

CALCUTTA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

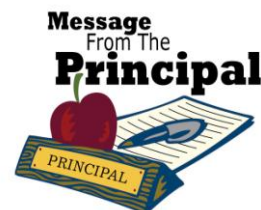
May 2020 ISSUE



"See You Soon"

A message from Dr. Munmun Nath

"We must take along with ourselves all the learning we have accumulated this year, which will definitely see us better prepared to handle any unpredictability with resolution and enthusiasm", writes Dr Nath in her year-end address to the school. **(Page 2)**



*Turning a challenge into an opportunity –
Lockdown does not mean learning has stopped.*



- 1) **Teachers** write about the experiences of online teaching and the learning opportunities it brought for the teachers.
- 2) **Learning from services** by the Students, how CIS students took this opportunity to stand by those who needed help during the lockdown.
- 3) **Kushagra Kanoi** of Grade 8 writes about a number of online courses he attended beyond the school curriculum, thus utilising the time meaningfully. **(Pages 3-8)**

"... and so, the adventure begins" for our graduating batch of 2020

Messages from the Class Teachers, Form Tutor, Section Head and the IBDP Coordinator to the graduating batch of 2020. **(Page 9-10)**



Look Back in Gratitude: Year 2019-2020

Looking back at all the beautiful memories we have weaved together in the last academic session, On to the next ... **(Pages 11 – 18)**

Words from parents

Words of encouragement are what always keep us going.
(Page 18)



YOU'VE GOT MAIL!

See You Soon ...

Academic Year-End Address by
Dr. Munmun Nath
Principal, Senior School



Little did we know at the beginning of this academic year, what would the circumstances be when we would wind up another year of our academic journey. If this year has taught us something repeatedly, it is the triumph of human determination to cope with whatever situation Life throws at us.

Today I am penning these lines, sitting in the confines of my house, as you and our pupils are as well. We have learnt to value the little things of everyday life we took for granted or overlooked all this time. We have also learnt to appreciate the power of Nature and understood its backlash on humanity. All this transcends mere syllabus learning and is the part of the learning curriculum for Life on this planet.

The year has been a fruitful one in the sense we have coped and coped well. We did not let any obstacle deter us for long and took steps to combat it all the way. We managed to accomplish all our milestones till March and then our virtual world carried on the work of teaching-learning and managing the administrative responsibilities of this institution with all our colleagues.

The behind-the-scenes work that has been going on is relentless with the hope that nothing is left undone or un-attempted even under these extenuating circumstances.

As Principal, I have found unstinted support from all my staff, administrative personnel, Board of Governors, parents and of course students. I am so proud to belong to a fraternity of Calcutta International School, which has been at the forefront in conducting online classes and meetings, way before any other schools in the city. My heart is full of gratitude.

Keeping all that aside, we are waiting to get back physically to our school, that routine and more importantly, to be with the children again. We must take along with ourselves all the learning we have accumulated this year, which will definitely see us better prepared to handle any unpredictability with determination, resolution and enthusiasm.

See you soon next academic year!

"In Learning You Will Teach, In Teaching You Will Learn"

*A report on Online Teaching and Learning in the past few weeks, compiled by
Mrs Tania Ghosh, Mrs Paromita Bhattacharjee and Mr Surya Subha Banerjee.*

With inputs from Mrs Debjani Sen, Ms Arpita Dutta and Ms Upasana Saraswati.

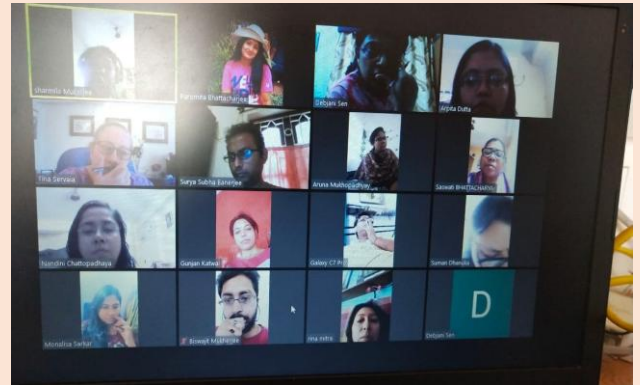
The lockdown has brought in an unprecedented challenge and opportunity for all and the teaching fraternity has not been left behind. It has put us in situations where we have never imagined ourselves to be. It made us look for methods and learn things that we either had a faint idea about or had never known. While we teach, we never cease to learn. The pandemic situation has been a real test of that growth mindset for most of us – do we lament or do we try and change this challenge into an opportunity? The leadership in school and the team synergy have definitely pulled us up during these trying times and as teachers we have seen our learning curves make a steep jump.

