

# CISHERALD

#### JULY - AUGUST 2020

**VOLUME 1** 



#### **AUGUST EVENTS**

- <u>09.08.20</u> Wild Wisdom Quiz by WWF India. Theme- Reimagine Our Planet (The Preliminary Round)
- 12.08.20 India and Korea Day Celebration for Grade Pre Nursery
- 13.08.20 India and Korea Day Celebration for Grade Nursery, Upper Nursery, 1 and 2
- $\underline{14.08.20}$  India and Korea Day Celebration for Grade 3, 4 and 5

Junior School Student Council Investiture ceremony will be held in August. Date will be notified later.



# FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Students and Parents.

#### Welcome back to a great year of learning!



I extend a warm welcome to each of you and look forward to an enriching and productive academic session 2020-21.

Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher wrote: Nothing endures but change. Nowhere is this truer than in the field of education, and here at Calcutta International School, we have begun another new academic year under exceptional circumstances by starting school on a virtual platform.

Research shows that allowing ourselves to take a break increases our productivity and creativity because it refreshes the mind and replenishes our mental resources allowing us to become more relaxed, recharged and ready to start something new. It is with great excitement and anticipation that we have begun our new school year with you. I am so delighted that you are part of our amazing learning community. I welcome and value your positive attitude and dedication to excellence in your child's education. We at CIS, are very much looking forward to working with you and your children using a multi-age pedagogical instructional approach that meets the individual needs of all learners.

The Pandemic has changed our perspective of what school education is all about. Over a short period of time schools have undergone drastic changes adapting to the "new normal way of teaching on the virtual platform". For a period of time everything seemed to have paused in the world except learning- homes became schools, laptops and computers were the medium of instruction. Teachers were not only facilitators in the learning process but became proficient in IT skills exploring and training on the various tools of technology to reach out and connect with their learners.

The start of a new school year is always a moment of great anticipation and excitement. Whether your family is new to CIS, or you are simply returning to your school, this academic session will remain special for all as school reopened for the first time on the virtual platform. For all of us: students, teachers, families, and staff, there is that wonderful sense of a new beginning and a fresh start. It is natural for students to have a bit of anxiety and maybe even a few questions — who will my teacher be, what will my teacher be like, who will be in my class, etc. Nevertheless, the focus should always be on the new upcoming adventure of learning and growing.

Our enthusiastic administrative team and staff has been busy with registering and admitting new students, ordering needed materials and updating student files, records and class lists. Our hardworking and conscientious facilities team has spent the entire summer thoroughly cleaning the facilities and sanitizing the school premises. The CIS faculty is committed to making a difference.

Careful consideration was given to suggestions from teachers and families to ensure students' needs were met. This session students moved to their new grades keeping their sections the same. Classrooms were balanced keeping the academic, social and emotional welfare of our learners.

Over the past one month our skilled and devoted teachers have been working diligently, planning and preparing to welcome our students for the academic session 2020-21. They have undergone rigorous training programmes to equip themselves with the knowledge and skills required to teach on the Learning Management system (LMS) procured by the school. In addition, they have engaged in professional development courses, participating in several webinars and training on curriculum, assessment and methodology to deepen their understanding of instructional strategies for effective teaching. This kind of commitment speaks of the high caliber of our teachers. They model life-long learning for our students and never settle for giving anything less than their best!

I want to thank our incredible team for their amazing professionalism and incredible energy as they prepared for the start of the school year.

I am extremely pleased to see our family has grown and I extend a warm welcome to our **new students and parents.** Our youngest learners of the school – the Pre Nursery grade were introduced to their new "Big School "on the virtual platform along with our energetic and new learners from all parts of the world in grades 1 to 5.

Each school year brings new faces and ideas and positive change. We recognize and honour the many contributions made by those who have recently completed their service at CIS, while welcoming the arrival of new teachers who are sure to affect growth in our learners. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Ruchika Lakhani, Primary section teacher, Ms Bidushi Brahma, Spanish teacher and Ms Bidisha Mukherjee, Geography teacher of the Junior Section.

