards

The Jarul Book Award is a picture book award that acknowledges and honours the best in children's literature in India and is a result of the collective efforts by three schools - American School of Bombay, Ascend International School and Don Bosco International School. Children from different schools in Mumbai vote for their favourite book. The Somaiya School was a part of the voting process where students from Sr Kg to Grade 5 read three books - Dada's Usless Present, The Cycle's Dream and Kanna Panna. They chose their favourite book and recorded their vote with the library team.



On 20th Jan 2018, 9 students, 4 parents and 3 faculty members were invited to attend the **Jarul Book Award ceremony** held at American School of Bombay. The **keynote speaker** was Mr. **Craig Johnson** who spoke about the importance of reading and writing stories. Mrs. **Usha Venkatraman** held the attention of the audience through a story telling session. Finally it was time to announce the winner - Dada's Useless Present. The renowned author, Mr. **Amish Tripathi** was invited to present the award.

Our students were given a chance to interact with authors and illustrators in a small yet warm setting. As the team of American School of Bombay mentioned, Jarul Book Award gives an opportunity to bring forth stories that go beyond folklore, myths, and legends. It recognizes creative and relevant stories that appeal to the present young audience.

Geetha Chanting Competition Results

4 students from TSS won accolades in the Zonal-wise Geeta Chanting Competition held by the Chinmaya Mission recently at North Mumbai School (Ghatkopar West) . The awardees are :



Group A - Mst. **Devam Patel** (Jr. KG B) ; Group B Mst. **Aditya Manerkar** (grade 2A) -3rd prize ; Group C : Ms. **Adhya Nayak**—Grade 4A—2nd prize & Mst. **Saarthak Siriya**—Grade 4A- 3rd prize. Congratulations to our little champs and wishing them the best !



Maker Mela—A student's perspective

Conducted in the SVV Campus, Maker Mela really enthralled us. Recycled products, Remote controlled airplanes, a gesture sensor, a bike powered by solar panels and so many many inventions kept us all awe struck. The visit was very exciting and I look forward to the next year's edition too -Mst. **Tilak Mehta** (7B)

School Magazine Team—the faces behind the effort !

TSS is planning to release the Annual School Magazine christened **MAVERICK** commemorating 5 years of the school. After rigorous interviews, the student editorial board was selected in Nov 2017 and the students have put in a lot of effort to bring out a magazine that's totally different, yet intriguing and engaging. An assembly was held on 22nd Jan 2018 lauding the efforts of select teachers and all the Student Editorial Board members for their efforts so far on the school magazine. Cute keepsakes and badges were given out to the students by the Principal Ms. Parveen Shaikh. Mst. **Pranav** and Mst. **Priyansh** were the student comperes for the event. Watch this space for more updates !!

Members of the editorial board as follows :

Sub Editors	
Yashvir	4C
Krutika	5A
Ninupta Srinath	8A
Joanne Lerin	8B
Riya Botadra	8C
Kashvi Kamath	8C
Sree Prabha N	9A
Pranav S	9B
Stacey Singh	9B

Photographers	
Rishi Mehta	5B
Varas Patel	7B
Nameeshka	7C
Shreyansh	8C
Dev Gandhi	9A
Manay Mehta	9B

Creative Team	
Naisha	7C
Dev Thakkar	9B
Krithika Kumaresan	8C

Illustrators	
Vea Gandhi	5A
Joel	5B
Deep Daftary	6C
Tanish C	8B
Priyansh	9B



IEO Result Sheet—TSS students rock !!



Following is the result sheet for IEO held in Dec 2017. Students of TSS appeared for the IEO (International English Olympiad) conducted by SOF (Science Olympiad Foundation). The results were declared and the class toppers received the medals and certificates in the assembly conducted on 22nd January. . Mst.

