



BLUEPRINT



The Blue Mountains School, Ootacamund.

Volume I, Issue 3

November 2007

Strike Three!

Yes, this issue of the Blueprint is special in more ways than one.

With this issue we are finally going to be able to connect with our numerous well wishers. Continuing with the tradition of the Blueprint we will be sending this issue - in the electronic form initially - to the ex-students, parents and well wishers of the school. There will be a nominal charge to meet the expenses that would be worked out and informed later.

We know that we don't have details of all the people who would like to receive their copies of the Blueprint. So if any member of the BMS family ^{wishes} to receive their copies of the Blueprint they may send in their request along with their details. We would be really honoured to do the needful.

For your requests, suggestions or any other comment or feedback do get in touch with us at bms.blueprint@gmail.com.

There is also a plan to revive old memories by re-printing articles from the previous issues of the Blueprint. So please wait along with the hope to see your articles in print again.

Till we meet again.

Editor.

Large font

happenings at BMS

Camping out in the Buffer Area: On his birthday, the 1st of September, Deepak Sir organized a camping activity for the students in the buffer area. The students took their tents and had great fun. They were scared in the beginning but everything was under control when Chotu stayed in order to guard them for the whole night.

Janmashtami Celebrations: We celebrated Janmashtami on the 4th of September. We all assembled in the FG Pearce Hall at around 5 o'clock where Jonathan told us about Janmashtami and its significance.

Teachers' Day: The Teachers' Day celebrations at BMS on the 5th of September began with the special assembly. This was followed by a not so normal interviewing session in which the students interviewed the teachers. It was a welcome change from the normal day to day routine and it really helped the students to know the teachers in a better manner. This was followed by the special lunch. Special mention needs to be given to Vikrant Sir and Dimple Ma'am for organizing this day very well.

World Teachers' Day: was also observed by us on the 5th of October.

Ganesh Chaturthi: was celebrated on the 15th of September in the true Maharashtrian manner. The modaks and the special dinner for the occasion that was prepared by Archana Ma'am were appreciated by everyone.

Dussehra: was also celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm at BMS.

Truth and Dare Weeks: These weeks were held from the 17th September 2007 to the 6th of October 2007. More than one option was arranged for all the daily periods during these weeks. The teachers were available in the classes and the students were given options to attend any period of their choice. They could choose what they wanted to learn. They could also choose when and for how long did they want to learn the given subject. They were required to give a log of all that they have learnt at the end of the week.

These weeks were held in order to gain insights about the students. They were really successful.

The students explored their own methods of learning. In the process they learned and came to know more about themselves. They analyzed their strengths and also became aware of their weaknesses.

On the other hand this also helped the teachers to know more about and also to modify their classes according to the needs of the students. This led to certain modification in the time table of the school which are helping to increase the effectiveness of the learning processes of the school.

We would like to thank all the teachers and the students for the success of these weeks

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To Our Teachers on Teacher's Day

Teacher. A person who held our hand when we were learning to write our alphabets. A person who taught us everything we know, from 'a bird has two wings' to the 'working of a nuclear reactor'. Whenever we had a problem we ran to our teachers to get them solved. They always were there to listen to our problems and help us out. Don't we all remember our first day in school when we were crying for our parents who had left us in this new place. It was the teachers who wiped our tears. Throughout our school life our teachers helped us, guided us and cared for us when we most needed them. Whenever we were at a loss they came to our rescue. Whenever we went wrong; they corrected us.

The job of our teachers was not an easy one, especially with students like us. Yet they always stood for all that patience, care and love stands for. Whenever any of us couldn't grasp the easiest of the easiest lessons our teachers re explained them to us. They explained even simple things over and over again until we understood them without even once getting angry with us. They answered our each and every question, however foolish. Such tolerance could only come from our teachers.

Whenever we found a subject too tough to handle and felt like giving it up our teachers were always there to encourage us. They even gave up their free time to help us to do better in our studies. Be it the remedial classes or the extra classes the teachers were always willing to give up their time to help us. Whenever we went to the teachers with our problems they always helped us.

