

# FREEDOM

What do you mean by freedom?  
For a few thrill and for others boredom.  
Struggle for existence prevails everywhere;  
The gates of paradise are found nowhere.  
Is this the marvellous and glorified India  
Envisioned by our freedom fighters;  
Are we giving justice to their sacrifices  
Or complicating our life just like roller coaster riders.

Today's youth is lost in hatred and dark,  
It's our virtuous obligation to brighten their path.  
In this fast world, they need a companion;  
To cherish, to rejoice, to rejuvenate their union.

Still there are boundaries, religion, misfortune,  
Still it is a world of imposed curfew,  
Here people do not allow  
Others to live and live through.

What do you mean by freedom?  
For a few virtue, for a few loss.  
Struggle for existence prevails everywhere.  
Life is a big toss.

Acceptance and Realisation are necessary.  
For teens, for youths, for kids, for old,  
Freedom is meant for all  
But still there's life that takes a fold.

Yet the question arises  
What do you mean by freedom?  
What do you mean by freedom?



Preeti Shamkule, Facilitator, Blue Ridge Public School

16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023, Thursday

## Student's passion for quizzes opens door to KBC

The polymath of Blue Ridge Public School (BRPS) - Saimaa Chawla, studying in class VIII Gyan whose dedication and sincerity towards her passion for quizzes and competitive exams was rewarded when she got selected for Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC) Juniors 2022.

She got the chance to crack the rounds and make it to the "Hot Seat" with the one and only Amitabh Bachchan! Her journey from the play-along rounds to the hot seat is inspiring for students, teachers and the entire school. She started her participation in the iconic knowledge-based show with her consistent efforts around 3.5 years back. Saimaa used to answer the questions through play along on Sony Liv APP.

The continuous participation in the students' series every year developed Saimaa's interest towards current affairs and other subjects. She has been a bright intelligent child with an interest towards public speaking, extempore, role plays and competitive exams.

She cleared her KBC written test among 600 odd children around the country to grab the personal interview round. She was among the top 30 who were selected out of the personal interview round that was based on expression, verbal communication

and confidence, wherein she played KBC's fastest fingers first with Amitabh Bachchan and this was the milestone!

After playing two rounds of fastest fingers first, it was a bang-on and she was there on the hot seat with Amitabh Bach-

chan. Her individual brilliance, knowledge, confidence and her onscreen presence led to her success at this age. Consistent support from her parents and the school to help her in whatever she dreamt reflected in her personality when she faced the legendary, Amitabh Bachchan.

Her respect for Indian traditions and values was displayed in the show when she performed a role-play of the mythological character Hanuman in front of everyone in the show. She explored her brilliance and talent with her smart move in the game and bagged a huge amount of scholarship for her secured future.

The school Principal Surinder Kaur Sayan felt immensely proud and rewarded her for bringing laurels to the school. The school staff, family and everyone applauded the great achievement and showered her with many blessings.

The Principal, school staff and parents were very happy as it was a life-changing memorable event for Saimaa, the school and her entire family. The Principal said, "Saimaa has set an example and opened the doors to many other children who are willing to take part in KBC and other such competitive exams."

- Preeti Shamkule,  
Facilitator, BRPS



Saimaa Chawla in KBC Junior with Amitabh Bachchan

8<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2023

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## CAPTIVATED BY SIGHTS AT THE STATUE OF UNITY



The Statue of Unity isn't just a statue but the biggest and largest symbol of "Ekta" or "Unity".

My trip to the Statue of Unity started on a shivering cold morning. I was very excited about the journey! It was in the wee hours of morning that we got into our cars, quivering in icy cold winter. My two brothers and I were asleep most of the journey, keeping ourselves warm by snuggling together. We would wake up in between only to peep out. We reached Gujarat by 3 pm.

As soon as we stepped into our hotel, we snoozed for a few more hours. We woke up refreshed and got ready for our first destination, the 'Food and Nutrition Park'. It was so amazing! There were many activities for kids like mirror maze, nutrition knowledge and many more.



Early next morning, we visited the beautiful Nilkanth Temple. After breakfast we headed towards the zoo, which barely had any animals in there. So to be honest, the zoo wasn't quite a good experience.

Finally, we moved towards the Statue Of Unity and was captivated by the height and the beauty of the statue. We went up to 400 feet and checked it. The view from there was truly heavenly. I wished I could save it forever in front of my eyes! Fortunately, we had our smartphones to do that. After the guides showed us around the statue, we watched the laser show. I can't even describe how beautiful the laser show was!

In a nutshell, my Statue of Unity tour was captivating. I would totally recommend it!

**TANYA SAHU**, class VIII, Guna, Blue Ridge Public School, Pune

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb '2023

### SOLDIER

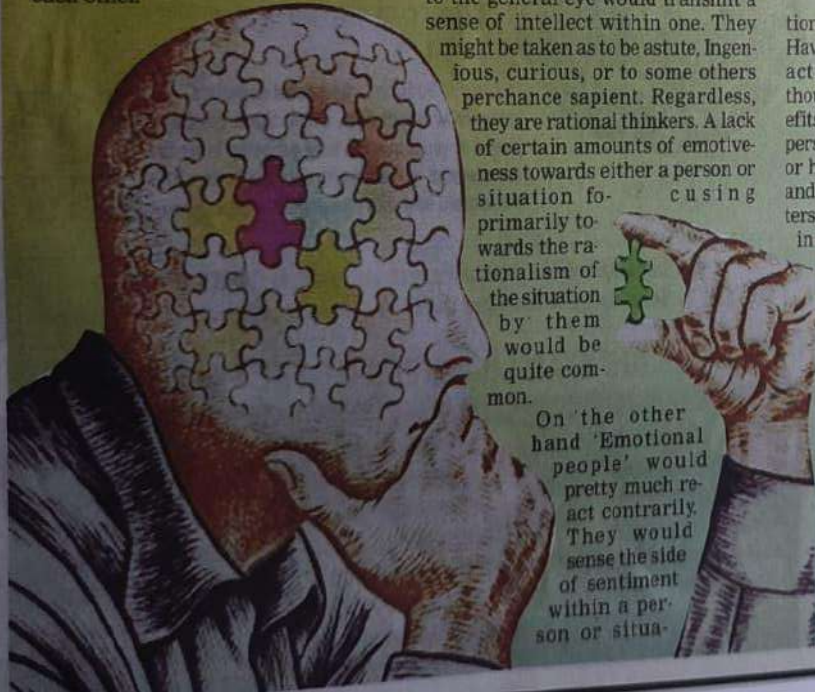
If I die in a war zone, box me up  
and send me home  
Put my medals on my chest, tell  
my mom I did my best  
Tell my dad not to worry, he  
won't get tension from me now  
Tell my bro to study  
perfectly, key to my electric bike will  
be his permanently  
Tell my sister not to be  
upset, her bro will take a long sleep after sunset  
Tell my nation not to cry  
Because I Am A Soldier Born To Protect Our Nation



Vivaan Mahajan, IV, Egret, Blue Ridge Public School

# Emotional Intelligence

The Earth comprises around 8 billion people. This means people have around 8 billion personalities and a chance of around 8 billion possibilities. But within our world, there are conflicts between countries, Conflicts between people. These conflicts arise mainly due to disagreements and different perspectives of thinking. But in our common lives, most conflicts in our relationships with our friends or family occur simply due to our manner of dealing with each other.



The way one reacts toward a particular situation or person is brought about by his or her personality. Therefore, developing one's character is extensively crucial for us beings.

The personalities of Homo Sapiens are divided into 3 categories. The former kind is fittingly termed 'Intelligent'. The second is labelled with the equally congruent denomination 'emotional'. A widely differing explanation is delivered through both of these terms. The 'Intelligent person' to the general eye would transmit a sense of intellect within one. They might be taken as to be astute, ingenious, curious, or to some others perchance sapient. Regardless, they are rational thinkers. A lack of certain amounts of emotiveness towards either a person or situation focusing primarily towards the rationalism of the situation by them would be quite common.

On the other hand 'Emotional people' would pretty much react contrarily. They would sense the side of sentiment within a person or situa-

tion rather than the rational half of it. These people thus might be taken as impassioned, empathic, and well-emotional.

But the most regarded kind of individual is labelled as 'Emotionally Intelligent'.

Being Emotionally Intelligent is given by the name, having the characteristics of both an emotional as well as an intelligent person rhythmically blended into one. These characteristics are:

Self-regulation, Empathy, Motivation, Self-awareness, and Social skills. Having the qualities within, one's reaction towards a situation in a thoughtful and empathic manner benefits every person in developing one's personality and respect towards him or her. Being emotionally intelligent and developing your personality matters extensively bringing about change in yourself and the people around you.

So dear reader, remember that if 1 person strives to be a better human, then the other 8 billion will make their way.

-Anveya Parekh,  
Class VII  
Dianthus,  
Blue Ridge  
Public  
School



Monday Feb 13, 2023

Thursday, Feb 9, 2023

## SPEAK UP FOR UYGHURS

When the gas chambers of Nazi Germany were discovered, when the industrialized mass murder of the Jews was revealed to us, people found themselves repeating two words "Never again!" A mantra, a promise that the world will never again let this happen, that it will never again stay silent about large-scale crimes against humanity but 7 decades after the holocaust, the world is doing the same. A new totalitarian state has emerged, a more powerful and ambitious regime than the Nazis. It has spread a deadly virus across the world and now is undertaking a cultural and religious genocide at home.

The Islamic nations and the world stand silent. 37 countries whitewashed China's crimes as counter-terrorism. Uyghurs, a Muslim minority of Turkic ethnicity. They are confined and are being brain-washed in internment camps. Torture, violence, food deprivation, electrocution, political brainwashing and subjection to such harsh treatment, are the making of dystopian fiction but to the Uyghurs, it's their reality. Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Pakistan and Turkey, these countries would have been burning with outrage.

Saudi Arabia would have shut its oil taps, Iran would have issued death warrants, Malaysia would have called



for a conference of Muslim nations, Turkey would be one step ahead, it would have called for a new world order and Pakistan would be doing what it does best, training

armies of terrorists to seek revenge but they are not doing anything of this kind against China. Because these countries, the world's leading Islamic countries have their pockets filled with Chinese cash.

The idea of Muslim solidarity is just a foreign policy tool. They use it when it suits them. Some of these countries challenge India's claims of sovereignty in Kashmir. Here is my challenge for them. Will they ever speak up for the Muslims of China? Will they ever call out China for the ethnic cleansing of Muslims?

Siddhant Natekar,  
Class VIII - Guna,  
Blue Ridge Public School, Pune

## What is the ideal path?

It was quite an unusual experience; I was strolling through my neighbourhood, amongst those narrow, winding alleyways, and into the metropolis that lay ahead. I had a dream—a dream to revolutionize this world, a dream to change the way people lived and offer this civilization a chance to redeem itself.

I was nearly just 10 years old, yet the idiosyncrasies of our world had caught up to me by then. Those speculations about people's destinies, those opinions unasked for, and countless verdicts based on no actual evidence. Yes, the world was a strange place, but its sense of justice was even stranger.