Learning during the lockdown period can be broadly categorised into two parts – firstly, professional development of the teachers and secondly the opportunity it brought in to experiment with various tools and pedagogies.

Remote teaching has helped me brush up on some old digital literacy skills; but most importantly learn and apply new ones, almost on a daily basis.

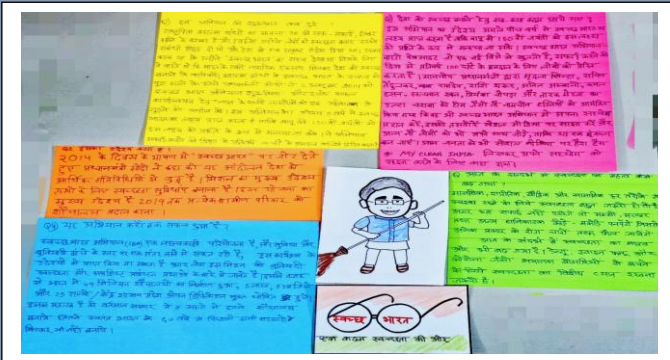
- Ms Upasana Saraswati, English Teacher.

With the shift from the physical classroom to the online form, educators and trainers from all over the world opened up their resources for all who needed it or was interested. HarvardX, EdX, Cambridge University, Oxford University amongst others started daily webinars for teachers from all over the world to enable them to use different online teaching and learning platforms.



Mrs Tania Ghosh attended many such webinars during this time. She says, "I have attended a worldwide webinar on eLearning practices, on the 28th of March, 2020, where teachers from China and European countries gave insights on how they have been addressing online learning. They shared their views about platforms like Zoom, Wiziq, Google Classroom, The Big Blue Dot, Seesaw, and Dojo. Some of these platforms were not new to me but I never used them so extensively. These webinars allowed me the opportunity to know and explore a number of features that exist which I think, even when we go back to our normal classrooms, we can continue to use to enthuse the learners."

Along with the learning, the entrepreneurship of the teachers in going ahead and trying new platforms and their perseverance have made this shift meaningful, for both them and the students. The fellow-feeling made learning and taking bold steps easier.



Hindi Work Submission – Grade 8
(photo by Mrs Suman Dhanuka)



Online Posters for Geography done by Grade 6
(Photo by Mrs Rini Ghose)

Our teacher **Mrs. Paromita Bhattacharjee** says, “Online teaching was a known territory for me for last two years as I have been connected with my old students as well as other students globally. However, when the entire classroom shifted to online mode, the challenge took a new form. The basic concepts and ideas were in place already for me. What challenged me was to develop lesson plans and tasks which would have variety, would be challenging, and engaging for my teen learners. At the same time, I had to be cautious so that they are not overwhelmed. I connected with teachers worldwide and learned from them and started trying new platforms. Some worked well, some did not produce the results I hoped for. However, it was not a moment to be sad for an attempt that did not go well, rather a time for me to look again for newer scope. The students have been extremely understanding and encouraging and together we charted a path that helped us all. The exponential learning curve during this time has given me ideas to redesign my lesson plans with newer approach with increased use of technological platforms to save trees and develop 21st century learners.”

There are many platforms available and that can overwhelm. As teachers, we needed to explore and see what worked for us and what is student friendly.

- Mrs Debjani Sen, Maths Teacher

Remote teaching forced me to reflect and modify the pedagogical techniques to suit the online teaching-learning platform.

- Ms Arpita Dutta, French Teacher

English Teacher **Mr Surya Subha Banerjee** says, “The biggest learning point for me in this would be the fact that sometimes it is important to empower. When I was teaching in Singapore, there was a very popular saying “Teach Less, Learn More”, encapsulating the idea that teachers in a 21st Century classroom are the facilitators who help the students as they navigate a body of knowledge available for them from multi-media sources. Walking into the classroom with a laptop and a book, it was easy for me to slip into a “teaching” mode, where most of the things were in my control. This situation forced me to abandon that and go for a facilitator role more meaningfully. I always found teaching the concept of Ethos-Pathos-Logos in Persuasion one of the most difficult things to teach in Middle School. This time, I designed a 2-week research project for the students, with guiding questions at every step. Left to them, the amount of work the students of Grade 8 did and the fine understanding of the concepts they showcased in their campaign ideas made me realise that there is more to teaching than just telling the students what is what. The whole experience is an eye-opener for me that when students are empowered and included, learning happens at its best.”

