

CALCUTTA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

C I S

SPEAKS

DECEMBER-JANUARY EDITION

COMPILED BY

CLASS

## “In Search of Young Ruskin Bond”

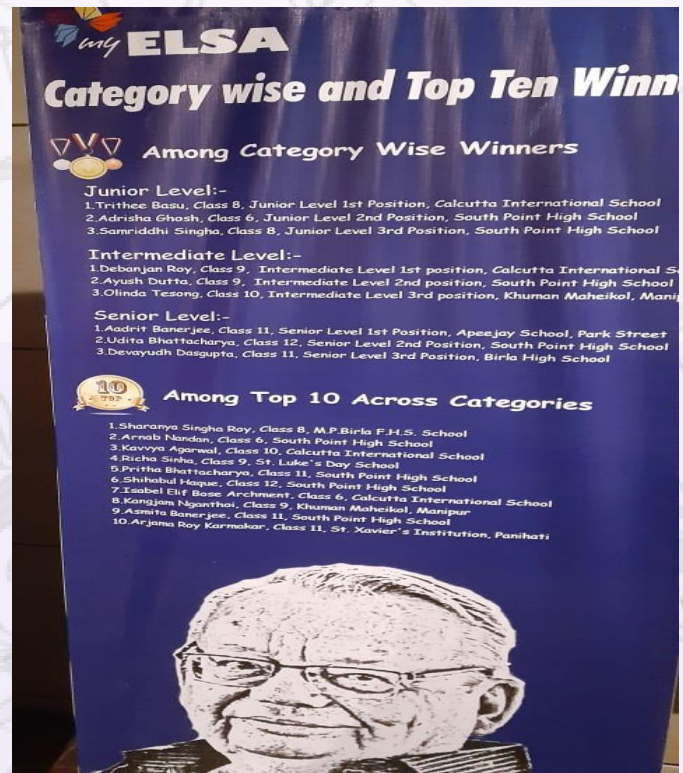
Debanjan Ray Class 9A

The “In Search of Young Ruskin Bond”

contest took place in the month of December 2019. It was a short-story writing competition in which over 4000 students from 84 schools participated.

When I was writing my story, I wanted to convey a message, so I wrote about nature and how it's being destroyed. I won the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize in the Intermediate category. I was excited when I realized that the famous author Ruskin Bond had personally chosen me as the winner. This contest has meant a lot to me and I believe more of these contests should continue to promote interest in story writing and allow willing students to explore the English language.

This is an excerpt from the story I wrote: *“... ‘twas a time when all were free.... But times have changed now. I no longer wake up to the natural paradise Mother Earth is supposed to be. I see trees falling, replaced by dull towers, the natural floor replaced by dull concrete tiles. Yes, times have changed, but not for the better”*.



## *The Football Match Project*

*Arham Choraria- Interact Club President 2019-2020*

**O**n the 30th of November, 2019, the members, and the Board, of the Interact Club took 25 underprivileged children of Navjyoti Jana Kalyan Society to experience one of the most awaited football matches in the Indian Super League- Kolkata vs Mumbai. The children, who nurture a great passion for football, got a chance to experience this lively sport for the first time ever and had the biggest smile on their faces throughout the match. The club reported at the Society and greeted every person. The members spent time with the children and provided them with food and goodies before the event. They also took them to the Salt Lake Stadium by bus where they interacted with every child and had a fun conversation about their favourite players. The members of the club were glad to see the children jump with joy as they entered the stadium. The smile on their faces and the excitement in their eyes showed how much they enjoyed. We felt blessed to have been able to facilitate this event for them. It was one of the most joyous and heartwarming projects the club has ever hosted.



# Alfrink College Exchange Programme

Disha Whora, AS Level

I believe I speak for everyone who participated in the Alfrink-CIS student exchange programme, when I say that the 7 days spent were full of smiles and laughter. Honestly, describing the time spent as exciting would really be an understatement.

A warm and traditional welcome in the Indian way was extended to the students and teachers of Alfrink.