The role our teachers play in our lives went beyond the four walls of the classroom. They gave us the right view about life and taught us how to handle different situations in life. They taught us never to be proud after a success and they taught us to always take a failure as a learning experience and a stepping stone for succeeding. Whenever anyone of us had a personal problem or for that matter any problem the teachers always tried to solve them for us.

In doing all this the teachers many a times got angry with us and punished us. Many a times this led us to think that we had been treated in an unjust manner but, whenever we thought about it later we realised that the teachers were right in getting angry with and even punishing us.

We may not have shown that we understand our teachers and the amount of effort they put in for us. Many a times we may have made them angry and appeared to be defiant and ungrateful to all the love and care bestowed on us by our teachers. But it is not that. We know how much you love us. We know of the amount of effort you put in for us. We love you and respect you for all that you do for us.

We would like to take the opportunity given to us by this day to show our respect and honour to you. On this day we want to thank you for all the trouble you have taken to help us. Whatever we are and whatever we'll ever be, it will be because of you. No matter how much we thank you we will still not be able to thank you enough for all that you have done for us. Throughout our lives we will be grateful to you. Thank you for all that you have done to us. Thank you teachers.

Vikrant Sharma

Who is a teacher

to me, you see

I am my teacher.

My dog, my teacher

Every single ant

on the sweets that I throw

is my teacher.

A tree's my

teacher

Every molecule

of chocolate

I buy

is a teacher.

Teacher is everything.

Teacher is just

there,

Teachers just exist,

And just because you are

these, you are

a

teacher.

Universe is a teacher to me.

Park Sang Joon.

Teachers Day

This years Teachers' Day's Celebrations were a bit different. We began in the normal way by having the special assembly in which all of us talked about the teachers.

Then was the time for the surprise. We had planned to interview the teachers in order to know more about them; it was to have more fun actually!

I had to interview our Principal, Archana Ma'am. I had thought of the questions but I was still very nervous.

The interview went on slowly, very slowly and finally it got over.

We also conducted a *pooja* for Deepak Sir because he had returned to the school after one year and there is a tradition that we have to conduct a *pooja* when someone returns to a place after a long time.

After that we had some snacks and then we danced. I had a very good time. After that we had noodles and Manchurians. Oh, it was good!

I don't think that there are these kinds of opportunity in any other school where students get to question and also interview the teachers. So I am really glad that I am studying in such a good school.

Hyun

The Worst Witch

(Book review)

This is a story about a young witch; Mildred Hubble who is at Miss Cackles' Academy for Witches – only something wrong has just got to happen when she is around.

When the cat gifting ceremony is done it seems as if Mildred's cat has taken after her. She can't even balance at the end of the broomstick.

Once something really terrible happens; Mildred turns Ethel, the teachers' pet, into a pig! Also Ethel is not the one to let Mildred go without taking her revenge.

I liked this book because of Mildred. She is a little forgetful – like me. Even the teachers scolded her in the same way as they scold me. Also, she's really funny and the place that she lives in is really interesting.

I really liked the part when the girls got broomsticks at the

beginning, a cat at mid term and a copy of the book of spells at the end of the first year.

This book by Jill Murphy and published by Puffin is a special one for people who hate school and love witches.

Madhoor.

The Great Wall of China

This story took place in 986 B.C. in China. Midongli was the king of China at that time. There was a minister in his court. His name was Doichangli.

One night Doichangli had dream of making a huge wall to protect the country. Next day he went to meet the king. They started discussing something. Suddenly, when Midongli went out and stood in the balcony, Doichangli killed him. After that Doichangli was crowned the king.

And it was then that he made a wall around the country which is now known as the Great Wall of China.

Clinstan

With Clinstan, even we find it really hard to figure out facts from fiction.

– Editor.

English is Confusing

(so what?)

English sure is confusing but I think it's not only English, but many other languages that are also confusing and people have difficulties in learning them. Yet once they get used to it, I think that they don't have any problems after that. I mean yes, some words do not have logic. Maybe it's style or the uniqueness of that particular language. Yet then there is no choice but to learn it in the way it is in order to appreciate that language.