There had been a plethora of inquiries into this unusual sense of reasoning and justice. We have had great minds to the likes of Plato, Socrates, and Voltaire among scholars all over the world, spanning centuries of our history and surpassing eras of great joy and sorrow, all but pondering over the complex fabric of our society.

Take the modern world for example; every young student strives to do better in academics, sports, and what not, yet we forget to do justice to our culture, our traditions, and the immense lit-

erature that lies untouched. Think about the revolutionary change we could bring about by letting young children delve into this world of fascination and discovery. Still, unjustified doubts about whether we will accept this society, having learned about its true nature, will remain.

Why don't we question the narrative of history taught in our country? How is it that millennia of literary work have been defenestrated from the archives of this modern generation? Why is it that the narrative we are taught doesn't align with the goals we strive to achieve? Having said that, where is our sense of justice leading us?

I stood by the seaside, gazing out into the vast ocean, feeling that breeze gently blow, observing those many creatures sprawling across the pearly sand, and yet I wondered: amongst those countless authors describing the beauty of the oceanside, there were nearly none that spoke of the intricate nature and vastness of the very sand that they once stood on, which enabled them to experience that beauty. Imagine if that sand was actually quicksand; how would the poor author, sinking and struggling to survive in that

ever-shrinking world in which he was trapped, ever be able to write that wonderful story?

Dear reader, this beach of sand represents the millions of individuals that make up this world. No one grain can individually chalk out a path, but if taken collectively, they can either become a picturesque tourist destination or a tomb for the very same visitors. That is the true beauty of the world we live in, and this is where, unfortunately, most people forget to look at the bigger picture. When people find that some technology can have a massive impact, they might actually be right; however, when this technology fails, it's not because it had demerits but because society couldn't accept it.

When we wish to change the world, we cannot simply rely on the merit of our thoughts, though they may be for some noble cause; in the end, it's the community that we are a part of that has to decide its fate. So, what is that important thing that everyone is wrong about? Honestly, nothing. Every single individual has a different perspective and way of thinking; what I might find important might as well be worthless to someone else.

Collectively, we have formed a set of opinions and a list of important and not-so-important things. We can only comment on what we can perceive, and in this definitive universe of ours, we have only discovered the relative truths of everything there is from our point of view.

To put it wisely, in the words of Martha Nussbaum and Albert Einstein, "Society has to be understood as an aggregate of individuals, not as a single entity." Society is always in need of those who can think for themselves." Dear reader, it is not about who is wrong and why, but more about who questions and constantly strives towards the impactful truth.



Siddhant Naore, Class VIII, Guna,  
Blue Ridge Public School

Feb 8, 2023  
Wednesday

# Attaining new levels at a novel game

The rollball players of Blue Ridge Public School have bagged first place at the Zilla Parishad level competition. The under-14 and under-17 boys and girls - all four teams bagged first place. Rollball is no less, Skate, Dribble, and Goal! It is an indigenous sport from Pune.

The school is honoured to have this novel game that is played between two teams on roller skates, the game is a unique mix of basketball, handball and throwball in which the objective is to score the most goals within a stipulated time. It is the indigenous sport from Pune, developed by Raju Dabhade, which is played in over 50 countries across five continents.

Blue Ridge as a school has always worked towards the holistic development of a child in every field and gives special emphasis on sports. The Principal of BRPS Surinder Kaur Sayan has always guided the students in their overall personality development. Under her valuable mentorship, the teachers and students are shaping their future towards their holistic development in the fields of Sports and Academics. The Rollball coach Vishal

isfied after the achievements of his students at the Z.P District Level Competition. It was a delightful moment for Blue Ridge students to receive prizes from different dignitaries who are experts in their own fields. The Prizes were distributed by Raju Dabhade (Founder of Rollball), Pramod Kale (Pune District Secretary), and Bhupen-

dra Shamkule (National Basketball player, Mentor of Cyclathon events, An athlete, Trekking events and sports).

First position in all categories was bagged by Blue Ridge Public School, Second position by Vibgyor Balewadi and Third position by Rani Laxmibai Sainik School. All the teams of Blue Ridge Public School got se-

lected for the regional level. The winners received Kudos from the Principal and the school staff. The principal with her team wished all the best to the students as well as the coach to bring many more laurels to the school.

Preeti Shamkule, Facilitator,  
Blue Ridge Public School



Rollball team U 14 AND U 17 Girls and Boys with the Principal Surinder Kaur Sayan, HOD Mamta Chaudhary, and the Coach Vishal Malpote

Friday  
20<sup>th</sup> Jan, 23

## Educator makes school proud

Associate NCC Officer of Blue Ridge Public School - Chanchal Sharma

It's a proud moment for the school to welcome its dedicated, talented teacher from Blue Ridge Public School, Pune - Chanchal Sharma, who won the National Gold Medal at Officer's Training Academy, Gwalior.

The cultivation of discipline in youth is the greatest achievement in NCC. The discipline also unconditionally leads to the path of success in life, the confidence and mental strength during the period of NCC.

128 Junior Wing Lady Associate NCC Officers from the army were awarded ranks in the grand Passing Out Parade at the historic and glorious campus of NCC Officer Training Academy, Gwalior.

ANOs are essential links between military institutions and various schools and colleges. In this academy, a total of 128 trainees from different states of India successfully completed the PRCN Course of three



ANO Chanchal Sharma with principals Surinder Kaur Sayan, Sharmila Kadam, supervisor Preeti D'Souza and Subedar Lal Singh Pawar

ferred with the top honor recently, then bringing laurels to the Pune based 36 MH BN. She also won the National level best pilot award by NCC Air Wing while attending Vyas Sainik Camp as NCC Cadet. She teaches mathematics, leadership and NCC army subjects. She is determined to prepare her NCC Cadets to achieve laurels at National and International level.

The school felicitated Chanchal Tr with a token of love. Both the principals - Surinder Kaur Sayan, Sharmila Kadam, supervisor Preeti D'Souza, NCC Subedar Lal Singh Pawar along with the coordinators and other BRPS staff members were present to grace the occasion.

Chanchal Sharma recalled her beautiful experience and journey of OTA, Gwalior with all members present in the ceremony. Both the principals felt immensely proud and shared their joy and words of gratitude for Chanchal Sharma.

An exuberant and fulfilled aura covered the ambience.

- Preeti Shankale, facilitator at BRPS

months in which various types of army training including basic military training, personality development, instructional skills, Map reading, Drills, Adventures, Sports, Camp training, Yoga, Self-defense, and NCC subjects were covered.

Chanchal Sharma, from 36 MH BN teaching at Blue Ridge Public School, Hinjawadi was adjudged the Gold Medalist of The All India NCC JW PRCN Course 103, held at OTA,

Gwalior(MP) After the successful completion of this course, she will run NCC at BRPS as Associate NCC Officer of 36 MH BN. She was awarded DG NCC Plaque, certificate of merit and Commandant's Gold Medal for being the best in the order of merit and overall performance.

Out of 128 ANOs all over the country commissioned in this course, Chanchal Sharma is the only officer of Maharashtra Directorate to be con-

## PROUD MOMENT FOR BRPS!

Sports and games play an eminent role in the holistic development of the learners. A healthy sports quotient not only ensures good stamina but also refines skills, develops strategies, nurtures team work and builds leadership qualities. Time and again, students have proved their mettle as they participate in many team games where they have shown their balance, speed, accuracy and team work.

It was a proud moment for Blue Ridge Public School as a student, Nisarg Shukla of class V Rainstick, won Gold Medal in U-11 Roll Ball West Zone National Championship held at Dewas, Madhya Pradesh. He has got a great combination of speed, agility, control and precision. Indeed,

it was an inspiring experience to learn and soar high.

A state level roll ball se-

U-11 Boys selection trial. Nisarg was selected for Maharashtra Team. Before going

Ghatkopar, East Mumbai, from 6th September 2022 to 9th September 2022. At the finals, it was Maharashtra Vs Rajasthan where Maharashtra Team won by 3-1.

The Blue Ridge Public School's coach, Vishal Malgote, totally deserve an equal applaud for the amazing game that his student has played. It was under his guidance, Nisarg was not only able to participate but also win the championship.

principal Sharmila Kadam's support and encouragement was indeed important for Nisarg.

Blue Ridge Public School wishes Nisarg the very best to scale new heights of glory in the years to come.

Kavita Gowar, teacher at BRPS



Nisarg Shukla with Principal Sharmila Kadam and the Coordinators (Primary Section BRPS)

lection trial was held at Baner, Pune. There were 68 players who participated in

for West Zone National Roll ball championship 2022, there was a training camp held at

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

Thursday, October 13, 2022.

Tuesday August 30 2022

# Schools celebrate 75 years of Indian independence

## Independence Day Celebration instills patriotic fervour

### Blue Ridge Public School

**C**elebrating 75 years of our freedom at BRPS in a very unique manner. India attained independence from the British on 15th August 1947 and since then, Indians have been celebrating August 15th with all triumph and glory. It is a moment of pride for every Indian.

With India reaching its 76th year of Independence it's time to again celebrate the Azadi we achieved 75 years ago. Every year this memorable day is celebrated with a lot of fervor and enthusiasm to commemorate the struggles and hardships which the Indians had gone through during those tough times.

Blue Ridge Public School celebrated Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav in a very unique manner. The Mahotsav started with an inspiring session taken by Col. Shashank Umalekar - the ex Principal of Army school in Mahu. He conducted a programme 'Sainiko ki Ore Se'



BRPS Celebrating 76th Independence Day

which commenced with a euphonious and inspiring Tiranga song. Col. Umalekar flagged off the program by inspiring students with lovely poetry by Makhan Lal Chaturvedi, titled "Pushp ki Abhilasha". He introduced to the children the origin of the song "Kadam Kadam Badhaye Ja", which is current-

ly the regimental quick march song of the Indian Army using audio-visual aid. Furthermore, he recited one of his own poetries and presented a video on the Khukuri dance by the Gurkha regiment.

The idea behind this is to project the image of the Indian Armed Forces and, secondly, to

highlight the potential of martial music. This he is doing by holding programmes, titled, Sainiko Ki Ore Se wherein he showcases the music, history, war stories, and bravery stories of the Forces through audio-visual medium along with his commentary. The main objective of the session was to get an insight of the martial music, to project the image of Indian Armed Forces and respect towards brave soldiers. Col. Umalekar urged students to explore their talent, art in all the forms and develop their skills with hard work, resolution, dedication and determination. He instilled the spirit of patriotism amongst the young blood by conducting this small meaningful seminar involving music as the core for the students. Col. Umalekar was presented with a "Thank You" card at the commencement of the seminar by the primary principal, Sharmila Kadam. Two students, Arya and Avani Deshpande, from X Vega presented Col. Umalekar an impromptu pen-

cil sketch as a gesture of appreciation and thanks.

