

It has been two years since the sad demise of our trustee, **Sir Hemant Vissanji**.

He was a wonderful man with vision and varied interests. He was accomplished and well-read in all subjects and well understood that sports, reading and performing arts are as important for the development of students as academics is. His guidance has been instrumental in the inclusion of all these aspects in the curriculum of Vissanji Academy. He is sorely missed by all of us who have known him.



To mark this day, some of our students, under the able guidance of Mr. Vishnu Mistry, fondly remembered the happier times as they paid tribute to our dear Sir in a touching video.

The virtual corridors of Vissanji are abuzz with excitement. For our young learners, the First Summative Assessment is around the corner. Revisions, assessments, and the various activities form part of their academic pursuits. Term 1 is gradually coming to its culmination.

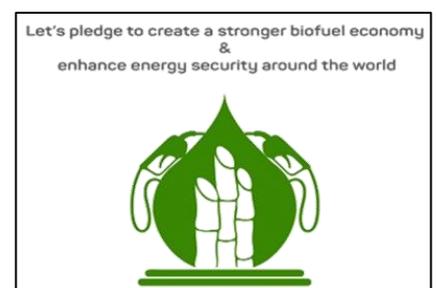
However, August is not just about Assessments and learning. As befits its name, the month comes with all the pomp and glory, bringing with it an onset of a festival season in the country. A kaleidoscope of festivals and their myriad colours, the brightest of them being the 'TRICOLOUR', the mere mention of 'August' evokes that patriotic fervour in every Indian. Virtual or otherwise, we at Vissanji never dilute our celebrations. No stone was left unturned, as our children participated with full gusto and enthusiasm in the 75th Independence Day celebrations.

Significant Days in August:

- **1st August (First Sunday of August) – Friendship Day** - It is a day to celebrate and honor true friendship.
- **6th August – Hiroshima Day** - A black day in the history of mankind, Hiroshima Day is observed on 6th August every year. This is the day when the atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima during the Second World War.
- **7th August - National Handloom Day** - It is celebrated to salute the weavers and artisans who help preserve India's cultural heritage through handlooms.
- **8th August – Quit India Movement Day** - All India Congress Committee session in Bombay on 8th August, 1942 led by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi launched the 'Quit India Movement'. It is also known as The August Movement or August Kranti. The slogan demanding the British to quit India reverberated throughout the country igniting the spirit of freedom in every Indian heart.
- **9th August - Nagasaki Day** - The United States on 9th August, 1945 dropped a second bomb on Japan at Nagasaki and the bomb is also known as 'Fat Man'. It was dropped three days after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Will we ever learn? The threat of a nuclear attack still looms large over the world.
- **9th August - International Day for Indigenous People** - This day is observed by the United Nations to protect and promote the rights of indigenous people across the world.
- **10th August - World Lion Day** - The King of the forest needs our urgent attention! There is no other animal as royal as a lion.... Let us join hands to save this king of the jungle who rules every heart...
- **10th August - World Biofuel Day**
- **12th August – International Youth Day**



Art work by Siddhi Nimbalkar, 6C



- **12th August - World Elephant Day** - It is observed on 12th August annually to make people understand how to preserve and protect the giant animal. This is the way to bring the world together to help elephants.
- **13th August - International Left Handers Day** - Every year on 13th August Left Handers Day is observed. It raises awareness about the problems and difficulties that left-handed persons face.

- **13th August - World Organ Donation Day** - World Organ Donation Day is observed on 13th August to spread awareness about the importance of organ donation.

- **15th August – Independence Day in India** - At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom, “so said the first Prime Minister of independent India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Have we come out of that slumber? Are we really free? It’s high time we introspect on how free we truly are. Free from colonialism, yes, but what about everything else?



Artwork by Roshni Vajifdar, 5A

- **16th August - Parsi New Year** - The Parsi New Year is a regional festival which indicates a 'new day'. The celebration occurs around the Spring Equinox around March 21 each year.



Artwork by Pashmira Kapadia 6C

However, the Parsi community in India follows the Shahenshahi calendar and thus celebrate their new year in July or August.

It is also known as Navroz, which is derived from the Persian words Nav and Roz.



Artwork by Canza Modi, 10C

- **19th August - World Humanitarian Day** - It is commemorated every year to pay tribute to humanitarian workers killed and injured in the course of their work, and to honour all aid and health workers who continue, despite the odds, to provide life-saving support and protection to people most in need.

