

“40 days, 40 nights
When the rain kept a-falling...” sang some children on the School Day.

The song truly captured the term that just went by. The term that justified its name – Monsoon Term! Unlike the previous year, the rains didn't keep us waiting for long. In fact, as the school day neared, we wondered when it would stop raining. Luckily it didn't rain on the School Day.

The grass grew, the moths visited us. And so did the beetles, praying mantises and those little bugs we don't yet know the names of.

The term started with the community welcoming the new students and teachers who brought in their fresh energy into the Sahyadri community. Viv akka with her daughter Melanie and Saumya akka joined us in the beginning of the term. Chris sir came in towards the end of the term. After the now-traditional freshers' hike to the Shambhu Hill, came the Freshers' Eve. Freshers presented a good cultural programme for the school. We were impressed as they became a part of us.

We had many workshops. Roshan sir came and worked with class 5 and 6 students and they made two interesting murals for the Senior Audi. He also helped class 8 students during their workshop with Nirmala Patwardhan where they learnt about a Japanese clay art form – Raku. Nirmala akka defied her advanced age and was seen most of the time in front of the new kiln that had been especially prepared for the workshop. Children loved being with her and also listened keenly to the stories from her even older husband.

Then Ramesh sir from The School, Chennai, came to visit us and conducted a Haiku workshop for children from Classes 7 and 8. One child wrote:

Heavy rain...
A group of kids
Playing football in the field

Obviously he, like many other children, had really enjoyed the Football Camp in the heavy rain and slushy field. Besides the matches here, the school teams (boys and girls) also went to Pune to play a couple of matches with Bhojwani School.

And then came the School Day. The Batik display near the Oval Garden looked majestic. Senior children had prepared two plays as they participated in a theatre workshop with Rashi Bunny before the School Day. Class 9 and 10 children had undergone a process of enquiry into the significance and consequences of schooling which culminated in the production. The cultural programme also included items coming out of our regular hobby classes – Bharatnatyam, Vocal Hindustani Music, Sitar, Tabla, Guitar and the Piano. This term many teachers also joined the Vocal Hindustani Music hobby classes and they're learning well!

One Sunday morning, we celebrated a festival of bubbles. Nobody knows how it started but you saw many children blowing bubbles outside the Dining Hall. And they made big bubbles! All the liquid soap from the Dining Hall was over and then they even used up their shampoo bottles!



This term the school took some steps in the direction of active participation of students in the school processes. Class 10 students formed a Student Council and one of the responsibilities they undertook was organising a tree plantation programme on 15th August. The whole school participated heartily and we planted more than 100 saplings of around 10 different species of trees.

As the term was closing, we had a couple of workshops. Class 6 children had the opportunity to interact with Tejinder Walia on the *Kathopanishad*. Class 8 children had an Aeromodeling workshop. Class 9 children, after their first exams, went for their educational excursion to Bandhavgarh National Park, which claims to have the highest tiger density in Asia. Some of them had the opportunity to watch a tigress with her four cubs playing around in the mud for 52 minutes!

We have uploaded many photographs from this term onto the web. You can visit <http://picasaweb.google.com/sahyadrischool> for these photographs.

Haikus

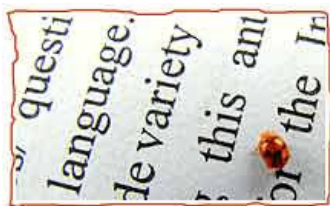
We had a Haiku workshop on the 11th and 12th of September. Ramesh sir, who teaches at 'The School' in Chennai, conducted it. There were two sessions for 8B. One was during the unstructured time in the AV Room on the 11th and the second was during our English block in the Art hut. On the first day we were given instructions on the art of haiku. We were taught what a haiku is and the method by which one writes a haiku. In the second haiku session we were asked to write haikus.