Later in the day, the students from both the schools were asked to prepare an act on the major and significant issues in the society such as violence and religion.

This was to be presented by the end of the week. 3 professionals from the field of theatre dance and martial arts guided us in this journey. To get to know each other better, the students formed a circle and introduced themselves through many activities. Naturally, giggles and awkward flapping of hands we forged friendship and learnt invaluable lessons.

Discussions took place about the severity of these social problems and everything sailed smoothly. The storm hit us only when we learnt that we were to direct scenes and put up



a dramatic act with dances to showcase these issues in front of an audience in less than 5 days. With not even a single clue about acting and stuck in a crucial time constraint, we did not think it was possible.

However, motivation from our teachers and mentors and the understanding of spreading the urgency of these issues helped us achieve our goal. Also, at times,

we all didn't mind laughing at how pathetic we actually were at acting. Days passed and, in a blink, it was the D-day, the day for our performance. We were all nervous and jittery



but seeing the audience clap we knew that we had been successful in sending the message across to them.

What made this a memorable event for both teachers and students was the fact that it was a perfect mix of a fun and learning experience. Who knew directing and acting in a serious social play could be something to look forward to? There was reluctance, awkwardness and even immaturity at times. But those moments lead to crazy and unbelievably lively and joyous times. I'm glad I can look back to a bag full of memories, stories and, of course, inside jokes.



# TATA STEEL 25K MARATHON

Aneesh Bhattacharjee IB2

On 15th December 2019, a couple of students from IBDP Yr2 took part in a marathon organized by TATA STEEL. There were two parts of the race. The first part was the actual race, which Nafis Adnan, Aadidev Bhatt, Justin Hu, Mehul Bhargava and I took part in. The other part of the race which Ileana Pal, Shrija Pathak, and Jane Ha took part in was called the Buddies run with the children of the Oral School for Deaf children. In this, the CIS students assisted them in running the marathon.



In the first part of the marathon, we ran for about 5 kilometers. There were many schools and a lot of people who joined the race. There were people from different parts of the country. There was a man who had come from Gujarat simply to run in the marathon. Overall, I finished 122nd out of 2795 people. At the end of the race, we got food packets and medals for participating. In the Buddies run, the girls assisted the children to run simply for fun. They did not compete, rather they ran for joy and to have a good time. Throughout the race, there were halts at regular intervals for water and multiple first-aid stations. There were people by the side, taking pictures of the runners. We gave gifts to the children of the school such as toiletries, clothes as well as money that was taken as admission fees- all given towards a good cause.



# HISTORY WORKSHOP

*Shreyan Banerjee 8A*

On the 9th of December, the History Department had organized a workshop, hosted by Mrs. Subha Das Mullick, called the Bichitra Pathshala History Workshop, for the students of classes six, seven, and eight. Here they learnt about multiple techniques applied by historians to understand the past of an object or a place. The students of middle section were separated into groups of six people, and each group of students was given old artifacts, such as photos, old books and old watches. The students had then been given a worksheet, with questions on them, which they had to answer by analyzing the specific artefact that they had received. They were then taught about how to frame research questions, which they would follow up on with research. After the students had gotten time to analyze the artifacts given to them, some were asked to present their artifacts to everybody in the room. With this project done, the students of the middle section will embark on a new project about the “history of our school” along with many other well-distinguished schools in Kolkata, that aims to document the history of all of these schools in this city, over time.

I personally enjoyed this activity, not only because it was interesting, but also because I had learned multiple new things. These included learning about why history is compulsory for us to learn until we reach a certain age. Along with this, I also learned how historians get facts, and where they get them from. The project also helped me understand why historians get these facts. They get these facts to unearth and discover the past.

I believe that this workshop was truly important for us, to help us understand certain aspects of history, and I enjoyed this workshop very much.



