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## Trivandrum International School

# THE Trinsian

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International Examinations

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE



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INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN INDIA

### From the Editor

Trins campus was swarming with future inventors, literary men and leaders of the world! They, the students from various schools, were at Trins for the Science and Literary Inter-school Fest. The day inspired them to think out of the box by giving due importance to both science and literature.

In this issue our principal's message draws an analogy between a small seed germinating into a tree and a child growing into a leader. Trins is, beyond doubt, a fertile ground to mould children into leaders. Speaking from long years of experience, Ms Rema Pillai says, she has confronted many paradoxes in her professional life. She shares a few real situations in her reflections Oxymoron.

My deep felt gratitude to the parents and students who have answered last month's puzzle. This issue has a crossword.

Wish you a great reading!

**Dominic Savio**

# From the Principal's Desk



*Greetings from Trins!*

*A seed grows into a plant. The plant flowers. Flowers turn into fruits. The cycle continues. Naturally.*

*No one needs to prod the seed into sprouting. No one needs to urge the plant to flower. Nor does the fruit require any persuasion. That's the law of Nature.*

*To carry the analogy further, a baby grows into a child, a child into an adult. Nature's law, of course. So where does the responsibility of a school fit into this equation?*

*Nature versus nurture is an ongoing debate. However, we all know that the seed that grows naturally out of the soil can grow into a healthier plant, if nurtured adequately. Similarly, the child with his innate natural talents can blossom into a great human being only if given a nurturing environment. We, at Trins, pride ourselves in providing such an environment for the growing child.*

*Some are born leaders, but every child can be trained to take up leadership roles and be moulded into the leader of tomorrow. The month of July at Trins*

*witnessed the grooming and blooming of such future leaders. Various events at Trins helped our youngsters grow in a short time frame into capable leaders.*

*From planning to organizing, responsibility was shared and borne with panache by our young leaders. It was truly a month when Trins lived up to its motto of moulding future leaders.*

*My congratulations to all my dear students for the meticulous planning and systematic execution of various events which characterized their handling of this responsibility. It was a month when every adult heart on this campus beat with pride and a sense of fulfillment. We hope to see many more such occasions in future.*

*Warm regards*

*Srínivas K Naidu*

*Principal*

# Reflections

## An Oxymoron

Teaching the Board Examination class of an All India Stream , after a gap of few years, once again found me playing the role of a counselor cum teacher and confidante to parents as well as the students, who were reeling under the weight of the entirely exam oriented curriculum . The culmination of a year's efforts being judged by a single examination can be daunting for most. All the more so for the parents who understand better the implications of a not so satisfactory performance. Having spent most of my life trying to soothe the ruffled feathers of adolescent children who believe their parents to be their worst enemies on this earth, whose sole motive seems to be to deprive innocent children of all fun, and indignant parents who seem convinced that children are indeed reincarnations of the enemies of your previous lives, whose birth purpose is to make you atone for your earlier sins, I thought it apt to narrate a few interesting incidents.

Parents with huge ambitions which are to be realized through their offspring are very sure of what they expect from the future. But students with only a vague idea of future plans are equally sure of what they want from the present. And the two seldom tally. So most homes become a miniature 'Kurukhetra' as the Board exam approaches, climaxing during the period of what is termed 'Study Holidays'. If ever there was an oxymoron 'Study Holidays' it is. Parents unerringly shift the entire focus of the word to the former part whereas the student identifies with the latter. So the battle lines are drawn.

There was this parent whose neighbours sued her for noise pollution. In her ardent endeavour to wake up her son at five A.M during his 'study holidays', she kept on increasing the decibel sound of her alarms, in the process ended up waking up the entire neighbourhood - in fact every one else except the intended victim. She found out much later that her recalcitrant offspring went to sleep with ear plugs.



Another petite five foot nothing mom with the heart of a lioness actually managed to pull her six foot giant of a son physically out of bed only to have him saunter over to the couch and slump down on it . These two mothers put their heads together and came up with a brilliant idea. With the morning alarm wafted the tantalizing aroma of their offspring's favourite cuisine. The rest was easy.