The art of haiku originated in Japan. A haiku is not a poem. It is not necessary for a haiku to rhyme or sound good. It is a three-line poem but is more like a short prose essay. While writing a haiku nothing which is about you has to be described in detail. It has just to be stated. A haiku is usually about a scene which you have witnessed. When you write a haiku it is like sharing an incident with someone else while, at the same time, leaving the question of the finer details open to the reader's imagination. Many Zen priests or saints often used to write haikus on their pilgrimages and put them up in the temples which they visited.



The Haiku workshop was quite thought provoking and I especially enjoyed writing haikus during the second session. We wrote haikus on our previous experiences or what we could see from where we were sitting in the Art hut. Out of the haikus which we have written, the ones which we think are the best are being put. On the whole the entire Haiku workshop was quite good but we also felt that it was too short.

Ratik Ashokan, 8B



Haiku is a Japanese form of poetry with only 3 lines. It tells us about the small things the author notices.

A black and white paper -

A red lady bug,

Comes and sits on it.

You don't use words which express feelings. You don't use words like beautiful, mesmerizing, and surprising. The best part of the haiku is that you can make/write it whenever and wherever you want. Haiku is always in the present tense. Haiku's just a small thought or an experience written in the form of a poem.

Ashwini, 7A

As the mouse button clicked the poem flashed on with just three lines, but it had a meaning. Haiku is a Japanese form of poetry. After we had seen and read a lot of Haikus, we decided to write some ourselves. It is not very easy to write Haikus as you can't use descriptive words. It was a nice experience over all. Haikus are beautiful to write and to listen to!

Ashini, 7A

Haiku?!

"What's a haiku?" was the first thought that came to my mind when I heard about it.

Haiku is a poem which the Japanese write. It's a three lined poem which leaves the reader to ponder over what is written. We learned how to write a haiku in our first session and we wrote haiku's on our second session.

It was on the whole, a really interesting experience. Many of us wrote really good ones.

Here is a sample:

When the leaves turn green to yellow
they hold hands
waiting...

Sakhi, 8A



Freshers' Hike

This new school year brought with it not only unexpected responsibilities and regulations, but yet another hoard of uncertain, optimistic, shy and home-sick freshers. In recent years, every batch of freshers has been taken to a very familiar landmark near our school – Shambhu Hill. A few of us tenths accompanied them that day. And so, on the 17th of June, we found ourselves very conveniently bunking classes and making our way towards the hill.



Many – in fact almost all – of the freshers were not used to the strain of the sun, a backpack, and walking at the same time. There were some who carried bags that actually weighed more than them, so we found ourselves alternately tugging along backpacks, listening to the non-stop chatter, pushing along the tired juniors and giving the occasional shout of warning when a vehicle came along.

The temple, when we came to it (finally!), was cool and inviting. Of course, our attempts at folkdance and playing UNO were quickly stopped – it isn't everyday a pundit thinks that fourth standards are gambling! The way back to school was fun – cool, a strong breeze blowing on our faces and an unexpected (and in most cases unknown too!) longing to return to school. After all, your home-away-from-home is the next best thing when your actual home is over 75 kilometres away!

Megha, 10

Murals for the Senior Audi

One fine morning Salim sir asked us to make peacocks. We all wondered what it for was. He told us we were going to have a pottery workshop. He didn't give us the details but we had a fair idea. We started making peacocks and they came out well.



On the twenty fourth of July I saw a fair-complexioned sir in the assembly. I asked Ananya who he was. She said that he was the Sir who had come to conduct our pottery workshop. His name was Roshan sir. At the end of the assembly, Amresh sir introduced him to us.

We started our workshop with him that morning. He saw the peacocks we had drawn. Most of us had drawn peacocks facing sideways. Only Ashwin had drawn a front facing peacock. Actually we were going to make a mural of a big peacock. So we took Ashwin's idea as an example. We first started by putting a tracing paper on Ashwin's picture and drawing boxes. We did that because while firing the kiln, we couldn't fire a big piece, so we would need to cut it into pieces and then fire it. So we drew the boxes.

Roshan sir and Salim sir went to the Senior Auditorium and measured the wall because we were going to put it up on the wall in the Senior Auditorium. We joined many chart papers and made a big paper. On the paper we drew boxes. After the boxes were done, we drew the peacock on the paper as Ashwin had done. There were many additions in the peacock because we added all the ideas that we had used in our peacocks. After we had made all the additions, it looked very beautiful.

We started making slabs for the mural. We made lots of slabs and joined them. We put the drawing on the big slab. We took pieces of wood and traced it on the big slab. Some of us did the tracing.

The next day, we made small slabs and coils for the peacock. We shaped the coils for the small feathers of the peacock and small slabs for big feathers, leaves etc. We even made different shapes of circles for the peacock's body. We put the circles in such a way that they looked like feathers on the peacock's body.

The most fun we had was in the way we worked, we had to lie on the boards to work on the middle part of the peacock's body! We had great fun doing the pottery workshop.

Sakshi, 5A

Folkdance Sessions

The year started off in its usual way – freshers arriving, P.T in the morning, classes, Asthachal and the hullabaloo in the dining hall at dinner. But the tedious routine of the first week was altered as rhythm, music, beat and coordination played into our lives.

The school had invited Mahesh sir to 're-train' us for the Western folkdances that we knew (supposedly!) and had been doing over the years every Saturday. He corrected us and explained the meaning of some of the dances to us. An hour and a half of dancing everyday was exhausting – but so much fun! We had no idea that we had altered the dances to such an extent that they had lost their meaning completely!



With the 10th standards' dancing during rest hour, 9A during the games time, and 9B during unstructured time, the senior school as a whole learned nearly 25 dances altogether! Learning dances from Israel, Greece and Holland taught us about cultures entirely different from ours and made us realize the beauty of dancing. It is all about forgetting yourself completely and putting your entire being into a dance. It's the best way to relax and celebrate the unity of a community. The week was perhaps the best first week we had ever had. I hope Mahesh sir comes back as often as he can and teaches us all the dances he knows!

Akshyeta, 10

Folk dancing is a delightful activity. It's a dance form that has taken us to all the corners of the earth, using the medium of the delightful, rhythmic grace of dance. We are proud to be the class VIII students as now our unlikely rhythm has turned into a rainbow of different dancing colours. The folk dances we perform are part of an enriching collection of dances from all over the world. We sometimes feel as if we had been seeking this enthralling opportunity for ages. The folk dance has inspired us to show our talents enthusiastically. We have been given the opportunity of a lifetime to fall in love with life through the medium of dance! Through the avenue of folk dance we have been introduced to the various cultures of the world. This has not just enriched our talents, but has also boosted our self confidence and stamina! We really love it!

Udita & Arushi, 8A

Football Camp

The football camp at school was conducted from the 3rd of July to 23rd of July, 2006. It was great fun. All the coaches – Sri sir, Amit sir, and Harshad sir – were very friendly. We liked training under them. We had four inter-school matches. While the girls won their first match, the boys also won one of their matches. We lost the other two. Many of the children had joined the football camp. We used to play everyday in the morning from 5:45 a.m. to 7:10 a.m. Some of us, such as Siddharth, were injured. For the first matches, Uttara was the girls' captain and Harsh was the captain of the boys' team.



Avadhesh, 8A



Football is my favourite game and so I thought of joining the football camp. In the football camp we used to practise some easy skills like passing, shooting, dribbling, heading, volleys and many other kinds of skills and after a few days we started practising running skills. Our coach used to say a good pass needed body weight, timing and accuracy. As the days passed we learnt more.

Soon the time had come to choose children for the school team. And to my surprise and happiness I was chosen for the school team. I was the youngest member of the school team.

