

August, 2012

Volume: 2

Issue: 3



Trivandrum International School

THE Trinsian

A STUDENT-LED NEWSLETTER

- 2 From the Principal's Desk
- 3 Reflections
- 4 Creatively Yours
- 5 New, Views, Previews

www.trins.org

Trivandrum International School,

Phone No: +91 471 2619051

Email: tis@trins.org



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE



tais
THE ASSOCIATION OF
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN INDIA

From the Principal's Desk



Appraise Your Values

Greetings from Trins!

It is a self evident truth that the world is progressing day by day. Time and again, man has proved that there are no limits for his capabilities. We are - literally- reaching for the stars and planets, we are unravelling the secrets of life in the Universe, we are mastering nature and its mysteries. It is an exciting and endless race that we are running. Our pace is fast and unrelenting. Our eyes are set clearly on the goals.

However, in all this adrenaline-charged pursuit of 'progress', are we losing sight of some simple niceties that make life what it is?

Time was when 'please, 'sorry' and 'thank you' were considered more important than even learning the three r's. They were the simple lubricants that oiled the creaking, straining machinery of social life. Today, sadly, gratitude seems to have become the first casualty of our fast - paced lifestyle.

I do not mean to say that we are not grateful for the 'big' blessings we get. Nor am I saying that 'Thank You' is heard less often these days. (On the contrary, the words 'Thank You' are so ubiquitous in polite conversation that they seem to be becoming a couple of meaningless words used purely to close a conversation or a deal!)

My point is simply this. In day to day life we seem to take too much for granted. A simple deed of kindness, a thoughtful gesture, a sympathetic word - these are usually shrugged away or accepted as an inalienable right that need not be acknowledged. However, we need to remember that no matter how small the favour seems to us, some thought, some effort, someone's precious time has gone into it... which certainly deserves acknowledgement with a simple 'Thank you'.

In our mad rush to construct a new world, let us not forget the simple values of life which form the sturdy bricks of our tomorrows.

Warm regards

Srinivas K Naidu



Perceiving things our own way

“Are you married?” asked a German girl from the school we’d gone on the exchange trip to. “No, of course not!” I said. This isn’t a question that any fifteen year old, normal Indian teenager would expect to be asked. “Well, it’s just that we thought Indians marry when they’re fifteen”. Question: When did that happen?

I did not find it as offending as I did when I thought about it later. We’d known Germany only from the Nazi history that we learned at school, and have never dreamed it to be much different. However, what awaited us were not racism or hard looks, but welcoming arms and open, sincere smiles. And most of the pre-departure presentations seemed a little exaggerating – we found our new friends as good-natured and merry as our friends back home, even more enthusiastic may be. We were ready to respect, admire and know about cultures rather than believing in predefined admonitions about them.

I think of their misunderstandings – I’d prefer 'perception' to be a more precise word – as fairly natural. The knowledge that they’re provided may be generalized, but it does make a huge difference when they face reality. Child marriage may exist still, but the sad thing is that it becomes more highlighted than the fact that there have been dramatic decreases over the years. This is where I’d like to put in an extra word or two.

We were invited to take part in a presentation that was about India. It revolved around the aboriginals in West Bengal, and we were shown the pathetic poverty, malnourished children, shabby settlements, unhappy women and sombre men. Was this the India we know? No, it wasn’t. It was definitely one part of the nation – the unfortunate, underdeveloped part. We found the others eyeing us with renewed interest. The situation we were placed in was definitely a little disconcerting. We were looked on as strange spectacles from the land they just got to know - the land which did not look so wealthy. We did answer a lot of questions and surprised the questioners. It felt satisfying to clear at least some amount of misunderstanding. There was a richer, beautiful side to our country than what was shown.

Have you ever felt being looked upon or down by somebody because of the nation you’re coming from? Have you ever been discriminated because of it? If you have, it’s not because they’re mean or racist. It has been perceived that way, accepted that way in the society they lived. A hundred same presentations, a thousand same reports are circulating with rather perplexing news on one’s country or place. The West is rich, because we are told that it is. But there are beggars still everywhere, and it will be ironic to suggest that they behave differently. This is what we have to put up with everyday, whether between countries or between individuals. We are after all subjected to understanding from our own perception: making us all products of our perception.

“Let them come home and be surprised”, I heard a team member murmuring. “I think it’s time they changed their perception”.

Aishwariya T Anish, 10 IG

Rapunzel

Once upon a time there lived a lovely baby named Rapunzel. One day when she and her parents were sleeping, an evil lady kidnapped her and took her to a tall tower in the deep forest. The old lady brought Rapunzel up as her own daughter but never let her out of the forest. One day Rapunzel heard a conversation between her step mother and her stepmother's friend. Then she realized that the old lady was not her real mother and her real mother was a queen. This made her very sad.

One day a thief broke into the tower while the stepmother went for a long trip. Rapunzel saw the thief and beat him on his head. He fell unconscious. He had a satchel with him. There was a crown inside it. She hid the satchel so he could not find it. After he woke up Rapunzel said that if he would take her outside the forest only then she would return his satchel.