- **19th August – Muharram** - Muharram is the first month of the Islamic calendar. The first ten days of the holy month of Muharram are immensely significant for the Muslim community. Muslims grieve the death of Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Husayn Ibn Ali al-Hussein, at the Battle of Karbala in 680 AD, during this time.

- **20th August - Sadbhavna Diwas** - Sadbhavna Diwas is observed on 20th August every year to commemorate the memory of our late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

- **22nd August - Raksha Bandhan** - This is the festival that celebrates the special bond and warmth of togetherness between brothers and sisters. After all, siblings are the only trouble-makers whom you love and can't live without.



Artwork by Nicole Andrade, 5C



Artwork by Livia Monteiro 3A

- **29th August - National Sports Day** - This day is observed around the country to commemorate the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand. It is observed to raise awareness about the value of sports and daily activities in everyone’s life, emphasizing the importance of being fit. On this day, the President of India bestows important awards to prominent sports figures, including the Khel Ratna, Arjuna Awards, Dronacharya Awards and Dhyan Chand Awards.

- **30th August – Janmashtami** - Janmashtami is one of the most significant festivals among Hindus. Also known as Gokul Ashtami, Janmashtami celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna — Lord Vishnu’s eighth *avatar*.

WONDERS OF SCIENCE

The contributions of science are immense in our daily life, and without it our existence is unimaginable. Science evolved with the development of mankind as we started discovering new things. The main intention behind inventions was to make our life easier. Fire was one of the first wonders of science discovered by human beings. Mankind with their curiosity, imagination, logic and hard work has not only discovered the secrets of the oceans but also reached outer space in pursuit of new discoveries.

In this modern age, the wonders of science can be seen in all walks of life, be it transportation, communication, entertainment, medicine or the battlefield. In this pandemic, science has played a very important role in discovering the vaccine to save human life. Thus, it is our responsibility to use these wonders wisely for the benefit of human beings.



Devanshi Shah, 5C

SCIENCE – A BEAUTIFUL GIFT TO HUMANITY

Science plays an important part in our daily life. It has made our life easier and more comfortable. Science is all about identifying, inventing and implementing new ideas that empower mankind. From a simple observation of boiling water in a kettle giving the idea of a steam engine, to the falling of an apple from the tree has helped to understand the Law of Gravity.

In today's age we can see the Wonders of Science across many areas.

Surgery and Medicine: In today's scenario the scientists have developed the vaccine against the deadly Coronavirus. Apart from this, science has done wonders in carrying out surgeries with the help of robots and inventions of new medicines to cure various diseases.

Communication: Invention of mobiles, telephones, wireless, and internet has helped us to connect with people across the globe within a few seconds.

Irrigation and Agriculture: With the help of Science the farmers now use various irrigation methods to cultivate crops as well as use more advanced fertilizers and pesticides for better harvest.

Electricity: Electricity is the greatest invention that serves us in many ways. Modern life is impossible without electricity.

Nuclear Technology: Nuclear technology is used across many fields like medicine, space exploration.

Computers: Computers are the greatest and most wonderful invention of science. They help in carrying out complicated calculations within a fraction of a second. In today's world computers also control various machines, rockets, television stations and satellites.

Engineering: Science has done various wonders across fields like aeronautical engineering, marine engineering and electrical engineering.

Like every coin has two sides, science too has its own disadvantages. With the help of science, countries have developed nuclear weapons which are dangerous.

Finally it is up to us, how we use the gift of science to build a healthier, easier and happier life.



Aidan Carvalho, 4B

MIRACLES OF SCIENCE

Science has given many inventions,
It has released us from many tensions.

Science is full of mystery,
Has created a lot of history.

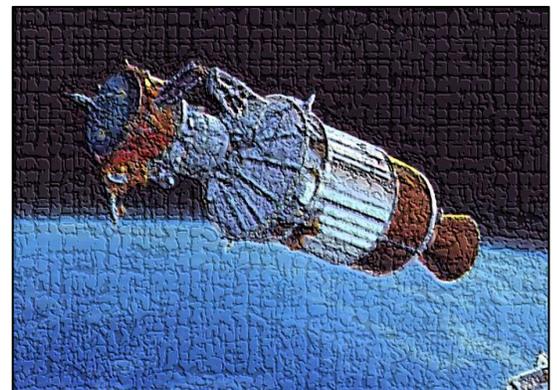
Science is a boon,
Carrying a man to the moon.

