

THE SOMAIYA SCHOOL RAYS

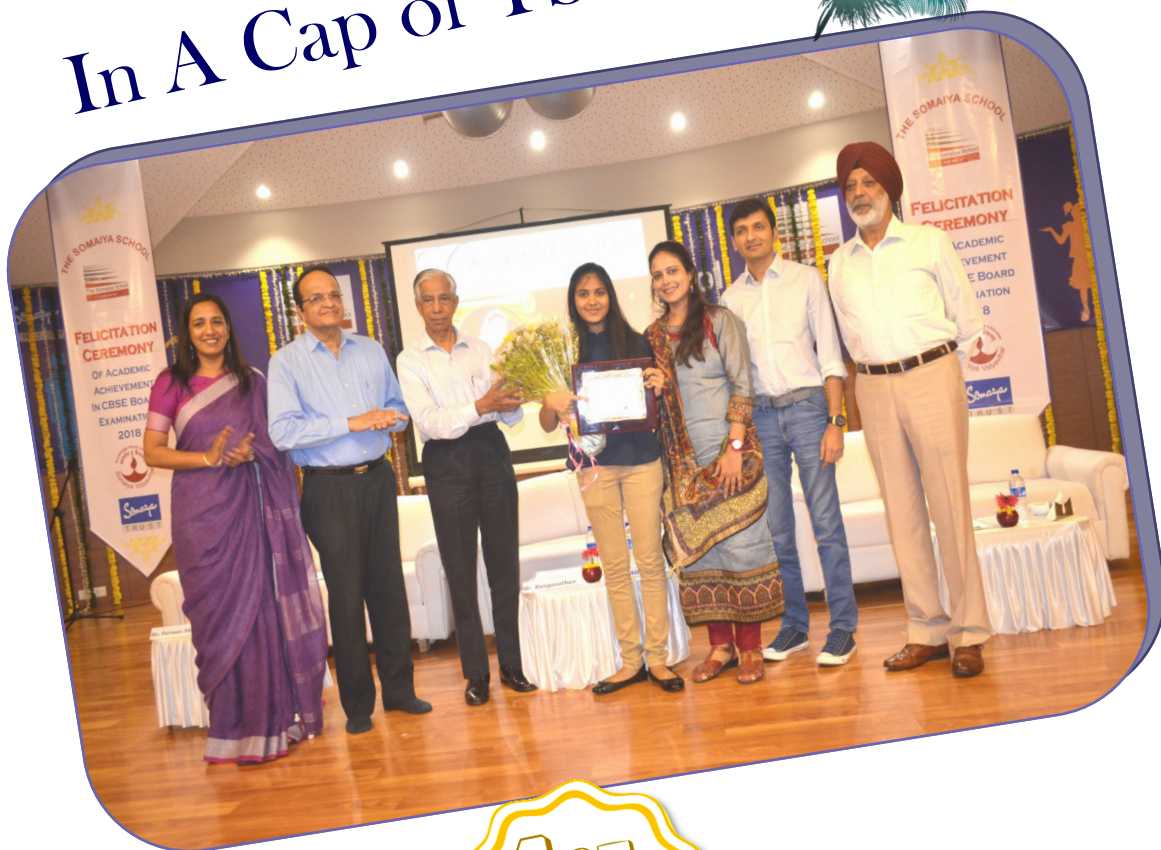
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One More Feather In A Cap of TSS



FOREWORD



Dear Parents,

Welcome to another edition of RAYS - the newsletter of TSS.

The month of June begins with a single thought in my head....What is my goal this year? For the school? And for myself? This is extremely important for me as I believe that setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible into the visible.

Each one of us is different. Hence each one of us will have different ideas about what we want from life, what we aspire to be and how do we reach there? Not all goals need to be big or far- fetched. Not all of them need be very complicated or tough.

But yes, goals need to be slightly out of our reach to give us the satisfaction of achievement through our efforts. Goals need not be only quantitative, in terms of marks, awards, rewards etc. Qualitative goals are equally important – to become an empathetic person, a good listener, to control our temper, to become more tolerant and respectful, to become a little better than what we are today also become goals.