An informative and inspiring session on Organ Donation was conducted by Rajesh Shetty, president of 'Rebirth Foundation' for the students of Std. X and XI. Rebirth Foundation is a campaign to encourage and promote organ donation. The seminar started with principal Surinder Kaur Sayan welcoming the convener Rajesh Shetty. The session was conducted in an unconventional manner, using witty videos to invigorate the brain cells of the students. After the informative session, he also answered the queries of the students and inspired the students to take a pledge for organ donation.

This year Maharashtra stands first in Organ donation. Rebirth foundation conducts various activities like Boy 1 and 2, Rangathon, Green Corridor and how the concept worked. This foundation also gives chances to make small films and gives away awards for the same. Rajesh Shetty urged students to pass on the message of Organ donation to the possible masses. The objectives of the ses-

sion were to introduce the concept of 'Organ Donation' and to clear the myth and the taboo surrounding organ donation. After the session, the importance of how one can continue to live after death was understood by the students.

On 15th August the celebration in the school was a level higher. The honorary secretary Ms Swapna, principals Ms Vaidehi, Ms Sharmila and Ms Surinder graced the occasion. The NCC cadets escorted the guests. The parade and slogans of victory for our pride-Hindustan by NCC cadets of 26 Maharashtra Battalion filled the surrounding with patriotism. Surinder Kaur Sayan, principal Secondary and Junior College, was the chief guest for the occasion and hoisted the national flag.

The feeling of patriotism was further enhanced to see the staff in white and tricoloured dresses and NCC cadets in their prestigious uniforms. The Student Council depicted pride and dignity of the school by holding the school house flags. The National Anthem was sung by one and all present followed by Jhanda Geet and NCC song. Later, the speeches delivered by the school

captain, vice-captain and principal Ms Surinder on the importance of the day, made all of us realise it was a herculean task to attain freedom. She also reminded everyone of the warriors who fought during Covid-19 and gave a grand salute to them. She also reminded the students to not forget the way the soldiers, doctors, teachers, and many others faced 'Corona' upfront, keeping their personal interests aside and working for the betterment of the nation and the world.

Continuing the drive Harghar Tiranga proposed by the government, the school distributed tricolour, wristbands and sweets to students followed by sweets and refreshments for the teachers. Program ended on a happy note singing our national song Vande Mataram and paying great homage to our soldiers, warriors during Covid-19 and our freedom fighters. Every individual present at the occasion, left the school with the feeling of Nationalism and Patriotism imbibed in their heart that day.

- Preeti Shankule,  
Facilitator at BRPS

July 29, 2022 Friday

## Investiture held

**Leaders on their Way...**  
As we know Leadership is the capacity to translate Vision into Reality. A leader is the one who knows the way goes the way and shows the way. In the same manner the BRPS leaders are going their way to prove the vision of the school 'Soar to Succeed'.

The school witnesses several events the whole year but events print their impressions on the minds of every one - the teachers, the students, non-teaching staff and many more. It was a proud moment for everyone, the parents, the students and each and every member present in the auditorium. The event was the investiture ceremony for the academic year 2022-23.

The selection procedure was done in several steps. The candidates selected for different positions went through many tough and challenging levels. The level one was the written exam, followed by group discussion level 2 and then the final level of facing the panels.

The regular trend at BRPS is to campaign elections amongst the students and then the students are selected after the fierce competition at the election. With students coming to the school after two years of pandemic, the selection process for the student council was altered for the smooth selection.

The atmosphere of the hall was revitalised, the moment was rejuvenated with the students and newly ap-

pointed office bearers, gathered to celebrate the auspicious occasion. Principal Surinder Kaur, Sayan (sec. Secondary section) and Jr. Colleague, principal Sharmila Kadam (primary section), Preeti D'Souza (supervisor of the school) along with four house masters - Preeti Shamkule (Jal), Lakshmi Tiwari (Vayu), Mohini Kolhatkar (Prithvi) and Gomathi Iyer were present at the occasion.

a great zeal. All the appointed office bearers of AY 2022-23 were felicitated with badges and sashes. Chahana Desai was appointed as the school captain of BRPS followed by Manavi Jugopkar, the vice-captain of the school. Aditya Desai got an opportunity to become the Sports Captain followed by Neil Dhakane - the vice sports captain. The four house prefects for different houses were Prathamveer

BRPS followed by the Editors Nithya Kasling, S Vidya and sub-editors Madhura Yadav and Rudra Iyer.

The oath taking ceremony for all the leaders was led by the Supervisor Preeti D'Souza Tr. The captains, the chief editor and the editors were selected from class X and the vice-captains and the sub-editors were selected from class IX respectively. For the primary - there were different house monitors appointed from class V. Two monitors per house were appointed. Keer Shah and Seelgitha Jain (Jal House), Aditi Girdhar and Adil Paranjekar (Agni House), Anvay Kalambe and Tanvi Koli (Prithvi House), Tanaya Mahajan and Adhishta Naikwadi (Vayu House) respectively.

Both the principals emboldened, encouraged and inspired the students with their motivational words. They congratulated the new student council, as they are the torch bearers of the values and discipline represented by the school.

They are the important members of the school representative team, the role model for their fellow school mates. All the elected members agreed to take up the responsibility with full commitment. A spirit of zeal was spread everywhere. The ceremony ended with delicacies and refreshments for parents and teachers.

Preeti Shamkule, facilitator at Blue Ridge Public School

Secondary student council of BRPS with principal Surinder, principal Sharmila, supervisor Preeti D'Souza Tr and the four House Masters

The ceremony started by welcoming the parents, the guest of honours - both the principals and the House masters. The hall was beautifully decorated and in the midst of continuous clapping and cheering by the parents and students of class IX and X, teachers, coordinators, admin staff, the programme began with the lighting of the lamp by the guest of honour, both the principal, supervisor and the four house masters.

The ceremony began with

CLICK HERE: I

## SCHOOL IS COOL

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022

It's not just Theory of Relativity beyond the

# 'Vismrit Shaurya'- A Book Launch by class X

As Alain de Botton said, "Most of what makes a book good is that we are reading it at the right moment for us." Books are your own stories served from another mind. Students of class X celebrated the launch of the book 'Vismrit Shaurya'.

The Vismrit Shaurya team collaborated and co-operated throughout the year, to write a tribute to the many freedom fighters who are not much re-

membered. The summary of the book tells us about many renowned names of fearless legends who were part of India's great struggle for freedom.

Along with the well-known names, exist many others who have bravely contributed to the independence movement. Their names have faded into darkness. Is it right for these names to remain anonymous or unknown to the masses? Should their sacrifices remain unacknowledged? Let us relive the glory of

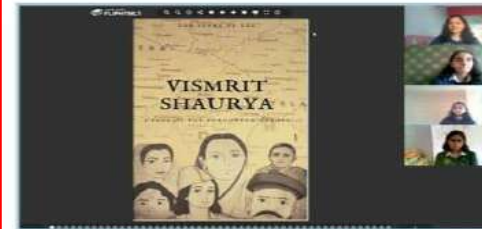
our freedom and bring these names into the light. Let us remember them for what they have done for us. India holds its head high because of these courageous men and women.

Vismrit Shaurya was an initiative taken by history teacher Maminder Kaur with support of principal Surinder Kaur Sayan. Their optimistic guidance, helped students to make this project a success. When she had declared this ini-

tiative that would be conducted in physical schooling. But the launch of the book has made a mark in the history of Blue Ridge Public School itself.

Let us celebrate these bright young authors and artists!

Writers: Anwesha Rath, Anushka Ray, Dhruv Bobade, Pranshu Thakkar, Rucha Walvekar, Aayush Thorat, Janhavi Aherrao, Yashica Rawat, Harshini Dere, Rutuja Yadav.



Displaying front cover of the book 'Vismrit Shaurya', at the book launch



A 'Thank you note' by the class X

tiative in the class, the students were very happy and the response from the number of students interested was astonishing. With the spirit of tribute and gratitude, students worked hard in writing their articles, illustrating, editing and graphically representing.

These talented students have, with effort, very thoughtfully written, illustrated and edited this book. The journey from the announcement of the initiative all the way to click-

about loving our country unconditionally, putting our country's interests before our own, sacrificing our comforts, our lives not for any rewards or awards but for a cause - that is patriotism. With the pandemic affecting our mental and physical health, a lot has changed. While attending online classes for almost two years, the digital world became our 'new normal'. Amid this process, the students lost touch with frequent co-curricular ac-

Shreyas Newe, Saanvi Pathak, Jirina Koner, Rashi Rangrej, Delisha Ramaghatta, Viraj Patel, Illustrations: Mahi Khare, Neha Walwalkar, Yashica Rawat, Advika Bhosle, Nameeta Mehta, Rashmi

Rangrej, Sakshi Sonone, Akshita Moon.

Title: Tanish shinde; Editor: Arushi Rohilla; Graphic editor: Pranshu Thakkar

Preeti Shamkule, teacher, Blue Ridge Public School, Pune



Dear Readers,  
The Student Edition of the Times of India will be re-starting its hardcopy print edition from April 5, 2022.

Kindly get in touch with your respective Teacher Co-ordinator.





# One Step Ahead - Going the extra mile

## Second Vaccination Drive at BRPS

We are going through an unprecedented global predicament today. Each one of us and the entire world is affected by the coronavirus pandemic and now a new pest has knocked on our doors - 'Omicron'. We all need to face and fight this together by following basic steps: social distancing, masks, using sanitisers. Our economy, our families, communities and our entire way of life are adversely affected by the scare of infection.

To overcome the situation and get back into our regular routine, Blue Ridge Public School has welcomed the vaccination drive again - the second dose by securing the school campus in the midst of the pandemic and safeguarding students against Covid-19, eventually helping restart physical classes. Blue Ridge Public School always sets excellent examples to motivate the students and increase their morale. The slogan of the school itself says, 'Soar to Succeed'. The school has always been responsible towards the safety of the students. The first vaccination drive arranged at BRPS was successful with 374 children being inoculated by the



At the 2nd drive for 15 to 18 age group



health workers.

The second vaccination drive was arranged at BRPS Hinjawadi Campus on February 2 with the support of the Sarpanch, Vikram Vasantrao Sakhare and Gram Panchayat Team of Hinjawadi. Students were called in a staggered manner to avoid crowding. After entering the school premises, all the students were seated in a spacious waiting area following all Covid protocols. Parents accompanying their wards were made to wait in a separate waiting area.

Students then proceeded to the Registration desk with extreme caution to complete their Cowin registration formalities and re-

ceive a token for getting the vaccine. Four counters were set up to facilitate speedy registration. Every 'Waiting Area' was supervised by a team of BRPS teachers. After registration students then advanced towards the vaccination room to get the jab.

A team of one doctor and three nurses from the government faculty were present at the vaccination area, facilitating a smooth and quick vaccination process. A team from the 'Gram Panchayat' was also present to oversee the process. Principal Surinder Kaur Sayan administered the entire drive.