Joon

Zahaan's Sixer

Once, Zahaan and I were playing cricket. He hit a sixer. I tried to block the ball but I couldn't stop it.

Dhyansai.

Dissatisfaction

I would like to ask you a question what do you think dissatisfaction is? For me I think dissatisfaction is being unhappy with something. Dissatisfaction is a feeling which comes over you when you are not happy or satisfied with something. For example you got 20 out of 100 and your mother was unhappy with your marks.

People in this world should not be dissatisfied with what they have. Instead they should be satisfied with what they have. Yet in this world there are people are not satisfied with what they have. Especially the rich people who want more and more even when they have a lot.

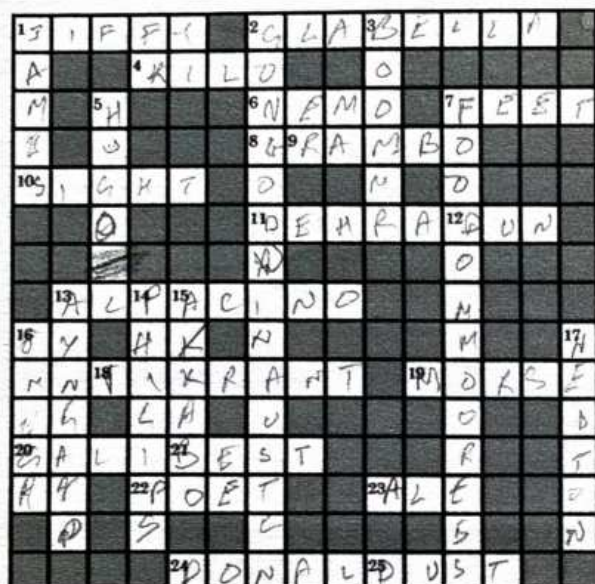
Dissatisfaction is a thing that you should be satisfied with not dissatisfied with because without dissatisfaction there will only be dissatisfaction.

La Rochefaucauld

I understand and agree with it.

Prithviraj

Crossword



Clues

Across

1. Measurement of time (5), *1/1000 of a second.*
2. Space between the eyeballs (8)
4. Thousand (4)
6. Captain of Nautilus (4)
7. A chiropodist treats _____ (4)
8. Unit of mass (4)
9. A series of movie starring Sylvester Stallone in the lead role. (5)
10. 10th October, World _____ Day (5)
11. Sawdust of India (8)
13. Michael Corleone of Godfather. (2, 6)
18. Indian Aircraft Carrier, INS _____ (7)
19. Dot, Dot, Dash, Dash. _____ code. (5)
20. Famous Urdu poet who was born on the 27th of December. (5)
21. I cannot improve. I am the _____ (4)
22. Famous for horror stories. (3)
23. Drink???? (3)
24. White Lightning; Walt Disney's character (6)
25. Ashes to ashes, _____ to _____ (4)

Down

1. 007 - first name basis (5)
2. Bell (4)
3. Baby Kangaroo (6)
5. Author of Les Miserables; _____ Boss (4)
7. Sitophobia is the fear of _____ (4)
8. Second highest mountain in the world (2, 4)
12. My Son's Father is the autobiography of _____ (3, 6)
13. Writer who wrote the '...' story of the man who said that he would stop the motor of the world - and did. (3, 4)
14. Sense and Simplicity is the tagline of _____ (7)
15. My sister in Medieval (4)
16. Watch: Greek letter. (5)
17. _____ stated the Law of Inertia. (6)

Vikrant Sharma

The Earthquake

Smile was begging his mother to let him attend classes with the elementary school as usual. As usual his mother too was saying no. Smile is a three year old who wants to attend school like other kids but his mother doesn't allow him. She thinks that he would disturb the other kids and then get into trouble.

Finally Smile escaped from her grip and ran to the elementary class just as the bell rang. His mother let him go because she knew he would start crying if she tried to take him back to the house.

Smile sat down as Revathy Ma'am entered the class. She started talking; talking about pronouns, adjectives, nouns, verbs and about how well her old students used to study.

Smile looked like he was listening but to tell the truth he couldn't tell what was being said.

