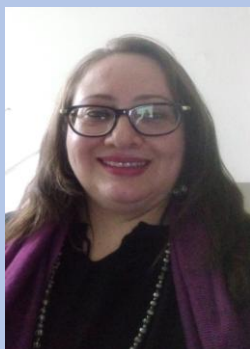




PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

TEACHING AS USUAL, LEARNING A LOT MORE

*A message from Mrs. Tina Servaia
Principal, Senior School*



Dear Parents and Students,

I hope you are keeping well and staying safe.

The pandemic has completely upturned our lives and the new variant and wave affected most of the members of the CIS family. I hope everyone has recovered and regaining strength. On the last day of school before the winter vacation we were in school planning physical reopening, but by the 3rd of January it was clear this could not happen. I hope we can have our students in the classrooms soon, and we will make every effort to ensure a quick and safe return to physical school.

For students in our Board Batches – Grades 10, 11 and 12 – we are making arrangements for them to complete the Coursework and Lab components of their syllabus. You would have heard from the Senior School Section Head about how this is being organised. We encourage students to make the most of this opportunity to complete their work, but request them to be mindful and comply to all Covid protocols.

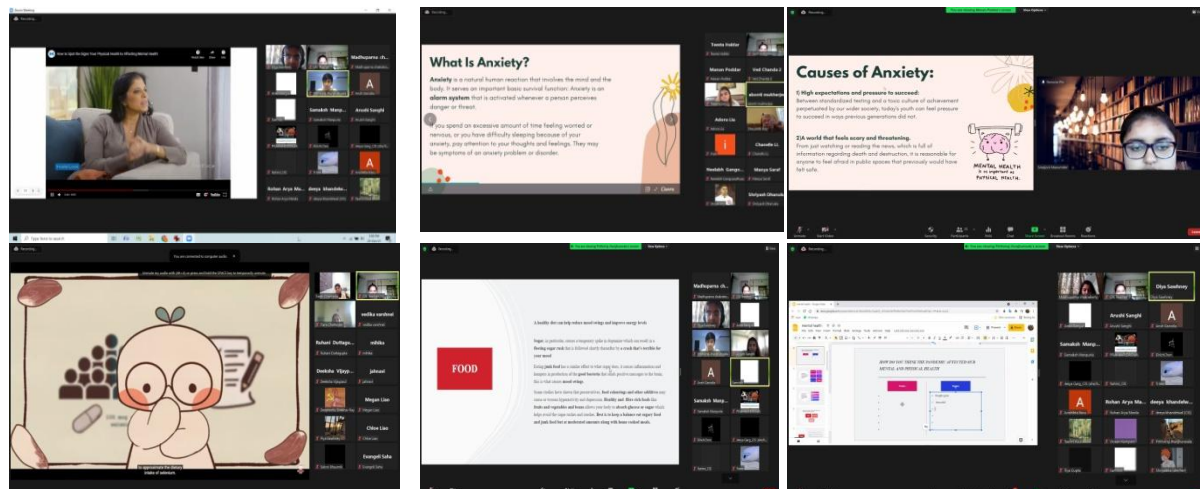
Learning online presents many challenges as well as unique opportunities. Students working on laptops allows the teacher to engage them in different online activities which are not always possible in the physical space. Doing classes from home allows an added comfort level for the students and I am sure parents have appreciated the opportunity to provide regular, hot and fresh meals for their growing bodies.

However, when I am in different classrooms, it dismays me to see so many of our kids with their videos off or angled in such a way that we see their hair instead of their faces! Teaching-Learning is a multi-sensory activity and the most important tool a teacher has to assess understanding is the student's face. Inability to see the students' faces impedes the teaching-learning process. It is essential that videos be switched on during classes. Parents, I request you to encourage your children to keep their videos on during class time, as far as possible. I do realise that video streaming is affected by the occasional network issues but it is an essential component of learning effectively so please adjust your network bandwidth accordingly. By the time this newsletter goes out, most students will have received their Term 2 Report Cards. Congratulations to everyone for having tried to do as well as you can do. It is the effort that is important and not the attainment of high marks. For the term ahead, challenge yourself to do even better and think of the upcoming assessments as a chance to prove that you can do it.

Good luck to us all and wishing the students a productive term ahead. Stay happy and healthy!

Mrs. Tina Servaia

IGNORANCE IS NOT BLISS: MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS



World Mental Health Day is celebrated on 10th October around the world. However, as this date coincided with the Puja break, at CIS the students of the senior section, observed this significant event on 25th October 2021. To make it a student-led initiative, the students of AS, under the guidance of school counsellor Mrs Spriha Patronobis, conducted mental health awareness sessions for their peers in grades 9 and 10.

The topics chosen by the AS were :

- Dealing with Anxiety (covering a broad spectrum from pandemic related anxiety to exam anxiety)
- The Importance of Self Care, especially in times of the pandemic, and its impacts on our mental wellbeing.

Various activities such as quizzes, case studies, surveys, provided immense scope for experiential learning. The students of grades 9 and 10 shared their own experiences and learnt from their seniors in AS.

The success of the sessions is evident from the testimonials written by few students:

Rohini writes: It was an interesting approach to mental health. The gripping PowerPoint presentation helped us to understand mental health issues in a better way.

