



Parent's Newsletter

Senior School

May 2021

Events	Page No.
Electromagnet Project-Grade 7	2
Olympiad Accolades	3
Grade 8 Collage	4
Sharing Session on CAIE English Extension Training	5
Reflection on the Year by the Section Head, Middle Section	6-7
Parent Reflections	8-10
A Message from the School Counsellors	11-12
A Message from the CIS Management	13-14



ELECTROMAGNET PROJECT-

Grade 7

Rohit Dey of Grade 7A, had a memorable experience working on a *Physics project*, near the end of the academic session.

Under the guidance of his teacher, *Ms. Suvasree Banerjee*, Rohit created an electromagnet, after his teacher had explained the functions of an electromagnet to the class in great details during her lessons.

The electromagnet made by Rohit has been much lauded; which only shows that with a little bit of curiosity, backed with perseverance and some encouragement, the wonders of science can be replicated in our own homes!



OLYMPIAD ACCOLADES

In the recently concluded academic *Olympiads (2021)*, **Oindrila Pal of Grade 7A**, made her school proud by being felicitated with two awards in the Mathematics and Science category. Oindrila won the gold medal of Excellence in both Mathematics and Science as well commendable zonal ranks.

Congratulations Oindrila!



STUDENT NAME:	OINDRILA PAL
ORIGINAL ROLL NO:	ZN6000-07-193
REVISED ROLL NO:	WB2458-07-012
CLASS:	07
MARKS SCORED:	38/60
INTERNATIONAL RANK:	405
INTERNATIONAL AWARD WON:	N.A.
REGIONAL RANK:	304
ZONAL RANK:	167
ZONAL AWARD WON:	N.A.
CLASS RANK:	2
CLASS AWARD WON:	Gold Medal of Excellence + Participation Certificate
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SCHOOL'S OUT!