Science is a trilogy,
They are Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

Science is full of magic,
But nothing less than black magic.
Science is full of discovery,
Making man's life a luxury.



Vivaan Puri, 4A



TALIBAN ARE BACK - WHAT NEXT FOR AFGHANISTAN?

In a sad turn of events elsewhere in the world, the Taliban has taken over Afghanistan after a period of two decades of relative peace. It comes after the foreign forces announced their withdrawal following a deal between the US and the Taliban, two decades after US forces removed the militants from power in 2001. Let's hope and pray that peace and normalcy is restored in the lives of the millions of people affected.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Today it is Independence Day,
"The flag is made of cloth or clay?"
A two year old girl asked me,
When the flag was hoisted,
She said, "see! see!"
On this day, we got freedom in 1947 CE,
We sing the national anthem,
Everyone is filled with glee.
Freedom for India from British was very tough,
People had to work hard and follow rules,
They used to huff and puff,
As a rule,
India wasn't allowed to use anything good or even fuel.
In the very old generation,
Indian children were sad and had no education,
The British ones could go to school,
And swim in the swimming pool.
But thanks to our freedom fighters,
As they gave Indians freedom from those
British Rulers.



Viha Mehta, 4B

INDEPENDENCE DAY

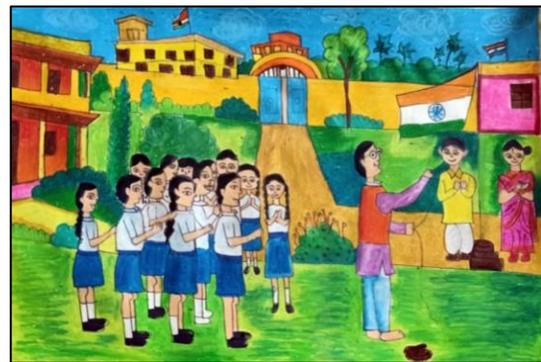
The auspicious and happy day of Indian Independence
Has a tragic past,
Every Indian had to suffer under the British rule
Whether they were of upper or lower caste.
Many freedom fighters
Sacrificed their lives,
For getting freedom from slavery,
People had to go on hunger strikes.
Indians celebrate Independence Day
With a feeling of patriotism and nationalism
I just can't imagine how hard it must have been
When the freedom fighters had to spend many months in
prison.
On Independence Day,
Our Tiranga flutters in the breeze,
This is our nationality
Which you should never take with ease.
Thank You And happy Independence Day
to one and all.



Aashna Anjaria, 5B

75th YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE

Independence Day is an important day in the life of every Indian. 15th August 1947 is the day adorned in the history of India. It is the day when India got its freedom from the 200 years of British rule. It's not only a celebration of Independence but also of the unity in diversity of the country. This year India is celebrating its 75th year of Independence. A wind of patriotism blows across the country on this day. On this special occasion, the people of India remember the selfless sacrifices and exceptional contributions of great men and women to achieve the independence of India. Independence Day is celebrated with great joy across the country.



Artwork by Prisha Desai 5B

There is great enthusiasm among all. It is observed with great honour at all the government and private institutions, schools, and colleges. Special programs like planting trees, cleaning the roads and parks are taken up on this day. People's minds are infused with a sense of patriotism. Flag hoisting ceremonies are conducted throughout the country. To celebrate this

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Artwork by Aryan Khare, 5B

occasion, sports and cultural programmes are conducted in schools, colleges and societies.

Sweets are distributed and patriotic songs can be heard everywhere. Covid-19 was not able to deter the patriotic spirit of Indians. People are following the protocols like social distancing and wearing masks while celebrating this national festival. Schools and other educational institutions had made online arrangements for the celebration of Independence Day. The citizens of India are following the said protocols in the interest of the country and celebrating Independence Day thus expressing their love towards the country.

JAI HIND!!!



Ananya Kotian, 4B

INDEPENDENCE DAY

We celebrate Independence Day on 15th August every year. Independence Day in India is a national holiday. It commemorates the nation's struggle for freedom. It reminds us of the sacrifices of the freedom fighters and the dawn of the new India, free from British rule.