Tritee writes: The presentation was satisfying and she learnt a lot about sleep and its effect on our mental health.

Jeeya Garg writes: The quiz was fun and interactive.

Nashia Nawar Raimee as a newcomer found the presentation very informative and helpful.

Shriyadita writes -It was an interesting session.

Deeksha VijayPaul writes: The presentation was very student-friendly. She found techniques to deal with anxiety to be very helpful.

WHAT IF...?

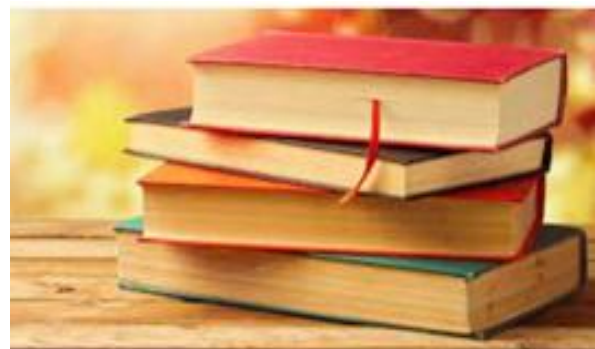
WHAT IF WE FIND SHAKESPEAREAN CHARACTERS USING FACEBOOK AND

Grade 10 Literature students Archisha Dasgupta, Sia Agarwal, Sara Sengupta and Taarini Kaul revised their Twelfth Night text in a wonderfully humorous way by imagining the characters using social media - an important tool of communication in modern times.

Instead of long speeches and dramatic monologues, Orsino decided to open an Instagram account, and such is his obsession with the concept of love, he missed all the implications in Cesario's (Viola's) messages.

Olivia and Viola had a spirited tweeting session where it was clear that Olivia did not know how to take a hint - ironic, given that this is what she says about Orsino! And poor Malvolio opened a Facebook account but last heard, decided to deactivate it because of all the mean comments on his posts. Given his character, this threat to deactivate it is a ploy for sympathy!

Indeed a fun and creative way to go through the text!



STEM ON COVID -19

On the 30th of October 2021, the science division of the CIS STEM club hosted keynote speaker, Dr Sayantan Bose, for a talk on the COVID-19 virus. The seminar was organised in an interactive format where Sreejoni Mazumder, the moderator and organiser of the talk posed the audience's questions about the topic of the COVID-19 virus to Dr Bose, who used his presentation to answer them in great detail.

His lecture covered a wide range of subjects related to the COVID-19 virus, including an in-depth discussion on the origin of the virus, the variants of the virus, the biology of the COVID-19 vaccines and drugs, the public health response to the pandemic, and held a general discourse on the pandemic from a scientific and pharmaceutical perspective.

The talk was incredibly informative, engaging and eye-opening as Dr Bose delivered his presentation with enthusiastic eloquence, and the audience was left quite satisfied as he was able to address each and everyone's questions in an efficient and enlightening manner. We would like to thank Mrs Ghosh for her guidance.

How can we determine which viruses are related?

The genetic sequence of any virus can be compared to all known virus sequences saved in our databases

- based on this viruses can be classified into families – like the 'Coronavirus' family

Creation of a 'Phylogenetic Tree'

Genetic material of Coronaviruses is RNA – Ribonucleic Acid – making it more susceptible to random mutations

DNA has a second identical strand to which it can match the sequence when it replicates

RNA viruses like Coronaviruses v much more rapid DNA viruses like or Herpesvirus

Virus only replicate – more humans infected – more mutations

Antibodies binding to the Spike protein prevents SARS2 from attaching to our cells

But antibodies can bind to different sites on the SARS2 Spike protein and perform the same function

Host cell

SARS-CoV-2

But a wide variety of antibodies are made in response to infection

Coronaviruses

Coronaviruses like NL63, OC43 and 229E had been infecting humans for hundreds of years – causing minor gastric and respiratory distress...

Until in 2003 – SARS outbreak in China

Then again in 2012 – Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) Virus outbreak in Saudi Arabia

