

**Vol - 1**

**October- November 2023**

**CALCUTTA INTERNATIONAL**



# **CIS HERALD**

**Monthly E-Magazine published by Junior School**



# Table of contents

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Newsletter	Page 1
Puja Assembly	Page 2
Halloween in the Primary Section	Page 5
Voices	Page 6
Collaboration with Lotus Rescue	Page 9
Parent interaction with the Counsellors	Page 11
World Mental Health Day	Page 12
Dyslexia Awareness Walk	Page 13
Unlocking Knowledge - One Book at a time	Page 15
Bookmark activity	Page 17
Chess and Yoga Competition	Page 18
Accomplishment in Golf	Page 19
Chess Youth Championship	Page 20
Awards and Accolades	Page 21
Professional Development	Page 22

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# Newsletter

## Events in November



### Primary Section

#### Coffee Meets

**02.11.23:** Pre Nursery

**03.11.23:** Nursery

**07.11.23:** Upper Nursery

### Junior Section

**02.11.23:** IEO- English Olympiads Grades 1-5

#### Coffee Meets- Parent- Teacher Interactions

**01.11.23:** Grade 1

**02.11.23:** Grade 2

**03.11.23:** Grade 3

**06.11.23:** Grade 4

**07.11.23:** Grade 5

**10.11.23:** Last working day before Diwali

**13.11.23 - 15.11.23:** Diwali Break

**17.11.23:** Children's Day Celebrations



# Puja Assembly in the Primary Section

## WISHING EVERYONE A JOYOUS DURGA PUJA!

Durga puja is one of the grandest Autumn festivals of West Bengal. The students and teachers of the Primary Section assembled on 12th of October to usher in the festive spirit. Mrs Nayar, Mrs Majumdar and Mrs Choudhary were welcomed with greeting cards made by the students. The assembly began with a short story telling session on Maa Durga.

The students of Grade Pre Nursery B recreated a pandal scene dressed as little dhakis, dhunuchi dancers and Maa Durga with her family.



## Performance for Sashti

The students of Grade Pre Nursery A dressed in red and white danced joyfully with the song 'Pujor khushi...'



## Performance for Saptami

The young learners of Grade Nursery A danced gracefully welcoming the festive season with the song 'Bolo bolo Dugga elo...'



## Performance for Ashtami

The students of Grade Nursery B danced energetically to the tune of the dhaak with the song 'Dhaker taley komor dole...'



## Performance for Nabami

The students of Grade Upper Nursery A recited shlokas and shared 32 names of Maa Durga. This was followed by a delightful dance performance with the song ‘Dhaak baja kashor baja...’



## Performance for Dashami

The students of Grade Upper Nursery B chanted shlokas to invoke blessings and guidance from Maa Durga. This was followed by a captivating garba dance performance.



Our assembly on the five day celebrations of Durga Puja concluded on a happy note where everyone sang and danced together to the song ‘Aye re chute aye pujor gondho esheche...’



# Trick or treat- Celebrating Halloween

The students of the Primary Section were excited to celebrate Halloween in school. They came dressed as Halloween characters and went happily around the class with candies to 'trick and treat' their friends. Teachers took this opportunity to enact familiar stories related to spooky characters all dressed in black and white. The skeleton dance was the highlight of the day.



# Voices- A Public Speaking event in the Junior Section

Every year, the Junior Section of Calcutta International School hosts the English Elocution Competition. This year, the English Department, led by the Head of Department, Mrs. Preeti Roychoudhury, introduced a new format for the competition and renamed it as 'Voices' transforming it into a public speaking event. This event saw the enthusiastic participation of students from Grades 1 to 5, who expressed their perspectives through speeches, debates, Just A Minute (J.A.M) sessions and storytelling.

The students embraced this new format with great enthusiasm as it encouraged increased participation among them. "Voices" took place from October 4th to October 11th, 2023, and was graced by the presence of notable individuals, including Mrs. Nayar, Mrs. Choudhary, and Mrs. Preeti Roychoudhury. The teachers who attended were delighted and impressed by the students' confidence and articulation as they shared their viewpoints.

The Judges for the event were Ms Zara Ryan, Mrs Shreyaa Dutta Gupta, Ms Kashmiri Marwah, Ms Amanda DuPratt, Mrs Sukanya Singhal, Ms Tanbir Datta, Ms Madhuparna Chakraborty, Ms Sreeja Kundu, Practicing Advocate at the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta, Mr Rajarshi Adhikary, Mrs Preeti Roychoudhury and debaters and members of the MUN club from the Senior School - Shaswat Chowdhury and Anirudh Mukherji.

