

“ चव्हाटा ”

Letter No-3
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Editorial

Dear readers,

Sorry for the late release of this issue of “chavhata”. But it was a deliberate cunctation. We wanted to include Gandhi Jayanti celebrations as well as Dussehra and Diwali greetings in the same issue. In this brief editorial I want to share a piece of my mind that - We should never stop dreaming. My prayer to God is that, “Please, Don’t kill the student in me”. I want to tell the world that it’s never too late if you want to make a beginning. It can be made at any time in life. Many people ask me that - After gaining experience in this “small” school, why not a “big” school? My answer, till date, is very simple – “I did not want to become a clerk with high efficiency and no thinking.” I always wanted to remain a student (a student for life) because school life was the best life I had ever lived. I always prayed to God to give my school life back. In fact, I got it back. But this time, I was on the other side of the table with more responsibilities. Once we become a teacher doesn’t mean that we cease to become a student. In a nutshell, I plan to remain a learner for the rest of my life. So I did not leave my beloved school because it has let me remain a “student”.

In this issue, we are also going to discuss the **SUCCESS STORIES** of our beloved school. Success stories need not always be “big achievements” like getting selected for Olympics or winning an Oscar award. Only big things do not give happiness in life. Happiness is something which is within and we can get happiness if we enjoy the work we are doing. In Spick and Span Convent a lot of emphasis has been given to quality instead of quantity. We pick up the gauntlet of working on such students who are labelled as “WEAK” by the society. Time and again, we have emerged successful in it. Today, the doyen of our school - Late B. N. Saoji must have been very happy if he would have seen his efficient daughters – Dr. Mrs. Veena Saoji and Dr. Aruna Saoji realise his dream of running a school - not as a money-spinning unit but a small unit which generates individuals with values. An institution which does not connive at its duties and responsibilities in the society. The day this school was opened, a promise was made to uplift the children from the lowest dejection and despair faced by them.

It is rightly said that – “If the journey is beautiful, then who cares for the Destination?” We get exalted to the highest pitch of delight by the joyfulness that we derive by working “at the grass – root level”. These “small achievements” give us more happiness than any other “bigger thing” can give. Hence this entire issue of Chavhata is dedicated to the “**SUCCESS STORIES**” which are cogently evident of the purity and the unadulterated motive of this school. I don’t intend to flummox my readers anymore with the befuddled introduction given by me. In this issue, I wish

to share with you that “Pure thoughts and emotions” can propel us to another “world” which can be rightly called as “Utopia”.

MORAL: Spick and Span Convent is an “another world” which actually creates **UNIFORMITY** by giving “**unequal**” chances to all the students (depending on their need).

Mrs. Bhaswati Banerjee
Principal

DUSSEHRA AND DIWALI GREETINGS



A very warm wish to all our readers on Dussehra and Diwali – the festivals for which everyone waits throughout the year. As we all know that Dussehra is celebrated for “**VICTORY OF GOOD OVER EVIL**”, all of us must endeavor to kill the evil (if any) which we have acquired by the good that we already have in us!!! If we are able to kill our own shortcomings by our own will power then each day will become a Dussehra for us. May Goddess Durga give sanity to all of us in order to

distinguish between GOOD and EVIL.

Diwali is victory of Light over Darkness and knowledge over ignorance. Hence this Diwali, I wish that all of us should be able to remove the darkness of ignorance by the light of Knowledge. To put it in the words of our beloved Director madam Dr. Mrs. Veena Saoji, **“The source of Knowledge is within us and not anywhere outside. Hence the enlightenment can take place within us only if we want to. The only way is MEDITATION.”** This Diwali, we must all clean our minds along



with our homes so that there is outflow of positive thoughts which will prove beneficial to the mankind.”



All of us have a limited life – span which we must use to not only acquire skills but also use those skills to give someone a new lease of life. If we try to bring about an iota of improvement, a scintilla of good deed is enough. Let’s contribute our tittle.