First Coronavirus to be discovered

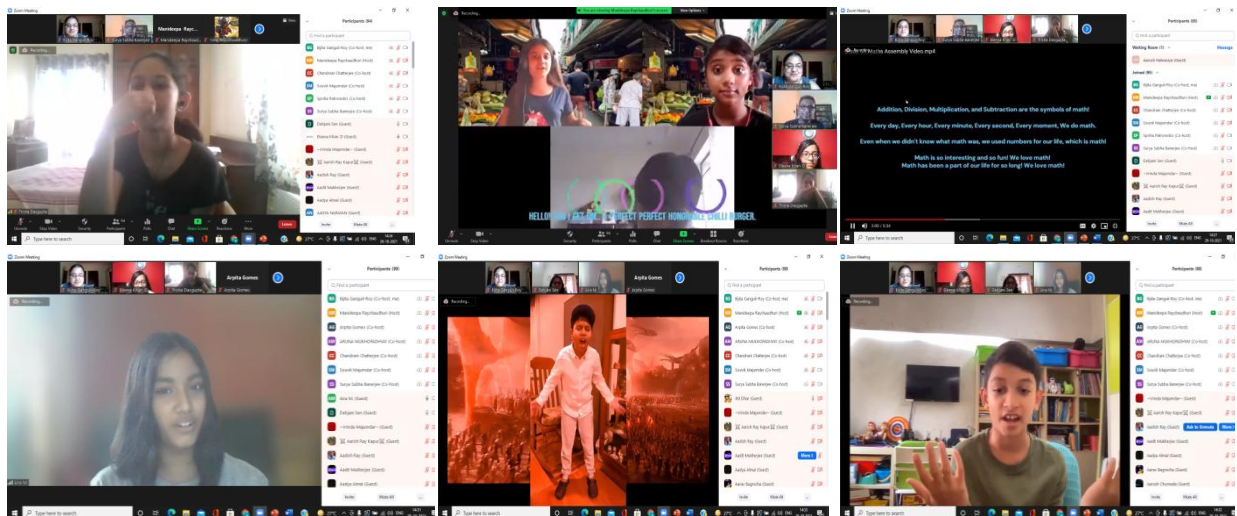
ASSEMBLY TIME: SCIENCE AND MATHS

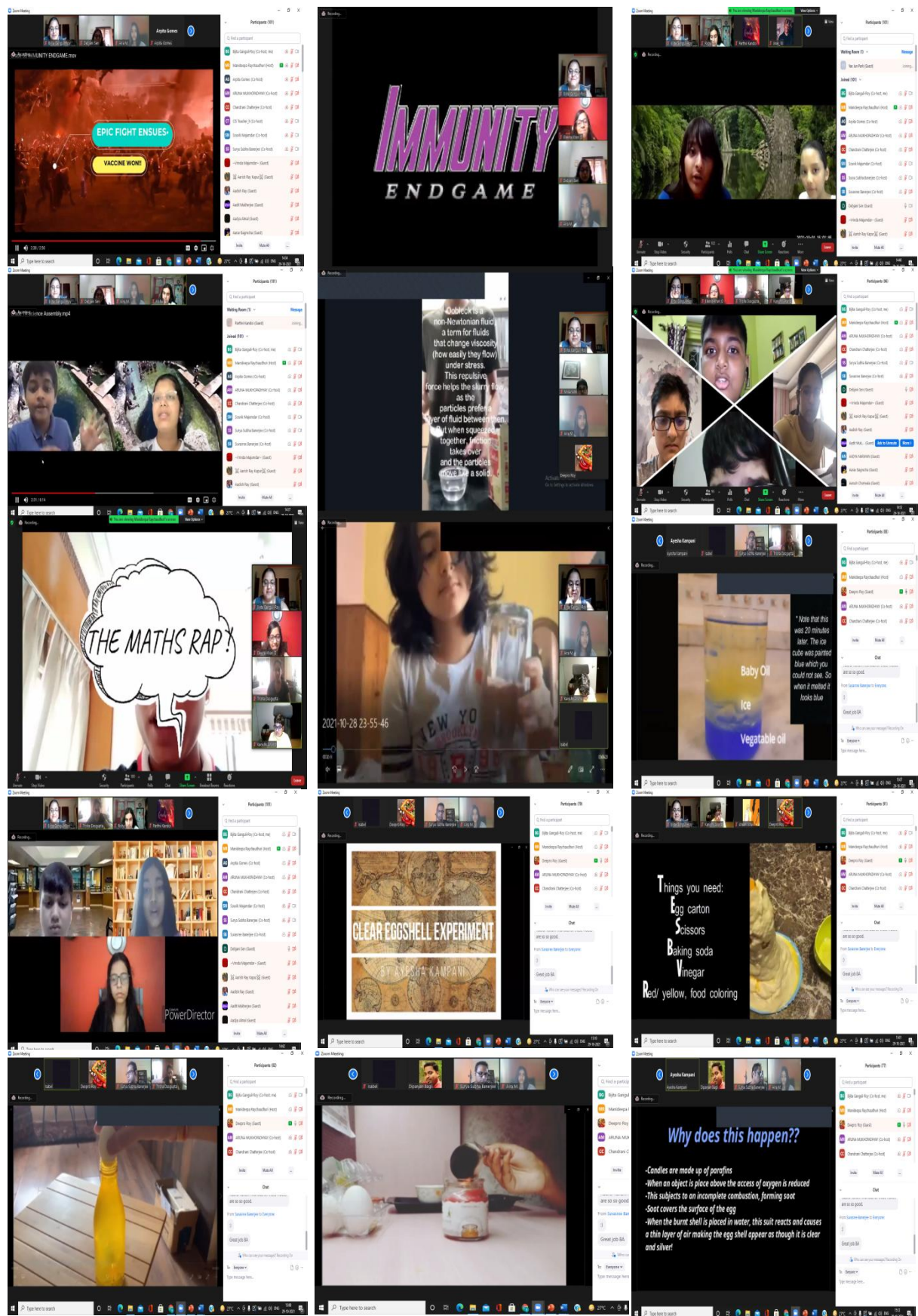
MIDDLE SECTION

After the Puja break in 2021, the Middle school went all out to present some innovative ideas on the myth and magic of Science!. The students of 8B presented and explained various scientific experiments which highlighted approaching science and maths through reasoning. The experiments bespoke numerous experiments such as the much-viewed coke and mentos reaction to the complexity of creating a silver eggshell. This observation in Grade 8 allowed them to present these science experiments magically.