Then everyone started asking questions. Zahaan asked, "Why are people so used to talking in English?" This was followed by some other questions that were answered by the people who knew how to answer them.

Just then Smile dropped his pencil. As he bent down to pick it up, he slipped and fell. Zahaan shouted, "Earthquake" and everyone ran out of the class. Revathy Ma'am too ran behind them.

She did that in order to get them back to the class was something totally different.

Madhoor.

Trip to the Cowshed

13th October 2007. It was my first day in the school. We went on a trip to the cowshed.

We looked around the cowshed. We saw a calf. In the beginning, it was really scared to see us. It calmed down after sometime. Then everybody fed and patted it.

We felt really good out there.

Clinton Yogarajah

BACK PRINTS

Articles from the previous issues of the Blue Print

The Lost Song

For most of the 20th century, the future of the world feared was totalitarian control; George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty Four was the telling document. Now as we inch towards a new millennium a new order emerges on the horizon – CHAOS – instead of a New World Order, a New World Disorder: that is what the social thinkers say.

In such a global scenario what is the role of a child: his innocence, his happiness, his future.

Do the present children have a childhood?

Childhood, as the age of innocence may be a thing of the past. Today's child has to do his growing up much faster. Adult pressures and the increasingly crooked ways of souped – up world are invading childhood. And childhood, that state of grace which allows children to be children – explore, wonder, play, let their imaginations take them on uncharted courses or even feel secure – is shrinking. It is almost as if they have been forcibly transformed instantly into little men and women; but leaves them achingly venerable within. They are growing up too soon as they bear the brunt of a rapidly changing society where television is the new babysitter and the family is in the state of flux. Images of sex and violence have invaded a child's world now, because of the information and media explosion.

The world of child is no more and easy one.

Joint family was a wonderful shock absorber. It insulated children from the vagaries of the world without and the conflicts within. When the parents quarrel, a grandparent or aunt would whisk away the child – there was an emotional safety net. Joint family concept is fast becoming a thing of the past. Parents themselves are going through a period of adjustment. This impacts the child. We have gone from the family centred to the child – centred. In their fights often one parent uses the child against the other. The world of adults and the children compact into the same orbit.

Childhood is now under siege in its own citadel; the middle and upper classes in the cities. It is the middle class child. Who has to bear the brunt of a rapidly changing society in which restraining traditions have been offloaded in a single minded pursuit for plenty; a plenty that will lead to physical and material pleasure; an untenable situation wherein the child is pushed into the rat – race of competitiveness. An increasing number of parents are now pushing their children on to the fast lane, impervious to the dangers ahead – providing them accelerators to quicken their pace, but no breaks to stop them when they come up against the dangerous bends in life. The dangerous development is that parents have now begun to put pressures on progressively young children. The career clock is clicking even for toddlers. Hence pre – nursery crammers and tutors, and school bags weighing down tiny shoulders. Delhi based psychologist and Counsellor Roop Bran say that children are now facing problems earlier associated with adults. Stress related adult diseases are affecting children as young as seven or eight years.

Another major area of retreating childhood is imagination. The serpent of competition has even crept onto this little Garden of Eden and upset the sense of wonder. Books used to be the hand-maidens to the imagination, the channels of discovery of inner blossoming. No more so. Children do not read; television has made them impatient. It gives them instant image. They do not build up their own through words. Children do not play in the play grounds. They play computer games. The brushes with nature or knee – scrapping adventures like climbing trees are now abandoned. Even the parents do not encourage their children to play; to most of them it is waste of time. They want their kids to become super kids, instant trophy children. Children who can play *Bharatanatyam*, Ballet, tennis, yoga and judo; but not play. Parents programme their children's lives down to almost nano-seconds. Somewhere along the way the child loses its playtime and innocence.

Some illustration will help us to realize the enormity of the tragic situation.

1. Arati Dutta – Fourth Standard – nine years old girl from Calcutta hanged herself—reason burden of the curriculum proved too heavy.
2. Rohini – Eight years old – Bombay ran away from home unable to withstand the pressure of studies.
3. Naina Shah – Seven years old – Bombay girl - "Recounting a dream" – for class assessment in a liberal public school in prose fluent her years wrote how to make love.
4. Ratna – nine years old girl from Madras wanted to try one of the MTV scenes in real life and was caught doing something abnormal with a seven year old boy next door.