Collage by Grade 8

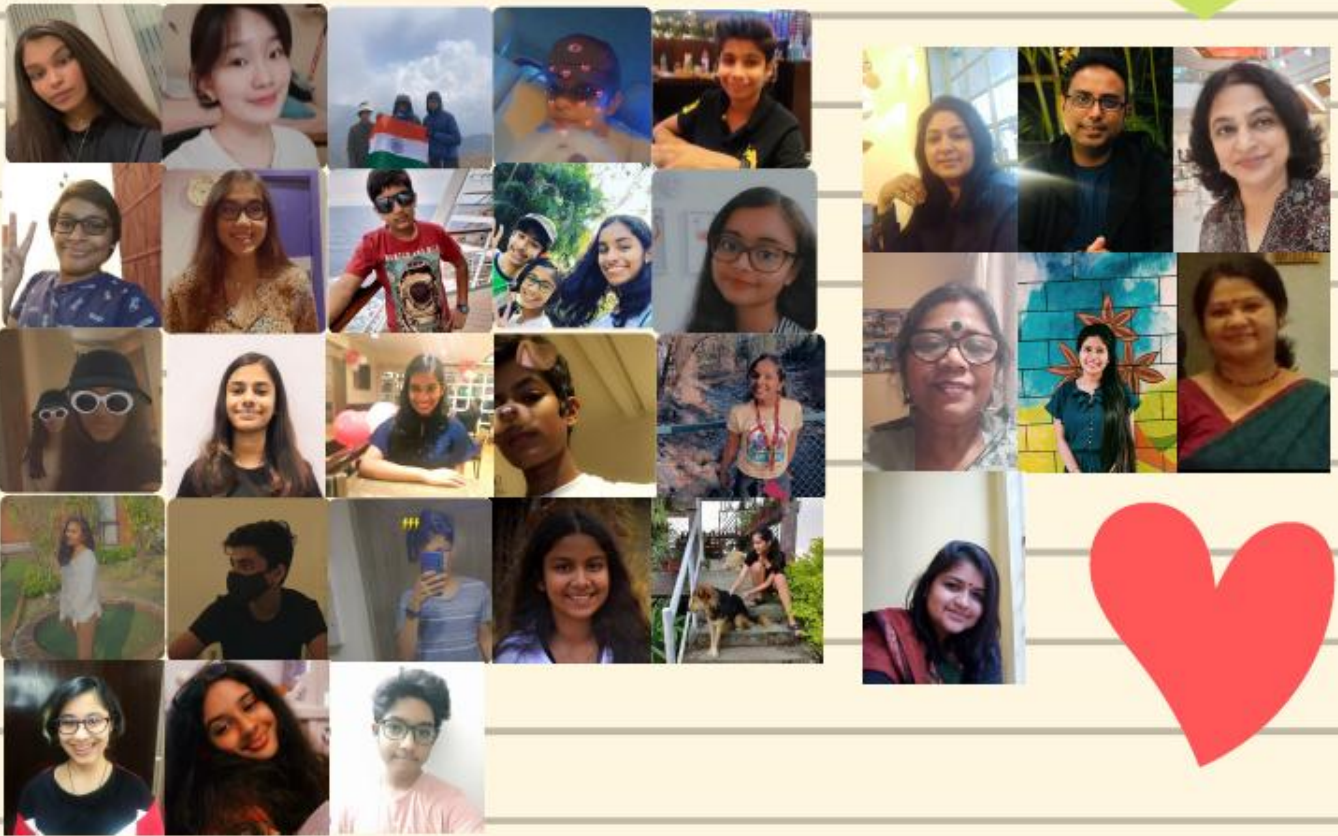
GRADE
8

*We are the most
memorable batch
of middle school*

*We have made
so many
memories
together*

*Let's make many
more fantastic
moments in all
the years to
come!*

*Our
Amazing
Teachers*



Thank You to all the teachers who have taught our batch throughout middle school. Thank you to every one of you for guiding us and teaching us to be confident in ourselves and preparing us for our future. We love you all.

Grade 8, 2020-21

Planning for the New Year:

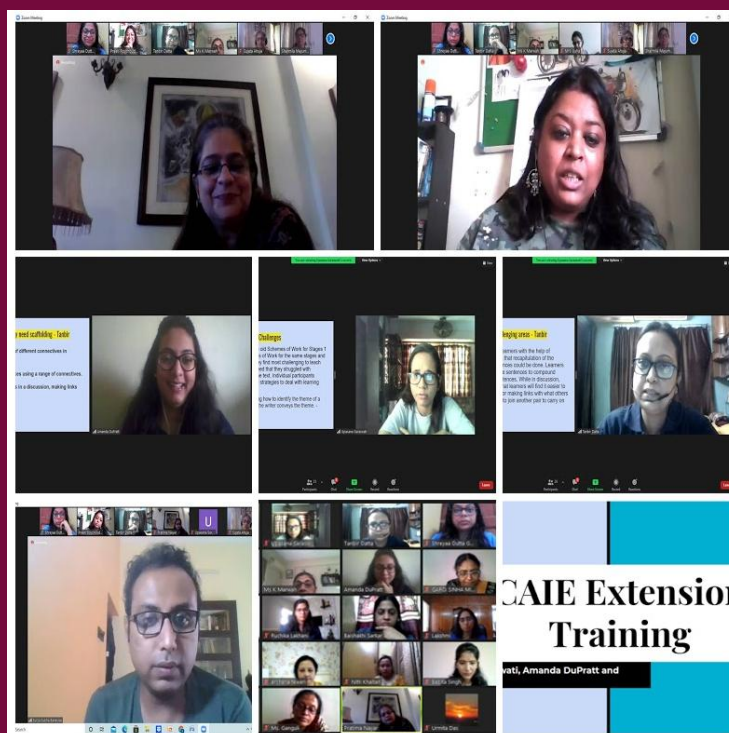
Sharing Session on CAIE English Extension Training

On 12th May, 2021, the English teachers of Primary, Junior and Middle Section came together, to attend a sharing session on a CAIE Extension training which had been attended by Upasana Saraswati of the Middle School; and Ms. Amanda DuPratt and Ms. Tanbir Datta of Junior School.

The Extension Training for Cambridge Lower Secondary English (0861) and Extension Cambridge Primary English (0058) trainings was conducted virtually in February 2021, under the guidance of CAIE trainers, Ms. Sioban Parker and Ms. Lea Williams.

