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THE BLUE PRINT.

THE BLUE MOUNTAIN'S SCHOOL. THE BLUE MOUNTAIN'S SCHOOL. THE BLUE MOUNTAIN'S SCHOOL. THE BLUE MOUNTAIN'S SCHOOL.

EDITORIALA NEW APPROACH TO LIFE

A new approach to life is a new approach to education - That the old system of education has failed is a fact - who can deny it? - All are screaming against it, some write against it, others long to go back to the time of their forefathers "when things were simpler and people more honest".

In actual fact education begins when a child is born - learning to read and write and count is just an infinitesimal part of education.

Quote "But who must train my child?" "I have just told you, you should do it yourself". (Rousseau)

Making the child aware of his relationships to his environment, as he handles a book, pets his dog, looks at a flower, or treats his friends - is the beginning of education - and surely there is no end.

The mind thus made alert will find it easy to master Mathematics or History or whatever.

Let us establish one more fact, that there can be no clash in the ideas of parents and teachers regarding the total welfare of the child. If there is, then either the child has been entrusted into the wrong hands or the parents have not looked at the child as an individual, and at themselves not at all. Quote "Fathers guilty of this neglect are no fathers at all." (Erasmus)

As educators shall we then first question ourselves, our motives and our premises, and become alert to our own lack of clarity regarding the meaning of Education.

Mona Rikh

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* Cover design : Sydney Tan *
* ICSE March 1984 *
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 MR. DAVID HORSBURGH
 a member of the board
 of trustees and
 an educator passed
 away at Bangalore on August 8, 1984.
 A condolence meeting was
 held on August 9, and
 the school closed for the
 day - in honour of his memory.

HERE AND THERE

THE STAFF ARRIVE

- July 28

ARRIVAL OF STUDENTS

- August 4 - Students arrive and with them, as usual, arrives noise and laughter.

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY

- August 9 - A Special Assembly was held to honour the memory of Mr. David Horsburgh. It was an extremely sad occasion for many of us.

IKEBANA CLASSES

- August 14 - Ikebana is taught regularly by Mrs Nirmala Stewart who is a Pioneer of Ikebana in India. She is one of the three non-Japanese women to hold the "Fuku Kyomu" - a grandmasters degree in Ikebana.

WEDDING

- Our Geography Master got married on September 12. We are looking forward to meeting Mrs Manuthachalam.

GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM

- September - A girls football team has been formed - They have played a few friendly matches with Hebrons and have done well.

MEERA GANAPATHY

- September 24 - A budding writer gave a talk on the folklore of the Todas. It was an interesting evening.

GOA

- October 26 to November 2 - Rather a hectic time - Our return to school was delayed due to various reasons. However, the trip was very enjoyable and interesting.

SCHOOL PICNIC

- November 17 - Everyone woke up to a misty and drizzly morning which cleared up enough to let us enjoy the one day when all of us are together in the open. It was indeed a very enjoyable day.

STAFF SHOW

- November 29 - The staff did their little bit - A number of skits, Urdu recitations, popular songs were presented. The students went into spasms of laughter over certain items.

DANCE PERFORMANCE

- Allaripu (the 1st movement of Bharat Natyam) was performed by Radhika, Rucha and Indumathi. Credit goes to the girls and to our dance teacher Omana Mathews (from Kalamandir, Kerala). It was a charming performance and everyone enjoyed it.

LAST ASSEMBLY

- November 30 - 7.45 p.m.
As always Mr Deb's talk was preceded by soft music.

Personal glimpses of David Horsburgh

The Master Builder

I have deliberately chosen a dramatic title (borrowed from Ibsen) because David and I have had a very close and long association through Drama.

It was in the early sixties that Shyam (my late husband) and I met David and Doreen at a cocktail party. David was at that time a professor at the Regional Institute of English in Bangalore. Those who knew David well, must know that David and cocktail parties didn't mix! That evening saw the beginning of a deep and lasting friendship between the Horsburghs and us.

I was already a member of the Bangalore Little Theatre and asked David to join - he would have joined anyway (knowing his love for drama) - and that started our ventures and adventures into the field of Dramatic art in Bangalore.