It was our goal to achieve 100% success in the CBSE board exam 2017-18. And indeed our efforts have borne us such a wonderful result. This brings immense joy and happiness. With a Mumbai topper as our student, the goal for the coming year is to encourage and motivate the students of the current batch to do their best and not buckle under pressure.

“Goals. There’s no telling what you can do when you get inspired by them. There’s no telling what you can do when you believe in them. And there’s no telling what will happen when you act upon them.” — *Jim Rohn* It would also be great if we, as a TSS community could set a goal for the school.

Do share your ideas with me for a great school year at principal.tss@somaiya.edu.

Looking forward to beautiful and wonderful goals of 2018-19.

Warm regards,

Ms. Parveen Shaikh

Principal – TSS

Principal – The Somaiya School

TSS Welcomes a new member on the board

Ms. Mahima Artwani has joined the TSS team from the month of June. Mahima is a post graduate in Political Science. She has her professional degree in Social and political science. An ever smiling and soft spoken person, Mahima has moved to Mumbai from Delhi. She has a previous teaching experience of working in Rukmini Devi Public School in Delhi.

Welcome aboard Mahima. We wish you a very prosperous and fulfilling journey here at TSS!



Grade 10th returns to home ground for their felicitation

19th June dawned bright and clear. At 7.00a.m, the school was buzzing with activity. It was a proud day in the history of TSS – the first felicitation ceremony of the grade 10 students for their stupendous achievement. With a few students not in town, all the other students marked their presence on that day. Momentoes, awards, cash prizes, certificates of merit were given to the students. The distinguished guests included the Provost Dr. Pillai, Mr. Ranganathan and Col. Jagbir Singh. Mr. Samir Somaiya arrived early to be a part of the event but had to leave mid-way after congratulating the students.

Ms. Rashi Shah spoke to her juniors candidly about hard work, efforts, distraction due to gadgets, goal setting and the importance of regular study. To be the trailblazers and the trend setters, the students of grade 10 also planted a sapling in the school premises. This sapling is symbolic of the nurture that TSS bestows on all its students.

The day also marked another milestone in the TSS journey. The school magazine “Maverick” was released by the distinguished guests. The entire Maverick team was applauded for their beautiful piece of work. The contribution of Ms. Babita Krishnan who has been a mentor and guide for the making of the magazine was also acknowledged.

We are now looking forward to the next edition of Maverick.



SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Leena, an ever smiling and affable person, hails from Mumbai. She formerly worked with the Union Bank before taking a hiatus. Her hiatus extended for ten years to take care of her children. She resumed her professional career in 2007 joining the Billabong High School, Thane.



Ms. Leena Kulkarni

How has the transition been, moving from a corporate to a school environment?

I worked as a stenographer with The Union Bank of India for 11 years. The criterion for the position was to be good at shorthand. This criterion has helped me immensely to get me back into the professional arena in 2007. I joined the Billabong High School, Thane and then later joined TSS as Personal Assistant to the Principal in May 2013.

How would you describe this journey and progress of the school?

I have been with the school since its inception of the primary section. We did not even have our own fully functional building. We started with just 110 students and today we have over 1165 students. In these five years, the school has earned a very good name and has become very popular. We have such good events and activities that it makes me feel very happy. What I feel now seeing the school today, words cannot do justice to my feelings. There is a sense of pride and happiness in seeing the school grow.

How has your role progressed along with the growth of the school?

When I joined in 2013, my initial responsibility was taking care of inventory and stock. As the school grew and the staff increased, my role and responsibilities got extended. I coordinate with the education department, the CBSE board etc. for the required administrative permissions. Under the guidance of both, the former Principal and the current Principal, I also look into the back ground preparation for staff recruitment. I am also the one point contact for parents and coordinate with them for various activities of the school.

How has the five years in the school been?

Every day is a new learning. Professionally I have grown a lot. Coordinating with various educational agencies has been a tremendous learning experience. Hence I see that there are more dimensions to my role as Personal Assistant to the Principal. And I am happy to be in this space of growth and development.