At the end of each class's segment in the event, the judges provided valuable and constructive feedback, which will undoubtedly enhance our preparations for next year's event. A special thanks was also extended to all the English teachers for preparing the students for the competition.

## Winners

1A



Aisha Bansal, Diya Agarwal, Aneesh Chatterjee, Rian Roy, Darsh More, Aayat Choudhary

1B



Diya Singhvi, Noa Alma Munshi, Devangi Phumbhra, Nayantara Singh, Anirved Somani, Anaisha Modi





**2A**

Aarav Nirmal, Meher Bhatia Mukherjee, Pratham Pal, Aryan Newar, Amarissa Vita Das Hartmann, Saesha Vora

**2B**

Reyaan Agarwal, Reyansh Sureka, Lucas Chen, Yuvaan Bhutoria, Vannya Fatesaria, Sitara Kaushik



**3A**

Tara Mazumder, Tamanna Bhutoria, Eira Jhunjunwala

**3B**

Aaryav Gujral, Soraiya Singh, Arohi Agarwal



4A



Shivdutti Jalan, Avyukt Agarwal, Kabir Arjun Suri

4B



Ashray Kandoi, Ansh Sharma, Rehaan Mukerji

5A and 5B



Samara Laiq, Shnaya Chowdhury  
Saarvi Chandra

Avika Kejriwal, Sydel Nazir  
Moksh Lalani

# Grade 3's Collaboration with Lotus Rescue

As part of the School Social Responsibility initiative, the Junior Section of CIS has been actively engaged in promoting social responsibility and community involvement through collaborations with Lotus Rescue, a local non-governmental organization dedicated to supporting underprivileged children.

On September 28th and October 5th, 2023, Grade 3 students from CIS, guided by our Art teacher, Mr Sudipta Bardhan, successfully carried out an art and craft project. The main objective of this project was to facilitate meaningful and educational interactions between students from diverse backgrounds, encouraging empathy, cultural exchange, and creativity.



Grade 3 students and the children from Lotus Rescue joined forces in groups to create beautiful masks representing Goddess Durga and her children, symbolizing the onset of the festive season. As they worked together, the children engaged in conversations, sharing ideas and perspectives, and forging stronger connections with one another.

This interaction not only provided Grade 3 students with a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by their less privileged peers but also fostered an environment of mutual respect and appreciation for different cultures. Both groups of children collaborated effectively on the art project, gaining valuable teamwork skills.

# Lotus Rescue

As part of the festive celebrations, the masks were later used in a short play performed by the Grade 3 students during the Puja assembly held on October 12, 2023. The children from Lotus Rescue captured everyone's attention with their captivating dance performance, and the program concluded with all the children dancing together to the joyous rhythms of the Durga Puja festival music.



# Let's talk about Puberty - Counselling Sessions with Parents of Grades 3 and 5

School Counsellors Mrs Spriha Patronobis, Mrs Farishta Dastur Mukerji and Mrs Sukonna Halder conducted parenting workshops on 'Let's Talk About Puberty' for parents of grades 5 and 3 on 27th September and 4th October, 2023, respectively.

Parents were enlightened on the 'Transitions During Puberty' sessions with students of Grades 3-5, and some of their critical responses/queries on bodily changes, menstruation, reproduction/intercourse, gender and sexual orientations. The interactive sessions emphasized the need for parents to initiate conversations with their children on these topics so as to create a safe space for knowledge sharing that is authentic and age appropriate. It was also highlighted that open conversation normalizes talking about such topics which are usually deemed as 'taboo' by the society. Over time, it builds trust and enables a child to express themselves better and reach out for support if they are feeling awkward or confused, as these are common emotions accompanying pubertal changes. Parents were guided on how to initiate discussions about puberty, age appropriately and to reach out to the counsellors in case they require any support.



Counselling Session  
with parents of  
Grade 3

Counselling  
Session with  
parents of Grade 5



# World Mental Health Day

On the 10th of October, 2023, Calcutta International School marked World Mental Health Day. This year's theme, as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO), revolved around the idea that 'Mental Health is a Fundamental Human Right.' To foster greater awareness and acceptance of mental well-being, the School Counsellors introduced a series of initiatives.

Both students and staff, including teachers and non-teaching personnel, expressed their support for mental well-being by adorning green ribbons around their wrists. The schoolwide activities facilitated an opportunity for all members of the school community to recognize their emotions on that day and share Positive Affirmations with one another.