The scenario is sad; tragically sad.
Children know what pleasure is.
But do not know what happiness is.
Do the parents know the difference?

The faults and failings of conventional education are becoming more and more manifest. Conventional education is heavily

biased towards academic or career achievement and therefore, by its very nature fragmented. Obviously it develops only the limited part of the potentials of the mind – is a potentially dangerous mind; a mind that conforms to an insensitive society built upon violence, selfishness and disorder.

In such a grim and tragic scenario an alternative educational philosophy is both relevant and inevitable. This is the New Education to which the Blue Mountains School is deeply committed.

The New Education which is being constantly observed by the teachers at the school does not neglect or underestimate acquisition of scientific knowledge or technological skill. On the other hand equipping the students with the most excellent technological [proficiency so that he may function with clarity and efficiency in the modern world, is one of the objective of the New Education. But the student may flower in goodness to become a complete human being. A learner nurtured in such harmony will be rightly relegated to the whole of life – people, things and ideas. Says J.K. "To live is to be related."

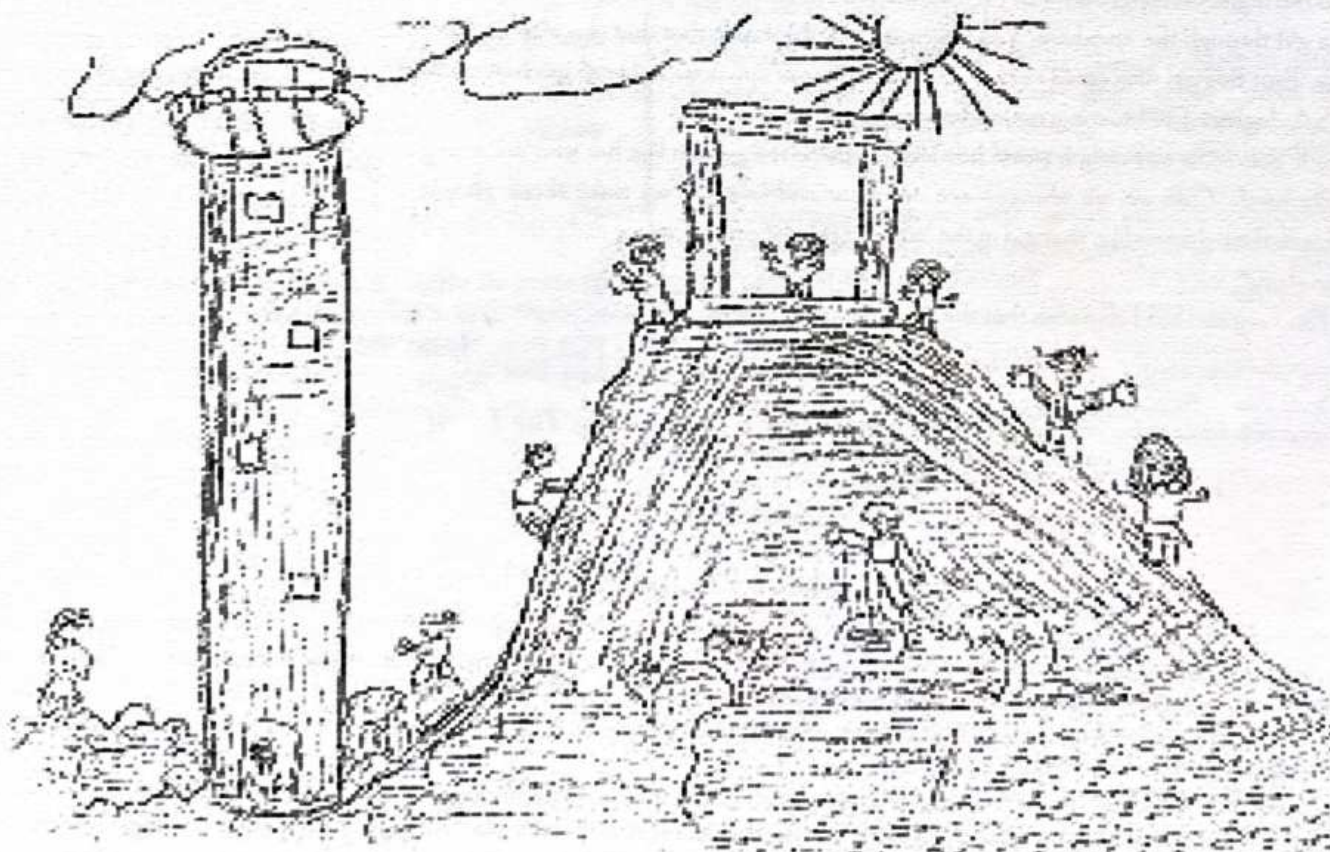
It is the integration of the scientific mind with the religious spirit.