WHY ME? Or Try Me?– A Unique Perspective

Mrs Chandrani Chatterjee, Chemistry Teacher and also a mother of two children who are students of CIS and were due for their board examinations (IGCSE and IBDP Year 2) writes about how she coped with this unprecedented situation.



When life appears to be smooth and all planned, when your dreams are just a few steps away, when you feel satisfied with your journey so far, it hits the hardest. Suddenly everything falls apart. A jolt from nowhere which left me with the recurring question WHY ME?

23rd March 2020 came rolling down on me and it was declared by both Cambridge Assessment and International Education and IB that the board exams were cancelled. I went through the post several times to confirm whether the word was cancelled or postponed. My daughter was supposed to appear for IBDP Year 2 finals and my son in grade 10, all prepared for IGCSE. So much of preparation, so many dreams, so much of hard work – all seemed to be in vain.

My family and my CIS family stood beside me as the strong and supportive pillar, as always, encouraged me to have a positive outlook and think of prioritising. I could sit back and lament or I had the choice of picking things that were important - my kids, my family, my students and focus on them. The mother in me fought her inner fear to support the kids and encourage them to look ahead, even though deep inside I was shaken. The teacher in me reminded me that my impact was beyond the content I deliver. If I could lend my form and my strength to my own kids and the students I teach, all could benefit.

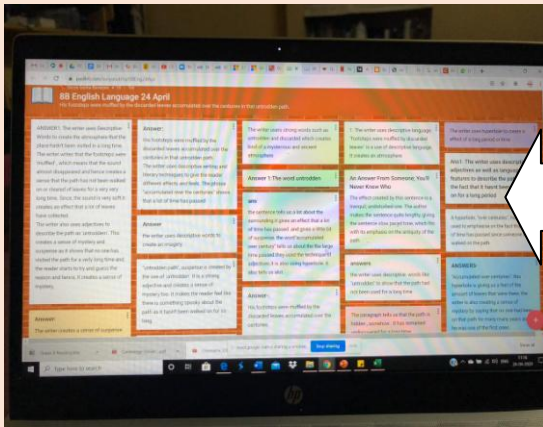
My daughter started taking online entrance test for different colleges. My son started downloading AS syllabus and books. Life suddenly changed its direction. Amidst all uncertainty I could see a ray of hope.

It is May already; I can hear my son playing his guitar in his room and my daughter's on-going art work is kept carefully on the table with paint material all over the place. It is a matter of a few months when everything seemed to have changed. But did it really change?

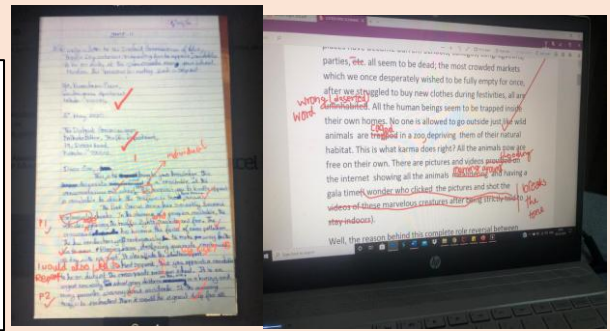
I realised that nothing is more important than life and all the source of my worries were external factors from which I was seeking my happiness when it was within me all along. There will be a number of opportunities in future for them to prove their capabilities in their studies, but now they are beside me healthy and safe, proving that they have a heart that cares as they are helping me in coping with the challenges in these uncertain times.

Let life challenge me with hurdles unlimited. "Why me?" will never be my question again. "TRY ME" is what I am made for.