Next, Grade 7B presented the trickery of light. Through their skit, they argued the toss about the formation of Mirages and how they are formed. They pondered about the calm reflective properties of light in water at popular tourist spots to produce perfect circular structures and the refractive properties of The Devil's well.

Finally, Grade 6B presented 'Immunity Endgame' our parody of the popular 'Avengers' movie to demonstrate the attack on the immunity system of the unsuspecting humans. Students decided to unveil the still prevalent myths and misconceptions on the Coronavirus, with a primary focus on public awareness of vaccinations. The video showcased the fight between antibody and antigen, with a focus on the mechanism of immunity and vaccination.





SENIOR SECTION

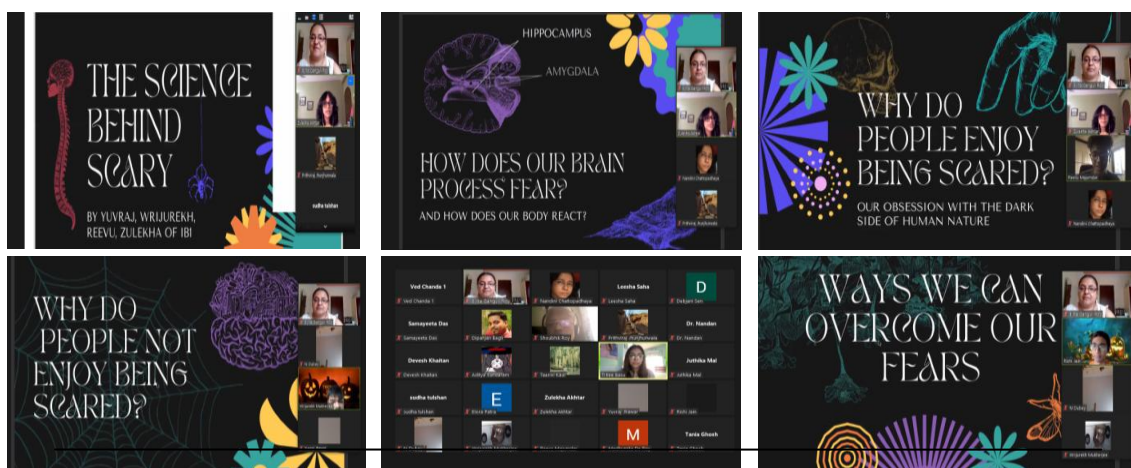
“Science is magic that works” - Kurt Vonnegut

On 27th October senior school held its first-ever science and math assembly. The students worked and coordinated tirelessly throughout the puja vacations and presented numerous videos and presentations ranging through various topics. It was seamlessly arranged and planned out by the enthusiastic efforts of the teachers of the science and math departments of senior school and was carried out by the two emcees, Prithviraj Jhunjhunwala and Trittee Basu.

The assembly started with the presentation by Devesh Khaitan and Taarini Kaul of Grade 10 where they demonstrated how the moon is related to festivals and how some activities we observe in these festivals might have science involved in them.

The second presentation was based on the science and history behind firecrackers which was made by two AS students, Sreejoni Mazumdar and Wendy Yu. The last presentation was presented by Rishi, Zulekha, Reevu Yuvraj and Wrijurekh, who went above and beyond while exploring different aspects of physics.

Next, the math segment started with a video on infinity made by Suyash, Darsh, Anya, Maanya, Deeptendu, Radhika, Arya and Aditya of grade 9. The second presentation of this segment was another video based on the concept of the golden ratio made by three grade 10 students, Parth, Avishikta and Henrik. The following video was based on the mathematical irrational constant Pi, this video was made by Manan, Ansh, Arushi, Rohan, Sreejoni, Prisha and Prithviraj of AS. The last presentation of the assembly was made by Rishi, Reevu, Kaaya, Arva, Charisha, Zulekha and Srishti of IB1 who presented on the Euler's number (also known as the constant 'e'). The assembly was very interesting and thoroughly captivated the audience.



FROM THE WINNERS' CIRCLE



CIS is glad to share that in the regional equestrian league organised by Fort William, Siddharth Debgupta of Grade 7 won the gold medal in the open category. Other than this he earned gold and silver medal in dressage. Congratulations Siddharth!



Ansh Garodia of grade 7, participated in Fort Williams' Equestrian Node as an equestrian qualifier. He secured the first position on a young energetic horse named Novero. Congratulations Ansh!



Tejovrisho Guha a student of Grade AS has been a very active cyclist for a few years now and this year was his second showing in the 41st WEST BENGAL STATE CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2021 organised by The Cycling Federation of India. He participated in the MEN JUNIOR Category where he was the Junior most. He participated in two events namely 'The 10kms Individual Time Trial' and '20 kms Individual Mass Start.' He secured silver in both the races he participated in. Congratulations Tejovrisho!



Sartaj Singh, Advik Harlalka and Yash Bagchi participated in the West Bengal Junior State Championship hosted in Burdwan, November 2021 and their team secured the 1st position. Sartaj also participated in a 3v3 invitational tournament organized in November 2021 and was the runners up. He has been selected to represent the West Bengal Basketball team for the 71st Junior National Championship which will be held at Indore, Madhya Pradesh.