This session was initiated by H.O.D. English, Mrs. Preeti Roychoudhury. During the session, the teachers discussed the key notes of their training, the learning and take-away with the rest of the department. They spoke about the curriculum challenges which will be posed by the new curriculum and ways to tackle them, the time of implementation of the new syllabi, the difference between the Progression and the Checkpoint, the importance of reading through various documents in the CAIE teachers' support hub like the Progression Grid, the End of the Series Report, the Curriculum Framework etc.

It was an enriching and unique session as teachers of all 3 sections of the English department got together for the first time on the virtual platform. The session was also attended by Mrs. Nayar, Section Heads, Mr. Surya Subha Banerjee and Mrs. Sharmila Majumdar. Mrs. Nayar appreciated the effort put in by the teachers to put together the presentation for the sharing session.



‘TRUE GRIT’-

Reflection on 2020-21 by the Section Head, Middle Section



One word that comes to my mind when I look back at the year that went by is grit. It is the tremendous resilience, the unfathomable perseverance displayed by the students, the teachers and also the parents while navigating through these trying times that have made the year possible. When we are looking at the deadlier second wave of the coronavirus pandemic in the country and bombarded with news of losses and despair, it is this feeling of togetherness and hope that we will be able to overcome it while having a shoulder to lean on is what fills my heart with joy and a renewed vigour.

Replicating the entire school year on an online format was not easy. From lessons to assembly programmes, from exams to grading scripts, from submissions to feedback, every step was a new learning and application of the same. What filled me with hope and joy was the patience of the students and their ever-readiness to teach the teachers how to operate different platforms for better teaching and learning. "Switch on your videos", "Switch on the audio", "google form", "Google Classroom", "LMS", "Scan and submit please", "I got logged out", "Am I audible"-all these became the motif for the entire year. Social media was crowded with online school memes and most of them were actually endearing. In the garb of fun, it reflected the true essence of education - we made mistakes together, sometimes silly ones, we laughed at those mistakes together and we learned from it, also together. We have known each other in a completely different light and it was such a heart-warming experience for us. Covid could not dampen that spirit; it could not take

away the very meaning of being a teacher and being a student. Beyond the words written in the textbooks, learning is more about the relationship that we forge, the camaraderie that we build. Today I can proudly say that we have not only not let the pandemic destroy it, we have rather made it stronger.

I remember the zealous effort put in by the students in creating the videos for the assembly programmes, the students stayed up late because they wanted the assembly programmes to be fun. They met up virtually with their subject teachers and the class teachers, sometimes over the weekend to fine-tune everything! We have had students texting and calling to check on us. We have had students eagerly offering help to their classmates when they were sick. During the lockdown we had so many students coming together to gather groceries and medical kits to help out the underprivileged. We could not be more proud. If this is not then what is the meaning of true education? You all have inspired us, you have encouraged us and made us feel empowered. As a teacher, I end the year with pride that we have the most compassionate and kind-hearted students and I cannot ask for any better. I am thankful to all the students, the teachers, the parents, the administrative staff members for making this year so comforting.

As we enter the new session, the pandemic is hitting us harder than ever. It is no longer the daily numbers anymore, it has become people we know, people we live with, people we grew up with. Grim as it may sound, it is not all bleak also. With the love and care that we have seen in each of us for the past one year, we will be able to overcome this second wave like champions and 'this too shall pass'. Rest during the holidays, do not go out, check on each other, be the listening ear for those who need. Most importantly, stay safe and stay strong. We have to be back once this time is over and then we will have beautiful stories to tell about how our love and compassion made it possible for everyone to win over the time that seemed so cruel.

Much love. Take care. See you in the next academic session.

PARENT REFLECTIONS ON THE YEAR GONE BY

Today the pandemic has reached extreme proportions in the country and the news of suffering and personal losses have been heart-breaking. Amidst these challenging times, our kids completed an academic year, are safe, are learning and are still full of life. They are our hope. We cannot be thankful enough.



But this does not happen automatically. Moving to a completely new paradigm of education, assignments, exams have been possible due to the initiative, enterprise, tremendous hard work and empathy of the teachers, the support staff and the school administration. While each of them had their own challenges to handle. We are grateful to them.

The Zoom windows were the only windows of learning, sharing, laughing with friends and teachers. Let us take a moment to thank everyone who made this happen!

