

Parent's Newsletter

Senior School

April 2021



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Upcoming Events

1st-16th April

- **Summative-2 Assessments for Grade 8**

12th-30th April

- **Summative-2 Assessments for Grades 6 and 7**

19th-30th April

- **Summative-2 Assessments for IB Year 1**

21st-23rd April

- **Grade 8 Checkpoints**

26th-30th April

- **IGCSE Demo classes for Grade 8**

Let the Music Play

The Grand Finale of “Binary Harmony”, a Middle Section Inter-House Annual Music Competition was held on Friday, the 5th of March. Over the course of a couple of weeks, Middle Section students had composed and sent their original individual or group tracks which were shortlisted by the Music teacher, Mr. Tathagata Mukherjee.

The shortlisted tracks were played in the final round which was judged by Mr. Subrata Ghosh, Mrs. Manideepa Raychaudhuri and Mrs. Tania Ghosh. During the round, the tracks were played and the judges asked the participants questions regarding their tracks. The wide range of music ensembles which were composed by the participants; ranging from peppy numbers to sombre and refined musical compositions were a treat for the ears.

The results announced at the next Middle Section Assembly, revealed that Sayantani Halder of 7B and Praneet Ray of 6B had tied for third position, Aadya Narayan of 7B won second position and Vaibhav Saha of 7A had won the first position.

We hope more opportunities for showcasing of such awe-inspiring talent is offered in future!



Calcutta International School's IBDP-1 Lingua Forum 2021

Every year, the International Baccalaureate students of CIS host the Lingua Forum on the occasion of International Mother Language Day. The COVID-19 pandemic did nothing to deter this tradition.

This year too, the IB Diploma Program Year 1 students put up a lively event via Zoom for the school community in celebration of the myriad languages spoken and taught at CIS. The event started with a touching recitation of Abdul Gaffar Choudhury's poem, *Ekusher Gaan*, where the poet immortalises the sacrifices of his brothers in the Bengali Language Movement of East Pakistan in 1952. This was followed by presentations on the life and seminal works of poets Suryakant Tripathi Nirala (Hindi), Matsuo Basho (Japanese), Federico García Lorca (Spanish) and Jacques Prévert (French). The students also put up a humorously introspective skit that they themselves wrote and produced, where they took on the roles of global representatives at a United Nations Seminar — where even the delegation of Robotland has a seat! — who overcome language barriers to have a meaningful discussion on pressing world issues such as climate change and our growing dependence on technology.

The Forum ended with a quiz for the audience where attendees actively participated in answering questions on some popular and a few lesser known expressions from the languages used by the CIS community.