Breakfast can be another major battle scene. Suddenly, the child who had to be coaxed to eat a few spoonfuls of breakfast before rushing off, lords it over the table, demanding bacon and eggs, sausages and pancakes and what not. More emphasis on health and nutrition and less on taste could shorten the breakfast hour to less than 10 minutes.

With working mothers going on loss of pay leave and stay at home moms cancelling social commitments to play the watchdog , the biggest casualty in any house could be the grocery shopping . You can step out to buy bread and eggs and come back to find your child glued to the computer/TV as though the cricket score board would have a direct bearing on his\her marks card . No wonder the desperate parent I knew, actually paid the technician to spoil her TV, just to avoid the long arguments and temper tantrums that disconnecting cable/TV would have caused.

If at the end of 6 weeks of this harrowing ordeal your child does not have a nervous break down you can count yourself a successful parent. And my dear child, if your parent does not need life long medication for BP after your Boards, you have been an exemplary offspring. May the bonds that bind you last a life time!

**Ms Rema Pillai**

# Creatively Yours



## The flat tyre

I could not sleep that night. My stomach was upset, probably because I did not have dinner. But I did not feel hungry. I felt out of breath so I moved over to my balcony and looked on to the street. I heard the noise of a car pulling over near my house. Later I was able to see the silver Honda city. It seemed new and polished. The tyre had gone flat. A small and lean young woman came out of the car and looked at the tyre. She seemed worried. It had been late at night and she was all alone.

The young woman was so familiar. I could not fully recognize her face in the dim light of the street lamp. She was wearing formal clothes. So I figured she was coming back from work late. I called out, “Do you need a hand miss?” She startled by my call and looked around cautiously. I waved my hand and she noticed me. She replied in hurried tone, “It is alright. I got this, thank you.” I stood there in my balcony for some more time waiting for my for eye lids to feel heavy. I watched the woman check out the spare wheel from the boot of the car and the jack. I decided to go to bed after she removed the flat tyre.

The next day, a bright Sunday morning sun woke me up at about 10 am. I got out of my bed and looked out the window. At the place where the woman had been yesterday, there were policemen walking left and right. The woman’s car was still there. I could see streaks of dark red on the silver body of the car. My heart sank. Questions started to run across my mind. What happened to her? Is she alright? A sudden flash guilt hit me; I was starting to repent for letting her deny my help. May be I could have prevented this. Or, may be would have got hurt instead?

I quickly changed into my jeans and slippers and raced down the stairway and out the door. I walked over to the car, but I was stopped by a policeman. “Where are you going sir?” He questioned. “I just wanted to see what happened”, I replied. I told the policeman that I saw her last night changing the tyre. I asked him what had happened to her and who she was. He told me that she was Dr Kim from the general hospital. She was killed by a blow to the back of the head. For a while the name Dr Kim drifted about in my head. Then it suddenly struck me. She was my mother’s doctor. She was the great woman who helped my mother fight cancer. Who would do this to her? I think that the expressions on my face made the policeman suspicious. He told me to come by the station that evening. I had to go. I want to find out who would want to attack this wonderful woman!

**Malini S Vivek, 9 ICSE**



# News, Views, Previews

## Science and Literary Inter-school Fest, 2012

Geography has never been so easy and simple to understand for those who listened to Shri R. V. G. Menon, as he spoke at the inaugural ceremony of Science and Literary Inter-school Fest on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2012. He spoke elaborately in his inaugural address about the plight of our mother earth. “She is running a temperature and is sick, sick of us. We technically call this global warming” Sri G. Vijayaraghavan, our honorary director took pride in organizing this event and wished all the participants good luck.

Eleven schools from in and around Trivandrum participated in the fest and all the participants competed with their eyes set upon the Overall Championship. The fest comprised of 20 events, saw about 300 students taking part in various events.

For the closing ceremony, Trins was blessed to have another eminent personality Sri V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, the sixth Vice-Chancellor of the Indira Gandhi National Open University as the chief guest. He along with Mrs. George M. Thomas and our Principal, Mr. Srinivas Naidu gave away the prizes to the winners. St Thomas School, Trivandrum won the Overall Championship while L’ecole Chempaka ICSE won the Best Participating School award. Needless to say the success of the fest spoke for itself.



# Visit to Germany

The 22 member TRINS team disembarked from the aircraft after their 12 days long successful visit to Germany. The visit was the culmination of their Indo-German Exchange programme based on the topic 'A comparative study of old age care in Kerala and Baden Wurttemberg in Germany'.