The Humanities Club organised an intra club competition for its members. The competition, 'Get, Set and LOGO' had students try out their creative skills and design a logo for the club. The competition was judged by senior school teachers and the results were declared in the club meeting. Aadya Almal of grade 8 became the contributor of the official logo of the club by securing the 1st position.

The following students have been selected for the club positions after self-nomination and interview:

Arushi Sanghi (Grade AS) as the President , Piya Sawhney (Grade AS) as the Secretary and Jeeya Garg (Grade 10) as the Treasurer.

BLENDING IN: SEASONS IN HAIKU THE ART AND JAPANESE LANGUAGE

The IB2 students of the Visual Art and Japanese Language have collaborated to create a unique display of Japanese Haiku Compositions on Hanging Scrolls, beautifully painted by the students. These paintings highlight the seasons depicted in the Haiku they have created. The images are inspired by their local experiences, so the show has reflected students' journey through this collaborative exercise. The whole flooring was transformed by the scattered Japanese letters and words randomly which gave an impression of falling leaves in the winter. A very well researched and effectively executed project.

The exhibition was on view for all on 20th and 21st December 2021 in the Art room.

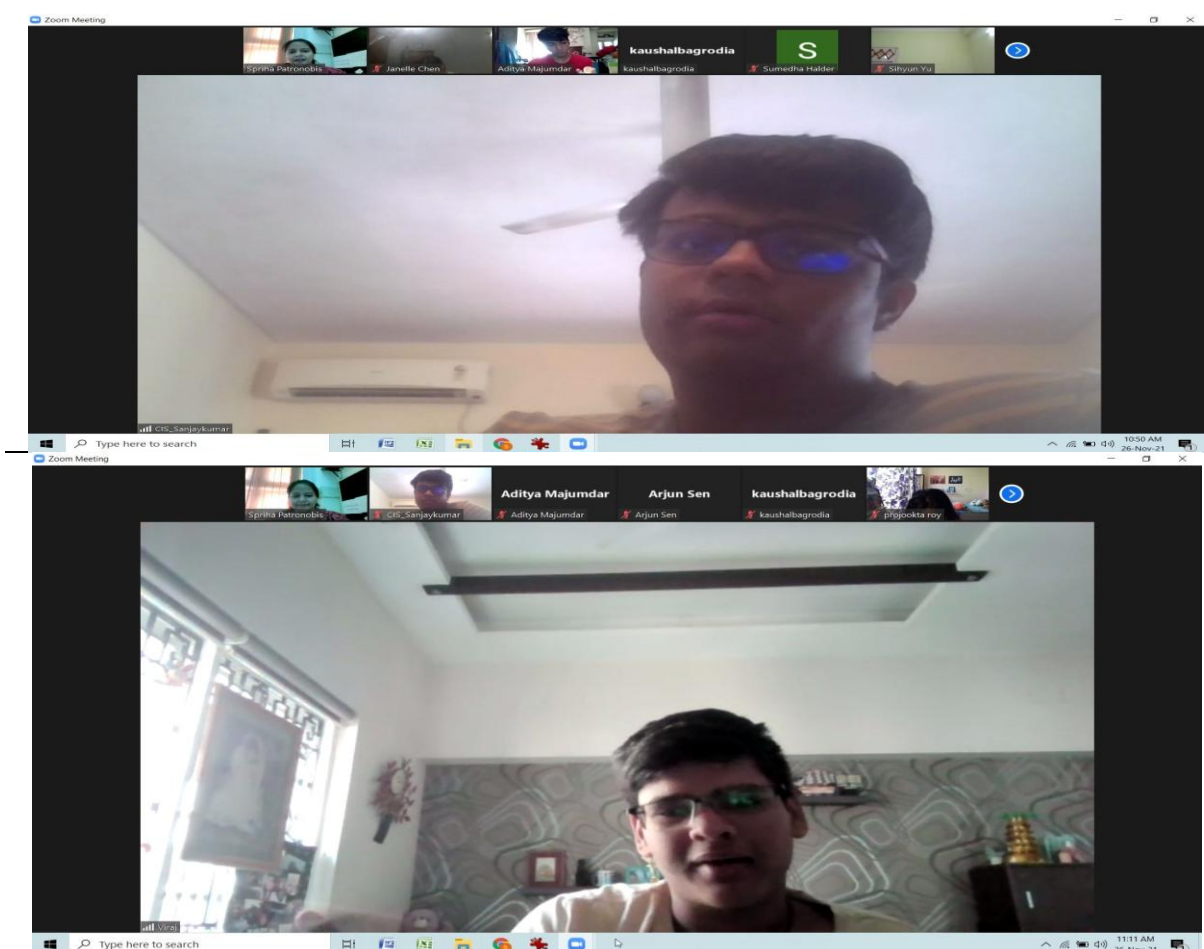


COPING WITH STRESS

Students of A2 and AS attended life skills workshops with the school counsellor, Spriha Patronobis, on 'Coping with Stress' on 26th November and 6th December respectively.

The sessions enabled students to explore their feelings about resuming physical school where students candidly shared that, while they are excited to meet their friends and teachers, they are also anxious about the pandemic and the health risks for themselves and their families.

The interactive session allowed students to vent out their worries and it acted as a thread of connection with their peers.



THE FLOWER OF HUMANITY: POLITENESS

The convergence of language and identity is a path the students of A2 English Language explored. Through this activity, the aim was to understand the importance of the use of positive and negative politeness in our everyday lives.