Conventional schools train their students to pursue the "singer"; but the New Education of the Blue Mountains School encourages the young learner to "Search for the lost song", the "SONG OF INNOCENCE".

Mr. B. J. Krishnan,
Secretary,
F. G. Pearce Educational Trust.

from Blueprint 1996 (Second Term) issue

Excursion to Mahabalipuram



On the way to Mahabalipuram we went to the Crocodile Farm. We saw the crocodile "Jaws 3". It was huge and horrible. In the Madras snake park we saw some pythons killing chicks and swallowing them. Mahabalipuram was beautiful. We saw Krishna's Butter Bowl and Bhima's Kitchen and the light house.

Article by Mario B. (8 years.)
Sketch by Anuj Amin (11 years.)

from Blueprint, December 1987

World Sight Day

How many people on earth celebrate World Sight Day? Rather forget about celebrating, do people even know about World Sight Day? I think that most people don't know. Maybe, they don't care. Why? Because they can see this beautiful world. Because it's not their problem if other people are blind.

Do you think that the people who are blind, wanted to become blind? I don't think so. I bet that we can't bear two days with our eyes closed.

There are many poor children who are blind. What is their fault? They did not do anything wrong in their life.

Some of them are even born blind. There are many others who become blind by accidents. I am not saying that these people are any better but most of them had at least seen what the world is like. Yet people who are blind by birth ... I mean, just imagine their feelings. They, unlike us, have always lived in the darkness. On top of that people say they are abnormal and they are ill-treated.

Whats so different about them? If they are different; help them to become one of us.

In my school, that is the Blue Mountains School, we had celebrated this day late into the night, in a huge hall with NO lights. And then suddenly, we could hear a voice of a girl through the speakers. Yes, she was blind. Not only that, but she also couldn't hear. But this girl who could neither see, nor hear, nor speak was able to graduate with a BA degree! That too in a normal university.

Of course, it was only a movie but all over there are people like her who are trying really hard. Can we, we who can see and hear and talk, can we make these people achieve their dreams like that girl in the movie? At least one? Can we make this movie a true story?

I am very sad but I also wish that the blind people realize what light is.

Park Sung Joon
14 years

*This article by Joon has also been published in the October 31, 2007's issue of **The Local** which is a monthly publications of the Nilgiris.*
- Editor.

Unlucky Day

(for Chotu and Blackie)

We had to take Chotu and Blackie to the vet for their normal vaccinations. We took Chotu without a leash but we had to leash Blackie because she runs away.

It was a long walk to the vet. On reaching there Blackie was tied up for her shot. At first she was afraid but later on she was OK. We patted her after her shot.

Then it was Chotu's turn. He tried to run away but we caught him. We also tied a rope around his mouth to prevent him from biting. He was fighting a lot. yet in the end he had to have one. When he finally got the shot we all clapped for him and started on our way back to school.

What happened on our way back is yet another story. Will tell you later!

Hyun

Let's Rekindle the Flame

that was never ignited

This chance statement made by me way back in 1999, with minutes from my ISC Chemistry examination, is something that has been picked up by a friend of mine and has been used as a motto for life.