As the Principal of this amazing school, I feel honored and privileged to have the opportunity to work with such an outstanding family. It is a gift to be able to share my passion for education with such a dedicated, supportive and hardworking group.

Make the educational experience at CIS "a way of life," not just the place where you "send" your children.

I would like to conclude by wishing all my dear learners, parents and colleagues a school year filled with exciting and memorable learning adventures, explore, create, innovate, collaborate and achieve your goals and aspirations. I am confident that we will have a productive and enriching year as we continue our mission of developing compassionate, innovative, curious learners to access and contribute to the ever changing world.

Best Regards.

Mrs Pratima Nayar

Principal- Junior School



# ORIENTATION FOR NEW PARENTS

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 an online Induction Session for new parents of the students who joined CIS in the academic session 2020-2021 was held virtually. Mr Ayan Pal. CEO, Dr Nath, Senior Principal, Mrs Pratima Nayar, Junior Principal gave the new parents an overview of the school, its ethos, functioning of the different departments, facilities as well as introduced them to the Administrative and Academic team of the school. The Sections heads, Mrs Majumdar(Primary), Mrs Neelam Choudhary(Junior), Mrs Sharmila Mukherjee(Middle) and Mrs Paul(Senior) gave an insight into the working of the different sections of the school. Mrs Tina Servaia, IBDP Coordinator and Mrs Sanjukta Poddar, Examination Officer and Career Counsellor gave a presentation on the IBDP Diploma Programme and CAIE. The School Counsellors, Mrs Farishta Dastur Mukherjee and Spriha Patronobis highlighted the range of counselling services offered by them to ensure the mental well being of our students. The parents were introduced to the SEN Department comprising Mrs Gargi Sinha Mitra, Ms Avradita Devnath, Mrs Nilofer Ali and Mrs Baisakhi Sarkar, our Special Educators who provide unstinting support to the students with special needs. Mr Soumen Khan, Systems Manager Mr Manishankar Ray, the Finance Manager explained their role as part of the CIS admin team. The Induction Session efficiently anchored by Mrs Tina Servaia was attended by parents of Pre Nursery to Grade 12.

# WELCOME TO CIS (Session 2020-21)

A very warm welcome to the twenty-seven twinkling stars on board this new academic term. We are happy that our youngest learners have joined the Pre-Nursery and are having their first experience of distance learning at CIS. This year we will do our best as we learn, play and grow together on the virtual platform. We appreciate the effort of the Pre-Nursery children to adapt themselves to online classes. They are enthusiastic and ever ready to attend classes! We look forward to building a special bond with the new learners during the process of distance learning.

#### PRE NURSERY A



#### PRE NURSERY B





### We welcome all the new students, parents and teachers who have joined in the session 2020 - 21

Grade – N A - Aryan Newar, Pearla Nevaeh Yonzone, Sonam Rhodes and Keyan Hasnain.

**Grade – N B - Arna Mehta and Devansh Chakravarty** 

Grade - UN A - Julian Henrik Buechel

Grade - UN B - Ripanshi Dutta and Abigail Shuhan Chung

Grade – 1 A - Ayra Tehreem Khan and Saranya Saha

Grade – 1 B - Samarth Saraff and Ryan Dutta Gupta

Grade – 2 A - Samara Laiq

Grade – 2 B - Dhruv Mukherji

Grade – 3 A - Ayaansh Jain

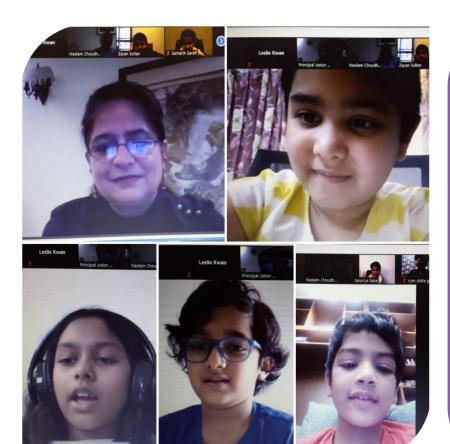
Grade – 3 B - Zayan Sultan.