I remember an incident, when I was producing St. Vincent Millays "Aria do Capo". I needed a table without a crosspiece. I had a beautiful rectangular piece of wood, but no one had been able to make it stand - Every time legs were fitted to it, it would collapse - (We did not deal with professional carpenters) - David saw me in tears at a rehearsal two days before opening night. He took the piece of wood away and when I arrived for the dress-rehearsal, there on the stage stood a beautiful table. Recently, the same table has been cut down and polished - It now resides as my coffee table at home.

Play after play was produced by the Bangalore Little Theatre and David and I were involved perhaps in every one of them. Incident after incident can be quoted by me showing David's ingenuity and skill in all aspects of drama.

The most thrilling moment came in 1966 when the Bangalore Little Theatre produced David Horsburgh's play "The Ungrateful Man" before it was published - now well-known in many schools in India.

I am happy to say that B.M.S. produced it in 1979 with the whole school in the cast. It was witnessed by David and Doreen.

It was through David that I came to Ooty to teach in B.M.S. in 1972.

I went to see him in the hospital on the 1st of August, a few days before he slipped away. He held my hand and murmured feebly "How is the School?"

To me David was a Master-builder - He built plays, he built poems, he built sets, he built furniture, he built schools, he built books - he built education.

Mona Rikh

SOME FRAGMENTS

Ashk ke daane zameen-e-sheir mein bota hun mein (My tears are seeds that I sow in the field of verse): Iqbal on the death of another great Urdu Poet, Daagh.

Many images arise: David playing the tabla to the accompaniment of Apte's classical singing on Saturday nights at Rishi Valley; making beautiful furniture in his carpentry workshop; dancing with the villagers.

Once, in order to finish a book that he was writing for the Kashmir Government and Oxford University Press, he sat up the whole night working at it, caught the morning flight to Indore, continued working at it with me throughout the day without rest till it was finished by sunset.

Under the apparent light-heartedness David carried a depth of feeling for things, and people and friends. To mention just one instance: Once, when a son of man was not able to find congenial work for quite some time and had nowhere to go, David, and another great friend, invited that man to "Come and stay with us as long as you like".

Aarzoo ko khoon rulvati hai beidaande ajal; maarta hai teer taareekhee mein sayyaad-e-ojal.

The blind blows of death make us weep tears of blood, as that Killer shoots its arrows from the dark and mysterious abyss.)

Woh sooratein Ilaahi kis des bastiyan hain
Ab jin dekhne ko aankhen tarastiyeen hain
What land do they inhabit, those faces,
Whom the eyes yearn for.

Where is he now
the Cavalier of Neel Bagh.

Sardar Mohammed

David Horsburgh and the Blue Mountains School.

David Horsburgh's formal association with the School started in 1977 when he accepted to be on the F. G. Pearce Educational and Charitable Trust which owns and runs this School. This acceptance was actually a deviation from his avowed policy of having little or nothing to do with fee-paying schools. Still, it was an understandable deviation owing to the great regard he had for Mr F G Pearce, the educationist and the man. After all, David Horsburgh was one of the original Pearce Team when Rishi Valley School, Andhra Pradesh, was being started as a Krishnamurti Foundation school in the '50s. On being asked the reason for accepting Trusteeship of this School, David gave me his regard and affection for Mr Pearce as being the real one. Later, of course, he had many more reasons for supporting and being involved with this School, not the least of which were the radical changes that were taking place in the structure and character of the School. Some of these changes, in a manner of speaking, drew inspiration from him and the Neelbagh experiment (His own dream school in Karnataka). Our own family-grouping structure in the Primary Section relied a great deal initially on his guidance. He conducted workshops and seminars to help teachers take the leap from worrying about teaching to worrying about learning, to being self-reliant in the classroom and that the teacher need not have a head-full of knowledge to teach anything but rather an ability to teach the student to learn how-to-learn, and so on.

Over the years David Horsburgh began to be viewed as an integral part of the Blue Mountains School in that his presence at Governing Body meetings, and PTA Conferences, specially, became essential. His work at the national level, unfortunately, came in the way of his visiting us at the usual frequency and in spite of our adjustments to suit him, last minute changes took him away to some conference or the other in Delhi and elsewhere. He looked forward to the submission of his report to the National Commission on Teachers so that he would have time again with Neelbagh, the Blue Mountains School and some other associations of his. We too looked forward to that time not far away. And like everybody else who knew him, the shock of his death left us suddenly stranded, too.

The Blue Mountains School feels indebted to David Horsburgh in many crucial ways and the most appropriate homage it can pay to an extraordinary man who gave his life to education is to find its clear direction and movement. This School seems to have emerged and found the self-reliance that David Horsburgh wished it to have as a School.

B. Narayan Deb

THE FRESHERS' ENTERTAINMENT

We had just settled down and before one could say "Moby Dick"! Aashish was on stage blabbering the usual welcome blurb.

This term's "Fresher's Show" was unusual in the sense that hardly any of the kids in the age group of between five and seven ran away after seeing so many people in front of them.

Though it was enjoyable there wasn't much to write home about.

The show started off with a song by Miss Omana (Dance teacher) and Miss Vasanthi (Maths and Physics teacher). It was well sung.

The two brothers Sumit and Sidharth introduced themselves before going on to ask the crowd a few clever riddles. (This kind of introduction has never been done before, in BMS.) Sidharth's American accent ~~was~~ a bit difficult to catch on to. But we managed.

There were dances and songs. Ramana's dance was well done (considering her age). Then there was Sunny, who came on stage and mumbled something (supposedly a song) and as soon as he saw Atreyee (his cousin) laughing he scooted off stage!

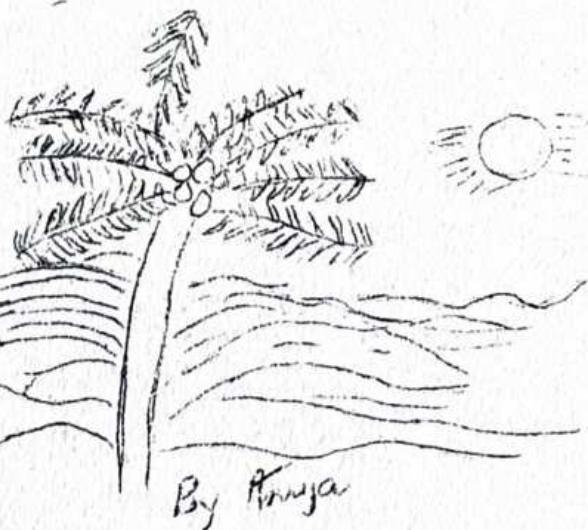
On the whole though, it was embarrassing for some and enjoyable for the rest.

Well sung, riddled and danced "all" of you.

Satyajit L.
14 years

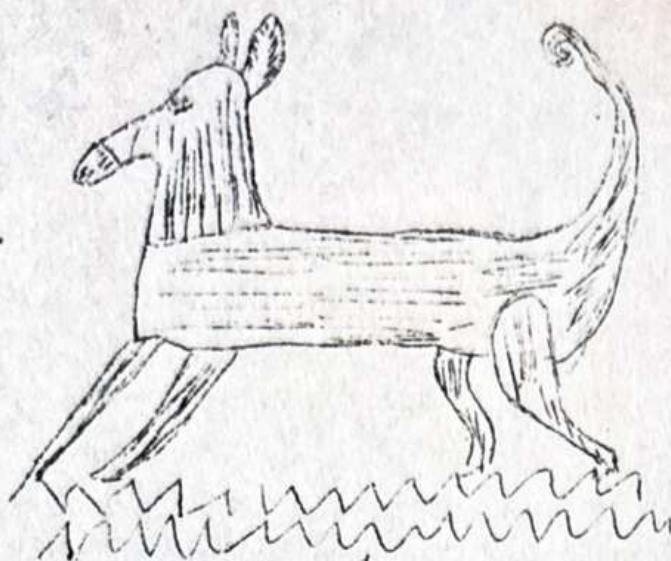
EXCURSIONS - A DAY AT COLVA BEACH

The soft breeze passed by, the coconut trees were tall with fresh green coconuts and their leaves mingled with the breeze. Many fishermen were out at sea with their long nets spread in the water. Beautiful shells lay on the white sand. The ice-cream man came ringing a bell and many children crowded around him. Dead fish lay on the sand, dropped by the fishermen and fisherwomen who were too busy to pick them up. When the sun started to set, we left the beach.



PUNCH

This is Punch. He is running on the front lawn. He is trying to catch another dog, but the dog is far away.



from the original
drawing by Kiran

It is running fast.

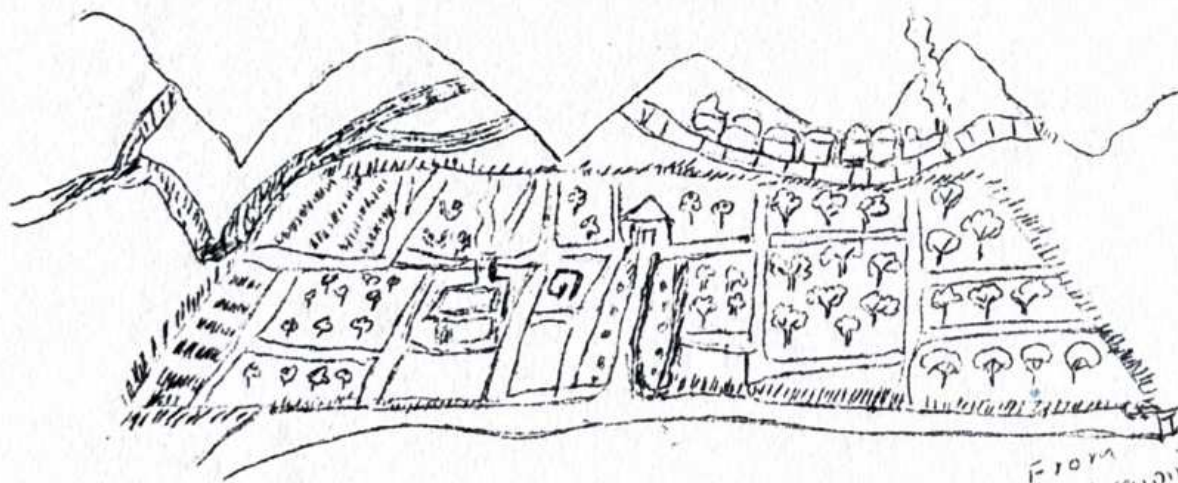
Punch is catching up.

Kiran Kumar G.

7 years

MY FARM

I like my farm. It is very big. We have mango trees, pear, papaya, coconuts and eucalyptus. We do lots of gardening on our farm.



from the original
drawing by
Siddharth

We also have a well and a swimming pool and a rubber dinghy.

Siddharth Kanjilal
6 years

THE HAVOC I CREATED WHEN I JOINED B.M.S. -----

When I came to B.M.S., I was 9 years old. I joined B.M.S. in 1981, 1st term. I liked the homely appearance of the school and most of all I loved the flowers and all the 'dorms'. None of the other children had returned from their holidays but after a few hours the 'Bombay Party' arrived and I met them. I loved Cherry Akka and Mrs Rikh and I followed them everywhere. My parents left me in the school and after a few days they left Ooty.

I did not know any English and therefore spoke in Hindi. I used to howl and cry for my parents. I gave everyone a lot of trouble and used to say, 'Only if you let me ring up my father will I eat.' I also went on a 'Hunger Strike' for about two weeks. But I ate dried fruit in the 'dorm' quietly. Mr Basheer's wife used to take me up to her room and give me beaten rice with milk. The teachers were worried about me until they came to know that I lived on dried fruit!

I never ever stopped crying. My eyes were never dry and I hated nearly everyone. I loved Priya but she was the only one. I also liked a girl called Bernie. They didn't know Hindi and we had a tough time talking to each other. Rucha was irritated the most by me and when I disturbed others by crying, she would come after me with a slipper and say, "Tuze mar mar ke ulloo bana dege," and I cried even more. All the teachers were sick and tired of having me. Soon they all started to talk to me in English and not in Hindi so I also had to try. After putting in a great deal of effort I picked up quite a lot of English. I always wore a big, long sweater, a scarf, (which I never took off) and a shawl. I was asked to take them all off but I never did. I must have looked so funny, I'm sure! I created havoc in B.M.S. When I went home, I couldn't speak in Gujarati and called everyone 'Sir' or 'Akka'. Now I know how it must have been. I now know English and I cry no longer!

Natasha W.

13 years

THE LONELY SHEPHERD BOY

Dark in the sky,
Bright are the stars,
So high is the moon,
When shall thy sun rise?

The fields are green,
lonely in the path,
no one in the night,
no one but the lonely shepherd boy.

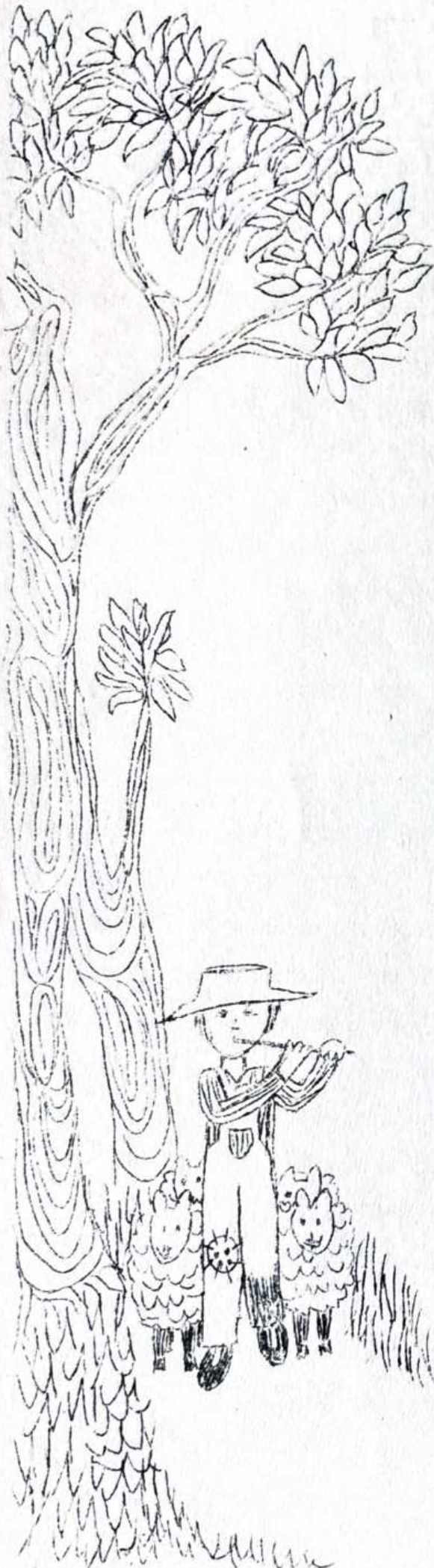
Early in the morning,
When the sun rises,
You can see the shepherd
In the meadow so low.

He spends lonely hours
Under the clear bright sun,
playing the flute all morning through.
There is no one there,
no one but the lonely shepherd boy.

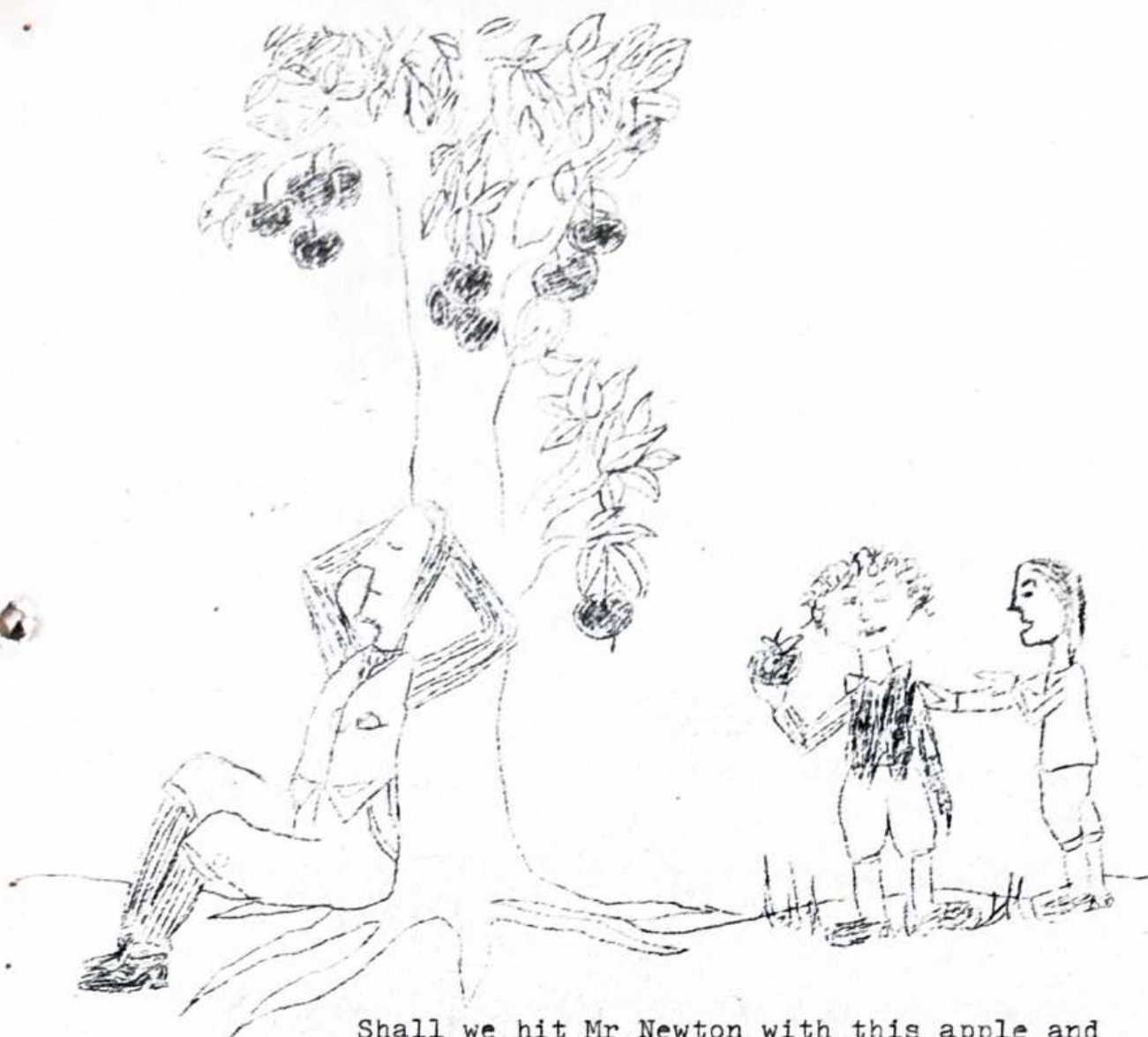
It is dusk again,
There he goes to leave his sheep,
And spend the lonely hours at night
When there is no-one there,
no one but the lonely shepherd boy.

Indumathi S.

13 years



ILLUSTRATED BY
RADHIKA NEELAKANTAN.



Shall we hit Mr Newton with this apple and see what happens?

ARE WE HAPPIER THAN OUR FOREFATHERS?

It's a difficult question to answer. Our forefathers didn't have all the comforts that we have now-a-days, but they led a satisfactory life. They were content with what they had. Some things were cheap and easy to get at that time. There were rich and poor people too and the rich sometimes helped the poor but not that often. The same can be said of our own times. There were no good means of communication and our forefathers were not so money-minded. But it is not so now. The people are becoming more and more money-minded and they are very greedy and selfish. The rich make the poor work hard for them but they don't pay them enough. They have all the comforts in the world but still aren't content. We are happy in a way because we have good locomotives. Some people are inventing things to help man but at the same time they are inventing bombs.

So it is really difficult to answer this question.

Leo Roseman
11 years

BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLOCK TOGETHER

Birds of one breed or one kind stay together.
For example, sparrows keep together and crows keep together.

Today's world is divided into nations and countries. These nations and countries are divided into smaller groups according to the colour, language, religion and culture. The society is made of rich and poor. The poor people live together. They don't live with the rich. The rich people don't mix with the poor people. The middle class people don't mix with the poor or the rich. They keep to themselves.

If the poor, rich and the middle class people got together, the world would be a stronger and nicer place to live in.

Manoj Joseph
12 years

HAPPINESS

Happiness means a lot to me. That is : making myself and others happy.

Having my family around me, riding on a bike early in the morning against the wind and watching the sunset brings me happiness.

Being with my family makes me happy because I miss them during the term. Riding on a bike early in the morning makes me happy because the cool air refreshes me. Watching the sunset makes me happy because I feel calm.