The drive became suc-

cessful with 311 children (279 BRPS students and 32 outsiders) being inoculated with the second dose, these segments of population in the 15 to 18 age group got their first dose of vaccination 'Covaxin' on January 5 at BRPS itself. The principal is a great source of motivation, she says, "The school will ensure total compliance with the government policies and try the level best to get all the students vaccinated within a stipulated deadline."

The school staff and the hospital staff were overwhelmed with the cooperation and the positive response of the students and the parents.

# SCHOOL IS COOL

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022

CLICK HERE: P

It's not just  
Theory of Rel.  
beyond the c

## Kanishk wins 'Little Human Calculator' title



The 'Little Human Calculator' - Kanishk Kanawade

**Ambition is the path to success. Persistence is the vehicle you arrive in - Bill Bradley**

Human calculator is a term to describe a person with a prodigious ability in some area of mental calculation (such as adding, subtracting, multiplying or dividing large numbers). We cannot forget famed mathematicians like Shakuntala Devi. Here we have a very young budding star; a little human calculator - Kanishk Kanawade of class II 'Lander cruiser', at Blue Ridge Public School.

At age eight, he has set an astonishing record. He can repeatedly add double-digit numbers 50 times in just 90 seconds. He is guided by Abacus trainer - Pallavi Thite, B. Gauda, India's chief coordinator from the International Wonder Book of Record and Abacus world record holder, witnessed the event and verified the live attempt by Kanishk Kanawade. It was an Open National Level Abacus and Rubik Cube Competition-2022, held in April, at Morwad.

The judges were satisfied with Kan-



ishk's attempt and have awarded him the title of 'Little Human Calculator' and his record was registered in the international wonder book of records.

Principal Sharmila Kadam and the teaching staff are very proud of their

'Little Human Calculator' and congratulated him for his achievement.

As the teachers said, the path towards this award was not easy. Kanishk faced various challenges and difficulties. He was always sure that his hard work would indeed give him all the fruitful results and would enhance his life. He practiced regularly, even during his school exams.

His dedication and hard work is commendable. The parents thanked the principal and her team for continuous support and encouragement.

They also appreciated the teachers for allowing him to take time off from his regular school to participate in the tournament and pursue his dream.

Preeti Shamkule, faculty at BRPS



# Yoga: 'Let Your Inner Light Shine'

## Yoga Day celebration at BRPS



Yoga guru Deepa Mukherji with principal Surinder Kaur Sayan, Sharmila Kadam, volunteers and teachers

Yoga is the most effective way of connecting our soul to God. It balances our mind and body and connects us to the natural world. It also helps us appreciate the world in a healthier approach. Meditation is the most favourable method of balancing the psychological level of a person. It gives immense serenity and peace to the person and helps to under-

take daily struggles in a healthy manner.

Yoga is a physical, mental and spiritual practice which originated in India. It is an invaluable gift of India's ancient tradition. Every individual should embrace Yoga and make it an integral part of our daily routine. Yoga has always been an important part of our culture.

Yoga provides a perfect blend

of knowledge, work and devotion. It is a discipline, dedication and it has to be followed throughout our life. Since its inception in the year 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the day has been observed all over the world.

The day was celebrated with great enthusiasm by students and teachers at Blue Ridge Public School on June 21. Yoga guru Deepa



Panoramic view: Students and teachers perform Yoga

Mukherji, who guided them, is a Government of India certified Yoga teacher, a certified Rope and Belt therapist. She follows the Iyengar style of Yoga founded by BKS Iyengar - a well-known Yoga guru also the founder of Iyengar style of Yoga. According to him, "Yoga is like music, rhythm of the body, melody of the mind and harmony of the soul that create the symphony of life."

Students of classes IX and X escorted Yoga guru Deepa Mukherji

and demonstrated various asanas as the volunteers along with the guru. The positioning of the volunteers along with the Yoga guru was eye captivating. The guru at the centre with the volunteers surrounding her became the centre of attraction for everyone. Warm up exercises, sitting and standing asanas along with 'Om chanting meditation' were performed, and the importance of these were explained simultaneously.

Principal Surinder Kaur Sayan and Sharmila Kadam also performed asanas along with the students. A colourful picture was reflected on the ground while depicting yogasanas, as though nature had draped itself in vibrant colours. Students in their colourful PE uniforms made the ground come alive in the serene beauty of the school.

The seating arrangement of the students from classes III to XI in the direction of the sun's rays created

a zeal of enthusiasm among students as well as teachers. As instructed by Yoga guru Deepa Mukherji, "Regular practice of Yoga will surely help our students achieve a better life physically, mentally and spiritually as well". The celebration ended with a synchronised recitation of shlokas and a token of love from the principal. She encouraged students to practice regular Yoga to remain fit and improve concentration.

{ Tuesday July 5, 2022 }

Thursday June 30' 2022

# Blue Ridge Junior College inaugurated



Inauguration of Jr College at BRPS



Parents at the inauguration

**T**he Blue Ridge Educational Institute's Blue Ridge Junior College was inaugurated on Saturday, June 11 by Shashank Paranjape, the chairman of Paranjape Schemes Pvt. Limited along with Shrikant Paranjape. Among those present were the directors at PSCL - Sanjay Kulkarni & Meghali Katdare management members - honorary secretary Swapna Joshi, Blue Ridge School principals Surinder Kaur Sayan (secondary section & junior college), Sharmila Kadam (primary section), Preeti D'Souza (supervisor),

coordinators, admin staff, teachers, parents and students of class XI.

The entire area was beautifully decorated and amidst much clapping and cheering, the programme began with the inauguration of the new block and admin office by Shashank Paranjape, followed by lighting of the lamp and felicitation of the chief guests. Chief guests Shashank Paranjape and Shrikant Paranjape addressed the audience and shared their experience of building and running the school and also their future plans for the expansion and enhancement of

the school prospects.

Principal Surinder Kaur Sayan gave an inspiring speech stating the vision of Blue Ridge Junior College. She announced the three streams that will be undertaken by BREI's Junior College viz. Science, Commerce and Humanities. She also spoke encouraging words on student's progress not only being limited to excelling in academics, but also encompassing various extracurricular and co-curricular activities with hands-on experience through internship programmes under the pedagogical umbrella.

She emphasised BREI's vision of holistic development of the students, creating a roadway for a successful future.

Blue Ridge Junior College logo was also launched which highlighted the motto of the school, 'Soar To Succeed.' It was a proud and happy moment for the entire Blue Ridge family. The programme ended with a vote of thanks and gratitude was extended to everyone involved in making the event successful.

Manasi Dhandge, teacher,  
Blue Ridge Public School

Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021

# these values

## New Challenges = New Inspiration

**T**his Children's Day my students have given an inspirational new meaning to Corona:

**C** - Children of the new world we are.

**O** - Opportunity of every learning challenge we continue to accept.

**R** - Radiant and bright, we will make our future right.

**O** - On a mission to make our country, parents and elders proud.

**N** - No pandemic will stop us from going forward.

**A** - Alive and Absolute we were, we are and shall be.



**Abdul Nabi Shaikh, art teacher,  
Blue Ridge Public School, Pune**

# Spread the light of festive joy

**T**o make the students understand and imbibe the values of Deepavali, Blue Ridge Public School organized a virtual celebration on October 30. Teachers spoke on the importance of the festival, how it signifies the victory of light

the moments of meeting all their friends and teachers again virtually after the gap of fifteen days made them more enlivened about the special day.

The light of life even amid pandemic enlightened their surroundings, their family, af-

of colourful clay or Atta dough and decorated it in mesmerizing way. Class IV and used ice-cream sticks, paper plate and explored their creativity in making Innovative Lanterns. Looking at splendid lanterns was an eye captivating view for teachers. Class VI to X

in spreading the message of celebrating safe and pollution free Eco-friendly Diwali. Various activities were held to enhance the creative skills of the students.

The students thanked principal Surinder Kaur Sayan and Sharmila Kadam



Children show the diya they made



The lanterns they made for Diwali

over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, good over evil and hope over despair.

The celebration took place all over from classes I to X. Teachers and students were dressed in colourful, festive wear, which added the life to the celebration. They relished

the moments of meeting all their friends and teachers again virtually after the gap of fifteen days made them more enlivened about the special day.

With the students, their family members also participated in the celebrations. Class I to III made attractive Diyas

touched our traditions, preserved our culture by making bright, colourful, attractive, beautiful rangolis. The family members too enjoyed making diyas, lanterns, rangolis along with the students.

Through this virtual platform, Blue Ridge led the way

for the opportunity to meet their friends and teachers before the vacations. The function ended with a message by the school principals, who reminded that children should celebrate a pollution-free Diwali in its purest form by lighting lamps.

Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021

It's just a place where you get to learn Einstein's Relativity. It's also a place where you can think the classroom. Hence we say, **SCHOOL IS COOL!**

03

Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021

## Children take part in Vapanam

Vapanam, a seed sowing activity was held for classes I to V and sapling plantation for classes VI to X students at Blue Ridge Public School recently. The aim was to teach them the importance of being in touch

Classes VI to X painted and decorated the pot and then planted saplings. The activity was conducted in a very unique manner where the joy of the students performing the activity knew no bounds. Through this in-

teractions, the children became a part of creating a sustainable world. Principals Barinder Kaur, Sayan and Sharmila Kadam say one of our core values is "Social responsibility" and BRPS uses every opportunity to enrich the educational ex-

periences and awareness towards nature as environmental issues are a matter of concern these days. There is a way in which every person can care for the environment. Some people respect it. Some try to nurture it. Students know the



Seed sowing activity by the primary kids



Secondary students plant saplings in their decorated pots

with mother Earth. Empty cans, used plastic bottles, pastry containers, paper cups etc were used for sowing seeds like coriander, fenugreek, mustard, chick pea, pea etc that are available at home.

Such activities can help

experience of our students. This is incorporated in teaching and learning various customs and traditions and inculcating different values. The aim of conducting the activity was to expose students to ecological

Vapanam activity promised to plant more saplings and grow more seeds around their home and society.

Preeti Shankula, facilitator, Blue Ridge Public School, Pune

## Learning the culinary arts

Ultimately, the greatest help is self-help - Bruce Lee

We know the spirit of self help is the root of all genuine growth in the individual. To develop this genuine growth

Ridge Public School of classes I to X participated in the activity 'Being Human - Self-Help Day'. Students from different levels prepared various dishes without flame. Delicious bhel was made by classes I and II. Students of

made sandwiches and mouth-watering juices.

Class VII students went with Indo-western fusion, a healthy chapatti pizza with toppings of tomatoes, sprouts, capsicum, carrot cheese.

Class VIII to X made sprout dish to make it perfect. In the same manner, the right proportion of each ingredient helps make life peaceful. The world is full of challenges, every individual needs to be self-dependent, self-sufficient. We should always be



Class VIII students make salads at the Self Help activity



And class V make sandwiches and juices

budding chefs at Blue Ridge Public School made various dishes, designed, plated and presented and used their culinary skills in preparing various delicacies like bhel, salads, juices, roti pizza and sprouts.