During their twelve days stay, from 30th of June to 14<sup>th</sup> July, our students stayed with the German students with whom they had already interacted through skype and emails. Our students also had the unique opportunity of accompanying the German students to their schools. Apart from that, they visited an institution run by Red Cross Society for elderly people. Our students interacted with the elderly persons and performed cultural programmes for them. They were so happy and thankful to our students for spending an evening with them.

By conveying a powerful message 'we care for you' our students stepped into Haus Ahorn, an old age home in Beilstein for a day-long interaction with the inmates. The activities included a presentation about Kerala and its art forms, cultural programmes and a demonstration of wrapping saris. The German students also presented an amazing musical performance. It was tear-jerking to listen to the elderly people singing for our students with their hearts full of gratitude.





A tour through Ludwigsburg castle, Audi Factory, Bosch Company, Mercedes Benz Museum and a World famous Russian Ballet in the Opera House in Stuttgart was both interesting and informative. In the evening, our students presented a PowerPoint presentation with all the collected information.



During weekends the host family took our students to different places. Finally, at the time of farewell, the bus stop was teemed with our German friends and family members. Though we waved good bye to their love and hospitality, we were sure that we would meet them after a short while. The German students will visit TRINS in the month of October. The project will continue and culminate only in the month of February 2013.



**Ms Sinduja.B**

**German Project Coordinator**



# Raising the Bar

Excellence is not a destination; it is a journey. A journey, where the finish lines constantly keeps changing, where the stakes are constantly raised. This journey of excellence started 9 years ago; Trivandrum International School has just reached a milestone. Addressing the school on its tenth birthday celebrations, Mr. Srinivas Naidu, our Principal, emphasized the necessity of raising the bar with each achievement. A maxim the school has been following since its inception.

Trivandrum International School celebrated Talents Day and the School Birthday on July 16, 2012. There was a variety of competitions, which provided the students a platform to display their talents. After the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Principal and the Heads of Sections, competitions ranging from Recitation to Mono Act, Eastern Solo singing to group dances was held. The students participated in the competitions with gusto and vigour, vying for the lead position in the House - wise tally. The students and staff of Trivandrum International School, on this special day, remembered with pride the achievements made in this short span of time and looked forward to achieving greater accomplishments in the future.





# Science Fair -2012

In an attempt to develop and nourish the scientific aptitude in young learners through the use of innovative activities and information technology, the annual Science fair of Trivandrum International School was held on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2012. This was an opportunity for the students to demonstrate their understanding of concepts and also a platform to display their skills.



The students of Junior, Middle and Senior school selected themes and topics in Science to work on various projects, experiments, models and other exhibits. The participation to this event was compulsory for all students. The highlights of the exhibition were model Operation Theater, plant tissue culture techniques, ways of saving energy, electricity from fruits, colour changing milk, 'smart egg', etc.



The junior school had many interesting projects as part of their Primary Years Programme. The Transdisciplinary Theme chosen by grades 2 - 5 was - **"Who we are"** and the children inquired into the personal, physical, mental, and social health of humans. Class 3 had an interactive session with Dr. Subha, Anesthetist, Regional Cancer Centre, on maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The topics ranged from the different parts of the human body, sense organs, food and healthy lifestyle and the interdependence of organ systems.



The day was a testimony to the abundant enthusiasm and scientific curiosity inherent in young minds, which if harnessed can result in giant strides in human progress.