Grade – 4 A - Mehr Vineet and Anvi Singhi



- 1. Ms. Bidusi Brahma Spanish Language Teacher (Part Time)
- 2. Ms. Ruchika Lakhani Primary Section Teacher
- 3. Ms. Bidisha Mukherjee Geography Teacher

### A New Beginning



On 4th August 2020, Mrs. Nayar, Principal, Junior School and Mrs. Choudhary, Section Head Junior Section, had an online interactive session with the new students of CIS. Students shared their experience of their first week and for most their first month at CIS. They talked enthusiastically about their hobbies and favourite pastimes. Ayaansh Jain of 3B even sang for his peers in his angelic voice. It was an engrossing and entertaining

session.

adventure segins



# **Parent Orientation**

A Virtual Junior School Parents' Orientation for Grades Pre Nursery to 5 was successfully completed on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020. Mrs. Nayar, Principal, Junior School, Mrs. Choudhary, Mrs. Majumdar and the teachers warmly welcomed the parents. The class teachers, through PPT presentations, explained the existing rules and shared the new guidelines for online classes in the upcoming academic year. Teachers of the Sen Department and the Student Counsellor were also part of the event. At the end of the session, parents interacted with the teachers and clarified their doubts. We look forward to an enriching year ahead.







### **Student Orientation**

### A virtual get-together to set off the Academic Year 2020-21

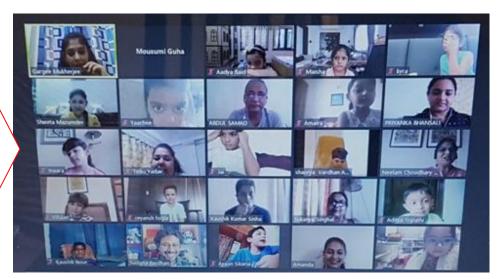
The Online Junior School Students' Orientation was held from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, 2020, under the guidance of previous and present class teachers and subject teachers. The lockdown has tested the teacher-student relationship like never before. As teachers longed to have their students around them, getting and giving hugs, hi5s and handshakes the children too expressed their yearning to be back in school. However, the joy of seeing each other after the summer break, fun interactions, exciting games and even birthday celebrations, thoughtfully planned by the class teachers, made up for the social distancing. The successful orientation gave the students confidence that they had all of the information and resources they needed to be successful in a challenging year, but the best thing was, they were all in the same sections!

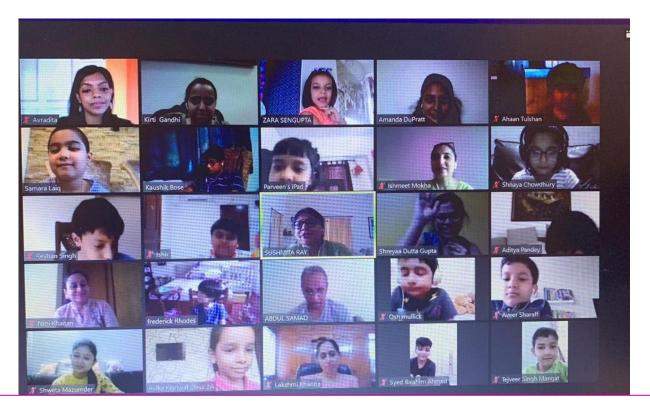
#### Teachers' Feedback on the Student Orientation:



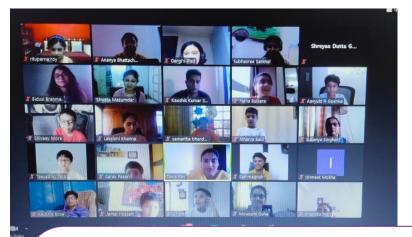
It was an interactive discussion where the children were asked to introduce themselves and share what they like or enjoy. – Ms. Amanda DuPratt, Class Teacher 1A