# Dyslexia Awareness Walk

Each year, October marks the observance of International Dyslexia Awareness Month, with this year's theme being "Stronger Together." The Special Educational Needs (SEN) Department of the Calcutta International School has chosen to celebrate Dyslexia by raising awareness, with a particular focus on the student community, which plays a crucial role in promoting inclusion. On October 31st, students from CIS joined forces to participate in a meaningful walk in support of Dyslexia awareness. This inspiring event was organized in collaboration with Manovikas Kendra, the Maharashtra Dyslexia Association, and UNESCO. The 8th grade students and members of the Junior Section Student Council showcased their dedication towards inclusivity, empathy, and a brighter future for individuals living with Dyslexia.



# Dyslexia - A unique ability

Dyslexia, a condition that primarily affects reading, often remains unnoticed and misunderstood. The walk symbolized a strong show of unity with those who confront this challenge. As eloquently expressed by one of the participants, "Dyslexia is not a disability; it's a unique ability."

The enthusiasm and commitment of CIS students to raise awareness and provide support for Dyslexia were truly praiseworthy. They exemplified the belief that every individual, irrespective of their learning differences, deserves the opportunity to excel. This walk represented a small yet significant step towards a more inclusive and empathetic society, serving as a reminder that as a community, we can create a positive impact when we unite for a meaningful cause.

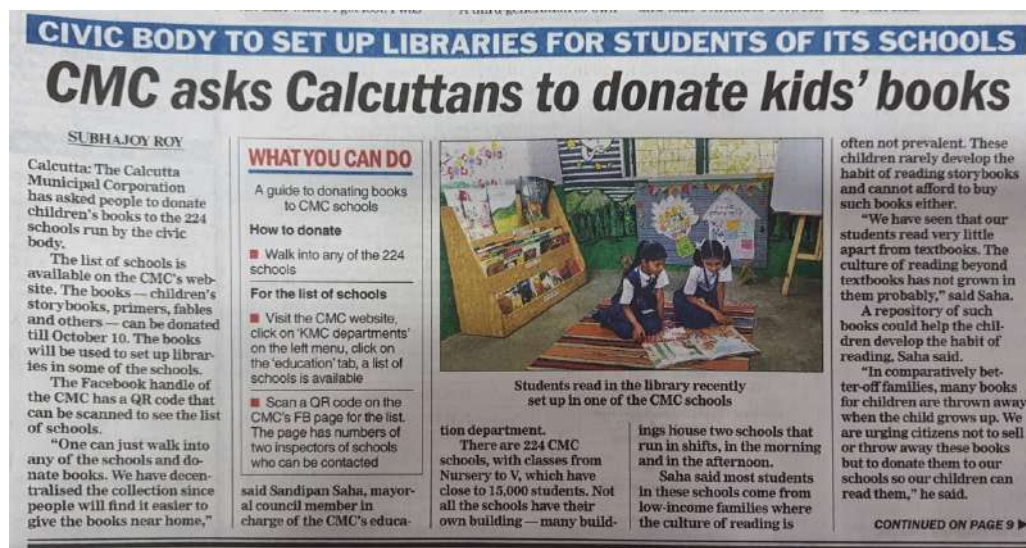




# Unlocking Knowledge - One book at a time

Clearing out older books to make room for new titles is a crucial aspect of managing any library. Similarly, at CIS, we found ourselves with a substantial number of books that needed to be retired. The challenge faced was our reluctance to sell them to a scrap dealer for a meager sum. Recognizing that some of these books, while outdated, were still in good condition, CIS decided to make a meaningful donation to students in need.

Fortunately, our attention was drawn to an article in The Telegraph dated September 19, 2023, which requested book donations for CMC schools. We identified a school in our local area and reached out to them. The school chosen was VIP Nagar KMCP School which was established in 1982. The school is co-educational with Bengali as its main medium of communication. The school staff expressed great enthusiasm when they saw our collection, and we happily handed over approximately 10 cartons of books to Mr. Sanjay Ghosh, the teacher in charge. It was a gratifying experience to repurpose our books in this way, knowing that we were supporting educational opportunities for underprivileged students and contributing to recycling and sustainability.



# Book Donation to KMCP school



Cartons of books handed over to Mr.Ghosh



Happy faces



Class Reading



Students using the books

# Bookmark Activity

In October, during their library class, fifth-grade students participated in a Bookmark Making project. This engaging activity allowed the children to express their creativity, resulting in the creation of innovative, colorful bookmarks. They selected themes from the books they had read and incorporated them into their bookmarks.

This enjoyable activity not only sparked the students' creativity but also made their reading experiences more meaningful.

## Book themed bookmarks



# Participation in Chess and Yoga competition

On 27th September 2023, BDM International School hosted its yearly Chess Inter-School competition, 'Shatranj', which saw the participation of 23 Schools and around 190 students. The competition comprised of 5 rounds of Chess, where students played against different Schools.

This year, the School also organized 'Yogasana', an Inter-School Yoga competition. The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from students who showcased their flexibility and strength through various yoga poses.