Arjun, 5B

Aero-modeling Workshop



Well, it was a great experience! The first day the instructor showed us some small clippings of aeroplanes and taught us the parts of the plane. Then he gave each one of us small kits of planes and then we started ... making our own planes! It was hard work (a lot) but it was worth it! There was a lot of sandpapering done in it! We used some chemical paste to apply on the parts so that they remain stiff! But keep in mind we all had to be careful with it as it was the lightest and thinnest wood we were using. After we had done all the sandpapering and finished with the plane we had to put some clay at the tip of the nose so that the plane would be balanced! And ta-da! Our planes were ready! We all went to the football field to test our new planes! Many of ours broke! And there were pins sticking out from the planes! The pins were holding the pieces together. Mine eventually broke. And so I had a really great experience in the workshop! It was fun going around helping people who didn't have any idea how to stick the pieces! It was fun watching planes crash and break into pieces. There was always a line for sticking the pieces together! That shows the amount of planes that broke! It was a great experience!

Sasha, 8 B

The Student Council

The idea of forming a student council was first discussed with us last term by Amresh sir in one of the culture classes. I still remember our enthusiastic reaction. Excitement had flowed through us as we talked more about it. The idea seemed great! Being a part of a council would make us important and responsible! Finally the discussions led to decisions and we grabbed the opportunity of our class 10 assembly to put forward this new and fresh concept to the school. The student council would be a group of students helping the functioning of the school by putting the views of the students forward and making an attempt to make a difference. The main objectives of forming this council would be:

- (a) To participate more actively in the activities in school.
- (b) To attempt to reform rules in such a way that the students follow them willingly and the teachers agree to the amendments.
- (c) To go through the entire learning experience of organizing activities, discussing issues and making appropriate decisions.

The student council is a new step and so we cannot guarantee a great change but if the students respond well and we keep our enthusiasm and organize regular meetings, the seed of the concept will grow into a fruitful and mighty tree.

The attempt needs support from the students because we need to hear suggestions, doubts, complaints and feedback, to make the best of it!!

Stuti, 10

School Day

As it always does, this School Day also started with a fresh smile on the reception committee members' faces. Along with this lovely greeting, coffee and tea were always available in the shamiana next door. Gradually all the parents were on the move towards the senior auditorium where the cultural programme was to take place. All the participants headed for their respective venues. All the non-participants accompanied their moms and dads to the senior auditorium. The cultural programme began with a chant and ended with a play done by the ninths and the tenths.



The chants were out of our song book 'Geet Gunjan'. 'Schooling', the play that the two senior most classes did was an attempt to mirror the schooling that goes on almost everywhere. A ten minute tea break separated the cultural

programme from the movie made by the tenth standards. There was music for background. The movie was based on the life of a Sahyadrian. Arman and Akshyeta were speaking about their personal experience. Tarang, the only student from class 8, played the drums for the sound clip. After this movie there was lunch. Art, Computer and Geography exhibitions were open. Post-lunch some parents left and most of them left after tea. A long, eventful day was then over and now you view it in your own hands, memories rushing back to you. Wonderful day, was it not?

Karunya, 8B



After weeks of resilient practising and hard work, with every waking moment spent in anticipation of the coming performance, with the auditorium clad simply but with aesthetic elegance, the shamiana spread like a broad canopy over our excitement and anxiety, a protuberant trademark of our school day, the 2nd and 3rd of September ushered forth the best of all our students and teachers. These two days saw the culmination of all our skill, determination, perseverance, talent and effort that had bubbled throughout the term, on the hilltop of our home at Sahyadri.

The 2nd and 3rd of September were celebrated as our School Day this year instead of the 10th of September, 11 years previous to which our school was actually founded. This was done for the sake of convenience both for our term schedule and for our parents. These two days have been allotted to enable the junior parents to come on the first day and the senior parents on the next day. Though not much variation is found in the schedule of the two days, the sequence of the performances of the items tends to differ. This year too our cultural programme had a slight variation but all the same the quality of work and the magnitude of our energy remained the same.

At the beginning of both these days, the students of class 10 began with the introduction of our programme, compering it throughout as well. The show then commenced on an auspicious note with the teachers chanting some verses.

Following this was a varied range of vocal performances by students of classes 4 to 10. There was also the sitar musical performed by students of classes 6 and 7. The Tarana had students from almost all classes involved in the evocation. Preceding these performances were songs, accompanied by the piano, entitled "On the Wings of Song" on which flew all those who had an eager interest in singing. Some of the songs were from the renowned classic "Sound of Music". The songs were sung by an amateur choir whose melody came from the heart rather than their voice. Sadly though, this performance was done only on the first day.



On the 3rd September it was replaced by a song "The Negro Spiritual (Didn't it Rain!)" sung by a few girls of class 8 with the piano. The melody of the violin accompanied them as well, with the violin being played by one of the student singers. A novel attempt was made at fusion – of music, dance and vocal music with the chords of the Sitar, the percussion of the tabla, the pitch of the singers and the feet of the young 5th and 6th standard girls coordinated in perfect rhythm.

Kena Kamal Becha Malamaal, based on the original work of a Bengali writer, Badal Sircar, was a play staged by the boys of class 8 on the second day. This play was enacted only for the senior parents. This was a humorous play about how the lives of two thieves are altered when they enter an alien world where the purpose of their lives is questioned. This play was enacted in Hindi.



And last but not the least was the "Critique of Schooling", a performance by the senior school on schooling and its effects on us students. This 'critique' was based on improvisations and exercises done by the students themselves. This was a mere enquiry, a process, a beginning of questions yet unanswered but a performance based on real life parodies and our thoughts and ideas in the form of verses and short skits. Following this in the end was the conclusion closing the programme with an evocation of feelings and experiences from our own lives.

This year our cultural programme was appreciated by our audience – our parents the most honest critics of our work and the proudest to see us perform on stage. Though the cultural programme took up most of our time and was the

highlight of the day, the Art exhibits, the Geography exhibition, the hastily put up Science exhibition and the project work put up by the students were also a significant part of the day. The 10 minute movie made by the students of standard 10 also enthralled the viewers.

Like all good things come to an end, our practices, our performances and our school day too came to an end. Our program was not only an effort of the students and teachers of our school but also of the external resource persons whose help and equally important contributions to our events we cannot fail to acknowledge. As this term has flown by with all its affinity and magnetism, pulling us students along with it, we look forward avidly towards the coming term, waiting for an opportunity to lose ourselves again in the activities of the new term...

Zahabia, 9A

Teachers' Day

Teachers' Day was great fun. It began this way: in the morning we were woken up by the 10th's who played heavy metal music at full volume! Well, now, that totally rocked! Wide awake immediately, we got ready, dressed and went for breakfast. Then came the assembly. There was a small description on almost every teacher and we had to guess who was being described. The descriptions were fun; after this, the teachers then had to say something about the batch. Then the classes started, we played basketball, Chinese whisper, Japanese whisper, etc. It was cool fun.

After lunch we went back to the dorm and played C.S. and had a water fight with our 'Teachers' day house parents'. This too was fun. Then at 2:30 we went to the hockey court for a game organized by the 'Teachers' day teachers'. There were 25 teams and we had to play a race in the form of a treasure hunt. We had to put our hands in slush, run in muck, put our hands in dining hall waste, run, climb trees ... My god! Now that was exhausting! Tired, we all went back to the dorm to rest.

In the evening, we went to the Auditorium. Now the real teachers performed some items for us like dances, songs, prayers, etc. It was really awesome! This was followed by dinner. The 'Teachers' day teachers' had a special dinner with the real teachers. Then the 'house parents' for the day returned to the respective dorms and spent some time with the children. In our dorm we jammed on the guitar and sang and danced and cracked jokes!

Looking back at that day, the main experience we had was that of unlimited fun, and of having a completely new, crazy, young staff!!

Tarang, 8B



A note from the medical officer:

Dear Parents,

Kindly immunise your child against chickenpox (single injection) if he/she has not been vaccinated before or has not had the disease. Also please try to complete other vaccinations as advised by the school doctor at the time of admission.

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