We had a fun chat session with new and old faces. – Mrs. Gargee Mukherjee, Class Teacher 1 B





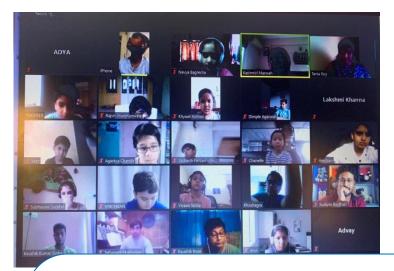
The Student Orientation of grade 2A and 2B gave us the opportunity to interact with the students after the summer break. The children were excited and happy to communicate with all teachers and couldn't wait to begin the new academic year. The Orientation also helped us to connect with new children. The children came to this platform with mixed feelings of a new beginning, all to start afresh! - Mrs.Ishmeet Mokha and Mrs.Shweta Mazumder Class Teachers 2A and 2B





The teachers and students were equally excited and looking forward to the unique online meet and greet session. I have to say that 3A is a lively batch and we will have a good online year ahead. – Mrs. Tania Roy, Class Teacher 3A

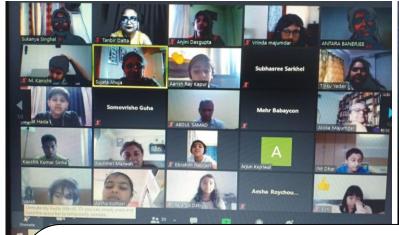
Each year, I welcome my new batch of students by putting up a welcome board in the corridor and decorating the classroom with pictures. This year I welcomed 3B on a virtual platform! After an interesting round of introductions we concluded the event with a birthday celebration. Mrs. Subhasree Sarkhel, Class Teacher 3B





The students got an opportunity to meet and greet their class teacher, subject teachers and their fellow students. The friendly and chirpy batch did not take much time to get familiar with their new teachers and rules for online classes. – Mrs. Ananya Bhattacharya, Class Teacher 4A

The teachers were as excited and happy as our students to communicate with each other after a long summer break. Children couldn't wait to begin the new academic year. The Orientation also helped us to connect with the new students. It was yet another new experience for all of us. – Tanbir Datta, Class Teacher 4B



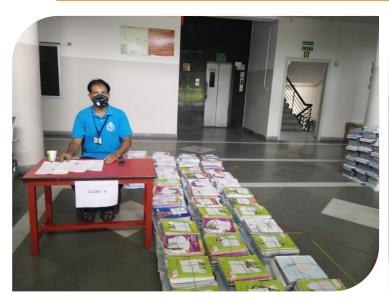


The orientation programme was attended by the students with great enthusiasm. There was exchange of news and views, and the session ended with songs sung by a couple of students and a beautiful short piece of music played by Eimi.- Mrs Sukanya Singhal, Class Teacher 5A

The students were quite excited to be back in the school atmosphere. They expressed their views, anxiety, and also described the work they had done during the vacation. It was quite clear that they were missing the school campus. As their teachers we felt relieved that amidst all the abnormalities they were facing, at least something was back to normal, although in a different form - Mr Sudipta Bardhan Class Teacher 5**B** 

# The Brave hearts of CIS: The Book distribution Team

We are humbled and grateful to each team member, for extending their unconditional support and skillfully executing the challenging task of collecting and distributing books, under the most arduous circumstances. A special mention must be made of Mr. Afzal Ali for his exemplary leadership. Under his guidance, Sangeeta didi, Sonali didi, Arun Dada, Suhash dada worked tirelessly to sanitise and organise books for each class. Their diligent effort and commitment is highly appreciated. We can't thank them enough for risking their lives to keep us safe.













## e - Learning





#### The young artists of Pre Nursery A

#### "Every child is an artist" - Pablo Picasso

Art is an expression of the heart and soul!

Our young learners embark upon this beautiful journey, discovering the artist within. Children drew a lovely picture of a caterpillar that turns into a butterfly, after listening to the story of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle. Their creations are a depiction of a child's imagination and array of vibrant colours.