Teaching and Learning during the lockdown



Using
PADLET
for Class
Discussion

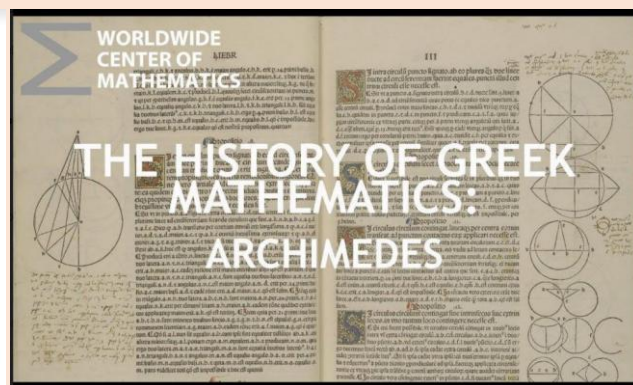
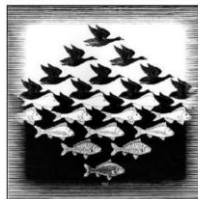


Grading Essays online for the past 3 months.

M.C Usher

He was a Dutch graphic artist known for his optical illusions. His lithographs, woodcuts, engravings, and drawings involved a high level of technical expertise and precise attention to detail. Their puzzling depictions of tessellating staircases and interlocking spaces, offered up a confusing piece of art to the viewer. He studied graphic design at the School of Architecture and Decorative Arts in Haarlem. He was influenced by the traditional drawings of Leonardo da Vinci and Albrecht Dürer. He died on March 27, 1972 in Laren, Netherlands at the age of 73.

Here are a few of his art:



STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS



9 students from 10, AS and A2 completed their training from IRIS in analysing elements from Spectroscopic data from the Spitzer telescope. In the coming weeks they would be looking at never before analysed data from the Spitzer telescope and may be onto discovering something new!



THE INSTITUTE
for RESEARCH
in Schools

See A Need, Take The Lead

(CIS Students stood beside those who needed help during this time)



Child Rights and You (CRY), a top NGO in the city for children's rights opened an opportunity for the students of CIS to volunteer. The lockdown could not dampen it any bit as three students from Grade 9– Prithviraj Jhunjhunwala, Prisha Basu and Nitya Kaul volunteered with Mrs Tania Ghosh and taught the children from CRY the art of book folding online. Mr Saptarshi Hazra from CRY was also present at the training.



On learning about the shortage of PPE kits, Sanjay Kumar of Grade-10 initiated a fund collection drive for purchase and distribution of PPE kits for one of the NGOs he is actively involved with. 250 PPE kits (95 gsm specs) for health workers have been donated.

“This will be an ongoing project and we will be distributing them again shortly to a children's hospital run by an NGO,” said Sanjay.

LEND A HAND TO HOLD A HAND

In these distressing times, let's pledge to help those striving day in and day out for every single meal! Every rupee that you donate would help fill an empty stomach.



After learning about the cruel situation of the kids from Gyandeepak, an NGO where she teaches every week, Parthivi Mukim of 9A gathered her friends Samaksh Manpuria, Reema Dey, Jahnvi Tanta, Deeya Khandelwal, Manjeer Mitra and Mayurakshi Sarkar to collect money to buy food items so that the children there did not go to bed hungry.