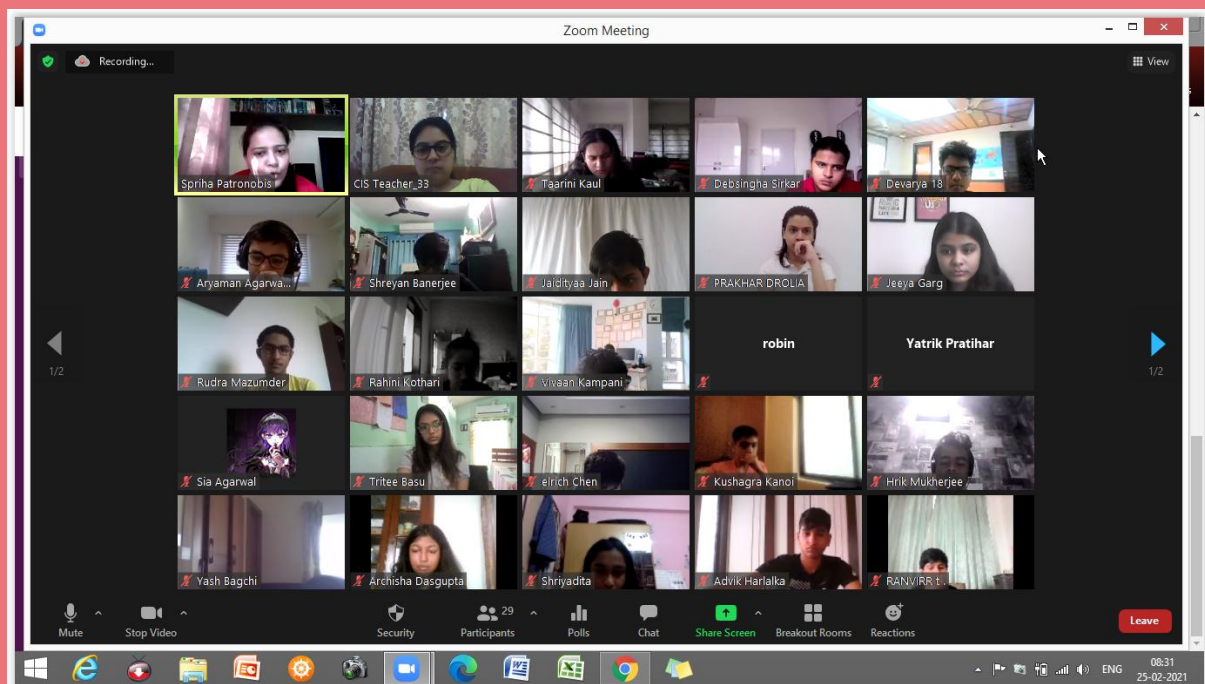


IBDP-1 Lingua Forum 2021

Diversity and Tolerance: A Grade 9- Social sensitization session

Grade 9 students attended a life skills session with the school counselor, **Ms. Spriha Patranobis**, on '**Diversity and Tolerance**'. The session, which was conducted on **25th February**, focused on coexistence with those who may have different views than us.

The session also emphasised the difference between respectfully disagreeing and conflict.



Collaborating For Education

Ms. Tania Ghosh, Senior School Science teacher, was recently invited to appear as a guest speaker for a seminar at the University of Leiden on the 8th of March, 2021.

It was a seminar where student teachers were spoken to about how to plan and execute Interdisciplinary and international collaborations.

Along with 5 other teachers from different parts of the world, Ms. Tania Ghosh had to talk to the student teachers, about her learning experiences as a teacher, while executing interdisciplinary projects like - ISA (Plastics & pollution of water bodies with



Turkey, e- waste management with the UK) , IRIS, CREST award and The toothpaste challenge (Alfrink College).

The seminar offered Miss Ghosh the platform to interact with 30 odd student teachers for an hour, who would be designing similar projects as an assignment for their "World teacher program" Master's degree.

"It was both an enriching and fulfilling experience," said Miss Ghosh, summing up her involvement at this prestigious seminar.

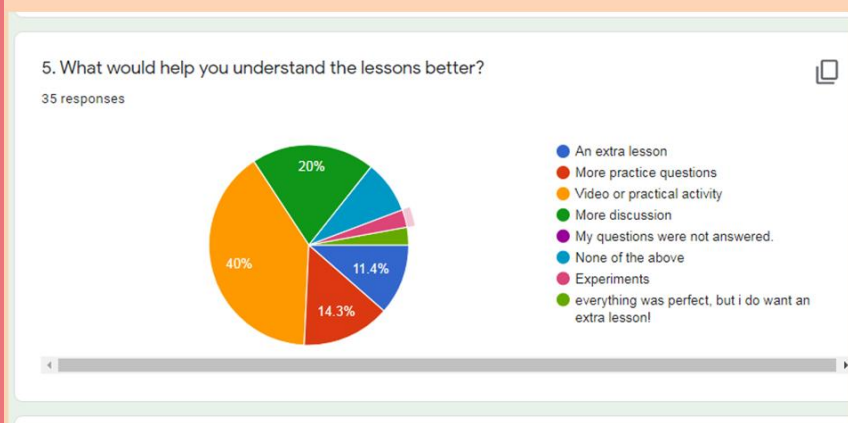


Workshop on Effective Student Feedback

A cross section of 13 teachers from Junior, Middle and senior Schools attended the session on “Effective Student Feedback” on 5th March 2021, conducted by Dr. Bijita Ganguli-Roy, Senior School Science teacher.

Teachers were introduced to the idea of how student feedback data could be collated expediently, with a high sample size and with a mixture of both summative and formative feedback. The workshop provided a platform for discussion on how to improve the overall classroom experience.

Giving students options to choose



Effective Student feedback

WALT: Determine how we can get effective student feedback



The aim of the workshop is to seek out means to investigate student views on improving pedagogy to create an optimum learning experience.