The master chefs of Blue

classes III and IV made artistic fruit salads in different shapes, using a variety of fruits which were ornately arranged. It was an eye-captivating view. They arranged the fruits in various sequences, and beautiful formations. Classes V and VI

### SELF HELP DAY

and vegetable salad. This activity 'Being Human' was conducted to teach the beauty of being together and also to make students learn every ingredient is important in a

ready to help others; this is possible only if the individual is happy with oneself. This year, Blue Ridge has taken an initiative to teach students to help their parents in their work. To lessen their burden and be a great support in culinary skills.

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

I feel it is impossible to introduce this system here without reforming the current educational system. Children should be given homework that teaches them **SOME-THING NEW AND INTERESTING**, instead of making it a chore.



MOULI CHOWDHURY, class x, Blue Ridge Public School, Pune

Friday, February 28, 2020

## Down the memory lane



Principal Smita Kshirsagar performs along with the teachers



Grandparents enjoy the performances along with their grandchildren.

### Grandparents' Day celebration at BRPS

Grandparents are a family's greatest treasure, the founders of a loving legacy, the avid storytellers, the keepers of traditions, the family's support. Through their special love and care, grandparents keep a family closely knit. To honour them, Blue Ridge Public School celebrated Grandparents' Day - 'Down the Memory Lane' recently. The function was arranged on the occasion of the Foundation day of the school.

The entire programme was selected and arranged by keeping in mind the taste of

the audience. The function started with welcoming the grandparents followed by melodious choir group singing the old advertisements of 60s and 70s which were telecast during the grandparents' era on the television. These were followed by the dance performances on a few evergreen hits from the "Golden Era of Bollywood". This made the dada-dadis, nana-nanis nostalgic and they enjoyed to the hilt with the children who brought a twin-ke to their eyes.

Many power-packed dance performances by students and teachers left the spectators spellbound and thoroughly mesmerised. The icing on the cake was the



The themed poster on the occasion

They visited their grandchild's classroom, sat on their benches and interacted with the teachers, reliving their own school days. They laughed and wrote and drew pictures along with their grandchildren and had a whale of a time making memories.

They indulged on tasty, hot potato vadas and sweet, fresh bananas. The hot tea served later rounded off the effect to perfection of ecstasies. With a promise of seeing us again the next year, same day, same time, the grandpas and grannies bid everyone school a good-bye.

- Preeti Shankula, Blue Ridge Public School

dance performance by the principal.

1<sup>st</sup> October 2019

For connecting with all... My learnings about Bapu first occurred when I read, 'My Experiments with Truth'. He is remembered for his principles – no fear, no favour, no violence. He walked miles connecting with people of all communities. When he went abroad, global leaders saw him as a symbol of change.



MANINDER KAUR, teacher, Blue Ridge Public School, Pune

For his vision of a 'clean' nation...

A believer in resistance, he always spoke the truth... He fought for positive changes, such as a clean nation for tomorrow's youth... He wouldn't tolerate injustice and believed in non-violence. And that's what makes him a true visionary.



PREETA DHAMDHERE, class X, Blue Ridge Public School, Pune

29.1.2020 Wednesday

### Vote, for change

#### Republic India, Responsible India!

Our country, since the dawn of 28th January 1950, has been a 'Republic Nation'. A land where the power of governing lies in the hands of those being governed. This is done through a fair election process where the citizens of India vote for their choice of delegates. However, India being a vast country, it becomes an immense task to make sure every citizen votes. Even though facilities have been made for even the illiterate sector in our region to vote, the voter turnout has never been one hundred percent.

As it's rightly said, every drop counts, it becomes important for every citizen to understand the value of their opinion. Even though a single vote may not stand for much on its own, the small effort of many has always proved

advantageous for our land. When a political leader works for our country, its effect, positive or negative, is experienced by nearly everyone in India. For the most part, one complains about the changes occurring here, not realising that the power to decide who makes these changes and how they go about lies in your hands!

When we cast our vote we not only make a choice of leader but also a choice of responsibility.

My best friend's parents travelled to Mumbai in the middle of the week to cast their vote, proving that this responsibility is entering more households by the year.

Our Lok Sabha Elections in 2019 attracted a voter turnout of 67.11%, which is the highest we've ever seen!

It fills me up with pride to see such progress within our nation- the impor-



tance of minuscule things that matter a great deal has been realised by our people, which is the best change that mother India could see in its children.

- Shruti Padhys, class IX, Blue Ridge Public School

### Changing India from the grassroots

"The food you eat can either be the safest and most powerful form of medicine or the slowest form of poison," said Ann Wigmore. The health problems caused by excessive use of chemicals on crops have reached an all-time high. It has become necessary for us to know where our food comes from. Inspired by our ancestors' utilisation and preservation of nature, Padma Shri Subhash Palekar decided to revolutionise Indian agriculture by creating a low cost, sustainable method of farming.

Formerly called Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), Subhash Palekar Natural Farming (SPNF) involves zero expenditure on pesticides and fertilizers and uses only farm-based resources. This makes the produce safe to eat. Over 50 lakh Indian farmers have benefitted from SPNF methods.

Agriculture is the backbone of India. In past practices, farmers would



Padma Shri Subhash Palekar revolutionised Indian agriculture by creating a low cost, sustainable method of farming

have to invest a lot of money and would get fluctuating returns, and the unpredictable climate didn't help. Palekar's service to the country is invaluable as it benefits every Indian involved- farmers earn more money and we eat chemical-free food! But above all, we are making sure that our activities do not render the earth unproductive for future generations, which is the purpose of sustainability. There is truly no greater deed than safeguarding the health of the people and Mother Earth; and, in turn, their future.

Biomagnification is a vicious cycle, and we humans are the beginning and end of it. If we put pesticides in the soil, they come back to us in various ways; and we know the consequences. This Republic day let's pledge to think about "The greater good".



- Preeta Dhamdhare, class X, Blue Ridge Public School

20/9/2019 Friday

## BRPS educators awarded Maj. Dhyan Chand Sports Award for teaching

**S**harmila Kadam, Preeti D'Souza and Seema Vishwakarma received the 'Major Dhyan Chand Sports Award-2019' in the teaching field. The awards have been instituted by Ajinkya Cricket club to appreciate the achievers in teaching as well as sports field. The teachers were honoured for their excellency in the 'teaching field.'

The awards were given in memory of and to honour the remarkable achievements of Maj. Dhyan Chand, one of the greatest hockey players in the history of the sport. He was known for his extraordinary goal-scoring feats, in addition to earning three Olympic gold medals in 1928, 1932 and 1936, during an era where India dominated the hockey field.

Smita Kshirsagar, founder principal of Blue Ridge Public School was the chief guest



(From left) Preeti D'Souza, coordinator, BRPS; Sharmila Kadam, supervisor- primary section, Smita Kshirsagar, principal, Tabassun Anvar Shaikh, principal, Paschim Educational Trust, Seema Vishwakarma, coordinator, Preeti Shyamkule, facilitator (BRPS)

on the occasion. Also present were Olympian Vikram Pillay

Vishakha Gaikwad, national sports player and many other

India won the field hockey event in seven out of eight Olympics from 1928 to 1964. It is believed that after India defeated Germany in the 1936 Olympics final 8-1, Adolf Hitler offered

Major Dhyan Chand a senior post in the German Army which he refused.



dignitaries. Preeti Shamkule compered the event.

The dignitaries congratulated the awardees and the organizers.



6<sup>th</sup> September 2019



The decor made entirely of eco-friendly materials

### Let's please both the God and Goddess Earth

Every year, we manifest our devotion towards Lord Ganesha into beautiful displays surrounding his idols. But, we often forget our obligation of caring for the environment in the process.

This year, my society made sure that we pleased both our God and Goddess- Lord Ganesha and Mother Earth. We adorned the stage with replicas of landmarks from the 4 corners of India, our theme being historical monuments. It was a real chal-



Preeta Dhamdhare, class X, Blue Ridge Public School

lenge figuring out an eco-friendly substitute for materials such as plastic, colours and adhesives. But we did it piece by piece, we used wheat paste and made colours from coffee and turmeric. Our idol too was made in-house. When the going got tough, it was truly our intense love for the festival that kept us going. Making this celebration eco-friendly should be as essential as the festival itself. We truly give justice to the festival when in place of pollutants, only happiness remained behind.

- Preeta Dhamdhare, class X, Blue Ridge Public School

Modaks, dhol-tasha, devotion and celebration. The most awaited and revered festival of Maharashtra, Ganesh Chaturthi brings with it unparalleled joy and opportunities to indulge in community gatherings, hone our skills and much more. We find out from young Pune-kars what the festival means to them and how they are celebrating it this year.

### An environmentally friendly celebration

Indians have always been extremely enthusiastic about celebrating the festivals close to our heart with ardour. However, over years and years of expressing love for our culture, we've failed to protect our environment. Before the damage is too much to be rectified, everyone has started celebrating Ganesh Chaturthi in an eco-friendly manner.

At Blue Ridge Public School, the eco-friendly approach toward this festival is inculcated in the students early on. Every year, an eco-friendly Ganesh idol making competition is held, open to all the students from grades V to VIII. Shadu mat, an environmental-friendly alternative to plaster of



Paris, is given to every student. The competition not only gets our creative juices flowing, but also protects Mother Nature while we are at it. Even though the competition has only three official "winners", taking a step toward saving nature makes every participant a winner.

- Shruti Padhye, class IX, Blue Ridge Public School

A Ganesh idol made of shadu clay during the competition



## School band mesmerises

It is very rightly said, "Music is the voice of the soul". These soulful voices were heard by the students of Blue Ridge Public School, as expressed by their fellow friends on the occasion of World Music Day, celebrated recently.

Budding singers and music connoisseurs of the school presented a beautifully crafted programme on the occasion. The pertinent blend of classical and western music mesmerised the audience and left them wanting to hear more. The programme started off with a classical song sung

by the students, along with musical medley of a harmonium, a keyboard, and a congo. This was followed by a western song, "Lazarus", originally sung by the band, Porcupine Tree which silenced the room in awe.

The programme ended with the band singing "Aake saavan aise barse" by Shubha Mudgal. The hall resounded by a thunder of applause. Everyone left feeling light-headed and happy. Music does indeed lift the soul up. The band at Blue Ridge Public School indeed made sure that Music Day was ho-



- Shruti Padhye, class IX, Blue Ridge Public School



The music band of Blue Ridge Public School poses with their music teachers- Sangeeta and Rajesh

noured with all the respect it deserved.

