

# THE SOMAIYA SCHOOL RAYS



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# FOREWORD



Dear Parents,  
Welcome to another edition of RAYS - the newsletter of TSS.

For last year's words belong to last year's language, and next year's words await another voice." T.S. Eliot, Four Quartets

Every New Year brings new hopes, new aspirations, new goals and new beginnings.

New resolutions are made, some kept

and some broken....in keeping with the general chant that resolutions are meant to be broken.

Each one of us looks forward to a year that is fulfilling and satisfying. A year older, a year gone by, with its own challenges, triumphs, smiles and tears, laughter and frowns. It also becomes a time for introspection, to see where we were and where we need to go!

It also reinforces the oft quoted statement "Change is the only constant" and brings to fore the need to be adaptable in this ever changing environment. As a school leader, I am constantly amazed by the capacity of our children to embrace change. Hence, every New Year always brings to them a lot of excitement, hope and enthusiasm.

We, as adults with the passing years tend to get rigid and set in our ways. We also tend to lose our enthusiasm and excitement . The children then become our rays of hope and enthusiasm, spreading it all around and adding cheer and vibrancy.

Hence, I always look forward to the first day of school after a vacation, be it summer, winter or Christmas.

Their joy and enthusiasm to embrace change, accept challenges and their ability to adapt gives me the resolve and the encouragement to make resolutions that are not meant to be broken.....

Do share your ideas with me for a great school year at [principal.tss@somaiya.edu](mailto:principal.tss@somaiya.edu).

Looking forward to a fabulous and interesting academic year 2018-19,

Warm regards,  
Ms. Parveen Shaikh  
Principal – TSS



# Spot Light Of The Month

Kamiya Thakkar is an amiable person who can be seen constantly engaged with her students. An ever smiling person, she can easily build rapport with students, parents and teachers alike. She regularly accompanies students for their experiential learning trips. She works passionately to see improvement in her students, every small achievement is indeed a great milestone achieved.

**What led you to pursue this career as a Special educator?**

I always wanted to pursue teaching as a profession. However, during my M.A (Clinical Psychology) , I got a chance to work with children with Special Needs. That is when I realised that working with such kids gives me immense satisfaction and a sense of fulfillment. Also, becoming a Special Education teacher requires a lot of compassion and immense patience which I thought would be helpful in personal life as well.

**With growing awareness of mental health, have you seen a deviation in society's outlook towards children with special needs?**

Definitely, there is a gradual change in the outlook of the society. With growing awareness of disabilities and the availability of intervention centres, children with Special Needs are surely at an advantage. Fortunately, the society too is making an effort to show empathy and acceptance towards them.



***Ms. Kamiya Thakkar***

**What are the difficulties that you face in your line of work?**

I wouldn't call it as a difficulty but you can call it as roadblocks. Firstly, the level of acceptance among Indian families towards any disability is at a naive stage which makes it difficult for the intervention to be done at the right time. Secondly, shortage of intervention centres even in metropolitan cities of India also plays a vital role in meeting the needs of these children .

**How would you describe your journey with TSS so far?**

As rightly said, the initial stage of a newborn plays a vital role in the mental and physical development of the child. Likewise, where does one start his/her career is equally important as well. TSS plays a very crucial role in shaping my career. I started my journey 5 years ago and I can say that I have come a long way. Each day is a new learning day here and I will always be grateful to TSS for giving me an opportunity and being an integral part of my journey.

**An inspirational quote that you go by!**

***"The more you teach, the more you learn!"***

# Spot Light Of The Month

Shravni Godambe is a blend of Math and Art. She is an accounts person in the admin department of the school but her creative side involves being a part of an orchestra for 9 years. She has also appeared in a few TV shows and has also cleared her elementary art exam as well. Blessed with a young daughter, Shravni is a very dedicated and sincere individual who wishes to see the school grow and prosper.