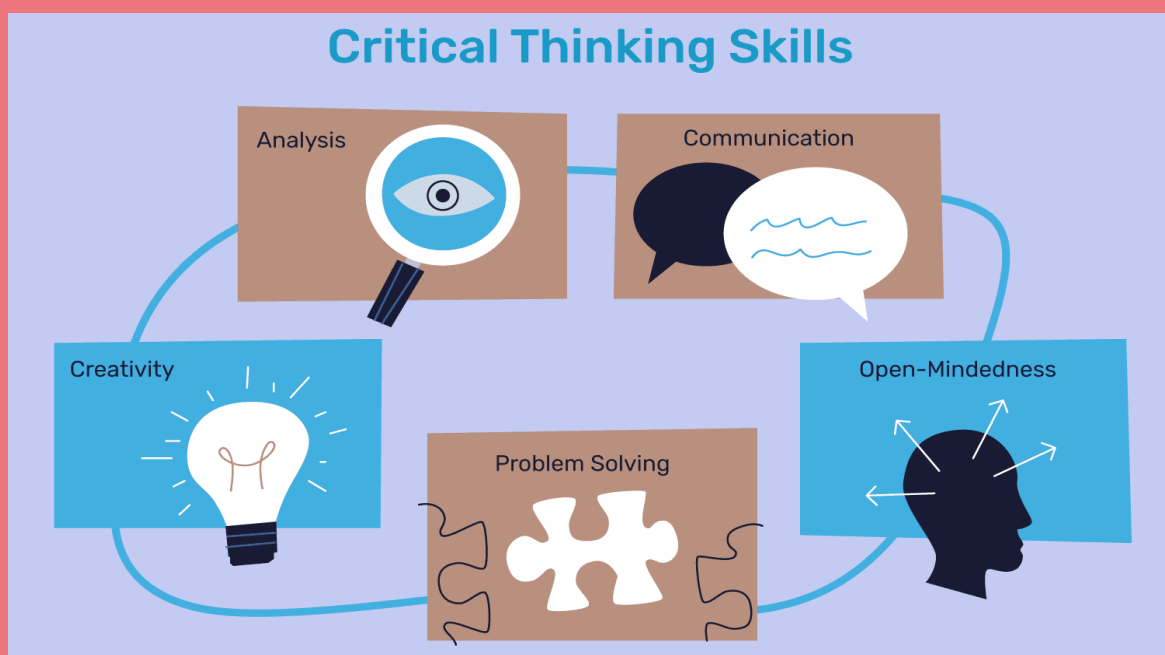
PLC on Critical Thinking

Senior School Teachers are constantly striving to develop their professional skills, not only from external sources but also within their own CIS teachers' community.

On **5th of February**, **Dr. Madhusudan Nandan** conducted a PLC (Professional Learning Community) Session with the objective of focusing on how to **instill critical thinking skills** in the students and how to include critical thinking skills in daily lessons.

In the course of the PLC Session, teachers delved deeper into the classification of what constitutes critical thinking and otherwise; and were asked us to categorise various activities accordingly.

“I think as classroom teachers, now when we plan for lessons, these detailed categorisations will help us understand how better we can incorporate the elements of critical thinking”, Mr. Surya Subha Banerjee said, concisely summarising the key takeaway for all teachers who attended the session.



Civics Activity for Grade 8

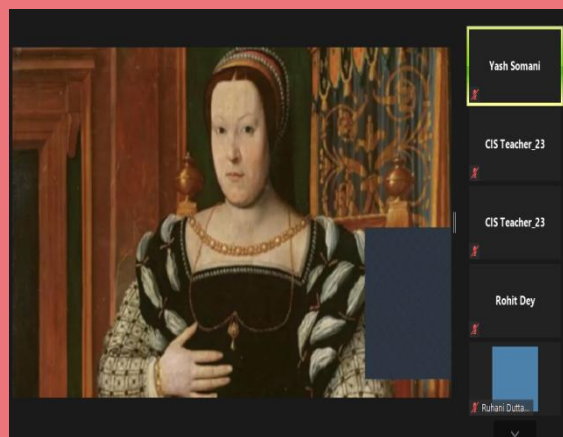


Under the guidance of their teacher, Ms. Udit Sarkar, the students of Grade 8 participated in a group activity to understand their Civics topic - United Nations Organisation in a more intrinsic manner. They took part in a lively discussion which included the major Agencies of the UN- their composition, functions and also tried to suggest remedies to some important issues that these agencies are trying to solve. Each presentation was followed by an interactive session wherein different ideas and solutions were shared by the students themselves.

For the Love of Language

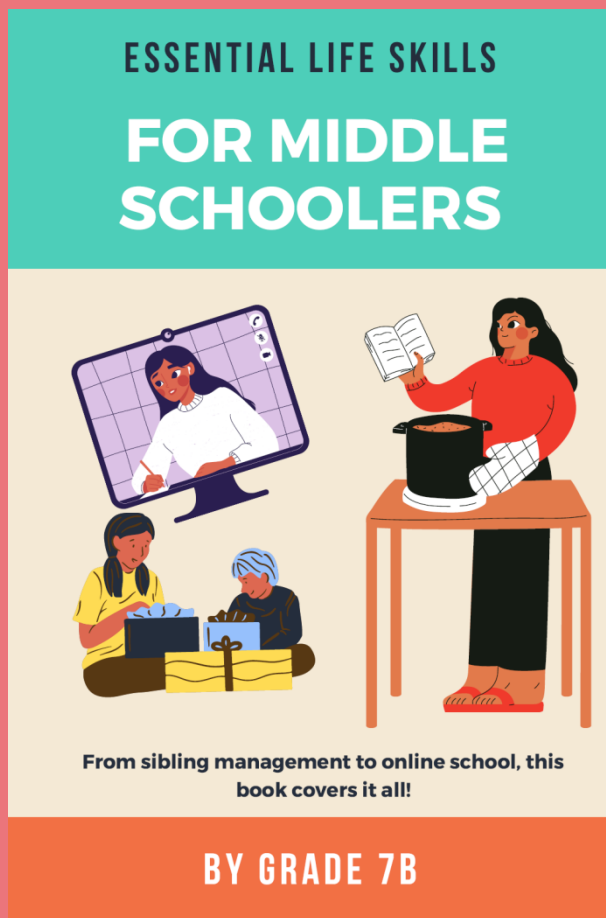
The Middle Section morning assembly on Friday, the 19th of March was a swift yet sensational sojourn through the world of Foreign Languages. French, Spanish, Mandarin and German students of the Middle Section showcased their love for languages through enlightening presentations, delightful songs, innovative skits and short, entertaining animation films.

The active participation of the students under the tutelage of their talented teachers made the event a roaring success!



E-BOOK LAUNCH

By Grade 7 English Language Students



Middle Section Assembly time on **Friday, 5th of March** saw an exciting event- the book launch of an e-book by **English language students of Grade 7.**

Under the guidance of their teacher **Ms. Upasana Saraswati**, in term 1, Grade 7 students had worked on a project where they employed different digital tools and applied diverse styles of writing of nonfiction text to offer interesting insights into what are some **"Essential Life Skills for Middle Schoolers"**.

The articles, blogs, videos and stories composed by Grade 7 students were compiled, edited and designed into an e-book by the talented Book Creating Team whose members are:

Deepro Roy, Advay Nathany, Ayesha Kampani and Sayantani Halder of 7B; and Nehal Saxena and Vibhav Saha of 7A.

The hours of love and labour of the students of Grade 7 has gone onto create a quirky, fun and entertaining reading as well as viewing experience. Way to go Grade 7!

The link to access the PDF copy of the e-book is:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1g-B1sQTmuAiou-lJtuSrZpLRfITFPN12/view?usp=sharing>

ELECTION DEBATE:

A Grade 9 English Language Activity

In the course of 3 English Language lessons, held in March, Grade 9 students, guided by their teacher Mr. Surya Subha Banerjee, learnt how to apply their knowledge of Persuasive and Argumentative language by writing Election speeches in a group and then engage in debate as well.

The class was divided into four political parties and each party nominated a candidate to represent their party. In the preliminary round all four candidates delivered their speech and the candidates in the final round engaged in the Election Debate.