Diwali Greetings by our KG Students

GANDHI JAYANTI CELEBRATIONS 2nd OCTOBER, 2019

As the whole world (not just India!) geared up to celebrate the 150th Birth Anniversary of the “Father of the Nation” who was also the giver of the powerful weapons of “Ahimsa” and “Satyagraha”, Spick and Span Convent students were also fully equipped with



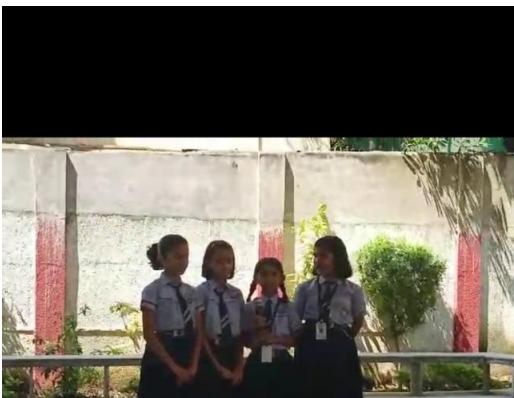
Narrator Ram Raut (Std VI)

their creativity and novel ideas of the celebration. It would have been a “first – time” celebration for other institutions who were habitual of this day as an “OFF – DAY”; but it’s worth mentioning that GANDHI JAYANTI was never celebrated as a “Holiday” in our school. Our school has always spent this day by discussing the nonpareil, peerless principles given by Gandhiji. Today, even though the mortal part of Gandhiji is long gone away but his immortal preaching’s still linger on. Our school has always believed that we need not be a repository of dry facts about Gandhiji’s place of birth, family, etc, ; but if

we are able to bring his teachings in practice then only we can pay a real tribute to this humble man who shook the entire British empire without resorting to any violent means. He proved to the world that one can make his voice heard without actually raising his voice. Gandhiji also started the Swadeshi movement in which he goaded everyone to be self – dependent and not on anything that is foreign. On the same lines, our school also has a work culture of self – learning method. Hence, this year too, the entire responsibility of organizing the show was given to the students only. Everyone had his bit to be done. Some students presented the ethereal bhajan



Drama written by Mansi Washimkar (VIII)



Vaishnav Jan To Tane Kahiye

“Vaishnav Jan To” in the most patriotic manner which left the audience spellbound. Few tiny tots came up with the idea of presenting dance drama depicting the life of Gandhiji. It was followed by an array of speeches, each one being unique in its tone and content. The entire programme was compared by Natansh Wairale (Std. IX). The show – stopping finale drama was a customized one, written entirely by Mnasi Washimkar (Std. VIII) without any teacher’s help. Ram Raut of Std. VI did full justice to it by narrating it with a moderate speed, proper intonation, oodles of confidence and poise.

OATH TAKING

This year, we had a unique added feature to the celebrations of our beloved “Bapu’s” 150th birth anniversary. And it was, first of its kind in the schools of Maharashtra; oath – taking for the



prevention of ADDICTION. Well, it was a gratifying surprise that there is a surge in the awareness of this kind in the society. For the first time, school children were made to realise the evil effects of the satanic addiction. Addiction can be over dependence on anything – be it narcotic drugs, cigarettes, alcohol, tobacco products, etc. To add to all these , we have

mobile addiction, social media addiction, shopping addiction, video games addiction

and many more which makes a sane person obsessed and deviates his straight path to an untoward

way of indecorous behaviour. So all the students, teachers and our esteemed Directors Dr. Mrs. Veena Saoji and Dr. Aruna Saoji joined hands with each other and took this pledge against “ADDICTION”. We believe that children are the gifts of God who are given to us in the most immaculate form. Now it is the responsibility of the students themselves, Parents, School, Society and the Government to keep these intemperate beings undefiled. That’s what SPICK AND SPAN means!!! I pray for



Staff and Students taking Oath

being of all my students who always be SPICK AND SPAN in their demeanour, thinking and character. Our school endeavours to create such students with pristine characters that no amount of dirt in the surrounding will ever be sufficient to even create a dent in their personalities. Amen!!!

the well should

SUCCESS STORY No. 1

RTE (25%)

Amid the fierce strife among those who starve and those who gorge, the foresighted clan of our very beloved Government of India thought of RTE (25%) act which was passed in 2009. However, schools started admitting students from the academic session of 2012 – 13. **SPICK AND SPAN CONVENT** was no exception to it and welcomed the RTE students with open arms. Till date, we have as many as 50 students admitted under the RTE 25 % category. All of them happen to belong to the vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of the society having low incomes. Someone's parent is a humble bricklayer who never went to school whereas someone has a mother who works as a seamstress to make both ends meet.