Rapunzel secretly took the satchel with her. The thief helped her to find the village and the palace. She lived happily ever after with her real parents. Meanwhile the old lady was very sad that Rapunzel left and, after a few days, the king ordered his soldiers to put her in jail.

Any, 5 A

If I were in charge of the world
I'd cancel poverty,
Nasty nightmares,
Doctor visits, and also Bad Bumble Bees.

If I were in charge of the world:
There'd be no more teasing,
4ft pools, and
Less endangered animals.

If I were in charge of the world:
You wouldn't have sadness,
You wouldn't have roller skating.

If I Were In Charge Of The World

You wouldn't have roller blading.
Or "Don't eat too much candy."
You wouldn't even have candy.

If I were in charge of the world
A cotton candy ice cream would be a fruit
All unhealthy food would be healthy,
And a person who sometimes is sad
And sometimes is mad,
Would still be allowed to be
In charge of the world,
If I were in charge of the world.

Neha Murthy, 5 A

Spectra, 2012

The much awaited cultural event in the school calendars of Trivandrum city - *Spectra* - organized by Trivandrum International School was held on Saturday, 4th August, 2012 with more than 350 students from thirteen schools participating. Organized completely by the Senior School students of Trivandrum International School, this interschool cultural fest has set new benchmarks in innovation, creativity and artistry.

The competitions ranged from the usual song and dance sequences to innovative ones like Mirror Dance, where two students, separated by a screen, danced in sync and Event X which included fashion designing. The Chief Guest for the opening ceremony was Mr. Sreekumaran Thampi, well-known lyricist, director and screenwriter of Malayalam cinema, who exhorted the students to use the knowledge they receive now in order to realize their full potential. By narrating his personal experiences, Mr. Thampi, was able to touch a chord in the hearts of the audience. Mr. G. Vijayaraghavan, Honorary Director of Trivandrum International School emphasized the spirit of participation and pointed out how education is not merely what we gain from books but also the ability to discover and nurture our latent potential, whether in a performance on stage or in leadership roles.

Mr Shyamaprasad, acclaimed film director, was the chief guest for the Closing Ceremony. In his address to the assembled gathering, he spoke of cultural enhancement and its importance in a person's future irrespective of whether they become engineers, doctors, etc.





The competing teams vied with one another in innovation and execution, with the dances as usual capturing hearts and garnering the most applause. The overall champions of the day were Loyola School, and the runners up were L'ecole Chempaka, ICSE. Impulse King, Keith A. P., Loyola school, charmed the audience with his masterful fielding of the tricky questions posed to him and Impulse Queen, Athulya A.B., from St Thomas Central School, walked away easily with her trophy as well.



Visit To Arippa Forest

Grade 5 students of Trivandrum International School embarked on a trip to the Arippa Forest Reserve as part of their study on forest ecosystems. Prof. Nandakumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Kerala University, led the team and planned their trip. Our forest guide, Mr. Vijayaraghavan of the Arippa Forest took the students into the interior trails of the forests.

The travel weary children perked up as soon as the silence of the forests was broken by the chattering of monkeys and the occasional call of a rare bird beckoning its mate. The excitement of the students was palpable when they sighted a Giant Malabar squirrel, a Pelican, a Wagtail and a Langur. Flowering plants that they had never seen before caught their eye as they made their way deeper into the forest. Our guide showed the students the layers of the forest which help maintain the balance of the ecosystem and explained the role played by the forest department in forest conservation.



While the enthusiastic students went about identifying the various habitats like the canopy, hollows of trees and dead logs, they discovered that each animal and plant plays its part in the drama of life and is an important link in the environment—even the blood sucking leeches that climbed their legs. The struggle for existence and the interdependence of the various elements of the ecosystem would lead to a healthy biome – this was the essence that each and every child imbibed during the trip.

Harmful human interaction with the environment, like cutting trees and polluting caused loss of habitats along with an imbalance in the ecosystem. As they frolicked in the river flowing through the forest the children promised themselves that they would do their bit to protect our beautiful world. It was a sadder and a wiser set of students who clambered into the bus that evening after a day well spent in the lap of Nature.



Independence Day at TRINS

Mile sur mera tumhaara to sur bane hamaara... Words of this patriotic and popular song echoed on the corridors of Trivandrum International School as it celebrated the 66th Independence Day with the theme of unity in diversity. At a special assembly, students in traditional clothes from the various parts of the country presented the different dance forms of India in a show of pride of the varied heritage of Mother India.

The message was clear. Forget differences, blend your voice with mine, and we will speak with one voice, a new voice which will belong to all of us. A message that is relevant at all times, but especially so, in these days of polarizing forces threatening disharmony in a nation of tolerance.



The Independence Day special address to the school by Ms. Sujata Radhakrishnan encouraged the audience to engage in some soul searching and reflection as to what each one had done for the country so far, and what can be done in future. Rather than mouthing platitudes on an abstract concept called 'freedom', the eloquent speech underlined in practical terms what 'freedom' implied in terms of rights and responsibilities.

The day was marked, as always, by national pride and a heightened sense of history - of who we are and how we have reached this far.



This newsletter is intended for internal circulation only; among the staff, students and parents of TRIVANDRUM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL.