

July has arrived, in hot pursuit of June, bringing with it a flurry of activities in tune. The journey of the year 2021 has already reached its half-way mark and it seems like just the other day that it had begun. July, the fourth month of the school's academic year was named by the Roman Senate in honour of the Roman general Julius Caesar, it being the month of his birth.

It is a time of hectic activities for our children, both academic and co-curricular. These enriching events and competitions add milestones to their academic year, making it more meaningful and rich. In spite of the constraints of the online platform, our young go-getters of Vissanji, put their best foot forward in every way they can.

Let's hope and pray that the monsoon which has been playing truant so far gears up and blesses us with abundant rains in the rest of the season.

SIGNIFICANT DAYS OF JULY

National Doctors' Day - India celebrates National Doctors' Day on **July 1** every year to honour the birth and death anniversary of the great physician and second Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy. This day serves to show gratitude to all those doctors who have selflessly aided us in our times of need and tirelessly worked for the health of their patients. This year, the National Doctors' Day is very significant as doctors continue relentlessly to fight the Covid-19 pandemic.

World Zoonoses Day is observed every year on July 6 to commemorate the first vaccination administered against a zoonotic disease like Ebola, Avian influenza, and West Nile virus. Zoonosis is an infectious disease that spreads from non-humans (animals) to humans.



Art by Canza Modi,10C

World Population Day, observed on **July 11**, seeks total awareness of global population issues.

World Malala day is celebrated on **July 12** to salute the Pakistani activist, Malala Yousafzai. Malala, who now works for women's right to education across the globe, was never allowed to enter school as a young girl.

World Day for International Justice, celebrated on **July 17**, unites all those who wish to support justice, promote victims' rights, and help prevent crimes that threaten the peace, security and well-being of the world.

Nelson Mandela International Day, celebrated on **July 18**, in recognition of the late South African President's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom. In those days, segregation on the basis of colour was rampant in South Africa. In 1948, **Apartheid** was legalised in the country and this resulted in discrimination against the Black South Africans. They were forced to live in All Black Zones and were required to carry their identification when they needed to enter areas designated for the whites. Nelson Mandela made it the mission of his life to fight against this grave injustice. This day is observed as a call to action for people everywhere to fight against racial discrimination and injustice.

The fourth Sunday in July every year is set aside as National Parent's Day. It falls on **July 25**, this year. It is not necessary to have a special day to honour our parents; however, it serves to make parents all over the world feel special and celebrated for their selfless and unconditional love for their children.

Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed on **July 26** in memory of soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the Kargil war which took place from May 3 to July 26, 1999 after the Pakistani troops were caught intruding into Indian territory at the top of the Kargil hills. The fight came to an end on July 26, 1999, when Indian troops established victory by recapturing all the Indian posts that had been occupied by Pakistani infiltrators.

World Nature Conservation Day, celebrated on **July 28** acknowledges that a healthy environment is the foundation for a stable and healthy society.

International Tiger Day is celebrated on **July 29**, every year globally, to raise awareness that this magnificent species is endangered due to poaching and hunting.



Art by Eshal Singhania, 5C

GURU PURNIMA

India is a land of festivals. Most of the festivals are celebrated to worship Gods & Goddesses, but Guru Purnima is the day when people worship gurus or teachers who teach us to follow the right path. In India, Gurus are considered as the living Gods on Earth since they are the greatest link between us and God, they show us the difference between good and bad. A guru is said to dispel darkness of ignorance and lead the individual to the path of virtues and enlightenment. Guru Purnima is also called as Vyasa Purnima since Sage Vyasa is known as the original guru of Hindu religion. In ancient India, parents entrusted the responsibility of their children to the Guru because they knew only a teacher could help a child evolve holistically. The Guru Shishya Parampara witnessed a beautiful bond between the teacher and a student. A mantra that is specifically chanted on this day is:

Gurur Brahma, Gurur Vishnu, Gurur Devo Maheshwara
Guru Sakshat Param Brahma
Tasmai Shree Guruvey Namah!

Guru is Brahma, who is the Lord of Creation, Guru Vishnu means Guru is Vishnu, Guru Devo Maheshwarah means Guru is the Maheshwara, Guru Sakshat Parabrahma means Guru leads to the path of light so Guru is our Para Brahma (The Supreme God or Almighty). Tasmai Shree Guruve Namah means we bow to that Guru.

Engineers make bridges, Artists make paintings, Scientists make rockets, but Teachers make them all. Even our parents, who teach us tirelessly from the time we face the world and their teaching continues as long as they are with us and beyond, hence they are our first teachers. Whoever teaches us, enlightens our minds and helps us to carve a beautiful and good life are our Gurus and this is the day we can show our respect, love and gratitude to all our Gurus.

Tasmai Shree Guruve Namah.



Mishika Shenoy, 5A

GURU IS INSPIRATION

Guru Purnima also known as Vyasa Purnima is celebrated on the full moon day (**Purnima**) in the Hindu month of Ashadha. On this day, devotees worship their spiritual gurus and visit temples to seek blessings. The festival is dedicated to one's Guru, mentor or teacher. This year Guru Purnima was celebrated on 24th July, 2021.

It is widely believed that on Guru Purnima, Lord Buddha gave his first sermon in Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh, after weeks of achieving enlightenment under the Bodhi tree. The day also holds its significance in the Mahabharata and other holy books of the Hindus.

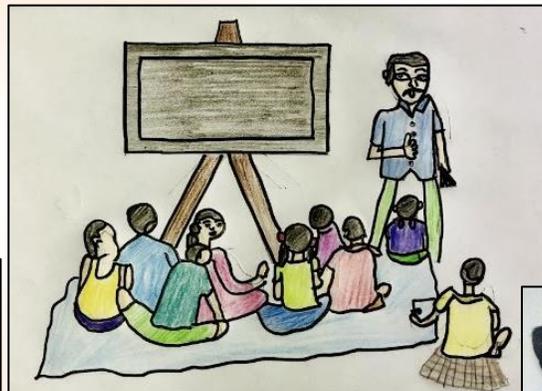
Ved Vyasa who wrote the epic Mahabharata, was also born on Guru Purnima, therefore, the day marks his birth anniversary too.

Meanwhile, history says that Guru Purnima was revived by Mahatma Gandhi in tribute to his spiritual Guru Shrimad Rajchandra.

Guru Purnima is of significance for the Jains too. On this day, Gautam Swami who was earlier known as Indrabhuti Gautam, became the first disciple of the 24th Tirthankara, Mahavir. Mahavir thus became a Guru and hence the day is observed as Guru Purnima.



Atharv Gupta, 4A



Art by Swara Uttekar, 4C

NO PLASTIC IS FANTASTIC

Life existed on Earth in the best form before we started using plastic. Human beings with their greedy nature have started misusing plastic. Plastic has become a curse to the environment. The International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed on 3rd July annually. The purpose of observing this day is to promote the use of eco-friendly items such as paper bags or cloth bags instead of plastic bags and get rid of the single use plastic bags.

Some of the reasons why we should discontinue the use of plastic bags are, it is a non-biodegradable waste which remains in the soil for thousands of years thereby decreasing the fertility of the soil. The plastic bags block the drainage system that cause flooding on the roads during monsoon. Stray animals eat these plastic bags and die. It is also a threat to marine life. My school had conducted an anti-plastic drive wherein students were asked to collect plastic which was then sent for recycling. My school and my parents have helped me a lot in understanding the ill-effects of plastic use which is why I carry a cloth or paper bag and encourage my friends and other members to do the same. Let us all together join hands and try to build a plastic free Earth.



DO SOMETHING TERRIFIC, NO PLASTIC IS FANTASTIC.

Ananya Kotian, 4B

LET 'S BE FREE FROM PLASTIC

When we will stop using plastic,
The environment will become clean and fantastic.
Lots of plastic can cause so much pollution,
Cleaning areas of plastic is the best solution.
Plastic is much harmful than foil,
It can damage the soil.
Plastic in seas is harmful to the seas, birds and fishes,
As they have plastic dishes.
When people will reduce the use of plastic,
It would be so fantastic.
Let us throw the evil plastic away,
Fresh air the environment will pay.
Free from plastic,
Makes the environment fantastic.



Viha Mehta, 4B

SAY 'NO' TO PLASTIC

Marketing, shopping, picnics or any kind of outing- the first thing that we look out for is a plastic bag to put all our belongings in. Plastic bags and plastic products have been an important part of our lives as it makes it easy.

Plastic bags are commonly used even though we know that they can damage the environment. Plastic bags are harmful as it takes many years for them to decompose. This has resulted in many environmental effects including animal choking, pollution, blockage of channels, rivers and streams causing imbalance in the ecosystem.

To overcome this problem there is a need to minimise the use of plastic. This means changing our day-to-day habits by not using plastic when there are options like cloth bags, jute bags and paper bags. Some plastic bags can be reused or used for different purposes. We also need to think about how they can be reused before disposing of them.

We are caretakers of Mother Earth and we need to do our bit by accepting the slogan "No Plastic is Fantastic" and helping this place to be a better living place for us and for the future generation.



Livia Monteiro, 3A

SUNSHINE

Oh! Sun Oh! Sun
Bringing us sunshine to give us health and fun.
You shine bright like a dazzling light
Is there anyone who can beat your might?
But, when you are out of sight
Probably it is night.
When you shine in your full flow
The trees around us get eager to grow
Giving food and shelter to all creatures
Including crow.
Dear friends, have you ever thought what would be
our plight
If the sun is out of our sight?
Yes, we all will cry and whine
If there is no sunshine.
So, come one and come all, let's all take
a pledge
To continue to grow trees, plants and our
hedge.



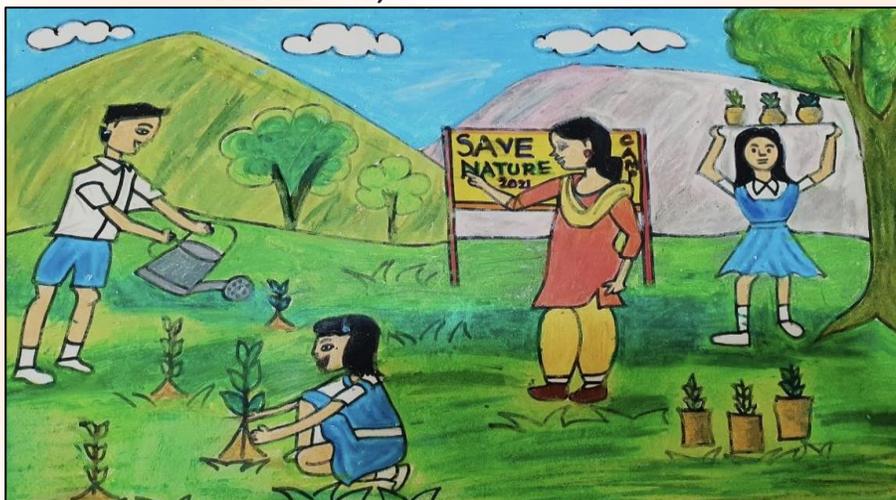
Vihaan Joshi, 4C

A PROMISE FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

There are so many things,
That we can do
To save our environment
For me and you.
The less wastage of water,
The more trees grown,
While following the three 'R's
And cut down what we throw.
There are also some things
That we shouldn't do
Like smoking and using plastic
Which will pollute the air for you.
Educate everyone
And volunteer for cleanups
Follow these rules to save our earth
Let's keep our promise and team up.



Yazdin Talati, 8B



Art by Prisha Desai 5B

PLASTIC POLLUTION

Do not throw or use me,
As I'm a danger to nature and the sea.
My form is simply boring,
And I'm tired no one is recycling.
I get burnt and release foul smell,
But I'm so light I can't ring a bell.
I can freeze for hours and get crushed
But humans don't avoid getting me flushed.
People should put the garbage in the dustbins,
So that nature and environment clearly wins.



Aarush Dalal, 4C

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

The girl who stood up for education
Who withstood discrimination,
You are my inspiration
And to many others a motivation.
You stood up for women's rights
And fought with all might,
Your valiant pilgrimage
Gave me will and courage.
Your name will be remembered
By me and many others.



Anushka Bharti, 7B

They say, "You should lose some weight"
But call thin people skinny.
They say, "You should wear more make-up"
But those who do are called phony.

They want us to be their perfect, little toys
Be whatever they want us to be,
Forget ourselves and follow their ploys
Even if it means not being happy.

We change ourselves to suit their whims and fancies
Trying to meet their expectations
All we care about is what they see
And our precious reputations.

FITTING IN

But why do we do this to ourselves?
The answer is obvious.
We just want to make friends
And for people to like us

But why can't we accept each other for who we are?
Everyone of us is beautiful in our own way.
Let's open our minds and hearts
And put our conventional notions away.

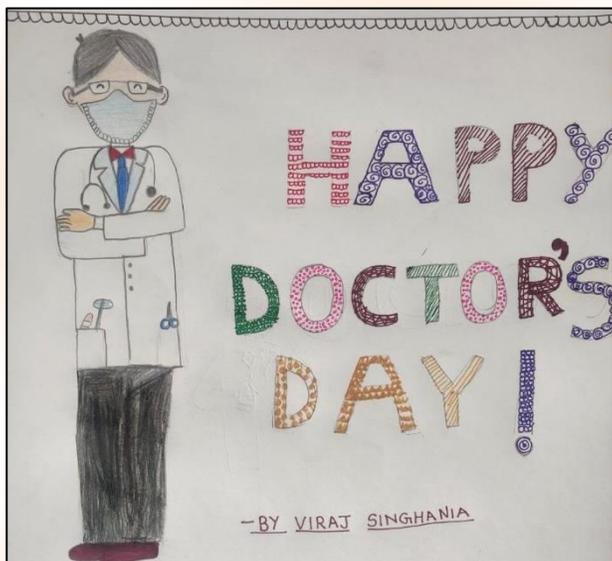
For this is the only way we can be truly happy
Everyone wants to be accepted
And not judged by society
We just want to be ourselves.



Shazmecka Nair, 9A

NATIONAL DOCTOR'S DAY

Doctors are extraordinary people who treat the sick and put their patients' lives before anything else. They are a boon to mankind. Today, when the world is experiencing a global pandemic due to COVID-19 outbreak, they play an important role in saving people's lives. In India we celebrate `National Doctor's Day` on 1st of July to mark the birth anniversary and to pay tribute to Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy. He was a highly respected doctor and a politician.



This day is observed to thank, salute and applaud the doctors who work day and night for the sake of society. On this day medical checkup camps are organized and various activities at schools and colleges are held on medical topics to draw young minds towards the field of medicines. So let us all take this opportunity to appreciate these front line professionals for their work and dedication.



Art by Viraj Singhania 8 B



Vihaan Kotecha, 5C

A TRIP TO INDONESIA

On 13th December, 2019, we travelled to Indonesia. We went to my relative's house there. My uncle welcomed us at the Indonesian airport.

After we reached his house, I had a severe headache. When I could not do anything about it, I simply fell asleep. The next day, when I woke up, we went to a zoo. On the way, we saw a very elaborate and beautiful statue of a God similar to the Indian God - Hanumanta. We reached the zoo and travelled by car throughout. We saw astonishing sights and facts about animals written on their cages. We had fun seeing the various creatures.

The following day, we went to a restaurant where we saw some dramatic scenes and ate delicious food. After that, we visited a massage parlour for the elders. We climbed a hill and also drank coconut water while admiring nature's beauty. The next two days were spent on shopping.

We had a lot of fun on our trip to Indonesia.



Hriday Shetty, 6A

MY HAPPY EXPERIENCE

One fine morning, we planned to visit Khandala. It was unexpected and a surprise for me. It was the 15th of August when we woke up at 5:30 A.M. and got ready for our trip. I was so excited that I couldn't sleep the previous night. It was quite dark and drizzling when we left home.

We could feel the refreshing breeze and the lovely fragrance of the wet soil which took my breath away. As it was a two hour journey, we took a halt at the Food Plaza and then continued on our journey. By then, the sun had risen and we could feel the warmth of the delightful morning. Finally, we reached our destination. We enjoyed our pleasant stay at the resort.

The next morning it was raining heavily but we had to leave in order to reach home. I will never forget this happy experience and will cherish its memories for a lifetime.



Mandeep Lugani, 6A

THE HAPPIEST MOMENT IN MY LIFE

During vacation, when I was at home, I was feeling very lonely and there was nobody to play with me. I saw other families, they had siblings spending their time playing toys, watching T.V, drawing, reading comics together, playing indoor and outdoor games. Looking at them, I wanted a sibling. Initially, I was hesitant to speak about this matter to my parents. Eventually after gathering a little bit of courage, I spoke to them. My parents thought over this and finally agreed. This was very unexpected for me but I am happy that they decided to get me a sibling.

The birth of my brother Rivan was the happiest moment of my life. That scene is still vivid in my memory. My brother's innocent smile took my breath away. I felt the warmth of his arm when I hugged him. I am thrilled for you, my Prince. I was very excited to open his gifts. I would always like to protect and cherish him. He has made my life more exciting. This moment will remain alive in my mind forever.



- Jiya Jatakia, 6B

MY MOST MEMORABLE TRIP

Our family trip to Singapore in 2017 is my most memorable trip till date. It was my first international trip. I was extremely excited at the beginning of the trip and I had such a wonderful time that I vividly remember every detail of the trip even today.

We started our trip from Mumbai International Airport late one night and when we took off in the aircraft, the landscape below was breathtaking. The whole of Mumbai city was lit up at night. It looked so beautiful! About five hours later we reached Singapore early in the morning. We had booked a cab to the hotel and on our way, we saw some wonderful, tall skyscrapers, the roads were



Art by Zeel Shah, 10A

clean, and traffic was running smoothly. When we reached our seven star-hotel, I was so thrilled looking at the majestic size of our room and the palatial hotel.

We rested for a while, had a stupendous breakfast and set out for a sight-seeing tour of Singapore city. We took the metro train to the Botanical Gardens and the early evening light-show there took my breath away. It was colourful and in sync with the background music. After this, we went for a night cruise of the city on the banks of Clarke Quay. The cruise was such a delightful experience that I will cherish it forever. We returned to the hotel and fell into a tired, but happy slumber.

Next day, unexpectedly it started raining and we thought we would not be able to enjoy our day. But luckily, the rains soon stopped and we continued our plans to visit the Bird Park and the Zoo. The variety of birds, exotic animals and interactive talk shows with the colourful parrots left me thrilled and excited. Similarly, our visits to the Night Safari, Sentosa Island, Universal Studios were amazing. During the whole trip we enjoyed the food, music, culture, art and craft of the Singaporean people.

I returned home after seven days with warm memories of the trip. Our entire family gets nostalgic about this trip, whenever we look at the photo album of this memorable trip.



Pashmira Kapadia, 6C

AN UNFORTUNATE ADVENTURE

An afternoon like any other, in Mumbai. The sun was not too high in the sky, the scorching heat made my skin red. My back felt the slow trickles of sweat. After buying the required vegetables and dog food, I pushed my way through the busy, crowded streets. The smell of freshly fried street food making my hunger unbearable, and the sizzling sound ringing repeatedly in my ears, I hurried home.

The key-bunch jingled as I barely managed to open the door to our house, only to get shocked to realise that it was unlocked. I dropped the bags onto the couch with a reasonably loud thump and sprinted to check the other room, only to see no signs of my pet dog. My already sweaty face dripped more because of the sweat. I got goosebumps and shivered as a gust of wind finally chose to blow. I was afraid, afraid that I had lost my dog, forever.

Without thinking twice, I dashed out the door after looking around the house for the fifth time, locking it firmly. I sprinted across the floor, to my neighbour's house, with unease, distress and a heart beating rather too rapidly. Anxiety getting the best of me, I took a few deep breaths, inhaling the soil of the plant kept at my neighbour's door. No answer. I did not wait any longer and asked the security guards downstairs. On hearing how they had gone to eat lunch while keeping the gate locked, I felt a wave of relief, not until I noticed a hole from which my dog always escaped when I attempted to take him for a bath. Thanking the guards, I walked speedily towards the stalls nearby to inquire.

My body was tense but I felt at ease the moment I saw my dog with a boy. I approached them with a relieved sigh as my dog ran to me and wagged his tail. I recognised the boy as my goofy childhood friend who had now indirectly helped me find my playful dog. The street lights began coming on in a sequence, as the three of us strode calmly, in tranquility, back home.

This experience may not be remembered for the best reasons but it was surely an adventure. The panic, anxiety, guilt and distress made me realise how much my dog meant to me. The struggle and distress was worth the relief and opportunity of having reunited with my friend.



Sonia Deval, 9 B

THE PAPER BAG DAY

World Paper Bag Day is celebrated every year on 12th July which spreads awareness about using paper bags obtained from tree remains or recycled paper. This day aims at eradicating harmful non-biodegradable materials such as plastic, polythene and other one time use materials. Plastic is strong, durable and waterproof but it has its cons... it cannot be used after some time and then it eventually lands in landfills harming the environment. So we should prefer paper bags to make a start to a plastic free future.

Therefore we should use paper bags and spread awareness ourselves too.

Did you know???

- American inventor, Francis Wolle, has been credited for his patent of the first paper bag machine in 1852. The "Mother of the Grocery Bag" - Margaret E. Knight in 1870 designed the square, flat bottomed bag, and the machine that would fold and paste them.
- Paper bags are 100% recyclable and they can help in your house compost.
- Paper bags are safe for marine life and animals.
- It takes less energy to manufacture paper bags.
- Paper bags can hold many more items without losing their sturdiness.
- If we just put a thin film of plant fibres or leaves, we can also make paper bags waterproof.



Viraj Singhania, 8 B

So why not choose paper bags?

KARGIL VIJAY DIWAS

'Indian Army' -these two words keep our heads high with respect and gratitude by their sacrifice and nobility safeguarding our families day and night.

The Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed on July 26 to commemorate the heroic warriors who gave their lives on the frontlines in order to accomplish a triumph over bitter foes. As a part of the main event, during the first week of July, the celebration starts with the illumination of a 'Victory Flame' from National War Memorial through eleven towns and cities and finally culminates at Dras where the flame is merged with the eternal flame at 'Kargil War Memorial'. The nation will be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Victory this year with the theme- 'Remember, Rejoice and Renew'. This day invokes deep patriotic reverence for our martyrs.



We celebrate this day in order to give honour to the ones who sacrificed themselves during the Kargil War in 1999 against Pakistan. A unique ceremony is held at Amar Jawan Jyoti, India Gate in New Delhi, which is led by the country's Prime Minister.

The aim of such programmes is not only to honour the sacrifice, but also to inspire future generations to follow in the footsteps of our brave heroes.

What happened in Kargil should serve as a lesson for every Indian citizen. We must all vow to serve our country with a sublime feeling of selfless love and devotion that stirs every heart, whatever our field of choice.

It's a token of gratitude for the courageous warriors who continue to protect the country's borders and unfurl the Indian flag wide open high up in the sky even in these tough times(Covid-19). We need to take a pledge to serve our country with our full potential. The brave soldiers who sacrificed themselves for our country will always be in our hearts and prayers for making us step out of our homes with our heads held high.

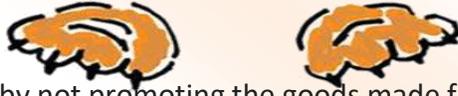
"Your courage is admired, your sacrifice is honoured,
With spirits that exists, bound us with memories behind
I salute your soul which makes me fly,
Friend, you are a soldier and a soldier never dies ."



Kanak Khatod, 8A

SAVE THE TIGERS

Tigers are the national animals of India but they are getting increasingly endangered. They are usually killed and traded in India for their unique orange skin with beautiful black pattern or for their claws and bones. In 2010 NDTV joined hands with Aircel and launched 'Save The Tiger' campaign which has helped in increasing tiger population, especially in Sunderban.



We should save tigers from extinction by not promoting the goods made from poaching tigers. Another cause of their extinction is that the human encroachment of forested areas forces tigers to come to places of human habitation, where they usually get killed. So, we should keep their natural habitats safe. Various campaigns around the globe have protected the tigers, but conservationists aim to almost double their population by the year 2022.

'Their Survival Is In Our Hands' is the slogan of the International Tiger Day, celebrated every year on 29th July. Currently there are approximately 3900 tigers in the world and it is high time that we realise the need to protect them. We, as humans, should strive to protect tigers and other creatures in the world and maintain the balance of nature and ecosystem.



Niyati Bhatt, 9A

MY SUMMER IN THE LOCKDOWN

[A letter to my cousin describing how I spent my summer holidays in Mumbai during the lockdown period.]

My dear Yohan,

I hope you are well. It has been long since I last wrote to you. I hope this letter reaches you in good health and great spirits.

Last week, my school summer holidays came to an end. They had lasted for over a month and had been quite different owing to the travel restrictions due to the lockdown. I spent most of my time studying, preparing for my exams which were due post the holidays. I watched several interesting movies and series. My mother even taught me some cuisines and I would be glad to serve them to you someday. I also took up the hobby of cube solving and have now mastered three kinds of cubes. I even read novels and have successfully completed the 'Kane and Abel' series. I played some indoor cricket with my father and brother, and even invested time in daily exercise and focusing on my overall fitness. Even though I could not venture out, I enjoyed spending time with my family.

Convey my kind regards to uncle and aunt, and love to Rashi. I hope to hear from you soon. Take care of yourself.

With love,

Your loving cousin,



Vedika Gupta, 10 A



Art by Ameenah Doctor, 9A