Unlike other festivals, Independence Day is celebrated throughout the country in all the states and Union Territories of India. People of India pay tribute to the fallen war heroes and freedom fighters. Hoisting the Tricolor and singing the



National Anthem is at the apex of the celebrations.

The Prime Minister's address on the eve of Independence Day is thought-provoking and inspirational for the people of India. The whole nation watches the Indian Prime Minister hoisting the National Flag at Lahori Gate, at the Red Fort in New Delhi. 21 Gun Salute and a march-past by the armed Paramilitary forces is the main attraction. Similar events are held in other states and UTs of India, with complete participation of the people.



Artwork by Zaara Abedin, 6C

In the United States, the day is observed as 'India Day' by the Indians residing there. People of India adorn the Tricolor in their houses, tabletops, vehicles, etc. Independence Day exhibits the power of nationalism and unity.



Pritvi Pillai, 4C

IS INDIA ABSOLUTELY FREE?

India got its independence on 15th August, 1947. The problem of partition hindered the growth and development process, and we wanted to re-develop India, to start all economic activities from scratch. We adopted a democratic form of government through the process of election and embarked on a journey, where the people are the supreme authority and choose their own government. Lot of programmes such as road-building, ship-building, infrastructure etc., were implemented by the government.

Despite the reforms initiated by the government in the last seventy-five years, we have not been able to eliminate poverty. Poverty has been a major concern in the path of India's ambition to become a superpower. There is a lot of improvement in the situation now, India is fast becoming self-sufficient and is competing with other developed nations.

However, I still feel that India is not completely independent. I personally think that no country can be truly independent until it breaks the shackles of oppression and discrimination.

We still have to depend upon various developed nations for our technological requirements, economic and social support. For example, India imports oil from the oil-rich Arab countries, that is, India does depend on other countries for support.

I also believe that for India to make progress on the road of achieving independence, its people need to be independent; both as individuals and as citizens of India.

Perhaps more investment in research and development may provide the necessary result. What is important is that we are self-sufficient in our needs and resources, with which we can slowly progress towards our goal of achieving absolute independence, unitedly.



Shruti Iyer, 8B



Artwork by Mishika Shenoy 5A

TRICOLOUR FOREVER

Tricolour is my colour,
India is my country,
Tricolor are we,
My country was born to be the land of riches.

Saffron stands high up in the line,
Showing courage and bravery,
For our freedom in our land.

The purity of my country,
The truth of it,
Lies in White shining bright.

Ashoka the mighty of all

His Chakra with 24 spokes of the Dharma
It lies in my tricolour withal.

Let this young India
Be a green India forever.

Let everyone's heart nurture the feeling of patriotism
Just like the plant life of India
Evergreen forever.

Let these tri colours
Be my country's colours forever,
Let these tri colours
Be my country's colours forever.



Janhavi Kotian, 10A

RAIN - THE LORD'S GIFT

Mother Nature gave me birth,
And I came down on earth.
My arrival makes earthly hail,
To fill me in their pail.

When I fall from Indra's crown,
I see many beautiful umbrellas down.
I bring rainbow and thunder,
But not as cruel as a hunter.

Running down from running clouds,
Chatter, chatter, I fall aloud.
I help the flowers to rejoice,
But make a lot of noise.

I enrich the soil,
And the farmer's toil.
When I come down from the mountain,
I sprinkle water on the grass like a fountain.



Preksha Surana, 7C

EQUALITY

Who are we?
A question which is very easy to answer,
Yet the most complicated one,
Than which nothing is grander.

All of us are humans, not quite different,
Yet people fail to understand the vision,
That even though our looks vary,
Our hearts beat in unison.

Let it be black, white or brown,
Or of any religious beliefs,
We are people, the common people
And there should be no disbelief.

Now, who are we?
We are humans, all unique,
And we should appreciate this,
Of equality we should shriek.



Sriya Desai, 7C

IS JOINING THE DEFENCE FORCES THE ONLY WAY TO SERVE YOUR COUNTRY?