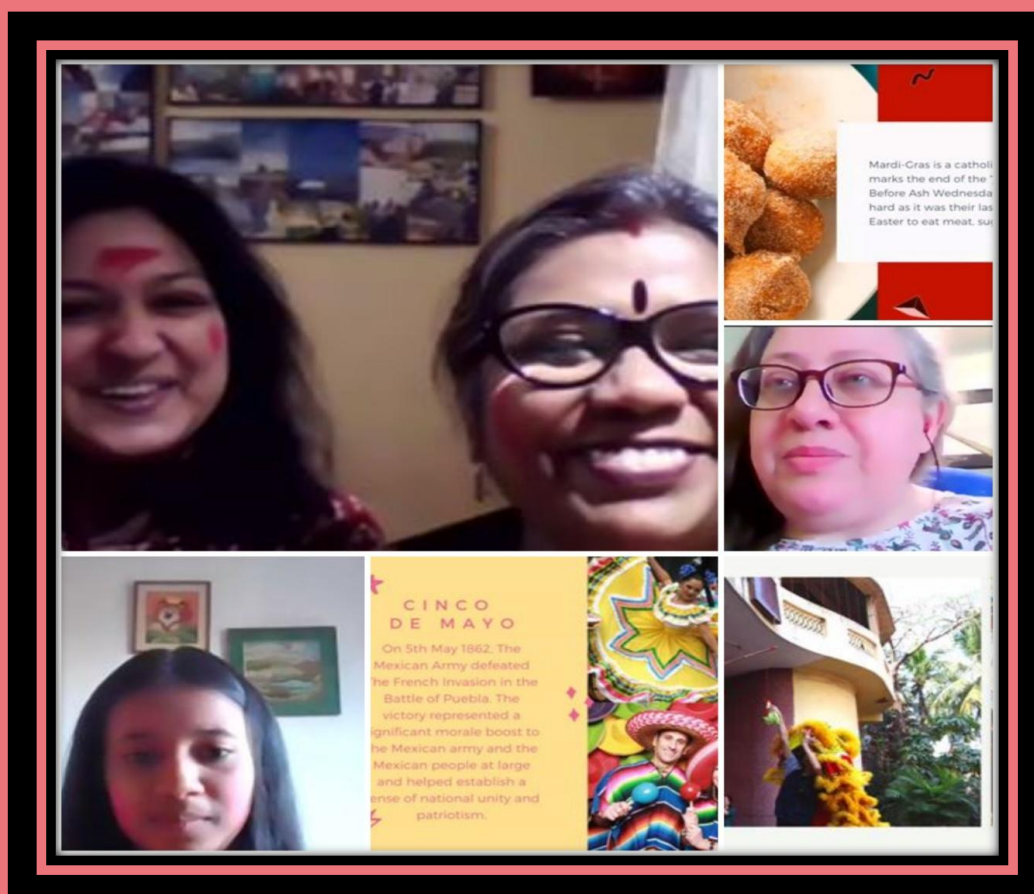
The fun and challenging nature of these lessons offered the students an opportunity to turn their classrooms into an effective platform for honing their speaking skills, specifically the Language of Persuasion and the Language of Argument.