-Mr Anindya Sarkar (Parent of Shome Deepto Sarkar, class 8B)

When this pandemic began last year, little had we imagined that the physical school would be replaced by the laptop and an internet connection. And yet here we are more than 12 months of LMS, Zoom, Managebac and exam.net later soldiering on, facing probably another year of virtual classes. While the children loved being able to sleep in a little more because the daily commute only involved a hop from their bed to the desk, the parents could not help wonder about the consequences that such prolonged exposure to the screen might have, both on their physical and mental health. But these are extraordinary times and we should consider ourselves lucky that at least the education of our children continued unhindered thanks to technology and the sincere dedicated effort of the all the staff at CIS. As we look forward to another scholastic year, amidst such turbulent times, it is also important to applaud the entire CIS family – students, teachers and parents, for adapting to this new way of schooling for change is never easy. Hopefully, this too shall pass.

-Mrs Rima Ray (Parent of Rudra Mazumder, class 9A)

Year 2020-21 has been an unprecedented year. The prevailing pandemic has pushed us to test our limits. The children too were left with no other option but to realign their usual schedule. Without the joy of going to school and meeting their friends and teachers in person, attending online classes for such a prolonged period of time could have resulted in “online fatigue”.

Attending physical classes is not only about knowledge accumulation but it involves a lot of other factors crucial to the overall development of these young minds.



I feel extremely fortunate to be a part of an institution where the teachers have gone out of their way to keep the system running as smoothly as possible. Being a teacher myself, I am well aware how much of planning and prep work is required to conduct these online classes productively. Online assessment of regular assignments is a strenuous task and I must say CIS teachers have done a commendable job in this regard. The teachers have been available to both the children and parents alike, 24/7. As friends and mentors, they have been constantly encouraging, guiding and comforting them throughout this whole year.

My heartfelt gratitude to the entire team.

Mrs. Anomitra Roy (Parent of Deepto Roy, 7B)

An unprecedented, abrupt end to Class 5 had dampened our psyche, but there were still dreams of going back to start Middle School, decorate new lockers and be upgraded to a higher floor!! But alas, all hopes were squashed as we went on battling against the pandemic and struggled through adapting a new lifestyle in confinement.

Fast forward to a year later, the smile in my daughter's face has not melted away nor has her spirits dampened in any way, even after being holed up at home for more than a year. Learning has been uninterrupted and digital skills and knowledge have escalated to a new high. I would, at this juncture, like to point out that all this would not have been achievable had the school not stepped up to the heights that they did, in the past year.

Teachers and administrators have left no stone unturned to make this digital transition, as smooth as possible, even for the juniors at school. Trying out new platforms like LMS and exam.net must be applauded, as not very many schools in the city have been able to achieve such a full proof, smooth and easily navigable digital journey!



Academic progress has been stupendous. I would not deny that I was a little wary in the beginning, of how the school was going to manage the students, new to the vast Middle School curriculum, accustom and venture into the depths of so many subjects, but I must say, they have soared much higher than my expectations and kudos to the whole team for making this possible for all of us!

As we still are battling on the horror of the pandemic, both physically and psychologically, I sincerely hope that we all stay safe and healthy and make a decision of the children returning back to school only when the safety of all associated are completely guaranteed and secured. Looking forward to a better tomorrow!

Mrs. Shaon Mukherjee (Parent of Meecheeka Mukherjee, 6B)

With regrets, my journey with CIS is finally coming to an end. I, as a parent, had always dreamt of my children to become versatile and adaptable. CIS has done this for me. The last 15 years, all the way from 2006 have been delightful and allowed me to relive my school life with my children all over again. Their rants about meeting deadlines, or help with projects were nostalgic and delightful.

The definition of schooling has turned 180 degrees. As a student, I remember mugging up my textbooks and believed my children would do the same. But CIS has employed a practical approach allowing students to connect theory to real life situations. I am glad to say that kids with application based learning evolve as more interactive, curious and confident individuals, better being able to represent their perspectives in society. Both my girls have undergone the same, growing into wonderful individuals who can be left alone to survive in this cruel world.

All was going smooth until March 2020, when the pandemic hit us. Education, employment and homemaking became the most difficult tasks one ever has had to deal with.

Even in such times, CIS did not give up and within days introduced zoom as the new classroom. I was wrong to think that corona is just a matter of a few months and that everything would resume as it was before soon. Life in the pandemic has become the new normal which still continues.