The A2 researched more about the Conversational Face and the Self. Negative politeness was described through SONG by Aditya Majumdar, Projookta Roy, Ronald Bose and Suryaansh Basumallik. Positive politeness and its relatability were presented by Sumedha Halder, Sharanya G Dastidar, Araiya Bhattacharjee and Tanvi Sengupta. Featured below are their fascinating findings!

POSITIVE POLITENESS

Group A - Sharanya, Sumedha, Araiya, Tanvi

WHAT IS POSITIVE POLITENESS?

Positive politeness strategies are intended to avoid giving offense by highlighting friendliness. These strategies include juxtaposing criticism with compliments, establishing common ground, and using jokes, nicknames, honorifics, tag questions, special discourse markers (please), and in-group jargon and slang.

Also makes the hearer feel good about themselves, interests, or possessions.

EXAMPLES

"I really like the way you've done this," or, "It took me forever to figure this out, but what I eventually came to was..."

"You know it's always important to me to do the best job I can, and I know the same is true for you. That's why I think we should pay attention to this piece a little."

"I really like the way you approach this here. I think this other part might be a little stronger with a similar approach."

WHY?

In many of these cases, the speaker is bringing their own perspectives into the equation within his or her suggestions to the hearer; in this way, the speaker is emphasizing similarity and familiarity with the hearer and the content under discussion.

Negative politeness

group work - Aditya, Ronald, Suryaansh and Projookta

addresses the hearer's need for freedom of action and freedom from imposition in making their own decisions.

Theory

Strategies are oriented towards the listener's negative face and emphasize avoidance of imposition on the listener. By attempting to avoid imposition from the speaker, the risk of "face-threat" to the listener is reduced.

*A face-threatening act is an act that obviously damages the face of the addressee or the speaker by acting in opposition to the wants and desires of the other.

Strategies

- The first approach to negative politeness is to be direct by being conventionally indirect.
- The second approach is to not assume or presume.
- Third, negative politeness can be employed by not coercing the hearer.
- Using passive and circumstantial voices

Examples

- "Using might, can, or could."
- "I'm sure you won't want to do this..."
- "It's generally done this way..."
- "I think I might do it differently, but of course whatever you think is best"

Song Lyrics

I have a question
it might seem odd
if it's not too hard
could you pass the salt

Negative politeness
do you know what that means
don't mean to offend
don't mean to demean

I get that you can't help but
would you please pass the salt to me
but you're free to
say you can't but
I'd still prefer if
you could help and pass the salt to me
so that is what we call
asking for something while keeping in mind
being polite
with a pinch of negativity
so if you will please pass the salt to me

Another feature
of this concept
is the pessimism
that we must accept

If we wanna get it
get what it means
don't mean to offend
don't mean to demean

I get that you can't help but
would you please pass the salt to me
but you're free to
say you can't but
I'd still prefer if
you could help and pass the salt to me
so that is what we call
asking for something while keeping in mind
being polite
with a pinch of negativity
so if you will please pass the salt to me

GAINING THE EDGE: WEBINARS AND WORKSHOPS



Mr Subrata Ghosh, HOD Visual & Performing Arts has actively participated in the following sessions:

- TOK in Arts' workshop, conducted by SIS Medan on 6th November 2021. The session dealt with the integration of TOK in Arts (Visual, Theatre and Music). This sharing workshop also exposed the application part of the new TOK curriculum and how Arts can be connected with it.

The cognitive process and the knowledge framework were the key areas in this presentation that led the IBDP participants into a deeper conceptualization process.

- IBDP Taxonomy- a webinar conducted by the IBDP Reviewer department which was about the Diploma Programme review conversation.

This forum provided the thought process of dealing with the route map of the DP curriculum in the near future. Many IB educators, examiners and program heads took part in this conversation. In the panel Oksana Jajecnyk, Dianne Drew and Anton Beguin were the speakers while the session was moderated by Suruchi Srikanth. The panel discussed the scope of possibilities that can be collaborated to work towards each of the criteria set by the Diploma Program. The webinar also provided a discourse of the future possible taxonomy of knowledge, skills, attitudes and values for the continuum.

- In a virtual workshop on 'Power of Questioning Masterclass: Unlocking Student Thinking' on January 22nd.

The session dealt with the critical thinking part of the lesson plans which ideally need to offer an effective engagement of the students in the classes. This whole presentation was quite beneficial for today's virtual learning. The session was conducted by Rachel French, an educationist, researcher from Auckland, New Zealand.



MATH CLUB EVENT FOR MIDDLE AND SENIOR SCHOOL - 21ST DEC, 2021

SENIOR SCHOOL-

On the 21st of December 2021, the mathematics division of the **CIS STEM Club** hosted guest speaker Dr. Asok Kumar Malik for a talk on the topic “**Curious Consequences of Simple Sequences**”. Dr. Malik spoke on a variety of interesting concepts related to sequences, including unpredictable outcomes of harmonic sequences, converting and diverging series, and even the history behind different topics. His talk delved deep into advanced mathematical concepts and encouraged students to think about problems in innovative ways.

The Stem Club president, Komal Kataruka (IB2), welcomed Dr. Malik and conducted the session. The talk was followed by a intriguing questions relating to the specific concepts during the session and the subject matter in general.