# EYP PERFORMANCES

## EYP Performance- Grade 6

Deeksha Vijayapaul, Grade 7B

Grade Six created musical magic on stage with their furry costumes and cat whiskers as they enacted an adaptation of the famed musical, titled 'Cats'. Sounds of classical music and contemporary dance captured the mood of the scenes. The setting and props used were ordinary cardboard boxes which aided in presenting the perfect backdrop to the play. The students enacted and expressed their emotions with grace, stealth and mystery. The protagonists of the play included Macavity, Grizabella and the caretaker of all the cats. All the characters put up an exceptional performance on stage.

The rehearsals following up to the enthralling performance by the students were very systematic and efficiently executed. Everyday students and teachers of Grade Six would assemble in the music room and practice diligently for the play. The entire performance was learnt to perfection in only about 2 to 3 weeks! The play was pieced together part by part, starting with the entrances of the different protagonists and the expressions that were to accompany each dialogue. They also practised the usage of their props and timed the entrance and exit of every character in the play. The last week before the play was the busiest one. The students had to do extra rehearsals and this time, in a bigger space, to get used to the size of the actual stage. The students did a phenomenal job in managing the space given to them. They perfected the feline movements in the play which brought life to the whole performance

The play Cats is based on T.S Eliot's Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats, with songs in the musical consisting of Eliot's verse set to music





The final day of the performance was a huge success. The students of Grade Six delivered an amazing start to the performances of the middle section. The audience enjoyed the perfect blend of classical opera music and T.S Eliot's verses. We thank the teachers, students and everyone else who gave their time and effort in creating this musical masterpiece.

## EYP Performance- Grade 7

Deeksha Vijayapaul, Grade 7B

The students of Grade Seven presented a satirical play based on Poet Vikram Seth's poem "The Tale of Melon City". The performance was distinctive since the play is set in medieval India. The setting and props were a sight to behold! The background images, illustrated grand Indian palaces and archways that lent grandeur to the play. The usage of props and the timing of each comical scene were phenomenal! . The protagonist as well as the other characters of the play did an exceptional job!

The rehearsals of the play which led to a very successful performance were highly productive. Every day the students and teachers gathered in the AV room to practise for the performance. The first 3 weeks were spent choreographing the dances and practising it to perfection. The rehearsals were organized meticulously, thanks to the



gracious support of the teachers. The usage of the props was a vital aspect of the play and the students maneuvered it skillfully throughout the performance. The last week of the play was indeed a stressful one. The students had extra practice sessions for which they were moved to the tennis court so that they could get familiar with a bigger platform. On the final day, everybody did justice to the original literature

piece. Most importantly, they were able to wow the audience with their expansive acting prowess.

We thank everyone including the dedicated teachers and students for their valuable time and effort in creating this masterpiece on stage.

## Lochinvar - Performance by Grade 8

Evangelie Saha 7B

Students of grade 8 put together a spectacular performance on the poem Lochinvar by Sir Walter Scott, for their End of the Year Production.

Lochinvar is a love ballad set in medieval times. Medieval gallantry and magnificence was presented brilliantly on stage. The students excelled at recreating the ballroom scene, with melodious romantic background music, dreamy sets, and graceful dance movements. From the elegant swaying to the flawless switching of partners, the students never missed a beat.



My classmates and I were filled with excitement and eagerly looked forward to watch their performance. As soon as our play ended, we quickly changed out of our costumes, hurrying back to the auditorium to admire our seniors. We cheered, recorded several videos, giving them a standing ovation. It was an enjoyable performance and I would love to watch such performances again.