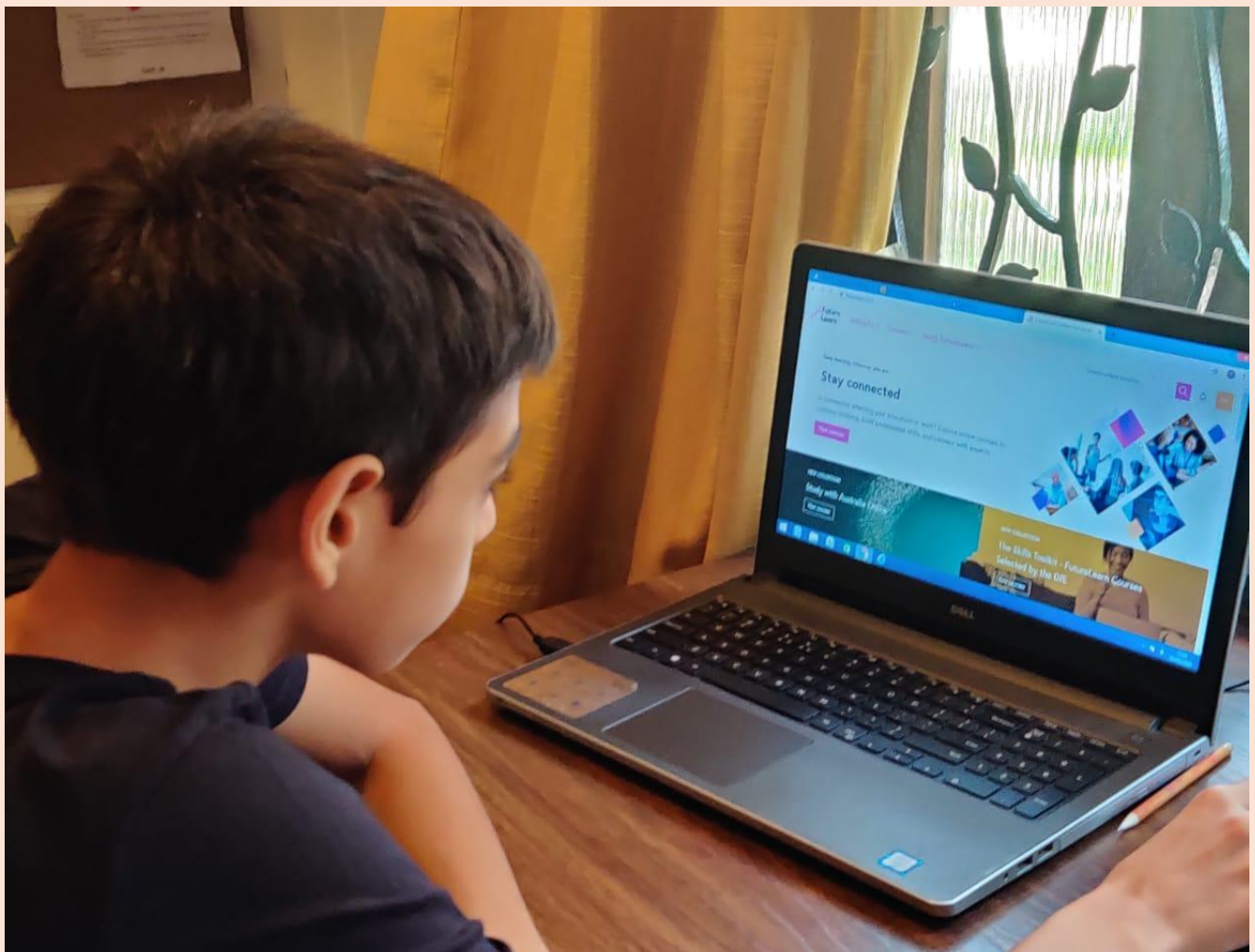


Project Abhay led by Samaksh Manpuria, Mayurakshi Sarkar, Deeya Khandelwal and Samridh Poddar took an initiative to help out. They hosted a housie game in the form of a fundraiser and the response was overwhelming as they raised a total amount of Rs. 27,500, out of which Rs. 8,000 was allotted for prizes in housie, and the remaining Rs. 19,500 was donated to an NGO. Partnering with Kalyani Life institute, they were able to sponsor essential items and medicines for 21 under privileged families, and families with differently abled children.

Turning a Challenge into an Opportunity

Kushagra Kanoi of 8B writes about

As we all know, the whole nation is under lockdown but creativity and knowledge is not. In addition to the online classes that are being conducted by the school, I have enrolled in the various courses on the internet to gain more knowledge. The course that I have started is about our Immune System and Allergies on FutureLearn.com and another course conducted by Harvard Medical School about the Ventilators that are being used to help the patients with COVID-19. Before starting these courses, I had done my own in depth research on muscles. These learning platforms are great to feed our interests and give us a clear idea of what we would like to do in future. The topics are taught using numerous quizzes, videos and articles which engage the learner. I am really enjoying doing these interactive programmes and it is always good to learn more. In conclusion, each of us should use our time constructively and learning should never stop!



“... and so, the adventure begins ...”

Graduating Batch of 2020



My day would start in Room 3 gently reminding my ever energetic A2 students - *you are late*- almost on a daily basis but they never gave up in trying to prove me wrong. As your form tutor it was indeed a very memorable journey. I wish you a very happy and bright future. I am confident that all of you will leave a mark wherever you go.

- Mrs Debalina Chatterjee

Just one year but numerous memories – inventing creative excuses, you were a perfect blend of mischief, compassion and perseverance. I am sure you will scale newer heights in whatever you do in future.

WISHING YOU BEST OF LUCK.