- Shruti Padhye, class IX, Blue Ridge Public School

## Education: Let's restore its true essence

Alan Bloom once said, "Education is the movement from darkness to light". But nowadays, the noticeable and substantial education system has changed to a "money making machine". But what is the reason for this principle change? According to me, the reason for this supreme transformation is the attitude of dissatisfaction that is present in people. We want expertise in every field - be it science, technology, arts, banking or something else. This gluttonous behaviour of humans has created competition all over the globe, creating opportunities for immensely glibish people, who use it for their

own welfare. The more demands for grades create another demand in the form of expensive coaching. The education system, after the industrial revolution, has seen only one and only money. It is not only the complications or greed of these big-budget coaching classes but us and our parents who are after marks. It is said that "Mistakes are the proof that you are trying" but its true meaning is not understood by us. Today, people want everything at the snap of a finger. Parents don't invest hard work and time in the academics of their children and admit them in tuitions, unburdening themselves. It



STUDENT'S PEN

is widely said, "Teach to the individual, not to the curriculum," but this is losing significance in the present

era. These coaching institutes take advantage of these issues, therefore demanding a huge sum of money in the name of several fees and donations, which middle-class families cannot afford, leading to discontent among all. It is us who can change this infrastructure of education by dedicating our hard work and time to studies and form a strong learning base. This will lead to a bright future and make education once again the key to unlocking the golden door of freedom and success. -Lakshya Chaudhary, class IX, Blue Ridge Public School, Pune

## Too much 'ado' about adolescence

Adolescence is just another phase, like childhood, adulthood or old age. The idea of fearing any age period has much to do with western influences in our country. No doubt there are some biological changes, but changes occur even during our childhood or old age. Westerners, most of them, fear this age as there

is no stable family set up in their culture. In India, we thrive and respect our family culture. The right approach in life will make us realize that every year is valuable and demanding as the other. In the four stages of life, the adolescence is the best and most desirable period. The decision making cycle begins and we assume re-



sponsibilities. This will remain as a foundation for our future. So, Why make a fuss over adolescence? Enjoy every phase!

STUDENT'S PEN

- Siddharth Balaji, class IX, Blue Ridge Public School

# Be Humane AHOY! SOAR TO SUCCEED



It's not at all the percent,  
Nor just about the marks.  
It's more about the values,  
A teacher that embarks.

Creativity kidnapped?  
Who says so?  
Is it mere an object,  
So easy to be trapped?

Be Education a business,  
Certainly it is ours.  
The profit is the student's joy,  
Whose eyes be twinkle-stars,  
Much ado about adolescence,  
Has seldom won a stall.  
For evolution in the true essence,  
Has challenges standing tall,

**From the  
Principal's Pen**

Smita Kshirsagar, Principal,  
Blue Ridge Public School, Pune

If there be a rat race,  
Indeed I believe there's none.  
Become a skillful Piper who  
Knows to play which one.  
Feminism or gender bias  
Keep doing the rounds.  
Why, all over the universe

Humanity abounds!

Cheers to the millennials!  
Who take us off the course,  
To take some learning trails  
And build up on resource.

A teacher's love and joy  
None can ever exceed  
When she says, "Aho!"  
My child did Soar To Succeed"

The student edition of *The Times of India* you hold in your hand today is not an ordinary edition. This is a special edition that has been exclusively edited by heads of educational institutions and school students, to bring you a direct feel of what a youth newspaper should read and look like. This time we invited Smita Kshirsagar, Principal, Blue Ridge Public School, Pune and her dynamic editorial team to visit our premises, write some stories for this edition and edit it for you. We believe, when it comes to bringing out a newspaper for students and young readers, there is nobody better than you who can guide us in our efforts.

# Putting Sustainability Into Practice

To raise awareness about environmental issues, the project, this year was dedicated towards fostering ownership for the environment for the school students. The project implemented gave an opportunity to students to voice their ideas and thoughts through the medium of art and creativity by all means.

It is a belief that Art and its expressions is a special thread that strongly binds our green thoughts together which inspires constructive thinking and brings about a change among the students. Ensuring that the real issues and solutions for the environment is successfully understood and addressed in a creative manner. "Learning is their journey Let them navigate



Push them to explore  
Watch them discover  
Encourage their questions  
Allow them to struggle

Support their thinking  
Let them fly.  
This motivation given by the teachers was proved by the

students by developing recreation area for teachers. This recreation area was a feeling of deep admiration for the teachers which was the excellent work of creativity under the guidance of our project co-ordinator Varsha Kirdak.

This was a mission to bring out the creativity in the children by way of giving them a platform to exhibit.

Their skills, knowledge and more important the artistic side of expressions of their thoughts through the platform of group project.

Freeti Shamkul,  
Teacher, BRPS, Pune

# A 'Peace' Poem

Peace, peace  
Let war on earth cease  
Peace contains happiness  
Anger on earth should be less

Let birds fly  
and wild be free  
Wearing the fleece  
Be warm, be peace

Peace, peace, peace, peace  
Let war on earth cease  
We will make noise decrease  
And make peace increase

Remove cold and don't freeze  
Make happiness' magic increase  
Put people at ease

Peace, peace  
Let war on earth cease  
Peace contains happiness  
Anger on Earth should be less

- Gargi Hate, V-Riq  
Blue Ridge Public School



# In 'Peace'

In my day of Peace,  
There should be silence,  
In my day of peace,  
There is no room for violence.

The people I love,  
The friends I meet,  
Are calm and kind,  
Indeed!

The butterflies and ladybugs  
That fly around me,  
The flowers that bloom,  
Make me smile,  
With lots of glee.

The roads I walk,  
The air I breathe,  
Full of freedom,  
This is my day of Peace!

- Surabhi Halbe, V-Riq  
Blue Ridge Public School



# Freedom to 'Be'

Having the freedom to do whatever your heart likes isn't such a new idea. Although many kids still feel like they are being caged, parents do let their kids do what they want, most of the time. What we as kids want is freedom without responsibility. But some fail to understand that these two go hand in hand. This is something that needs to be fixed.

This concept of independence is contextual depending on the child's views, parent's experiences and upon the responsibility the child is capable of handling. For instance, an eight-year-old child might want freedom to play games on the mobile phone, but may not know when to put the phone down. A teenager may be yearning to get away from the clutches of elders to be an independent grown-up, but without the baggage of responsibility. This is when we kids should

realize that freedom comes with responsibility. What we should always believe in is that our parents love us and when they do something it is generally for our good. "Independence" is a strong word. The question is not whether children should be given inde-



pendence, but how much freedom they should get as children. If then we should be happy with the amount of freedom we get.

Ishita Saraf & Nikita Udoshi, class VIII, Blue Ridge Public School, Pune



The editorial team from Blue Ridge Public School, pose with their teachers and Principal, at the newspaper office in Pune - where they discussed and tried to make sense of 'Generation Gap'



Sporting fitness



The recreation area at BRPS campus that the students made



Raising the height of success @BRPS



In preparation for the 'stage of life'



Class VI students explain their school project to coordinator Susmita Tripathi and their Principal

## An Experience to be Treasured

Presenting your views to the world is truly an underrated necessity. We were really fortunate to be provided with this opportunity by Times NIE. It was interesting to see how in a small group of fourteen, the ideas showed great variation. Ranging from test scores to education becoming a business, from teen issues to feminism, a plethora of ideas was brought into the spotlight.

We were given a glimpse into the happening world of journalism and the chance to be a part of it. We learnt about a variety of topics such as brainstorming innovative ideas, collecting facts, delving deeper into our topics of choice and collaborating to bring out the best in us. We were guided at each step by professionals at NIE as well as teachers at our school.

It brought to limelight the strenuous, yet rewarding, tasks that journalists face throughout their career. On the surface, we see just an article but deep below lay many layers of hard work, perseverance and dedication. The society is under the impression that journalism is a very laid-back career, but such experiences change one's perception about the vast world that is article writing.

Overall, we really enjoyed the long but fruitful process of inciting our inner journalist. We became more articulate, eloquent and expressive; it also inculcated a sense of respect towards others' opinions and saw things from a different point of view besides our own. We are truly grateful to Times NIE for introducing us to this vast platform.

- Aryaman Karoliwal, Ishita Saraf, Shruti Padhye, Nikita Udoshi, Lakshya Chaudhary of class VIII & Preeti Dhamdhare class IX, BRPS, Pune

## Blue Ridge notches up remarkable achievements

'A life of success and achievement is a direct result of utilizing the power of positive thinking.' This quote has been made reality by the achievers of Blue Ridge public school at the 'All India Drawing, Handwriting and Essay writing Competition 2018-19' organized by All India Citizens Development Centre.

The Akhil Bhartiya Nagarik Vikas Kendra, a prestigious national Institute organises various competitions every year for school children to inculcate and promote good habits and build confidence in them. It also tries to make sensible and well informed citizens.

Principal Smita Kshirsagar believes in nurturing creativity and developing a high aesthetic sense among children. According to her 'Hard work

always pays off and we have to prove it'; this was evident in the results declared for All India Drawing, Handwriting and Essay writing Competition 2018-19. The awards announced for Blue ridge public school are: the Kala Shri Award 2018 was awarded to: Aditi (class I Beetroot), Ojas (class II Laforza), Aarohi (class III), Ananta Agarwal (class IV), Bhavieka Sinha (class V); 2) Vidya Bhushan Award 2018 was awarded to: Yashvi Sharma (class I Brinjal), Niharika Sharma (class III Unique), Shriya Apsankar (class IV Eel), Ishika Agrawal (class V Rebec); 3) Best teacher award 2018 was awarded to: Sheetal Waralkar; 4) Ideal Principal 2018 award was awarded to: Smita Kshirsagar; 5) Best School Award 2018 was awarded to: Blue Ridge public school.

# In Search of Our True Inner 'Self'

Illustration by Shruti Padhye



## Creativity Kidnapped

Creativity, novel ideas and knowledge evolution have taken an E-turn, just like most of the other lines of education, learning and knowledge have. Today most of the projects, assignments and creative work allotted to students are seen as a means to obtain all 'Google Search Results' for a specific topic.

An evolving thought process of developing something original and creative seems to have vanished, and students have become mere robotic instruments that gather information/images/articles available easily on the internet. This trend is

not only in our part of the world. The effect of this "paralysis of novel ideas" has spread its roots across the globe specially among young students.

The need of the hour, is that the children be moulded, from the moment they start learning, in a manner where they gain the ability and confidence to think and create 'original' scripts'. Let us all pledge to wake up to this need of 'Creative Development' of our work and gain independence from dependence on "Google institute of everything".

Samratth Singh, class VIII, Blue Ridge Public School, Pune

Students write on the need for a well-rounded education - which gives equal weight to the 'emotional quotient' as well as Spiritual quotient - Create sensitive individuals.

Illustration by Ishita Saraf



## The Rat Race

Education is the acquisition of knowledge, skills, beliefs, and habits. It is an important aspect of being a good human and by extension, a good citizen. Hence, we must ensure that a student acquires as much as knowledge as possible at school, and not be burdened with the cores.

Nowadays, students are under pressure to get the 'first rank' and often run behind getting 100% rather than actually understanding the concepts. Students and sometimes even parents, forget the true essence of education. Rather than getting caught up a rat race to score meaningless perfect scores, they must have a definite goal. As

a suggestion, to achieve the same, we can think of including analytical skill evaluation and logical reasoning instead of the conventional method.

We must discover our true passion and cultivate it into our profession. We need to work on it from our school days. Also, we should spend time understanding the topics and must try to implement them in the real world outside their textbooks. Education is not just about getting a degree. It is about widening our knowledge and absorbing the truth about life.