#### **Pre Nursery B**

Taking big steps in a short time



Enjoying Monsoon with paper boats!



Look, I know tracing standing lines!



The Very Hungry Caterpillar visited us!



Tracing standing lines on a tray of salt



Shapes are everywhere!



Rain or shine - I am ready all the time!!



Corn on the cob during Monsoon is yum!



I can mix my colours



ILLUSTRATION OF A STORY

**Nursery B** 

**Nursery A** 















#### **ONE STEP UP**

The Marvellous
batch of
Upper Nursery-A
students create
wonders with their
little hands! Craft
on "Myself" and
"My Rocking
Horse"

Children of

Upper Nursery B had a fun-filled month, full of activities and craft while they revised their phonic sounds.



# Online classes: Yay or Nay?



While technology was throwing unprecedented challenges at the teachers, the students took to LMS like a fish takes to water. Yes, they can't wait to be back in school, but for now, when life has thrown a rainy day at them; they seem to be playing in the puddles. Here is what the students have to say about the LMS and taking classes online

## The fun loving, fastidious 5s muse on their experiences with virtual classes and the LMS platform for online lessons

#### **Anjini Dasgupta**

"Virtual classes are fun. We get to see our friends, and that too, in their houses!"

#### Vansh Vir Marda

"Virtual classes are virtuous-they make me feel pious"

#### Rajanya Deb

"Virtual classes are intriguing, fascinating, exciting, spellbinding and great fun"

#### Kanishk Mohan Gandhi

"I think that they sometimes strain my eyes"

#### **Dibyesh Sanyal**

"Technical!"

#### **Neil Gutgutia**

"I feel that these online classes in the LMS platform are more serious than our classes in school"

#### **Cheerojeet Roy**

"A bit confusing, mostly easy, but we can adjust!"

#### Ava Wu

"It is different!"

#### **Aarush Churiwala**

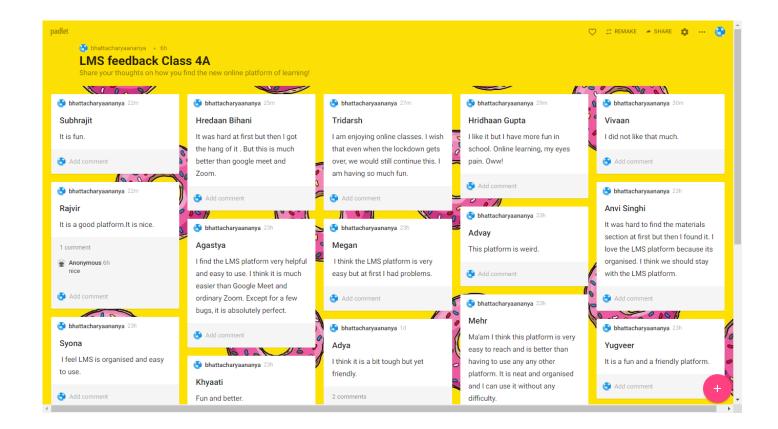
"LMS platform
seems a bit
incomplete as we
cannot really see each
other in person like
we can in a real
class, but, so far...all
is well."