This article is not intended to tell you the personal catastrophes of the RTE students because the most exciting and the best part in our school is that “No one can make out the difference between the **FEE-PAYING** students and the **RTE** quota students.” Such is the treatment given by our school to all the students whether fee – paying or not. We never discriminated amongst our students since the very beginning. Time and again, we have proven that – “**EDUCATION IS DEFINITELY FOR ALL**”. And our results have proven it. Our students (whether RTE or not) can give a **CONVERSATION DEMONSTRATION** of only 500 sentences (may be) in one go. They can narrate five to six lessons in front of everyone and that too with proper expressions and intonation. When it comes to fluency, they can make a bolshie sit quietly and listen. They are very good at refuting each other's points without being obstreperous.

As our beloved Government has started this “Education for all” concept; they should also start “**MEDITATION FOR ALL**” movement in all the schools compulsorily. Of late, Honourable PM of India was heard telling the media that “**MEDITATION IS THE ONLY KEY TO WORLD PEACE**”. If someone can create peace within himself, he can spread peace around. This is the only way by which our world is going to become a better place. I am absolutely chuffed to tell you that “**ALL**” of our students practice meditation daily and religiously. And to top it all, they have been practising it since they were in Std. I. Imagine the little toddlers sitting for meditation and increasing their spiritual quotient.

SPICK AND SPAN CONVENT can proudly challenge the world (No hyperbole intended!) that – Whatsoever be the background of the child, whatsoever be the parents of the child and where so ever he / she is from; all can achieve the highest standards of education in our school not only academically but also spiritually and morally.

Mrs. Bhaswati Banerjee
Principal

SUCCESS STORY No.2

WHY ONLY ENGLISH?? / WHERE DID THE DRY FRUITS COME FROM??

The headline appears weird, doesn't it? How can these two things be related? But, surprises can come in various sizes, shapes and forms in our school. And it is also rightly said that “Necessity is the mother of invention”. So, with the intention of maintaining complete English – speaking atmosphere (in order to embellish the spoken language skills), students were threatened of dire consequences on breaking the protocol.

Our dream is to make the students confident individuals and not wimpy. But there is no denial of the fact that “students are human beings too”. And humans are the laziest of all the species of the animal kingdom. Humans are intelligent and hence never work beyond their comfort –zone. That’s human nature!!! Similarly, it is very easy to communicate with each other in Hindi and Marathi (as these are the languages spoken at home). We have absolutely no intention of disrespecting anybody’s mother tongue. But our intention is to create such denizens who can communicate with any other denizen of the world, and that too with confidence and poise! Children should be fluent in English so that they should not face any problem in this competitive world. Many talented people could not climb the ladders of success just because of the lack of good communication skills in English. So **SPICK AND SPAN CONVENT** has decided not to show any clemency towards the students who break the rule of speaking in English within the school premises.

After many rabble – rousing speeches and incendiary lectures, some students thought defiance will not cause any harm. But they were wrong! Students were charged fine for breaking the rule of the school (of not talking in English). Initially some parents were furious and accused the school of overt money making. Later on, they were called and the underlying principles behind the pecuniary compensation were explained to them. We were delighted to receive their overwhelming support. They complimented our Director Madam



Our Students enjoying Dry Fruits

Dr. Mrs Veena Saoji on her initiative and promised to support unconditionally by going out of the way. In the meantime, the “amount” collected was a matter to ponder about. Innovation is in

the ambience of our school. We came up with the idea of using the “**fine money**” for the benefit of the students only. Spending it on **JUNK FOOD** would have been an abominable option. In order to make them understand the importance of nutrition, “**dry fruits**” were bought and distributed among the students. This way “**English – Speaking**” and “**Dry –fruits**” got related and we had **A HAPPY ENDING!!!**

Fine was never charged to mint money but to inculcate discipline in the students. This is the age when students have to understand the importance of obeying the rules (of wherever they are) so that their reputation is never sullied by anything. Our school has a dream to create “World – class” citizens who will take India’s name very high in the world.