Krishna Bijuraj, class IX, Blue Ridge Public School, Pune

# Beyond Gender Stereotypes

## Feminism - born of a necessity

As people of the 21st century, we live in a world fostered with modern ideas, beliefs and goals. In fact a lot has changed in recent years. One major thing is that after years and years of being put down and dominated by men, women are standing up for themselves. In spite of being so accepting about everything else, our society is still extremely narrow minded in their attitude towards women.

Every woman who strongly believes in herself and others like her is considered aggressive, isolating and "anti-men". But what gets me wondering the most is that why does the need to be feminist arise at all? Men and women are born with the same potential and have an equal role to play in the world's progress. Then why are girls today being harassed, judged and mistreated for making decisions for themselves?

The need for a movement for women (which is feminism) arises because we live in a society where mythical goddesses are worshiped while real girls are oppressed. Even today there are certain countries where women are paid less than their male counterparts, the wage gap being huge. The very basic freedom to be born is not given to a girl - the reason why gender revelation before birth is outlawed. Feminists are not women asking to dominate. They are simply asking for equal rights. As we head towards a common goal, it is of vital importance that this issue be addressed and solved immediately.

Shruti Padhye & Chhavi Dikholkar, class VIII, BRPS, Pune



Illustration by Shruti Padhye

## The Millennial Matrix

There has been a major attitude shift in the millenials on topics like, gender stereotypes, education and teen issues. Speaking of gender, millenials are redefining the meaning of it. Gender no longer defines destiny or behavior as it once did. Today women, and men too, expect equal opportunity to succeed in every walk of life - in career or as caretakers.

They also are changing the face of education system, as they are benefited by Internet and other various modes of technology which gives them a platform to bring their own experiences and ideas to the classroom and make learning fun.

Although teens today are blessed with great technology - we must learn to make use of these advantages that will surely benefit us and the coming generations.

Hrutiya Pawar, class IX, Blue Ridge Public School, Pune



*You are Not your Test score.  
You are so much More.*

In every school, the logical-mathematical intelligence has been glorified and put on a pedestal. Students are told that having this particular intelligence makes you smart. If you don't have it, you aren't gifted. We all, as students, have been giving standardized tests in our schools. But how valid are these tests? They do help gauge our academic 'progress' but they also have some adverse effects on the students.

They involve answering questions which require memorizing rather than applying practical knowledge. So it does not ensure that the pupils actually understand what they write. You cannot judge someone's success by just looking at how well they have performed in any standardized tests. These are not the only ways a student's potential can be measured. Why are people judged on the ba-



sis of only a few intelligence types? Why are intra-personal and naturalist intelligences less respected than the others? Based on insufficient parameters, opinions are formulated and attitudes develop. People who don't fit into society's frame of reference are considered as outliers and pitied. Such mindsets are the cause of problems

like social insecurity, anxiety and depression among the teens.

Having a high IQ might guarantee you an edge over the rest in some ways. But a low Emotional Quotient will certainly make it difficult for you to manage and interact with other people at work or in school.

Other capabilities, in athletics, in music, emotional and spatial should be considered at par and given the same respect. This is the only way that we can ensure equality among all citizens.

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid." Let's never forget these words of Albert Einstein.

Jival Chorawala & Preeta Dhamdhere, class IX, Blue Ridge Public School, Pune

## Is the 'extra' curricular activity really needed?

*By education, I mean an all-round drawing of the best in child and man in body, mind and spirit - Mahatma Gandhi*

Such simple yet powerful words by Gandhiji vividly portray the need for a holistic approach to education. So it comes as a surprise that we continue to use "extra" curriculum for all non-academic activities that build the most crucial life skills in the young.

These "extra" activities allow peer interactions beyond the confines of a classroom and introduce socialization skills without letting go self-identification. They teach the art and science of being a great leader

as well as being a graceful follower.

For long we've read that great civilizations flourish under the watchful eyes of great rulers. But this to me is only half truth.

Great civilizations were built because the larger set of people had good social skills, they knew a thing or two about art, culture, literature, and they were compassionate and knew the art of amicably disagreeing on topics that matter. Isn't the sum total of societies col-

lective social skills the foundation stone of a great civilization?

The so-called extra curriculum activities provide the foundation for young minds to practice and learn these life skills. These activities sure deserve to be treated at par (if not higher) than pure academics. So rather than calling it 'extra' let's treat it as important part of school curriculum.

Aryaman Karolwal, class VIII, Blue Ridge Public School, Pune



## Rakshabandhan Celebrations with Indian Army at BRPS

Rakshabandhan at Blue Ridge Public School (BRPS) was celebrated with great fervor and gaiety. The celebrations were done in two segments - in the school on August 23, 2018 and at an army camp with the Indian soldiers on August 26, 2018.

On August 23, 2018, within the school premises students of VI and VII participated in Mehendi competition while the students of III, IV and V participated in Gift Wrapping Competition. The young ones of Std. I and II had the Rakhi Making Activity. The values of togetherness, love and unity were imbibed in each competition and activity.

On August 26, 2018, thirty students from BRPS reached Rakshak Chowk Army Unit Camp, Aundh, Pune at 9:00 am. The day started with the students tying rakhis to Army jawans of Malhar regiment of Indian Army, who appreciated this gesture. Army persons wished all the sisters health and happiness, and also prayed for their success. The students interacted with their brothers in 'olive-greens', wished them health and happiness and also prayed for their success in their mission to protect the Motherland. The event was conducted in association with the NGO, Dhruv Foundation. It gave the students, who strongly felt that the soldiers are the real brothers for them as they safeguard the border, an opportunity to express their love to our Army soldiers.

## BRPS celebrates at an Army camp

Raksha Bandhan at Blue Ridge Public School was celebrated with great fervor and gaiety. The celebrations were done in two segments - in the school on August 23 and at an army camp with the Indian soldiers on August 26.

On August 26, 30 students from BRPS reached Rakshak Chowk, Army unit camp, Aundh at 9 am. The day began with the students tying rakhis to soldiers of the Malhar regiment of the Indian Army, who appreciated this gesture. Army persons also prayed for their success. The students interacted with their brothers in 'olive-greens', wished them health and happiness and also prayed for their success in their mis-



sion to protect the motherland. The event was conducted in association with the non-governmental organisation, Dhruv Foundation. It gave the students an opportunity to express their love to our army soldiers, the real brothers who safeguard our borders.

Earlier, on August 23, students of classes VI and VII participated in a mehendi competition while the students of classes III, IV and V participated in gift wrapping competition. Classes I and II had the rakhi making activity. Values of togetherness, love and unity were imbibed through each competition and activity.

Students celebrate Raksha Bandhan at the Army unit camp, Aundh

6/4/2018

## BRPS highest contributor to Childline Foundation

Childline 1098 is the only national, emergency, free phone outreach service for children in distress, linking them to long term services for their care, protection and rehabilitation.

BRPS has been rendering its help to Childline India Foundation (CIF) since 2012. This year Blue Ridge Public School (BRPS) has been the largest contributor across India. The students from Class III to VI collected a total of Rs 6,68,605/- with great zeal and fervor.

BRPS ensures that there is an integrated effort and support between the students and teachers. This embeds social responsibility into the students and play a big role in the creation of more responsive, responsible and sustainable citizens.

## BRPS recognised by Childline for highest contribution

**B**lue Ridge Public School was recently recognised by Childline India Foundation for its support and contribution. Childline- 1098 is the only national, emergency, free phone outreach service for children in distress, linking them to long term services for their care, protection and rehabilitation.

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BRPS ensures that there is an integrated effort and support between the students and teachers. This embeds social responsibility into the students and plays a big role in the creation of more responsive, responsible and sustainable citizens.



Principal Smita Kshirsagar is felicitated by Childline Foundation

## A week without books and timetables



Exploring their love for music



Enhancing creativity

**B**lue Ridge Public School gives its students and teachers an opportunity to explore their innate qualities and talents through a 'Self-Exploratory Week'. It is practiced every year after the final examination. This year it is being conducted at the school for classes I to VI from April 11 to 18. Herein, the students are free to do what they want but without any equipments or games brought from home. They can use the resources available within the school premises and devise any game or creative work to keep them busy. This makes the students discover themselves-what they can do if they are allowed to be all on their own without any intervention.

Teachers are shuffled across different classes and given a completely different environment- a class that they have not been to throughout



Trying out a fun game



Exploring the fun of learning together

the year. The way of interacting and dealing with these students provides them a new insight and adds to their experiences.

The motive behind this is a deeper understanding of one's own self which improves

self-esteem, communication and relationships. Children and teachers both look forward to this week with enthusiasm as fun and frolic is in the air. Thus, the qualities like problem solving, decision making and team spirit get de-

veloped effortlessly in a very conducive environment. The values thus get ingrained in the students permanently

### A week without timetable at BRPS

Blue Ridge Public School celebrates a 'self-exploratory week' every year after the final examination to give its students and teachers an opportunity to explore their innate qualities and talents. This year, it was conducted for Standard I to VI.

Students were given an opportunity to use the resources available within the school premises and devise any game or creative work to keep them busy. This made the students discover themselves— what they can do if they are allowed to be all on their own without any intervention.

Teachers were shuffled across different classes and given a class that they had not been to throughout the year. The activity helped students imbibe problem solving, decision-making and team spirit in a



■ It's definitely a poll-winning budget. Hopefully, with the new budget proposal for farmers, suicides will come to an end. No income tax for those earning up to ₹ 5 lakh is another move that will bring cheer among the middle-class people.

**CHHAVI DIKHOLKAR, class VIII, Blue Ridge Public School, Pune**



## Blue Ridge bags ISA Award

It was a proud moment for Blue Ridge Public School when the school received the International School Award by the British Council for the year 2018-21 on December 4 at Taj Hotel, Bengaluru.

The coordinators Maninder Kaur and Kavita Hegde along with the team of teachers and students completed the ISA project under the guidance and leadership of principal Smita Kshirsagar.

A portfolio of evidence was submitted of school's international work, which was assessed by a panel of council to nurture global citizenship in young people, also enriching teaching and learning experience.

The comprehensive effort made by the school administration, teaching and non-



Principal Smita Kshirsagar (centre) along with coordinators Kavita Hegde (left) and Maninder Kaur with the International School Award

teaching staffs and the students resulted in winning the recognition.

The British Council's In-

ternational school Award, the accreditation schemes recognises and celebrates exemplary practices of interna-

tionalism in schools. The purpose of participating was to enhance the child's creativity in all aspects by giving the international dimensions to all the activities.

It provides a framework for schools to develop an action plan and implement international activities round the year. It also urges schools to innovate with overseas schools on creative teaching practices and real time global learning.

The school has worked on various projects that were designed for each class. Right from food, costumes, virtual world tour, environment, geography, education system, school students guided by their teachers, coordinators got involved in a number of fun-filled activities while applying for the programme.