The school believes that such events not only promote healthy competition but also encourage students to develop a sense of sportsmanship and emphasis on overall fitness and well-being. They also help in promoting physical and mental well-being, which is crucial for overall growth and development.

It was a great learning experience for the students. All students received participation certificates.



**Participants of the Yoga Competition**

Sydel Nazir, Adishree Bose, Avika Kejriwal

**Participants in the Chess Tournament**

Aarya Deb Chatterjee, Avyukt Agarwal,  
Utkarsh Gupta

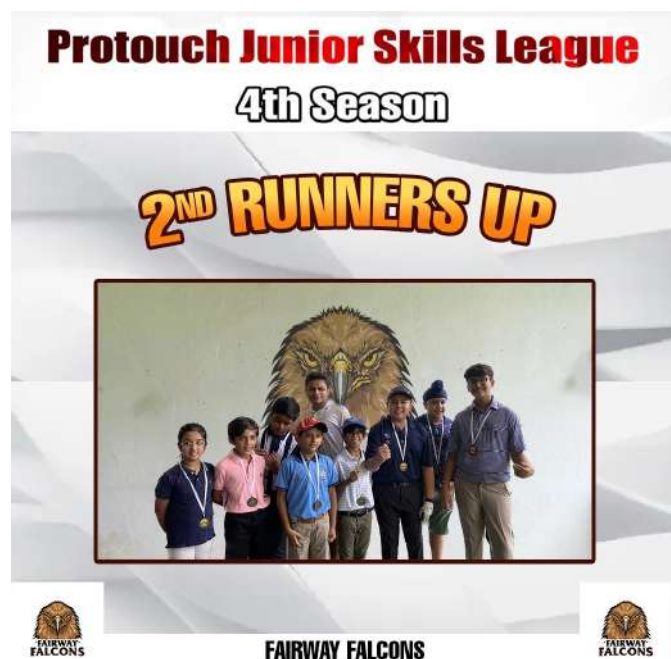
# Student Spotlight

## Accomplishment in Golf

Golf tournaments were organized by The Indian Golf Union (IGU) and serve as feeder tournaments to identify promising talent for higher-level competitions at the state and national level throughout the months of September and October 2023.

Dhruv Patodia, a talented third-grader from CIS, emerged victorious in the golf tournament held in Guwahati recently showcasing his exceptional skills on the green. His team also earned a commendable 3rd place finish.

Dhruv's success in these tournaments is a testament to his dedication and passion for the sport. As he continues to hone his skills, we can only expect even greater achievements from this young golfer.



# Student Spotlight

## Chess Youth Championship

On 1st October, the All Bengal Chess Association organized a Chess Youth Championship that saw the participation of around 210 students from 40 schools.

CIS won the third position in the Best School Category, which was a remarkable achievement. Rihansh Pandey, a student of grade 5, secured the 11th position in the open category, showcasing his excellent chess skills.

All the students who participated in the championship were given participation gifts as a token of appreciation. The event was a great platform for young chess enthusiasts to showcase their talent and learn from their peers



# CIS has done it again!

It gives us immense pleasure to share that CIS has been ranked in the Education World India School Rankings 2023-24 under International Day Schools as West Bengal's Number 1 and Kolkata's Number 1.

Heartiest congratulations to Team CIS!



Mrs Neelam Choudhary, Section Head Junior School and Dr Runa Auddy attended the award ceremony in New Delhi on 13th October 2023 and received the award for Calcutta International School.



# Professional Development

## Sharing session on Learning through exploration, play and Inquiry

Ms F. Razzaque and Mrs S. Hussain attended a three-day online workshop from 6th to 8th of September, 2023, conducted by Elvira Oskam, in collaboration with Priyamvada Taneja Consulting on 'Learning through Exploration, Play, and Inquiry'.

The teachers held a collaborative sharing session on 31st October, where they conveyed their learnings from the workshop and the various ways in which they had incorporated their understanding in their lesson plans. This sharing session was attended by our Junior School Principal, Mrs P. Nayar and the academic heads of the Junior Section, in conjunction with the teachers of the Primary Section.





# Professional Development

## Teachers Olympiad

We are happy to share that Mrs T. Yadav and Mrs S. Hussain of the Junior School have been awarded the Certificate of Merit for the International Teacher's Olympiad 2023. They have been placed among the top 30 percentile globally in the International Teacher's Olympiad held on 7th October 2023.



# EDITORIAL TEAM

Mrs Sharmila Majumdar, Mrs Neelam Choudhary,  
Ms Amanda DuPratt, Mrs Tinku Yadav and  
Mrs Radhika Dhanuka

THANK YOU

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