Mrs.Bhaswati Banerjee
Principal

SUCCESS STORY No.3

ONE: ONE TEACHER – STUDENT RATIO

As per the norms laid down by the government, a ratio of 1:35 is good and it is followed everywhere. But **SPICK AND SPAN CONVENT** has its own experiences and innovations to tackle each problem in a more than unique manner. When it was found, that few new – comers (especially) were unable to cope up with teaching – learning process in the class, an innovative idea struck our Director madam Dr. Mrs. Veena Saoji. She suggested a unique 1:1 class for a selected few. An action research revealed that a student need not be segregated from the class for the entire curriculum but for the limited duration and for a suggested part of the curriculum. Some parents who regretted for not admitting their child in our school earlier and “wasting” their formative years agreed readily to this proposal. Why wouldn’t they? Of late, they had seen “growth” in their child in just two months. The “growth” for which they had yearned, all these years.

A new time – table was made and students were selected from different classes for different subjects. Special emphasis was given to the skills (Like reading, spelling, writing, etc.) which were never acquired by the students till they were in high school. Amazing, isn’t it? Selected students were sequestered daily for 1 – 2 hours. Daily reporting begun. And within one month hard work started yielding results. Our Director madam Dr. Mrs. Veena Saoji herself catechised the students to fathom the depth of their acquisition. She was on cloud number 9 when we got a glimmer of hope from the student, who barely recognised words, was able to narrate and explain and rewrite an entire page. This is the happiness for which a teacher works. No other pecuniary compensation can ever tantamount to this happiness.

As I said in the beginning, “small things” give us “bigger satisfaction”. In future, many more students will prove their mettle and vanquish their adversities. Thanks to the excogitation of our Director madam and the cerebation of our creative team. Hats off!!!

Mrs.Bhaswati Banerjee
Principal

SUCCESS STORY No. 4

LIVI ZHIMOMI



Livi

Livi Zhimomi – is the name which we don't come across quite often in this part of India. Yes, **Livi** hails from Nagaland and came to Nagpur just this year because of the transfer of her IFS guardian. This girl was denied admission by all the big CBSE / State schools straight in Std. 10, although she had passed class 9 examinations with good grades. She and her guardians were tense with the fear of wasting one crucial year by repeating class 9. When they approached our school, we readily gave her admission. Well, that does not prove our greatness!!! The journey was not so easy!!! She never had Marathi and Sanskrit as school subjects. And, in Nagpur, from our school, she is supposed to appear for the Board examinations with these two subjects. While giving her admission, we were not apprehensive at all or were we?? We started special sessions of Marathi and Sanskrit for her. And these sessions begun with the Devanagari alphabets, followed by words, sentences and then paragraphs. Within two – three months, the hard – work, patience, perseverance and tenacity of both the teacher and the taught produced satisfactory outcomes. Today, **Livi** is in a position to bell any cat. She is very much out of the schemozzle created for her by this world!!! All the best!!!

“I am very thankful to the Director of SPICK AND CONVENT for giving admission to my daughter directly in Std. 10. I am happy on seeing her progress,” said Ms. Imtielna, Livi's guardian and INDIAN FOREST SERVICE (IFS) officer.

SUCCESS STORY No. 5

VANASHREE NEWARE



Vanashree

Vanashree came to us in Std. VII from an altogether non – English background. She could barely read when admitted in our school. It had been very difficult for her overcoming her mother's loss at the tender age of 9 months. She had to live with her maternal grandparents when her biological father decided to move ahead with his own life, leaving her behind, alone. With limited resources, aging grandparents and no one in the family to inspire or motivate her, Vanashree took baby steps boldly to rise above her personal catastrophe in our school. Gradually, she acquired reading, speaking and writing skills; and soon she came at par with other “privileged” students. Throughout her journey, she never ceased to believe her teachers and followed each and every instruction given by them without wincing even once. Today, Vanashree is in Std. X and is confidently going to appear for SSC examination in March – 2020. A petite soft – spoken girl who was once labelled as a “failure” candidate by some other school, is now in a position to “pass” any examination on her own. Dear Vanashree, We are proud of you!! Your smiling face

gives us immense joyousness and a reason to move ahead in life. If we could make a bit of positive change in a single student's life, then our motto of running this school becomes successful. We are doing our bit.