# Carnival and more for children

**BRPS hosts 'The Global Carnival'**

Students at Blue Ridge Public School (BRPS) had a gala time on November 14, the Children's Day. The school had organised 'The Global Carnival' where the students along with their family members and friends binged on the tasty bites and played several exciting games.

The carnival was declared open by principal Smita Kshirsagar at 4:00 pm and within no time the air at the BRPS playground was charged with joy, vibrance and cheer where the students started exploring and enjoying to the hilt. The excitement was uncontrollable. Children swarmed all over the playground, trying their luck at various stalls.

They relished delicacies and Indian snacks such as tri-fo pudding, muffins, Chinese bhel, nachos with salsa, chocolate idli, grilled sandwiches, vada pav, paani puri, paapdi chaat and so forth. The game stalls- Win for Sure, Spin to Win, Funtooosh and other one-minute games kept the students on their toes, who tried hard to win exciting prizes. The vada-pav and the Spin and Win stalls were



Art works by students on display



Students enjoy playing in the bounce house

a huge hit and teemed with enthusiastic customers.

To extend the experience of servitude, there were also some students and their parents who had joined the teachers to put up their own food and game stalls.

The carnival also included the exhibits of selected academic projects and art works made by students and teachers. Towards the end, at around 8:30 pm, the winners of 'the Bumper Lucky Prize' and 14 other lucky prizes were announced.

In order to promote the importance of games and sports, all the prizes were games related: cricket kit,

carrom board, basketball kit, football and so on. The most coveted prize, however, was the latest brand of a bicycle.

"We have re-lived our childhood days and also revived a lot of childhood memories through this event", remarked one of the Parents. "It was a visual treat to see the students running from one-stall to another, laughing their hearts out and enriching themselves with new experiences by visiting each stall. The idea was to look beyond the curriculum, give more exposure to children and celebrate a vibrant and jubilant Children's Day," said Smita Kshirsagar.



Visitors crowd the various food and game stalls

All in all, it was a much-needed break from the regular school an evening.

26/11/2018

# Principal wins with Major Dhyan Chand Sports Award



Principal Smita Kshirsagar receiving the Major Dhyan Chand Sports Award

Smita Kshirsagar, principal, Blue Ridge Public School was felicitated with the prestigious 'Major Dhyan Chand Sports Award' on the occasion of National Sports Day in a programme held at the Major Dhyan Chand Hockey Stadium in Pimpri recently.

In the event organised by Ajinkya Cricket Club, she was feted for providing a holistic and conducive environment for learning and enhancing sports in the school. The chief guests for the event were Olympian Vikram Pillay, Vijay Santan, District Sports Officer, Pune, hockey player Akash Chikte, Manoj Kadam,

Shridharan Thamba and Stanley D'Souza.

It was a distinctive felicitation as she became the first female principal to have been bestowed upon with this award. The school ardently believes and executes the philosophy of increasing physical and mental well-being and reducing stress by providing equal opportunity to each student to participate in various sports.

Kshirsagar said, "By giving children more opportunity to try a much wider variety of sports, we will be able to increase participation levels, widen the talent pool and help young people lead a healthier, more active lifestyle."

## BRPS qualifies for zonal tourney



The under 14 boys team secured first place in the district level football competition

*"Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championship."*  
Michael Jordan

Students of Blue Ridge Public School, Hinjewadi have been selected recently to represent the school at zonal level in football competition.

The competition was organised by District Sports Office, Pune District in the month of August for under 14 and under 17 boys. The district level event was held at Rajya Rakhiv Police Ground, Daund.

Earlier, the school secured the first place at the

district level football competition. Physical Education Instructors, Mamta Chaudhari and Amrendra Singh did not leave any stone unturned while training and preparing the football champs for the competition.



### FOOTBALL

The teams were lead by captains Avishkar Sonawane (for under 14) and Atharv Dalvi (under 17). Principal Smita Kshirsagar congratulated them and wished them luck for their upcoming match.



The under 17 team who also won at the district level football competition

# Towards a healthy society

## Seniors turn Fitness Mentors at BRPS

Yoga, a 5000 year old Indian body of knowledge, has been accepted globally and celebrated as International Yoga Day on June 21 every year since 2015. With the introduction of an International Yoga Day, interest in this ancient art-cum-science has revived among people of all ages across India.

Blue Ridge Public School (BRPS) has taken the opportunity of this day to implement a solution to enhance a child's Emotional Quotient (EQ) along with his/her Intelligence Quotient (IQ). In wake of today's tight-study schedule, sky-high expectations of parents and no place to exercise in metropolitan cities, BRPS started its yoga day preparations a week earlier. Kasturi Kshir-



Yoga instructor Kasturi Kshirsagar training the students of class X

sagar, a yoga instructor, was invited to train the students of class X in some basic *asanas* and to instill the importance of a fitness regime.

The school has executed a novel concept of making class X students the fitness mentors for the entire school. It is a yearlong programme where in the class X students will be

guided and taught the significance of keeping healthy, the right techniques to do the various *asanas* along with the ways to ensure a balanced diet. The class X students will further impart this knowledge to their juniors. This legacy will be also passed on to the preceding batch towards the end of the academic year, each



Class X mentors teach yoga techniques to their juniors

year. This will create a virtuous circle of training the students' mind and body across all classes in the coming years.

The school believes that this concept will have a dual effect as the trainers i.e. class X students will themselves become healthier and the trainees

i.e. all the juniors will be encouraged to maintain a disciplined fitness regime. With this yoga day, BRPS has pledged to bring yoga in its school and thus ensure a healthy, harmonious and happy life for all by taking advantage of this day to initiate an ongoing programme.

# BRPS - A hub of emerging sports champs

## Ved Kakatkar - The Golf Champion

As Dr. Bob Rotella has said, "Golf is about how well you accept, respond to, and score with your misses much more so than it is a game of your perfect shots."

What an amazing finish it was to the final round of the Indian Golf Union Western Zone Junior Boys Golf Championship 2019 and US Kids India Local tour in the year 2019!

Neck to neck competition to claim the winning titles. Cheering for fellow golfers, spilling fruit juices on each other after the win, what an albatross! The championship came to a fantastic end.

Ved Kakatkar, of class X Andromeda at Blue Ridge Public School, Pune, came first in the Western zone IGU junior feeder tour this year and topped the order of merit. He was the first to qualify and play for nationals in 2020-21 in boys category C.

He has also won the Western Zone Feeder tour tournaments twice which



was held at Gulmohar Greens Ahmedabad and Willingdon Sports club Mumbai.

He also secured 2nd runner-up po-

sition twice at the Western zone feeder tour at Gaekwad Golf club Baroda and Kharghar Golf club Mumbai.

His extraordinary achievements include 1st runner-up position twice and 2nd runner-up position twice in US Kids golf tournaments held at Eagleton Bangalore, Clover greens Bangalore and Pune golf club. He secured 1st runner-up position in Western Zone Feeder tour held at Willingdon Sports club Mumbai.

Ved participated and stood 4th in the US kids Indian Championship held at ITC Classic golf course Delhi. This was his first international event and many international players also participated in this event.

He secured runner-up position recently in boys Category A & B Wiga Juniors Open Golf Championship held at Willington Golf Club, Mumbai. His parents thanked principal Surinder Kaur Sayan for her continuous support and encouragement and also appreciated the teachers for allowing him to take

time off from his regular school to participate in tournaments and pursue his dream to become the best sportsman in golf.

## Neil Shamkule - Roll Ball Champion

Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try - John F. Kennedy

School plays a very important role in shaping a child's sports career. The first step into any sport is definitely enriched and nourished in a blooming hub that is school.

Roll Ball is a game played between two teams and is a unique combination of roller skates, basketball, handball and throwball.

Welcoming loud cheers filled the hall, numerous skates were rolling all over the court; students flipped the ball from one side to another practicing their way through the hall. But, what was the occasion? Well, it was the time for the U-14 West Zone Roll Ball National championship 2022 Boys and Girls.

The championship that was held indeed made us really proud. The student Neil Shamkule from the prestigious Blue Ridge Public School of Pune district was selected as one of the players at Roller Sports and Social Acad-



emy (RSSA) team representing Maharashtra State for the National Roll Ball championship and secured first runner-up position.

The U-14 West Zone Roll Ball Na-

tional Championship 2022 Boys and Girls was held at Nandurbar, Maharashtra and had a training camp in Jalgaon, Maharashtra.

Earlier, Neil Shamkule participated in various events - Played Roll Ball State level championship four times. His first State level Roll Ball championship was played at age five in Satara, second championship in Yavatmal, third in Latur and recently in Ichalkaranji where he got selected for West Zone National championship.

The Blue Ridge Public School's coach, Vishal Malpote deserves an equal appreciation for the amazing game that his student has played. It was under his guidance that Neil gave his 100 percent and performed at his best.

A special congratulations to the coach and his student for a great achievement.

Neil and his parents are grateful to principal Surinder Kaur Sayan and her team of teachers for encouraging and supporting Neil to achieve his goal. The principal too is happy and proud and Neil is grateful to his parents, coaches, school teachers, and the Roll Ball committee.

Preeti Shamkule, facilitator at Blue Ridge Public School

# A BEAM OF...

I drowned in its vastness,  
Spreading across the world regardless,  
Bouncing to and fro in the darkness,  
Lighting up the void our world calls home.

That beam, Oh! Ray of Sunshine,  
Making its way across the cosmos,  
Burning that grove and kindling that flame,  
Perching atop that hill so famed.

The marvels of architecture stood,  
Bathing in its glory,  
Watching that sunrise on top of the woods,  
Chasing those rays away.

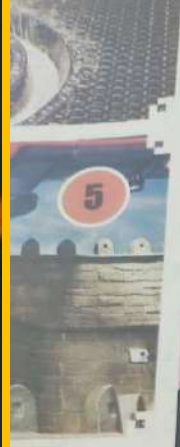
It was not a monotonous white,  
Nor a thousand shades of grey,  
Beneath that spectrum truly lay,  
A million heaps of hay.

Now as I sit back and watch them fade,  
Into the darkness and far away,  
Would those moments of joy ever come back,  
Or turn to dust or Gray.

Siddhant Kaore, VIII Guna,  
Blue Ridge Public School



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This is something different and new. Teachers go on trips and other places but who would think to see teachers playing these innovative games? Surprisingly it is fun too. Our school hasn't even subscribed to NIE and we look forward to doing it soon as I am meeting teachers from other schools here and they shared their experience with NIE.



Shreya Sharma,  
Wisdom World School, Hadapsar

It was a refreshing meeting where we exchanged our ideas, encouraged each other, and had a lot of fun. Teachers need such a kind of break from the daily routine. These events recharge us while making new friends. It is very important to communicate with educators from other institutions to learn something new. I came here alone but taking back a set of friends.  
Thanks to Times NIE.



Harshada Kotwal, Blue Ridge Public School

As a primary teacher, I completely relate to Amazeum. But it is not just for kids, adults too can explore it and relearn the simplicity and sports spirit all over again. Among so many teachers, I feel great to be here and extend my educator circle. I look forward to more such events.



Sandra D'souza, St Clares High School



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