No, we don't need to be in the defence forces to serve our country. We can be collared professionals and still help. We can serve our country in multiple ways and it is not limited to protecting it using weapons. We also don't need to be doctors and need multiple degrees or high salaries, even a waste collector is serving his country. Every legal job serves the country somehow and is essential for the country to progress. Anything done for the benefit of the country, be it raising awareness or donating, is serving the country. As a student, I can help by raising awareness, helping and respecting people who do such jobs and by studying and learning new things to contribute to the country in the future. I haven't decided what I want to do when I grow up, but I will surely contribute to the country by maybe donating money or other things or maybe inventing something which makes life easier for the people.



Yug Shah, 8A

THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE TRIP OF MY LIFE

During my summer vacation in 2019, after my sister's assessments, my parents decided to take us to Uttarakhand. I was thrilled after knowing about the trip and could not wait to reach Uttarakhand.

We visited various interesting places in Uttarakhand. The most interesting one was Mukteshwar. On that day, we left quite early in the morning from Binsar in order to reach there. The best thing about the place was that we could see the marvellous sunset, which was a sight to behold. The famous place in Mukteshwar was, 'Chauli ki Jaali.' It had an amazing view, where one could do the adventurous zip lining. This is a recreational sport wherein, a rope is tied between two hills or mountains and one has to slide down between them. The valley beneath me was deep and dangerous. After zip lining, we saw the sunset.

At last, we reached the hotel where we were staying. It was indeed a memorable day. I enjoyed it very much. We freshened up for dinner and had my favourite, 'Pav Bhaji.' After a few days, we said goodbye to Uttarakhand with a heavy heart and returned to Mumbai.



Hiya Chauhan, 6A

OH, MY SISTER!

You always start the fight,
Just because you're older, that doesn't give you the right.
You say I'm very short,
When you were my age you were shorter.
When I am thirsty, you don't even bring me water.
When I ask you something, your reply is always mean,
If I was more violent I'd make your face green.
But no matter what,
I'm your brother,
Love you like no other.



Varun Deval, 7B

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. Our mental health affects the way we think, feel and act. Mental health is as important as physical health. A person who is physically and mentally fit can be termed as a healthy being.

In the current situation, we have seen so many issues regarding mental health being brought up. We hear so many people going into depression, having anxiety and panic attacks. Due to lockdown people are restricted within four walls. So many are staying alone at home and feel isolated. It is for an individual to take care of his/her mental health during such testing times. Studies have stated that having a positive psychological well-being reduces the risks of heart attacks and strokes. To keep ourselves mentally fit we should engage in activities we like. Some activities can be doing yoga or some meditation, reading books and playing some games. Talking to loved ones also helps in improving our mental health.



Mental health and physical health go hand in hand. It is necessary to take care of our mental health. As it is rightly said, "Mental health is not a destination but a process. It is about how to drive, not where you're going."



Aditi Venugopal, 9A

THE BEST THERAPISTS

It is rightly said that, "The best therapists have fur and four legs." I had always wanted a puppy. After a lot of cajoling and coaxing, my parents finally gifted me one. It was an adorable puppy and I was delighted to see the cute creature upon entering the house.

She is a white furry Pomeranian with black protuberant innocent eyes that make her look adorable. I named her Candy. You'll find her scurrying all over the house all day long. Her adorable and high-pitched barks echo in the house throughout the day. Her boundless energy keeps me on my toes the entire day. She is fiercely loyal and follows me around the house.

Candy is extremely naughty and loves chewing on my favourite shoes and playing tug-of-war with my socks. She loves the colour pink and was constantly behind a pink book of mine. A few days back I found it torn on the floor.

When she came home there were plenty of things we had to do. We took her to the doctor for her necessary vaccinations and checkups. She loves her dog food and I also give her meat and chicken as a special treat sometimes. She loves to chew bones too. According to me she loves going out and is forever ready to step out; out in the sun; in the fresh air. The both of us go out for walks daily and my friends play with her too.

It was a Herculean task to train her. She is not one of those who sits still. That is the reason I first taught her how to sit in one place. It was quite difficult to communicate with her or understand what she was trying to convey at times. So,

I started off by teaching her simple signs like getting a shoe or her leash if she wished to go out or just go sit in the kitchen if she was hungry. I could understand her well this way. I also taught her that she is not supposed to dirty the house with her 'metabolic wastes'. She's now learnt to shake hands and follow commands. I must say she looks quite smart.

It has been a wonderful experience teaching her and training her. She is now a part of our family and is the apple of everyone's eye, especially my father's. When she sees him, her happiness knows no bounds.



Aleina Saigal, 7B