**You have been with TSS since its inception. What are the major changes you have seen in your time here?**

I joined TSS when it initially started in 2013 with students up till grade 4. We have come a long way and today we have received affiliation for grade 11 and 12 as well. To see an institution grow and blossom into the School that it is today is surely memorable. It has been quite an eventful journey.

**How would you describe your working environment?**

The environment in TSS has always been a friendly one. Here we started as a staff with a handful of members; Today we are over a 100. We could always rely on each other for help and support and there has never been a major conflict that has taken place between any of us. The seniors are very helpful and always lend a hand in teaching us new things and chiding us when we make mistakes. It's a very healthy environment to work in, where not only students learn something new on a daily basis, but includes us too.

**Ms. Shravni Godambe**

**From working in a corporate to handling the accounts of a school, how has your transition been?**

Oh, it is a very different experience. In a corporate firm, we had to handle just accounts. The accounting treatment and responsibilities are quite different and varied here. I have learnt a lot in the administrative department, handling various profiles at the same time. Multi-tasking is what you learn when you work in a school. And it's a skill that I feel we should all master.

**Has there been any event or experience that you will always remember?**

A few years ago, Mumbai was struck with heavy rainfall and transport facilities were halted throughout the city. I remember looking out of the window and seeing the surrounding being immersed in water. Stricken with worry, all we could do was wait to reach our homes safely. The management arranged a private bus for us which transported each member of the staff safely home. The feeling of safety and concern for its employees and members can never be forgotten.

**A quote that motivates you...**

*"Life is like a piano, it's how you play it....."*

## **Republic Day Assembly:**

Students of Grade 1 presented an assembly to commemorate Republic day of India. They put on a skit showing the significance of a republic government, leaders having long discussions and debates on determining the type of government needed. They expressed the importance of the six fundamental rights given to us by the Constitution. A meaningful video was shown depicting the importance of Freedom of speech and how it affects our lives. A dance performance on the song 'Yeh Desh hai Veer Jawanon ka' had everyone cheering the little jawans. The assembly was closed grandly by singing Hum Hai Hindustani and Bharat Humko Jaan Se Pyara.



## **Jhalkari Performance:**

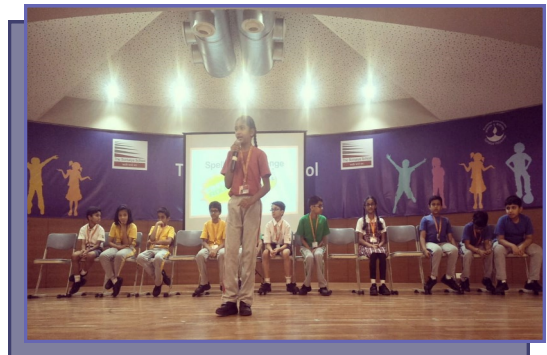
The fine actors from the Rahi Theatre group visited the Somaiya School and put up a wonderful musical called Jhalkari. It is named after Jhalkari Bai, a Dalit chieftain in Laxmibai's all women army. Jhalkari is best known for standing in as a decoy for the Rani, holding fort on the turf of battle as the queen escaped, and ultimately earning herself a martyrdom befitting a head of state. It is only in recent decades that the contributions to the wars for Independence by Dalit resistance fighters have started brimming to the surface, with Jhalkari resurrected as an icon on an equal footing with Laxmibai. The play focuses on Jhalkari and her short-lived but eventful life that took her from the pastoral world of her childhood to the royal citadels of Jhansi, where she became a queen's confidante and advisor, and not purely because of the close resemblance. The audience was reeled back in time with the splendid performance and had everyone gasping and applauding as the story unfolded. The students were completely spell bound and enthralled by the versatile performances of the Rahi group.