# Tiny Tots Interview Principal

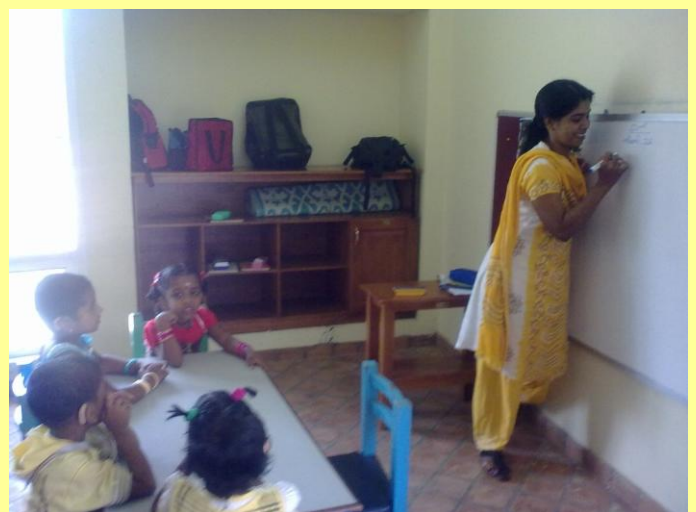
Our *highlight of this week* was the interview with our beloved Principal, Mr. Srinivas Naidu. He spoke to us about his KG days. He also mentioned the names of the schools he studied in and the name of his favourite teacher. The most interesting thing we heard him say was that he has 438 children and the number was growing. Our Principal was very impressed with us and said that we were learning to be confident speakers.





# Visit to NISH

On July 26, 2012 as part of the plenary activity related to our 1<sup>st</sup> theme, “How we express ourselves” on the topic ‘senses’, we the Grade 4 students visited NISH (**National Institute of Speech and Hearing**). It was a real life experience where the students got to interact with children who were physically impaired in speech and hearing. They could see different scientific instruments and methods used to test and train these students. They also interacted with the inmates in sign language. We could see the creative touch exhibited by these students. The students were really happy and enjoyed the trip.





# ISRO Visit

ISRO is a Indian Government funded organization to do research on space that is astronomy and to be pioneers in aeronautics. VSSC is another organization involved in the cosmos research.

In mid July of 2012, Trins arranged a field trip to the ISRO rocket launching station at Thumba for the students of classes 8, 9 and 11. Two well-sized air conditioned buses were utilized for this endeavour. The trip started from Trins at about 8.45 am and reached the station at 10.30. There was a small wait and respite for the students and teachers for about half an hour and after that the rocket was launched. Everyone watched spellbound as the rocket rose forty thousand feet into the air. It was a weather rocket and it split into two stages at the pre-decided heights. This sort of launch is practiced only on the third Wednesday of a month.

The rockets are about half the size of a junction flood-light and are powered by solid fuels. The trail of smoke can be seen due to the production of quantum of ash. ISRO aims to improve its aeronautic efficiency so that even greater achievements can be carried out in the future.

**Achuth Chandrasekhar, 8 A**



## All Kerala Inter-School Quiz Contest

Aiswarya T. Anish of grade 10 IGCSE and Rohit P. Jacob of grade 10 ICSE participated in the All Kerala Inter-School Quiz Contest for the 'Secretary's Trophy', held at the St. Thomas Higher Secondary School in Trivandrum on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2012. They competed with more than twenty schools from all over the state. They reached the fifth position out of eight teams chosen for the

**Aiswarya T. Anish, 10 IGCSE**

# Boarding House Report



The month of July has been yet another eventful one for the boarders including many trips and preparations for the Spectra. The month started off with a trip to watch the much awaited “The Amazing Spiderman” this was then followed by a trip to Ambrosia. The children were also taken to the Shangamugam beach where they all thoroughly enjoyed the lovely sand and the cool waters. Talents day beckoned on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July which was also the School’s 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. Preparations for this event were in full swing and on the day many boarders bagged prizes. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of July the boarders got a pleasant surprise when it was announced that a bonfire was to be held. The bonfire went very well and many games were played. This was also followed by a treat in the form of Chicken cutlets and Black forest pastries. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, the boarders were taken for a trip to the Neyyar Dam where they had lunch and enjoyed thoroughly. As the month reached its end, the teachers from our school came to the hostel and gave assistance to the students before the commencements of the monthly exams. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, the Science and Literary fest was held and many boarders were chosen to help with the preparations.



**Vineet John, 11 AS**

# Social Service At Trins

## Grooming Session for Social Service Team

Before the students of grade 11 started their social service activities for the year, they were given a briefing by Mr. Sudheer (School Social Service in-charge). In the briefing he emphasized on the importance of doing whatever little we can for our ailing society. He also spoke at length about the current year's plan.

Monthly rice collection is in full swing across the school. 'Your contribution of rice, money or medicine is definitely going to alleviate the hunger and pain of someone', Mr Sudheer stated passionately. Apart from this, there are other activities in the pipeline like visit to the Palliative Care Center at Chavara, raising money by doing house chores, exciting food fair etc.