How do you see yourself amidst the current younger generation?

Today's young generation is very hard working. They understand their roles and responsibilities quite well. In such a highly competitive environment, they hold themselves up very well. They know what they need to do. I think we need to learn that from them.

Do you think you need to change certain attitudes with respect to the current environment?

Personally, I think I need to be a good listener. And I think that I am becoming one!!



SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Mr. Pankaj Patil is a versatile artist with experience ranging from animation to visual art. He has worked in a corporate environment for eight years. This stint has given him the opportunity to make 2D mythological movies, e-learning software, work in the gaming sector etc. He has also been the Head of Design for creating and designing educational software. At TSS, he is the creative face behind the making of props, brochures, banners etc. for all the major events of the school with his Art team



Mr. Pankaj Patil

How did you get into the Art line?

I got into this field quite by accident. Though my drawing has always been good, I did my Bachelors in Economics. After my graduation, seeing my drawing proficiency, I was encouraged to apply for the Art teacher's Diploma. After completing that I achieved my Art Master's certificate then, I entered the field of animation in a corporate environment.

What brought on a shift from corporate to education?

I used to conduct workshops on the making of Eco-friendly Ganesha for a social cause. I conducted one such workshop for the pre-primary in 2012. With that began my association with the school.

What is your opinion about Art in schools?

Personally, I think we can do a lot more than what we are doing today. We can actually provide the base and background for children to pursue creative professions in the future such as Architecture, Design, Advertising etc. We need an Art revolution schools.

How would you compare working in the corporate world to working in the school?

Working in the corporate environment means meeting targets and following the dictates of your boss. Working with children is more satisfying. There can be so much of experimentation and exploration in the art domain with them. And the progress made through these experiments is visible in their growth and development. In the school, we have brought in live experiences through Little Picasso, Art Mela, live models for paintings etc. This has been an enriching experience for both, them as well as me. The appreciation of the parents, the encouragement and support of the Principal and the Management has been a big boost for me.

What would you like to do for Art in schools?

I would like to expose the children to various art forms such as pottery, clay and carpentry. New avenues will open up for the students with such exposure. Art need not be expensive. It is a common complaint from Art teachers that they don't get materials approved because of cost and expenditure. We can use locally available materials for the art classes. Art is not only for joy, but it is also a source of livelihood. People associated with Art need to be more proactive and dynamic if they want to see their efforts bearing fruit.

How has your journey been so far?

Personally, in the last five years, I have learnt and grown a lot. I am a person who lives by my own rules. As is the impression of artists, I am as maverick as can be. With Principal Ma'am having an artistic background, her inputs and ideas have helped me grow a lot. It has given me a lot of confidence and courage to explore and venture out with new media, getting different resource people. I have also explored with new materials such as cardboard etc. The making of the dinosaur for BEAMS, the Brain model, Kala Ghoda installation etc. has been my learning curve.



World Environment Day

World Environment day was celebrated by the students of TSS with commitment and zeal. The day began with an assembly that saw various organisations committed to the cause of environment protection interacting with the students. Behtar India introduced a new campaign for this year with the appropriate stages and criteria. These stages included collection of old newspapers, cleanliness of historical monuments and cleanliness of beaches.

Kids for tigers, a non profit organisation also spoke about their commit-

ment to environment protection. They encouraged the students to be more cautious in the use of resources harmful to the environment.



“My plastic is my responsibility” –

This was the slogan of the NGO **Nirbhaya** run by Mr. & Mrs. Gokhale. They also asked students to volunteer as plastic warriors for their campaign. Their organisation collects old and waste plastic from various areas across the city suburbs and converts it into fuel.

This had the students clamouring excitedly for collecting old and waste plastic from home and the school saw a deluge of plastic refuse, ready to be recycled.

cled.

The need of the hour is to sustain these efforts for a better future. As it has been rightly said “We have not inherited this earth from our forefathers but borrowed it from our children.”