Vinay T.
10 years

I AM A BANGLE SELLER

I am a bangle seller. I go from house to house calling out, "Bangles for sale, bangles for sale." As soon as they hear me people come out of their houses to buy my pretty bangles. My bangles glitter in the sunshine.

Every day I set off calling, "Bangles for sale, bangles for sale." I have bangles for everybody to buy. The people always say what pretty little bangles they are. How they shine in the moonlight too!

Rajini M.
11 years

THE TOP HOUSE II SHOW

The show first started with soft melodious music, after everyone had settled down. Toto announced the first item, but he was difficult to hear.

The first item was a short skit by Toto and Aashish which I could not understand very well. Then there was a ghazal by Hariharan, Ravi and Rakesh which was out of tune. The following item was a play called 'the unexpected' which was very nicely acted though they forgot some of their lines and Mr Basheer had to prompt them. Rajesh's and Anoop's parts were well spoken. This play was quite a long one. It was then followed by another ghazal by Ravi and Hariharan which was too soft and out of tune. The next skit, which was well acted by Toto and Rakesh, was called 'My Son the Prince' and it came off well. The boys had all tried their best to put on a good show for us all. Anyway, everyone enjoyed it! I hope the boys also enjoyed acting for us.

Indumathi S.

13 years

FOOTBALL MATCH

The boys played seven-a-side football against the Hebron School on a Saturday morning. The game lasted half an hour.

Both teams had been trained well and a boy in Hebron's Team showed the most talent. He was short and had good control of the ball.

There was a good, sturdy defence put up by the backs, Manish and C. Prasad, in the Blue Mountains team and Hebron's could not break through to score.

The Hebron boys showed a tendency to dribble too much and passed only when challenged.

The Hebron goalkeeper was short and slim and didn't give the opposite teams the chance of a single goal.

Melwyn and Arun tried to shoot a few goals but didn't succeed.

Melwyn managed to get near the penalty area of the opposite team but was stopped by one of their backs.

Altogether the game was evenly matched and enjoyed by all.

Rucha P.

14 years

TABLE TENNIS MATCH

We played a T.T. Match against Hebron School on the 1st of September. We played two sets with the juniors and two singles and two doubles with the senior and "super" senior teams. It was a very interesting match, except for the one which Vikram Gandhi played: his opponent was not very good but he was good enough to beat Vikram. The first set of the juniors' game, which was played between Rajesh B. and Suresh was really good. Both were skillful and ultimately Rajesh beat Suresh. In the seniors' game, our team captain, Ajay S. beat Krishi in the first set. Krishi was as good as Ajay but nevertheless Ajay beat him. In the second set Toto played Purnandu and beat him. Purnandu was a very short and cute boy who looked like a junior. He played very well. Then we played the seniors' doubles, between Arun and Toto from our school and Krishi and Purnandu from Hebron School. The teams put up a good fight and showed their talent; both the teams smashed and spun the ball and neither gave up but at last our school won. Now for the super seniors: they played only one singles and a doubles. The singles was played between Manish, from our school, and Francis from Hebron's. Francis, a tall lad, played well against his 5 feet 8 inches opponent who was smashing the ball hard and placing him all over the table and who eventually won. Then they played the doubles: Ajay S. and Manish against David and Francis. This was the last game, which we again won. Overall we beat Hebron's School by 6 games to 1. The main thing was that both the sides enjoyed the match and played in a good spirit.

C. P. Vinay
16 years

THE GIRLS' FOOTBALL MATCH

It was a clear day and the girls' were looking forward to their match against the Hebron School girls. In the beginning the teams looked equally matched. The first goal was shot during the first half. Radhika passed the ball to Debbie, who passed the ball from the left wing to the centre to Aadore and Aadore dribbled past some of the defenders and shot the goal. The ball bounced under the goalkeeper's hand and went into the goal.

The score was 1-0. In the second half, Debbie went with the ball and dribbled past all the players of the opposite team. She took a shot at goal but unfortunately she stepped into the penalty area. The game then became very exciting with the Hebron School pressing for an equalizer but they missed many goals. Rucha, the goalkeeper played well and our school eventually won the match.

Kamal P.
14 years