SUCCESS STORY No. 6

ARCHIT CHANDEL



Archit

Admitted in Std. VI only this year, this boy has a saga of untrammelled desire to speak fluent English. When he came to us, he had to resort to Hindi to clear his trifle doubts. Even expressing a thought was not possible for him in English. Scolding or reprimanding him was not a solution at that point of time. What could the child do? Was it his fault? His parents paid hefty fees for all these years to make him study in a very renowned English – medium CBSE school of Nagpur where thousands of children get admitted each year. Then why was this child left behind? Why could he not utter a single sentence in correct English? Well, this answer was known to us since beginning of the school. Hence we are not questioning anyone? What begun was a series of training sessions in English speaking. These sessions were very much inside the classroom and involving all the students in the regular group activities of **SEMINARS, DRAMATIZATIONS, NARRATIONS & ENGLISH CONVERSATION SESSSIONS, etc.** Archit made it a point to take part in all of these willingly and within two months, the entire school witnessed his “transformation” from a 100% Hindi – speaking boy to a 100% English – speaking boy. In fact, these children used to take a self – made “pledge” every day before the beginning of the class. And this “pledge” was –

WE WILL TALK ONLY IN ENGLISH INSIDE THE SCHOOL PREMISES!!!

It is this innocence of these children, which keeps us – the teachers – going! We feel privileged that we are the tools of societal change; the positive change that is taking place in our students every moment. Dear Archit, Today you have just acquired the English speaking skills. But very soon, you will be that apt that you will train the other new –comers next year. It is just a sojourn! Don't Stop here – just go ahead!!!

SUCCESS STORY No.7

AARUSH KHANDALKAR

Admitted in our school just last year **Aarush** too came from a reputed school. After being labelled as a “Non – achiever” by the society, his parents were absolutely clueless about his “normal” growth. All their efforts were mercilessly thwarted by social interventions. Being



Aarush

shunned by one and all for being a “slow – learner” or a “NO – learner”, it was an uphill task for **Aarush** to socialize with his batch mates and even acquire basic minimum passing grades. All these years of ill – treatment of the society had started killing his innate potential. He hardly believed that he could actually possess any inherent aptitude. After becoming a student of **SPICK AND SPAN CONVENT**, everything changed for him. Gradually, he started gaining confidence and started acquiring his skills to score his “hard – earned” grades. Today, **Aarush** is in Std. VIII and is doing much better than ever before. At least, by the **SELF – LEARNING** method of our school, the child could become independent in his studies. You have a very long way to go, Dear Aarush!!! May you vindicate yourself of this label of “slow – learner” and prove to the world your competence. All the best !!!

SUCCESS STORY No. 8

SUKRUT LOHAKARE



Sukrut

Sukrut came to us a couple of years ago with a label of “**LEARNING DISABILITY**” & “**BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS**”. He was actually being counselled by Dr. Khirwadkar (Child Psychologist). There was a huge disparity between his parents’ aspirations and his accomplishments. Was there was no glaring error in the handling of the child? After many years of “**special**” treatment and “**NO**” output, **Sukrut** joined **SPICK AND SPAN CONVENT**. Here, he was helped by us to hew out a path for himself in the rock, all by himself. We taught him how to adjust to the sweltering situations with a cool mind. Today, **Sukrut** is in Std. VIII and can give a shout-out to the world blithely that he has **NO DISABILITY**. He is very much like the normal children. His parents and teachers happiness cannot be quantified. Why did this world have a gall for this little child? It is very easy to label anyone and blame it on the depredations of any “disability”.

“We had to buy his History Textbook again in std. VII because the first one was torn on being overused. All these years, **Sukrut’s** books would remain brand new till the end of the year,” complimented his mother in a jubilant mood.

“**Sukrut** has shown tremendous improvement in the last two years. And he does not need and sort of counselling or medication,” remarked Dr. Khirwadkar (Child Psychologist) who was his counsellor and family friend as well.

We are very happy for you Sukrut!!!

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