We thought about the challenges children are going through, not being present in school physically. I was relieved to see how CIS handled it. From TOK presentations to group projects to exams, everything was dealt with smoothly.

My younger daughter opted for the IB Diploma course. It was a very different learning system. The teachers also repeatedly warned the children of sleepless nights and restless days to meet the deadlines and submit research work on time. Hats off to all the faculty involved in helping to pull through this program during such difficult times. I often caught my daughter talking to her teachers at 1 or 2 in the morning, getting feedback or correcting her work with them. Observing the support of teachers and knowing that they are available to help students 24/7 elated me.

Last but not the least, I'd like to thank CIS for making school life more bearable for its students and guiding them to the right path for future career choices in college as well. A fact I know for sure is that my daughters have graduated from this school with a pool full of memories.



Mrs. Shubha Kothari (Parent of Labdhi Kothari IBDP-Year 2)

‘Holding on to Hope’:

A Letter from the School Counsellors

Dear Students,

Congratulations to each one of you for having completed this year, filled with trials and tribulations. What a year this has been - a year when the classrooms were not buzzing with your presence, the corridors weren't brimming with life with you and your friends running up and down, the fields were not filled for sports day practice, the stage curtains never went up for our EYP... I'm sure you can think of many more things that you missed; that this year with all its cruelty has taken away from us.

But it's also been a year of great learning – we learnt that school is much more than just a building with a gate. School is your friends waiting for you to join the online classes every morning (and perhaps texting you frantically if you are late), school is teachers waiting to use new apps and tools to teach you through the virtual medium, school is a community that cares and gives us a sense of belonging. As soon as the pandemic began, education was one of the first things that switched to ‘online’, teaching us that although education is not an emergency service, it sure is an essential service.

This was a year that tested you in many ways - your ability to adapt to drastic change, your ability to stay connected without meeting your peers, your ability to stay motivated in online learning, ability to multitask and your ability to explore and find purpose when much of your freedom and many of activities were curtailed.

More than anything it is your faith and ability to hope that have been tested - and where do you stand today? Apart from all the academic knowledge that you have gained, what you've learnt the most this year, is what you will need the most in life ... RESILIENCE.

You are all familiar with the concept of the ‘glass half empty’ (being pessimistic) or ‘half filled’ (counting your blessings). As we reflect on this year, trying to determine whether it is half filled or half empty... it is understandable that on certain days it is particularly tough to convince ourselves that it is indeed half filled. But let's remember that the glass is also refillable, and similarly HOPE is renewable. Therefore, don't stop hoping, don't stop believing, don't stop seeking new experiences and certainly don't stop trying – We hope you can continue to look for happiness each day, even if some days you will have to look harder, we hope you continue to focus on things that bring you comfort and assurance, continue to

reach out to one another and share your feelings, continue to ensure that your family, friends and loved ones can count on you when they may be feeling low. And of course, here's hoping that you continue to follow all the covid appropriate norms and behaviour so that we safely tide over the second wave. As Margaret Atwood deftly captions her article in the TIME 100 (April 2020 issue), "It's the Best of Times, It's the Worst of Times. Make the Most of it."

Hope you all have a well deserved, wonderful, restful and safe summer break. See you on the other side!

All our love,

School Counsellors

(Spriha Patronobis and Farishta Dastur Mukerji)



Message from the CIS Management:

Let's Break the Chain Because Our Beautiful School is Waiting

Dear CIS Family

"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter". —Rachel Carson

The campus that used to be filled with an unbridled joy and laughter each day has started to feel like a distant memory that we all long to go back to. The time we are going through is difficult to say the least. The pandemic is hitting too close, too personal. In this maddening times when the horizon appears dark and gloomy, a sudden burst of colours from our beloved CIS campus brings us the warmth of hope and assurance that better days will come and this struggle too shall pass.

Attached are some photos of the CIS Campus taken this week. Nature seems to have beautified the whole campus and is just waiting for us to be back. Let these colours be a motivation for all of us to break the chain of the coronavirus so we can go back to where our hearts actually belong.

We take this opportunity to wish you and your near ones good health.
Stay safe. We will be back to the campus, soon.

Thank you

Regards,

CIS Management