- Mrs Elora Patra

Dear IBDP Batch of 2020, your senior year was full of unprecedented challenges. Now that you have surmounted this, rest easy in the knowledge that there isn't anything you can't overcome. Go forth and conquer, you invincible souls!

Ms Ratnottama Aditya Chaudhuri

Many congratulations on achieving your aims under difficult conditions! Wishing you the very best of luck for the years ahead. May you spread your wings and soar high, but remember to look back once in a while. You will find us here, cheering you along.

Mrs Tina Servaia

Dear batch of 2020, wish all the best to you for your future. Your sweet memories will forever remain in our hearts. Do take good care of your health and keep shining.

Mr Abdul Samad

The children I met six years ago are now confident young adults ready to step out of the secured walls of school and home, into the world of challenges and opportunities. We will fondly cherish all the memories we have made together and will always be wishing you well. Believe in your dreams and always strive to be the best version of yourself. Take good care and may God bless you.

Mrs Anasuya Paul



As you plan the rest of your life, enjoy your years at the University, follow it with an interesting job and choose fascinating and enlivening opportunities.

Remember that even the smallest step can bring a sweeping change.

Mrs Sanjukta Poddar

**FROM EVERYONE IN
CIS, ALL THE BEST FOR
YOUR FUTURE
ENDEAVOURS**

LOOKING BACK IN GRATITUDE

The Major Events of 2019-2020



CIS CONFLUENCE 2019 was an outstanding success with the students conducting the events effortlessly under the guidance of their teachers. The event commenced with performances by CIS students after which the Chief Guest for the event, IPS officer Mr Rupesh Kumar, Senior school principal Dr Nath, Junior School Principal Mrs Nayar and CIS board members lit the inaugural lamp and Dr Nath announced CONFLUENCE 2019 open.

10 schools participated in 25 off-stage and on-stage events and the two days culminated on a spectacular note with Tomorrowland famed DJs Zaeden and Lost Stories performing together for the first time in Kolkata. It truly was a fest to remember!





India-Korea Day was celebrated through Art Competitions, cultural programmes and presentations of the icons from both the countries



Department-wise programmes during the Assembly:

Elocution Competitions (English, Regional Languages, Foreign Languages), Debate Competitions, I Love Books Programme, Art Workshops, Maths and Science Quiz were held during the Assembly periods.



End-Of-Year Programme:

Iconic texts from English Literature came alive on stage through the brilliant performances by the students from Grades 6 to 10.



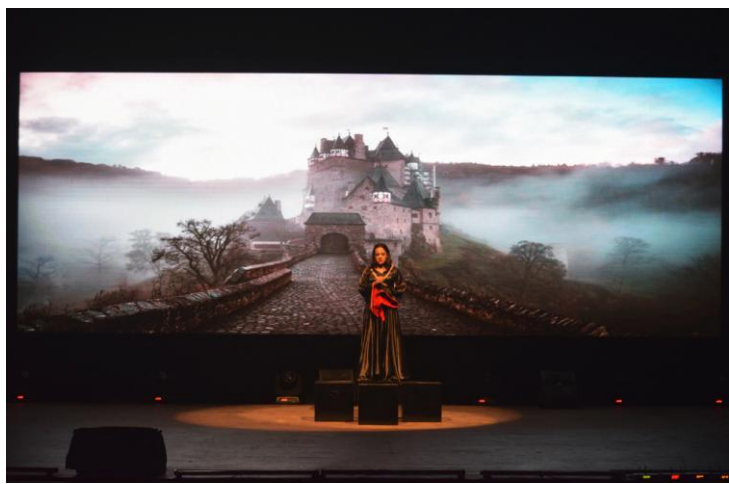
CATS
by
T.S. Eliot
presented
◀ by
Grade 6