In addition to these activities grade 11 and 12 students, like in the previous year, will visit 3 government schools every week to teach the children English. Sample lesson plans were made during the briefing. All the points were clearly explained and examples for each were also given. The 11th grade is eagerly waiting to start these classes.

We hope to gain not only the experience of teaching, but also learn how to be better human beings..

**Chanchal Ramesh, 11 IGCSE**

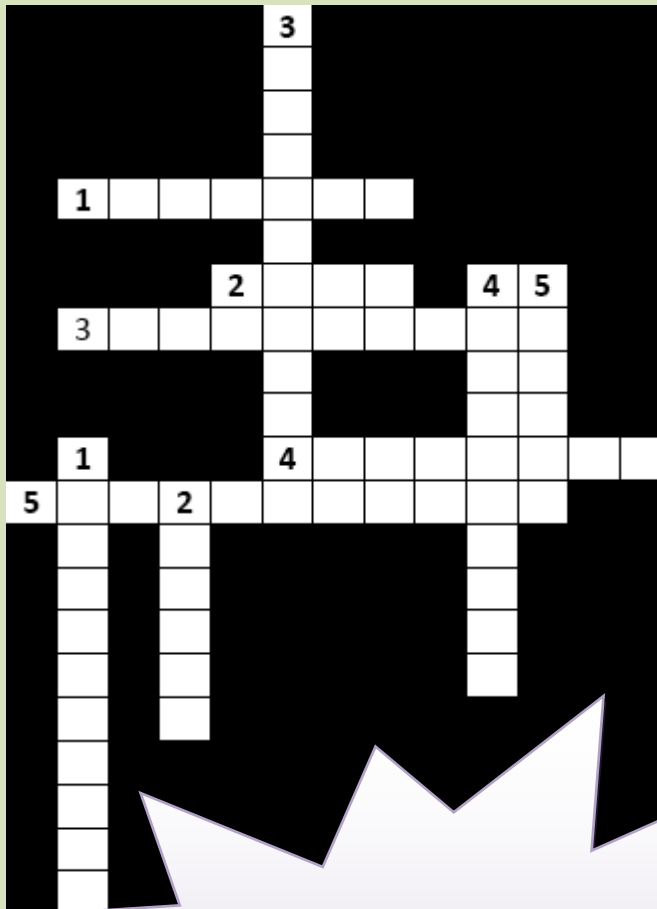
## Never too early to Share

The Infant School students of Trivandrum International School experienced the joy of caring and sharing when they visited Sai Niketan, the school for orphaned children at Sai Gramam, on 23rd July 2012, as they shared their toys with the students of Sai Niketan. With the wholehearted support from parents and guidance from their teachers, the little ones are planning to set up a toy library at Sai Niketan, with regular contributions throughout the year. This lesson in caring was the plenary activity of the first Unit of Inquiry by the PYP students. Used books and clothes in good condition were also contributed by the students of Infant School as part of their exploration of the theme, 'Who We Are'. Grade 11 IBDP students also accompanied the little ones to have an experience of community service. The little learners of TRINS Infant School proved through this novel initiative that they are second to none in helping the underprivileged and that sharing and caring can begin at any age. Thanks to the TRINS Social Service Team who planned and arranged this activity.



# Crossword Puzzle

Solve this crossword puzzle.



## Across

1. Samuel Gulliver in Gulliver's Travels is a:
2. Pen name of Hector Hugh Munro.
3. Writer of the Pide Piper of Hamelin
4. Nobel Prize winner
5. Teacher of Alexander the Great

## Down

1. 'Homeric Flight' means:
2. The Dark Lord
3. The Italian Renaissance Sculptor and painter
4. 'The Little Glass Slipper' is popularly known as:
5. King assassinated in Macbeth

**Congratulations to the last  
month's winner**

**Capt G Aswanikumar**

**Correct answers for June  
Puzzle: DESDEMONA /  
TRANSATLANTIC**

If you know the answers, mail to [trinsyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:trinsyearbook@gmail.com)

**The first all – correct entry will be the winner. So hurry up! What are you waiting for? Answers in  
next month's Newsletter. Don't miss it!**

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

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