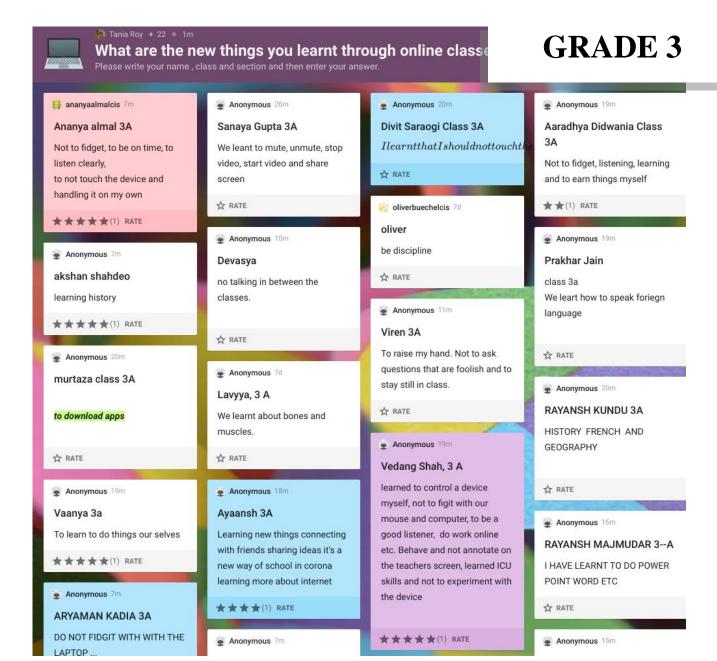
#### Varish Mundra

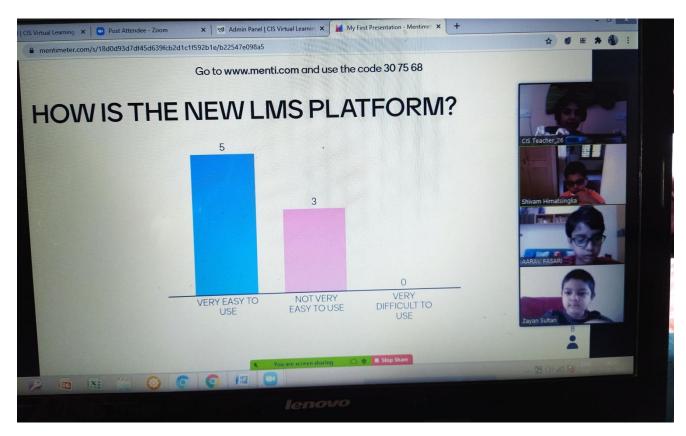
"It is ok, but a bit of a strain on the eyes."