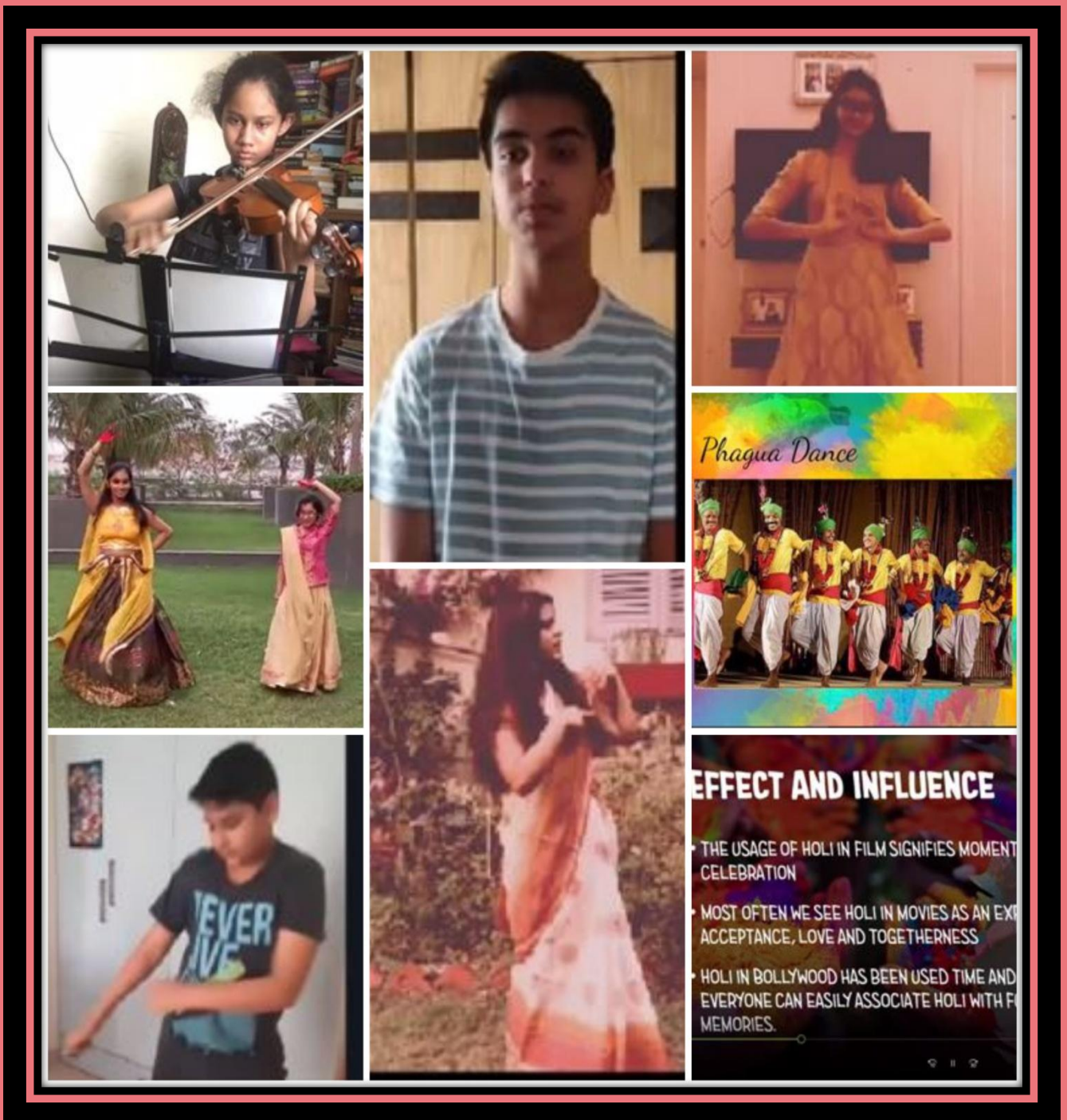


COLOURS OF SPRING

The last working day before Spring Break, **26th March**, ended with a vibrant celebration of the season of colours. Students of Senior School performed and arranged musical compositions, dances, displayed informative presentations and shared photographs of celebrations from the past; in the delightful assembly which was just what all members of the CIS family needed just before their well-earned Break.

The **celebration of Spring across cultures** from around the world was the main focus of the assembly and the assembly tapped into diverse aspects of this season; including the **significance of Holi in India**, in movies, the **symbolism of colours** as well as presentations on other **international festivals associated with Spring**.





Student's Performances



The extraordinary white in the snow-peeked Himalayas portrays the magnificent outreach of India and chants the glory of the nation.

Finally, Indian cuisine consists of a lot of green leafy fruits and vegetables as well, such as okra, wild mango, bitter gourd, cabbage, ridge gourd, spinach, and many more.



What is Hanami?

Hanami, which means "flower viewing" in Japanese, is the traditional custom of enjoying the beauty of cherry blossoms.

Corrigendum

*With reference to the article “**Marathon to Success**” posted in the **March Edition of the Newsletter for Senior School**, our Team regrets a factual error made regarding the ranks of the Physics Marathon, ‘**Physithon**’. The accurate results were as follows:*

Rohan Banerjee, Vikhyat Agarwal and Komal Kataruka of IBDP1 secured 6th, 8th and 17th position among the top 20 individual scorers in Physithon.

This inadvertent error is sincerely regretted.