## **Spell Bee competition:**

Spelling is important because it aids reading. It helps cement the connection that is shared between sounds and letters. Spelling and reading also have a common factor, proficiency with language. We, at TSS, not only focus on just the written exams but also on how the syllabus helps the students in honing their skills in real life. The students of grade 5 competed in the Spell Bee competition, which had valuable learning outcome of children gaining competency over vocabulary, which allows them to excel at reading and writing. A child's confidence level is boosted by participating in such competitions. It helps them gain the confidence they need to speak in public and accept their mistakes, while also getting the applause their hard work deserves. The competition had over 8 rounds where over 225 words were asked. Surprisingly not one but 3 students emerged as winners as they fought neck to neck to win the war of words. Ms. Anusha Mandviya (5C), Ms. Mihika Iyer (5A), Ms. Krisha Mehta (5D) secured the first position.

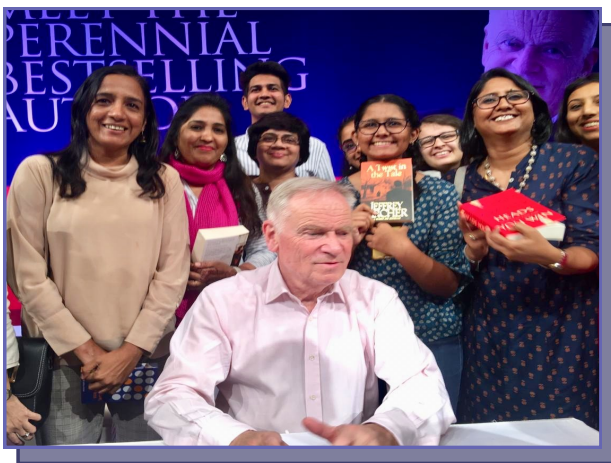


## **Sustainable development: World's largest development**

In 2015, The United Nations launched The Global Goals for Sustainable Development, a series of ambitious targets to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice and fix climate change for everyone by 2030. And their best chance of meeting these goals is through awareness. The World's Largest Lesson brings the Global Goals to children all over the world, reaching over 130 countries and millions of children since its launch in September 2015. Ms. Sachi Doshi conducted the awareness session for the students of the primary section and educated the students on the need for sustainable development and how to contribute to the environment and be a responsible global citizen. Volunteers who were college students themselves, interacted with the students and asked them thought provoking questions. Lively discussions took place in every class and it was amazing to see our young Somaiyaite confidently talking about steps and measures to save our planet.

## **Jeffrey Archer Book Signing:**

Jeffrey Archer is a well - known English novelist and a former politician. He has topped the best-seller lists around the world and his books are printed in more than 37 languages. He is the only author ever to have been a numero uno bestseller in fiction, short stories and non-fiction. As part of his new novel - HEADS YOU WIN promotional tour, Jeffrey Archer visited Kitab Khana at Fort, Colaba. A few students, teachers and the library team along with the Principal attended the book signing event where he not only interacted with the audience but also answered many questions about his books and life. The opportunity to meet a world-renowned author had everyone buzzing with excitement.



## **Alumni Meet:**

The Alumni Meet was organized on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019 to celebrate and refresh old relationships and form new ones. It is an occasion when students gather at their Alma Mater, go down the memory lane and look forward to new interactions with new hopes. The alumni of TSS were thrilled to be back in the campus again and interact with new students followed by playing games and reconnecting with the teachers.





## ART MELA:LITTLE PICASSO

Arts education helps foster a positive culture and climate in schools. Learning a musical instrument, creating a painting, learning to dance, or singing in a chorus teaches that taking small steps, practicing to improve, being persistent, and being patient are important for children's growth and improvement. Students gain confidence as they try to accomplish things that do not come easily. Learning an artistic discipline helps young people develop character. Students learn habits, behaviors and attitudes that are necessary for success in any field of endeavor. Arts in the curriculum develops creativity, one of the top five skills employers look for in the 21st century. The Somaiya School firmly believes that arts and craft is an integral part of the curriculum. And one such platform has been created in the form of Little Picasso Art Mela for the students to showcase their talent and creativity.