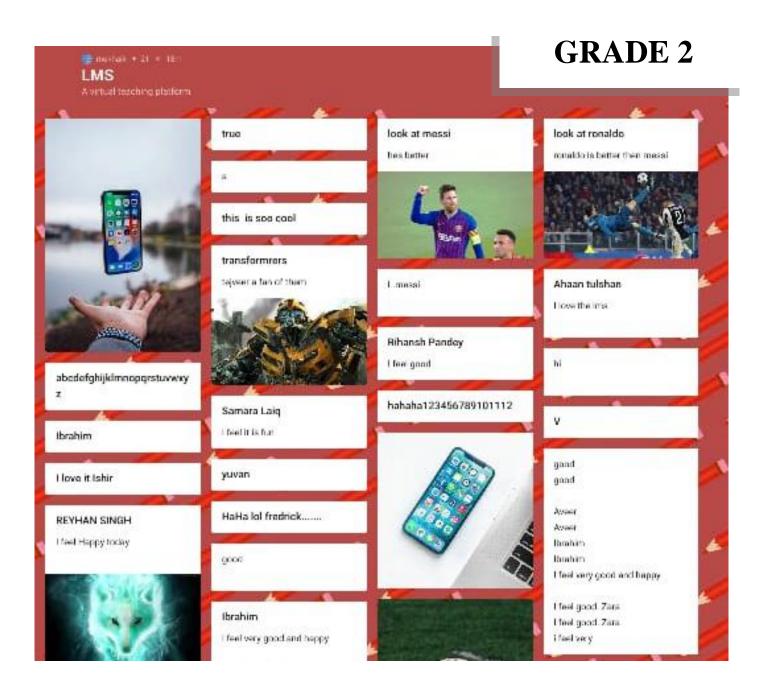
#### **GRADE 4**

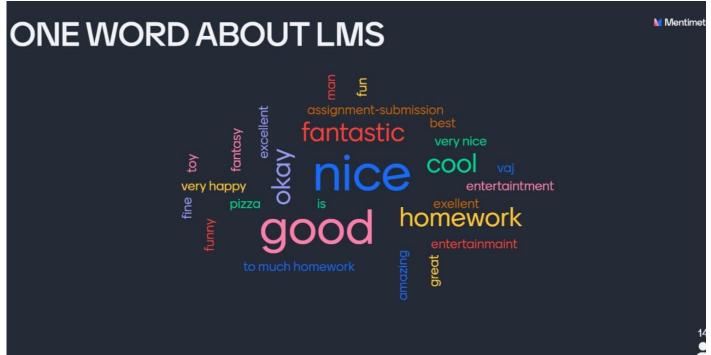




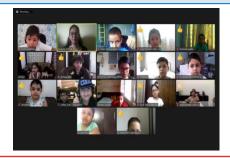








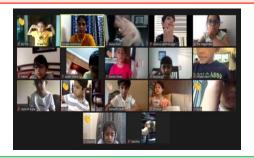
Q1. How many of you enjoy learning through this LMS platform online? Use the **ThumbsUp/Raise your hand reaction**.



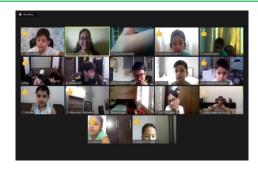


Q2. How many of you are able to click on the JOIN button and enter a class on your own? Use the Clap your Hand reaction.





Q3. How many of you are able to mute and unmute yourself without any help? Use the **Thumbs Up reaction.** 





Q4. How many of you enjoy doing work given through the LMS Platform? **Use the Thumbs up reaction.** 





Q5. How many of you want to return to school soon? Use the Thumbs Up/ Raise your hand reaction.

#### **WORKING TOGETHER TO ENSURE LEARNING CONTINUES**

#### **TEACHERS' FEEDBACK ON LMS**



Addressing the pressing need for a safe, smooth, effective and student friendly learning platform, the LMS was introduced on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The teething troubles were overcome in the first two weeks and ever since the LMS has been operating successfully. The teachers share their experiences of learning, unlearning, relearning and finally overcoming the huge learning curve.

"We have updated our technical skills, revamped our lessons and learned a lot. No doubt we will continue to improve further. Most importantly we have come together on one platform"

Mrs. Neelam Choudhary
Section Head, Junior Section

"The launch of the LMS has been an evolutionary endeavour in our teaching career as well as for our esteemed institution"

Ms. Sarbani Ganguli

"The LMS platform began with glitches but at the end it worked out well."

Mrs. Urmita Das

"The LMS has been a huge learning curve. Every day is important... there is still a lot more to learn and to do with regards to the platform... but I am sure we will be successful in our endeavours."

Mrs. Sushmita Ray

Language Coordinator, Junior School.

"I am ready to take on more challenges as this will only lead us to be more efficient."

Ms. Priyanka Bhansali

# Introduction of Spanish as a foreign language Ola Amigos!

"To have another language is to possess a second soul." Along with French and Korean, students in Grade 3 now have the option of selecting Spanish as a foreign language. The children have taken an instant liking to the subject and participate in the Spanish classes with much enthusiasm.







In yet another online event held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July, 2020, the Loyalty Awards were presented to four of our esteemed faculty members, for achieving significant milestones in their journey with CIS.

Mrs. Nayar, Principal, Junior School, presented the Loyalty Award to Mrs. Neelam Choudhary, Section Head Junior Section, for achieving 15 years of committed service in CIS. Her loyalty, diligence and contributions to CIS were recognized and acknowledged. Mrs. Choudhary expressed her gratitude for the support she has received from each and every member of the CIS family and mentioned that it has been an enriching and satisfying journey so far. Mrs. Nayar wished her continued success and a bright career ahead.

Mrs. Nayar, congratulated Mrs. Sukanya Singhal, Teacher Junior Section, by acknowledging her 15 years of dedicated service at CIS, wherein she has been instrumental in mentoring and anchoring the school with her wisdom and expertise. Mrs. Singhal expressed her gratitude to the team members and confessed that her love and passion for CIS never made her realize how time had flown by.