As a part of our commitment to protect our environment, students of grade 7 participated in a silent rally

that proceeded from the school main gate towards the main road. They then walked along the main road towards the signal and turned towards Vidyavihar station road. From there, they entered the campus through the other gate and went around the campus. The students had various messages for the people on environmental consciousness through various placards. The students were accompanied by the PE teachers, teachers, the admin staff and security personnel.

Science Quiz

Grade 1 to 5 had a taste of competition with the Science quiz that was conducted on 8th June 2018. Grade 1 and 2 had a separate session whereas grades 3 to 5 came together for the quiz. Students were slotted into groups of four based on their elimination scores.

The winning team of grade 1 and 2 comprised of-

Kavish Jain – 2A

Jinay Mehta – 2A

Jeny Bhanushali -1C

Anaisha Thakkar – 1C

The students of grades 3 to 5 formed four groups named after four eminent Indian scientists - C V Raman, S Chandrasekar, Homi Bhabha, Vikram Sarabhai.

The winning team was C. V. Raman

team that included Aarush Mishra – 5D, Yashasvi B – 4A, Granth Jain – 3A, Drisana C – 4C.

The quiz exposed the students to the sense of healthy competition and also the feeling of cheering and encouraging classmates and housemates.



Eid Celebration

Unity in diversity, to respect and appreciate differences was the message for the eid day celebrations on 18th June 2018. Grade 1 presented their first assembly wherein they presented a PPT, sang a song and ended the assembly with a dance.

Grade 6 took the responsibility for the Eid assembly. This included a song, information about the reasons for celebrating Eid, the five times namaz – its significance was very beautifully conveyed by the students.



Primary Parent Workshop

The month of June witnessed a parent workshop on the topic “Managing expectations and academic excellence”. The session was held on 23rd June by Dr. Sheryl John Senthilnathan, a psychiatrist. This session was very informative and the need of the hour when we are surrounded by intense competition and expectations are always sky high. With respect to children, such competition and expectations are detrimental to their growth and devel-

opment. Thus this session proved to be very helpful. The session also helped parents to understand the importance of EQ (emotional quotient) of their children, understanding their study styles appropriate to their age groups.

Thus it was a very informative and valuable session that could help parents understand and handle their children in a very balanced manner.



Yoga Day

The Yoga day celebration on 21st June had a very calming effect on every one. The asanas performed by students showed their comfort and proficiency. The students of grade 1 and 2 came together with the students of the higher grades with ease and comfort. The formations showed the creative blending of art and yoga. The confidence of the students was very evident in their precision of time and coordination with each other. A quiz on yoga had everybody participating with enthusiasm,

each and every student clamouring to give the answer.

As per the yearly tradition, the students also performed in the campus as part of the yoga day celebrations, receiving a huge round of applause and appreciation.

At the end of the day, teachers were not to be left behind. They performed the Suryanaskar under the expert guidance of Ms. Kirtida, the Yoga teacher.



Medical Health Check up

The last week of June saw the annual health up happening in the school. The medical team from Somaiya Ayurvihar along with the school nurse carried out the health check up. Each student will be given the health card for their reference.



Blood Bank Visit

As a part of the blood donation drive, the students of grade 10 visited the blood bank at Ayurvihar. They learnt about the process of blood donation, the rules applicable for an individual to donate blood. They were also explained about how the blood is stored and used when required.

The students returned enriched and aware about the importance of blood donation. This led them to put up a skit in the assembly before the blood dona-

tion camp that was held on 29th June in the school auditorium.



Blood Donation Drive

The Somaiya School in collaboration with Somaiya Ayurvihar organized a blood donation drive. This was an initiative of the current batch of grade 10 students. The students were the volunteers for the camp and also put up a play for spreading awareness about blood donation. The school auditorium turned into a makeshift hospital ward with beds, sterile equipment, doctors and lab coats aflutter. The students of grade 10 handled the registrations very efficiently. The drive saw a registration of 180 donors. Out of these, 152 were

found eligible and we were able to collect 53 litres of blood.