The session was engaging, interactive, and we would like to thank to Dr. Malik for his comprehensive presentation which was extremely enlightening!



MIDDLE SCHOOL-

Following the senior school event, we welcomed guest speaker Mr. Sabyasachi Mitra for a talk on the topic “**Exploring Numbers**” for Middle School students. The moderator and organiser, Math Club president, Manan Poddar(AS2), introduced the guest speaker to the students. Mr. Mitra spoke on a variety of interesting concepts related to numbers, factors and multiples.

He used creative ways to explain concepts- like the “**Thousand Windows Problem**” –which sparked the student’s minds and encouraged them to ask questions throughout the session. Mr. Mitra’s out-of-the-box ways to show solutions kept the students engaged and made the session highly interactive!

At the end, we would also like to thank Math Club teacher- in-charge Mrs.Maiwall for her support and guidance in organising the event.



ENDING THE YEAR, 2021 WITH CIS WINTER ASSEMBLY

As yet another difficult year came to an end, the students and teachers of Grades 6-12 decided to ring in the festive spirit and spread good cheer with the Winter Assembly.

The middle school put up a series of beautifully orchestrated skits. While Grade 6 decided to hire a new Santa and provided a Hogwarts twist to the adorable old man, Grade 7 acted out a face-off between the rather unfriendly Grinch and Santa!

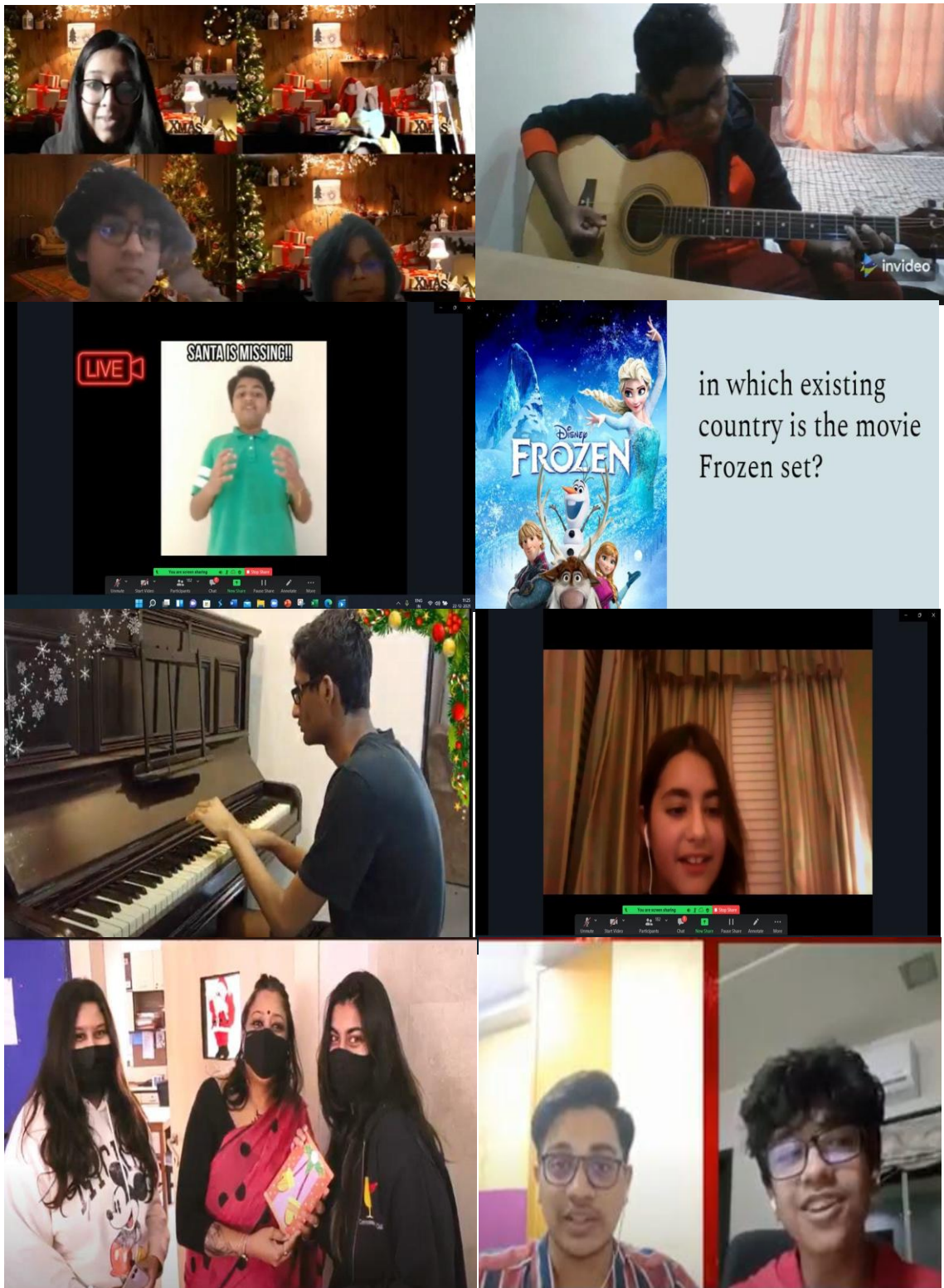
Continuing, Grade 9's put together guitar recitals followed by a video montage on what Christmas stands for. The Grade 10's conducted an interactive quiz based on the traditions and history of Christmas.