**The
Melon
King**
Presented
by ▶
Grade 7



◀ **Lochinvar**
by Grade 8

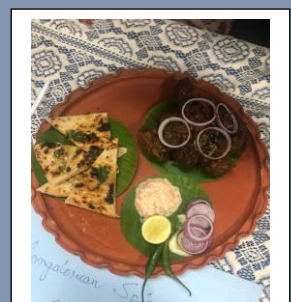
**Shylock, the
villain!?** ▶
by Grade 9



**“The Fourth Witch” –
Presentation on Lady
Macbeth by the
students of Grade 10.**



**Teacher-Chef
Competition was
held in October
by IIHM and 6
teachers made it
to the quarter-
finals**

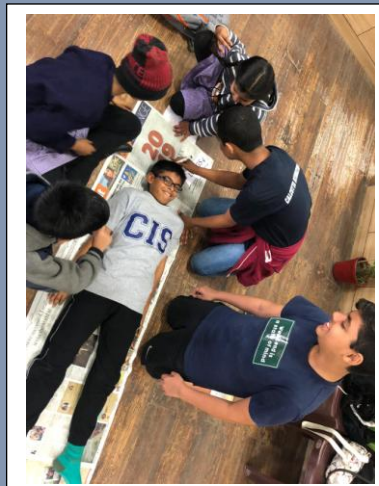


COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS



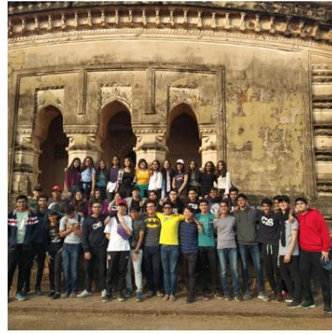
Grade 7 visited Kalyan Ashram an old age home on the 3rd August. They interacted with the residents and spent time listening to them and learning about the institution as well as about the lives of the residents.

Students from the Middle Section had monthly classes with the children from EKTARA. Each month they taught a different subject to the visiting kids from EKTARA.



IB1 students were at Balamunda Village, Kansa Block, Durgapur from 22nd November to 26th November, 2019, for their CAS project.

SCHOOL TRIPS



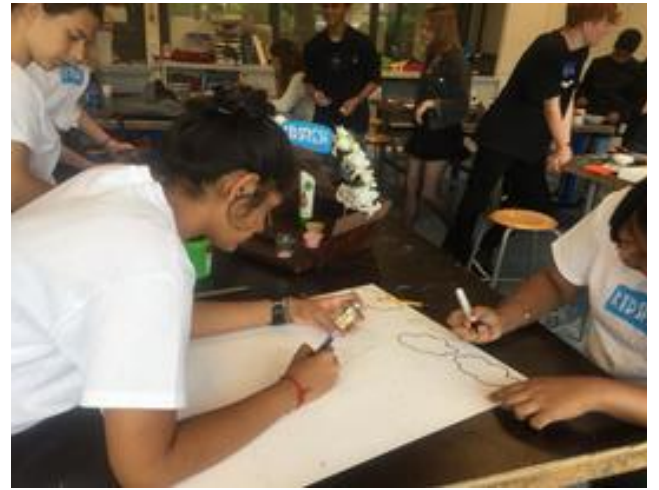
Students from the Senior Section when on a school trip to Bishnupur, West Bengal

Grade 6 and 8 students went on an Industrial Trip to ITC's Food Processing Unit at Panchla and Uluberia.



Grade 7 Students went to Shantiniketan on their class trip.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION: ALFRINK COLLEGE, THE NETHERLANDS



CIS students visited the Alfrink College Campus in the Netherlands from June 30th to July 5th, 2019.



Students from Alfrink College visited CIS in December, 2019.

The collaboration included interdisciplinary projects and also cultural exchange.

SPORTS AND GAMES ACTIVITIES

1



1. C.I.S Swim Meet
2. C.I.S Sports Day
3. House photos during CIS Sports Day
4. Girls' Basketball Tournament

2



3



4



Teachers' Workshops



PROJECT-
BASED
LEARNING
WORKSHOP
conducted by
Mr. Jim
Moulton



IB Workshop organised by Oberoi International School, Mumbai was attended by selected teachers from CIS. The workshop was aimed at training teachers, equipping them with the change in the IB Syllabi.

Words of encouragement from a parent ...

I have always believed that more than the parents, it's the teachers that lay the foundation stone towards building the personality and self-confidence of a child and today I take this opportunity to thank each and every teacher at CIS, including the Principal, for making this lockdown period as fruitful and utilizable, for the students, as it could be. The students have been engaged in constructive learning, thanks to the online classes conducted on a daily basis by the subject teachers. This has enabled them to be at par with their academic progress, as they would have been during normal circumstances.

- **Ms Shruti Mukim** (mother of Parthivi Mukim, Grade 9)

*From all of us at CIS, we wish you a happy summer break. Stay safe, stay indoors.
See you soon.*