Ms. Amanda DuPratt, Teacher Junior Section, was felicitated by Mrs. Nayar, for her 5 years of service at CIS. Mrs. Nayar praised Ms. DuPratt for her uncomplaining, versatile and effervescent personality. Mrs. Sharbani Ganguli, reminisced Ms. DuPratt's initial days with the Primary section and expressed how her presence is dearly missed. Ms. DuPratt thanked the CIS family for their love and good wishes.

Mrs. Sharmila Majumdar, Primary Section Head, presented the 15 years Loyalty Award to Mrs. Nayar and wished her many more flourishing years at CIS. She thanked Mrs. Nayar for being an understanding and helping friend to each member of the faculty. Mrs. Choudhary spoke about Mrs. Nayar's long and delightful association with Mrs. Majumdar and herself, sharing anecdotes of friendship and camaraderie. Mrs. Nayar thanked the CIS family and gave credit to each member for helping her achieve this prestigious milestone.

We congratulate Mrs. Nayar, Mrs. Choudhary, Mrs. Singhal and Ms. DuPratt. May your contributions continue to inspire us.



Mrs. P Nayar 15years



Mrs. S Singhal 15 years



Mrs. N Choudhary 15 years



Ms. A Dupratt 5 years

Heartiest congratulations to Mrs. Aloka Schafranski, Ms. Amanda DuPratt, Mrs. Antara Banerjee, Mrs. Farishta Dastur Mukerji, Mrs. Ishmeet Mokha, Mrs. Kashmiri Marwah, Mrs. Kirti Gandhi, Mrs. Lakshmi Khanna, Mrs. Radhika Dhanuka, Mrs. Sarbani Ganguly, Mrs. Sujata Ahuja and Mrs. Tanbir Datta for receiving the **Certificate of Appreciation** in an online award ceremony held in the month of May, 2020.



We also congratulate Mrs.Neelam Choudhary, Sharmila Majumdar, Gargee Sinha Mitra, Mousumi Guha, Sudipta Bardhan, Sushmita Ray, Tinku Yadav, Tathagata Mukherjee, Urmita Das, Leslie Kwan, Arun Dada and Lakshmi Didi for receiving the **Certificate of Recognition** from Mrs. Nayar in the same online event.



Mrs. U Das



Mr. S Bardhan

We congratulate Ms. Violet Raj on completion of 15 years of service with Calcutta International School Society

Mr. TMukherjee

Mrs. TYadav

Mrs. G Sinha Mitra

Mrs. L Kwan

# FROM THE COUNSELLOR'S DESK

Dear Parents and students,

Welcome to the new academic session! This is a unique start to a new academic year, for all of us – students, parents, teachers and school administrators. We have all faced new challenges, and have adapted to the new circumstances, in the best interest of all stakeholders.

While I have been observing the lessons and the new teaching – learning process, I would like to share some insights with you all:

- You, our students make our school 'alive'. It is you who brings the school to life! Now, more than ever we educators miss your physical presence.
- In the new academic term, let us all remember that we are a part of 'History' the next generation will read about the Coronavirus pandemic in the history and science lessons, or hear from one of you about your experiences. Observe, soak in and learn from everything you are seeing around you.
- Every situation, as grim as it may appear has its positives. I hope you all have spent time with your families, if you are with them. Enjoy the joys of reading a book, or listening to music mostly of not being in a hurry to reach some place on time or return home on time. Enjoy the here and now!
- Many of you may have a new friend in class. Ask yourself 'What can I do to help my new friend? 'How can I reach out to my classmate/classmates?' For the new students, it must not be easy, as all their classmates are new to them, and they haven't met you all even once. Please reach out to them.

In these unique circumstances, empathy will play a huge role in how we interact with each other. Everyone has a story, be kind.

I urge all my students to reach out whoever they are comfortable talking to, if they feel the need to talk or share.

Remember, we are all in this together!!

Sending my love to all my students.

Regards,

Mrs.Dastur Mukerji.



THE EDITORIAL TEAM - Mrs. N Choudhary, Mrs. S Majumdar, Mrs. S Dutta Gupta,
Mrs. S Singhal, Ms. L Khanna, Ms. N Dixit and Mrs. M Guha