It was another successful endeavor for TSS and we hope to have many more.....



Initiative For Research And Innovation In Science



Out of the box thinking doesn't mean thinking out of the box. It is about thinking in many different ways that charts the way for research, a spirit of inquiry and hypothesis making.

With a number of science enthusiasts in the school who are keen to experiment, create and build on their ideas, the assembly conducted by **Dr. K. Amin** was an eye opener. Soon after

this session, students could be seen discussing ideas for the IRIS science fair, forming groups, brainstorming with each other, talking to teachers and the coordinator for details.

We look forward to our budding scientists getting a platform to showcase their skills and ideas.

Beach Clean Up—A Promise Kept

In the month of May, a few students accompanied by their parents and a few teachers participated in the Versova beach clean up. They recounted their observations and experiences in the school assembly. This motivated the other students to do their bit for the environment. The students of grade 9 participated in the clean up on Saturday. They left early in the morning, all energetic and enthusiastic despite it being dark and rainy.

Grade 4 was not to be left behind. One rainy afternoon was their day. Colour-

ful umbrellas, rain coats and enthusiastic parents along with their children dotted the beach front. They came back with a promise to do more and encourage others too. The passion and commitment of Mr. Afroze Shah has truly inspired every one at TSS.



Our Young Achievers

Tamara of Grade 2B won a story narration competition conducted by Landmark. She has secured the first place in Mumbai and has the incredible opportunity to meet Mr. Ruskin Bond at Landour in Mussoorie. She will get the chance to learn the fine art of story telling from the master story teller himself.



Mast. Joshua Bosco of grade 6A is a young and keen enthusiastic bird watcher. He has been featured in the newspapers for his passion in identifying various species of birds. Sunday mornings are usually a lazy morning for most of us, but not for young Joshua. He can be found with his binoculars and his book, spotting birds and writing about them.



A young writer in TSS. Mast. Aarav Patel of grade 7A has published his own book “Pack your bags” during this summer vacation. He has been invited in the Literary fest held on the campus by VOICES, the campus newsletter.



Ms. Kavya Ved (Grade 5, Div. D) has secured an outstanding score of 45/ 50 in the recently concluded NELTAS ECAT 2017-18 STD IV-Grand Finale.

Professional Development— An Ongoing Process At TSS

The month of June began with a series of training programs for both, teachers as well as the student council members. Since the teaching – learning process is in a constant state of evolution, innovative and enriching pedagogies have been made available, thanks to the world of technology. In this regard, Adhyayan has been constantly engaged in the pursuit of qualitative excellence in the field of teaching – learning.

Adhyayan – collaborative learning workshop (1st & 2nd June)

The theme of the workshop held in school was collaborative learning. The entire TSS team was divided into three groups, pre-primary, primary and secondary. The two day workshops conducted catered to the needs of the appropriate age groups of the learners. Strategies, teaching practices, effective and innovative evaluation techniques were discussed with hands-on learning and implementation. With such an influx of vibrant ideas, the two days went by in a whirl.

Rubaroo

This NGO is committed to the cause of spreading awareness among all the stakeholders dealing with children. It was a very interactive session that raised very serious concerns regarding child abuse. The duo, Ishika and Leesha sensitized the TSS team to some of the most current issues teachers faced in their interactions with children. Numerous case studies drove home the need and urgency to address child abuse issues with sensitivity, tact and empathy.



In the month of June'18, I was invited to attend the 1 day Adhyayan review program which involved all the stakeholders of school. This mail is to thank you and your team to give me such a wonderful opportunity to interact with the teachers, trainers, students and fellow parents.

The 1 day program which allowed me to interact with the very talented students and very friendly and supportive teachers thus gave me a great feel about how the school strives to make a great impact on all of us by providing the best of resources. The hospitality provided by Reema Teacher was commendable. I was always a happy parent but with this opportunity and experience, I am truly a proud parent and wish that TSS grows to all its glory with your able leadership.

Once again thanking you all for this great experience. I look forward for many such events which I can be a part of.

Thanks and regards