## End of the Year Performance- [Grade 9]

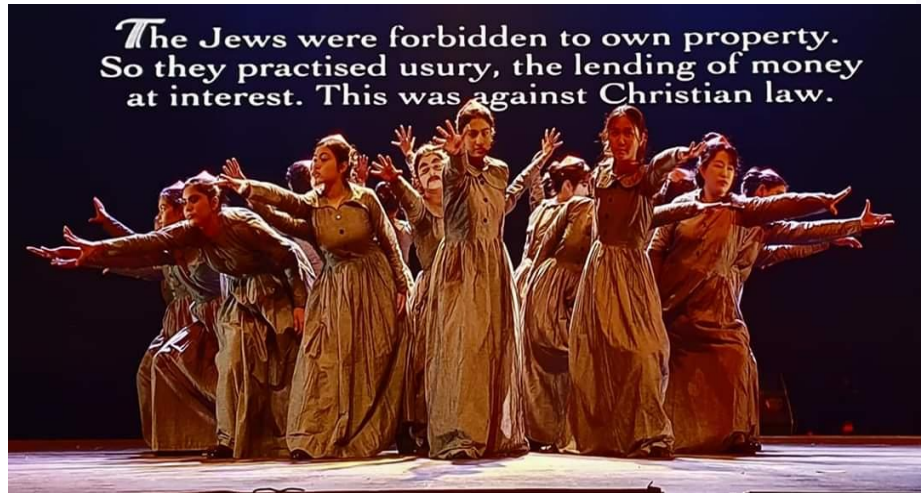
Arushi Sanghi 9B

The end of the year production is a ritual we have witnessed every alternate year since our enrollment at CIS.

This year, Grade 9 was slated to present *The Merchant of Venice* in a modern context. The central theme of racial discrimination was powerfully depicted through Antonio, Shylock and their exchange of dialogues. We endeavoured to create in the audience, an alternative perspective to the story, by questioning the moral ground of Antonio's resentment and Shylock's response to it.

It was a monumental task, but the team proved equal to the challenge. The production was hailed both for the concept and the execution. The students who participated found themselves enriched by the experience.

We'll carry the fond memories in our hearts forever.



## End of the Year Production -Grade 10

Kavya Agarwal, 10 B

Calcutta International School held its annual production, a series of theatrical performances exploring the several dimensions to drama, on the 6th of December 2019. Beginning with the simple, child-like vivacity of the pre-nursery fledglings and ultimately culminating in the captivating horror of Macbeth, the event encompassed the perfect amalgamation of fantasy, comedy, thrill, and terror.

Putting up a show where the chances of a failure exceeded the possibility of success was a daunting task for us. Nevertheless, we decided to take up the challenge. Macbeth was our sole and foremost choice primarily because of its sheer potential. Transpiring to the realm of the foul and the fair, it captures the essence of morality through its dynamic characters. Possessing the greatness of a Greek Tragedy and the wit of Shakespeare, it proved to be the ideal play to bring alive on stage. The distinguishing factor which made our interpretation unique was our focus on a shrouded but equally moving figure- Lady Macbeth.

Preceding our final performance was a strenuous period of hard work and determination dedicated to the fabrication of the script, assignment of roles, costume designing, direction and rehearsals. Since our team comprised of a limited number of people, we were able to increase our efficiency whilst simultaneously integrating creative elements to our respective duties. However, the execution of the project was equally founded upon two teachers - Mrs. Preeti Roychowdhury and Mr. Kaushik Bose. Without their support and help, it would have been impossible for us to organize and successfully execute the act.

Actively participating in the production of the play was a transformative process. It not only was an exhilarating experience but compelled every one of us to discover a new aspect to our beings, a side of us ready to perform on the stage of life.



# *Credits*

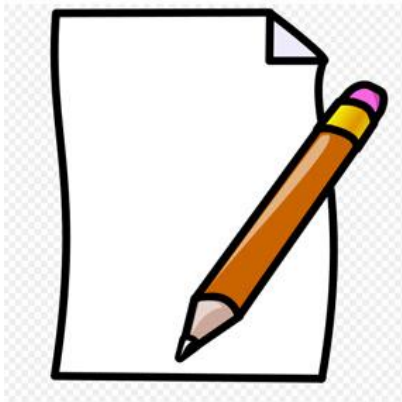
Mayurakshi Sarkar

Tiya Gupta

Deeya Khandelwal

Milind Kariappa Pooviah

Shreya Kaveri Ghosh



Rohan Arya Marda

Kashyapi Kumar

Tejovrisho Guha

Arushi Sanghi



Ayanika Bhattacharjee

Megan Liao

Sreejoni Mazumder

Chloe Liao

Anastasia Chattopadhyay