Adding to this, the AS students enacted a play on Santa Claus, largely focussing on his mental health and how he should give himself a break and not be too harsh on himself. They also conducted a quiz on movies revolving around the theme of Christmas.

The IB1's performed the evergreen "Joy to the World" and shared their experiences making Christmas cards and distributing them in school. The IB1's also spoke about how different countries celebrate Christmas with a very informative presentation.

The assembly ended on a rather beautiful and relaxing note with two musical performances by A2. Aditya Sundaram performed a melodious and soothing piano performance followed by Aditya Majumdar's live performance which indeed set us in the Christmas spirit as we heard him sing our favourite Christmas Carols.





CIS -HALF YEARLY CLUB REPORT

Name of the Club	Committee Members	Event	Winners
1.Cinephilia	<p>Teachers in Charge-</p> <p>Subrata Ghosh; Preeti Roychoudhury</p> <p>President- Mayurakshi Sarkar; Shome Deepto Sarkar</p> <p>Treasurer- Gaeun Shin</p> <p>Secretary - Tejovrisho Guha</p> <p><u>Teachers Involved</u></p> <p>Subrata Ghosh, Preeti Roychoudhury, Sreeja Kundu, Dipanjana Bagli, Souvik Majumdar, Soni Jha, Kaushik Kumar Sinha</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Film terminology classes. 2. Sessions on different camera shots by screening various film clippings. 3. Debate on the successes of the web series aired on OTT platforms in comparison to full length feature films. <p>The debate was held on the online mode on 21st December It was attended by all Middle schoolers and the teaching faculty. The topic was “Have the OTT platforms and their web series eaten into the viewership of and preferences for full length feature films?” Each speaker was allotted 3 mins plus 1 min for rebuttal.</p> <p>The judges were Middle Section Head Mr Surya Subha Banerjee and senior Hindi Teacher Mrs Soni Jha.</p>	<p>Debate- Grade 7-</p> <p>Viraj Chakrabarti - Best Speaker Aryan Mukherjee- First Runners up.</p>

2. The Humanities Club	<p>Teachers in Charge - Suvrалеena Bandyopadhyay</p> <p>President- Arushi Sanghi (Grade AS)</p> <p>Treasurer- - Jeeya Garg (Grade 10)</p> <p>Secretary- - Piya Sawhney (Grade AS)</p> <p>Teachers Involved Suvrалеena Bandyopadhyay, Susmita Mukherjee</p>	<p>Get, Set and LOGO</p> <p>Held on 15th December, 2021.</p> <p>The entries to the competition reflected how deeply the members of the Club researched about the theme. Students participated in good numbers and the competition reflected the creative skills of the members.</p>	<p>Aadya Almal – Grade 8A (First), Avishikta Basu -Grade 10B (Second), Piya Sawhney - AS (Third)</p>
3. The Stem Club	<p>Teachers in Charge-</p> <p>Rohan Arya Marda and Komal Kataruka (Joint Presidents),</p> <p>Sreejoni Mazumder (Vice President)</p> <p>Treasurer -Wendy Yu</p> <p>Secretary –Shreya Ghosh (Science),</p>	<p>1.Talk with virologist Dr. Shayantan Bose :</p> <p>Held on 30th October via zoom session.</p> <p>On 30th October 2021, the science division of the Cis Stem club hosted keynote speaker Dr Sayantan Bose for a talk on the covid-19 virus.</p> <p>Beside planning, Sreejoni Mazumdar and Shreya Ghosh were very invested</p>	

	<p>Manan Poddar (Mathematics),</p> <p>Rishi Jain (Computer Science)</p> <p>Teachers Involved</p> <p>Mrs. Tania Ghosh</p>	<p>and looked into every detail meticulously in the planning process under the guidance of Mrs. Tania Ghosh.</p> <p>2. STEM Presentations:</p> <p>The students worked individually to make a Powerpoint Presentation through Canva and presented their work to their peers during the meeting.</p> <p>Komal Kataruka, Vihkyat Agarwal worked diligently to plan the calendar and the rubric. They also helped in drafting the emails and notifications.</p> <p>Participation- Grades 6 to 12</p>	
4.Deca Club	<p>1. Viraj Sonthalia</p> <p>2.Jahnavi Garg</p> <p>3. Simran Kothari</p> <p>Teachers Involved -Swati Chamaria (In-Charge) Tiara Chatterjee, Elora Patra, Sudha Tulshan, Ranjana Chakraborty</p>	<p>1.Sales Pitch Activity Status – Completed (Held on 17th December)</p> <p>2.Colosseum 2021- An inter school business fest</p> <p>Participation- Grades 9-10. AS, A2, IB1 and IB2, Middle School students were part of the organizing committee.The event was organized by students virtually and gave a good exposure to participants of CIS and different schools about different kinds</p>	<p>Colosseum 21- winner- St. James School Runner's up- La Martiniere for Boys</p>

		<p>of business activities. 8 schools in Kolkata participated in the event. The students also got a chance to work towards organizing an online inter-school event. Judges- External</p>	
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