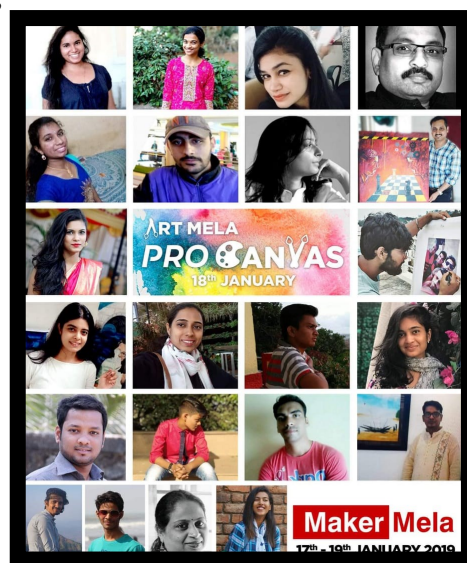
The second year of the Art Mela was bigger and more colourful, with numerous works of art for display and numerous on the spot workshops. The entire school, right from the pre-primary to the secondary section was actively involved in making articles and artwork. The highlight of the Art Mela was the Gharial display made out of plastic bottles, which addressed the extinction of the Indian Gharials. The students not only created articles like tissue boxes, pencil holders, key chains but also sold them with great salesmanship and entrepreneurial skills. Children could be seen huddled over the pottery wheel trying to create pots, some posing to have their caricatures and portraits made. The dance performance on the famous song Ghoomar by the parents had everyone entertained. Many children played musical instruments and sang melodious renditions of old as well as new songs. The air of festivity and creativity was contagious as parents could be seen customizing their bags with block prints and being a part of the Art Mela.





## Maker Mela:

Maker Mela is one of the most awaited festivals in the Somaiya Campus held by the Engineering Department. As the name suggests, it emphasizes on providing a platform to creators to showcase their talents and innovation in the fields of art, science, technology etc. The students as well as teachers of TSS took part in various activities organized by the Makers Mela. One such participation is the Junk Art model made by the students of grade 9 - Diya T., Joanne L., Nemi D., Riya B. The model threw light on beauty derived out of junk items. The teachers Mr. Pankaj Patil, Ms. Pragati Bhosale, Ms. Akshada Shinde, Mr. Sagar Mestry participated in the Pro Canvas Art Painting competition held in the campus and created splendid pieces of art. Master Armaan Gupta from 6B presided as one of the judges in the Kids Panel Discussion held on 18<sup>th</sup> January. Overall, it was quite an enriching visit and participation for The Somaiya School.





## **Field trip:**

The students of grade 2 happily visited the Butterfly Park- Ovalekar Wadi at Thane on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019 after learning a lesson in English called as 'A Pair Of Wings'. As the students stepped into the park, they were enveloped in serene sights of greenery all around. They were introduced to new and unique species of butterflies fluttering around the park. Divided into groups, students were shown the different stages of the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly and doubts they harboured were readily clarified. What's more, students also got to observe rabbits, hens with their chicks, different kinds of trees blooming with flowers and laden with fruits. By the end of the trip, students could themselves identify and name the different kinds of flowers and the names of various vibrantly coloured butterflies along with their features. It indeed was an experience that enhanced learning, making it fun and unforgettable.



## Special Highlight

### Student Exchange with Dahanu school

At the Somaiya School, we believe in the holistic development of our students. Keeping this in mind, student exchange program initiative was introduced. Six students from Nareshwadi visited Mumbai, TSS and experiencing the city life. The students were received on 4<sup>th</sup> of January, where they helped the TSS staff in gearing up for the Little Picasso Art Mela. They also took part in various workshops such as the siporex, woodcarving workshop, etc. Their stay was hosted by the gracious parents of TSS who took them around Mumbai for sightseeing and made them feel home.



### Winners of the campus competitions:

#### Junk art

The model presented by team consisting of Pankti Bhanushali (7B), Avishi Patel (7B), Mani Rao (7B) and Deep Chawda (7C) won the **Third Position**.

#### Plastic Rangoli

Eva Sheth from grade 9B won the **First position**