Tanish Chheda (8B) and **Ms. Mihika Iyer** (4B) were felicitated with a medal of distinction. We congratulate all the winners and wish for many more toppers from TSS in the coming years



SOF - INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH OLYMPIAD (2017-18) MEDAL WINNERS LIST (LEVEL-ONE)

MH4645
THE SOMAIYA SCHOOL, CBSE
MUMBAI

INTERNATIONAL TOPPER MEDALS Medals Summary			MEDAL OF DISTINCTION / ZONAL TOPPER MEDALS Medals Summary				SCHOOL TOPPER MEDALS Medals Summary		
Gold Medals	=	Nil	Medal of Distinction		Zonal Topper Medals		Gold Medals	=	7
Silver Medals	=	Nil	Gold Medals = 2		Zonal Gold Medals = Nil		Silver Medals	=	8
Bronze Medals	=	Nil			Zonal Silver Medals = Nil		Bronze Medals	=	8
					Zonal Bronze Medals = Nil				
CLASS	ROLL NO	NAME OF THE STUDENT	INTERNATIONAL TOPPER MEDALS		MEDAL OF DISTINCTION / ZONAL MEDAL			SCHOOL TOPPER MEDALS	
			INTR. RANK	TYPE OF MEDAL	ZONAL RANK	MEDAL OF DISTINCTION	ZONAL TOPPER	SCHOOL RANK	TYPE OF MEDAL
03	MH4645-03-A-015	MANIYAR MANAV DEEPAK	124	N.A.	108	N.A.	N.A.	2	Silver Medal
03	MH4645-03-B-027	SETH SAANVIE PRASHASTA	161	N.A.	134	N.A.	N.A.	3	Bronze Medal
03	MH4645-03-C-061	MANEK ARJUN RAHUL	73	N.A.	67	N.A.	N.A.	1	Gold Medal
04	MH4645-04-A-002	BASHA RUSHDA AZIZ	30	N.A.	29	N.A.	N.A.	2	Gold Medal
04	MH4645-04-A-018	VERMA AARUSH ABHISHEK	43	N.A.	42	N.A.	N.A.	4	Bronze Medal
04	MH4645-04-B-021	IYER MIHIKA NIKHIL	23	N.A.	23	Gold Medal	N.A.	1	N.A.
04	MH4645-04-C-051	GADA DIYAN RAJESH	35	N.A.	34	N.A.	N.A.	3	Silver Medal
04	MH4645-04-D-076	VENGURLEKAR YASH YOGESH	35	N.A.	34	N.A.	N.A.	3	Silver Medal
05	MH4645-05-A-003	TANEJA MADHAV MEETESH	311	N.A.	188	N.A.	N.A.	2	Silver Medal
05	MH4645-05-A-010	AGARWAL KRUTIKA DEEPAK	397	N.A.	243	N.A.	N.A.	3	Bronze Medal
05	MH4645-05-A-011	NAYAK SUMANTH VINAY	176	N.A.	95	N.A.	N.A.	1	Gold Medal
06	MH4645-06-B-012	MALL ALISHA DINESH	388	N.A.	257	N.A.	N.A.	1	Gold Medal
06	MH4645-06-C-028	SANGHAVI REYANSH ROHIT	483	N.A.	318	N.A.	N.A.	2	Silver Medal
06	MH4645-06-C-029	KARLEKAR JANHAVI RAVINDRA	512	N.A.	338	N.A.	N.A.	3	Bronze Medal
07	MH4645-07-B-014	SHAH NIYATI PRITESH	150	N.A.	86	N.A.	N.A.	2	Silver Medal
07	MH4645-07-B-015	ARYAMAN SANTOSH	181	N.A.	101	N.A.	N.A.	3	Bronze Medal
07	MH4645-07-B-020	CHOGLE NIYATI MONISH	181	N.A.	101	N.A.	N.A.	3	Bronze Medal
07	MH4645-07-C-036	NAYAK VINEETH VINAY	70	N.A.	37	N.A.	N.A.	1	Gold Medal
08	MH4645-08-B-013	DHOTRE AKSHAT CHANDRASHEKAR	37	N.A.	31	N.A.	N.A.	2	Gold Medal
08	MH4645-08-B-014	CHHEDA TANISH MULRAJ	23	N.A.	20	Gold Medal	N.A.	1	N.A.
08	MH4645-08-C-017	RAO UDIT PRAMOD	67	N.A.	57	N.A.	N.A.	4	Bronze Medal
08	MH4645-08-C-018	ANAHITA ARUN RAMAN	42	N.A.	35	N.A.	N.A.	3	Silver Medal
09	MH4645-09-A-006	ZAVERI KUSHAGRA KUMARPAL	754	N.A.	448	N.A.	N.A.	2	Silver Medal
09	MH4645-09-A-008	SHAH DARPAN CHAITANYA	844	N.A.	496	N.A.	N.A.	3	Bronze Medal
09	MH4645-09-B-016	PILLAI NIVED PRASHANT	505	N.A.	280	N.A.	N.A.	1	Gold Medal