I was made aware of this when I visited a very close friend of mine who, at that time was working at the Needles Factory, Ketti, in February 2007.

While the original context of the statement was something totally different; he took it to be a call to spread hope in people and situations that never had any. He helped some people that had lost all hope in life. All they needed was a considerate word or two. He followed it up by offering to arrange some jobs for them and then going out of the way and asking people to make sure that they got them. All of them, who had given up in life are now doing really well and meeting its challenges heads on.

On coming to know that the orphanage needs teachers to teach the children, we the teachers at The Blue Mountains School, decided to help. It was the language barrier between the children of the orphanage that stopped us. Yet we do plan to do something about this.

The purpose of this is to remind us all that there are these people around us everywhere who have little or no hope and it will require from our side a small, insignificant effort to make their life better and to rekindle the flame that was never ignited.

Vikrant Sharma

Swadeshi v/s Globalization

(Debate)

On using swadeshi items we feel the honour of using things made in our country. We can proudly say that we are using things made in our country and not feel ashamed because we are using things that are made in another country.

We can establish connections with other countries by other means instead of adapting to their clothing and food.

The foreign brands are ruining the markets. Also they are also ruining people's lives because they become obsessed with them and are willing to do anything to get them.

Foreign brands also lead to a lot of unnecessary competition between the countries. If there was no globalization then this unnecessary competition will not be there.

We have our own food. Why do we need foreign foods? Yes they are tasty but we do not need to be slaves to them.

Abhay

Why should we adapt to and use goods made in other countries when they are not using goods made in our country?

The foreign brands are also unreliable as most of them are now made in other countries where there is cheap labour and material. Also people copy the brand name and make things with cheap and bad quality materials and cheat the buyers who just go for the brand name and buy them for a lot of money.

Also there can be quality checks for the goods that are made in our country. In this way we also make high quality things in our own country

Hyun

We can give our goods to other countries but we should never sell our ideas to them.

Why should we adapt to the clothing and the food habits of the other countries when we have our own traditions?

If we just depend on the other countries for their goods then we would be nothing more than a parasite who cannot survive without a host.

Jonathan

If we lose ourselves to the foreign brands then we will lose our traditions.

Also if we always go on buying from other countries then we would be bankrupt with the rising prices.

Ashmita

I am not against the term *swadeshi* but I also want to know that can we really live without globalization?

If we were to buy only what is made in our country then we won't have many choices and this may lead to low quality.

Also if there was no globalization then there would be no Foreign Institutional Investments (FII). Due to this our country's economy will go down.

This also will lead to monopoly and due to this we, the consumers will surely suffer.

Let's look at the case of HMT. Tell me, why is it that hardly anybody wears HMT watches today? They made the best watches. Then due to lack of competition they did not develop new models. As a result they are stuck with the same old models. Thus we do need globalization and the competition that it brings with it to develop.

If there was no globalization there wouldn't be any laptops, cars, computers or any other modern technology from any other country. All these mobiles, computers, cars and aeroplanes to name a few are foreign ideas.

Globalization shows that we are mature enough to help and take help from others. Isn't this what our school stand for; cooperation?

Joon.

I had no points for this debate. I just want to say that if I was like my friends, that in the name of being self-sufficient, are not willing to take help from anyone, then I would not have said anything and would have made a fool of myself.

Zahaan

I think that globalization is essential because if we don't have it then we would be building walls between the people of the world. When there was no globalization then there were only two brands of car in India: the Fiat and the Ambassador. Due to this people had to wait a lot in order to buy the cars. Also if the car company decided to raise the car prices then the people couldn't do anything about it. Yet due to competition since globalization not only has the numbers of different car brands increased but they have also become comparatively cheaper.

Imagine that there was a famine or a flood in the country. Would we then starve in the name of *swadeshi* or we would have to import food from other countries?

Madhoor

Happenings at BMS

...Continued from Page 1

Gandhi Jayanti: The first week of October was celebrated in honour of Gandhiji. This week was also used to reflect upon and as an effort to imbibe the principles and the teachings of Gandhiji.

Gandhiji believed in fasting. So the week began with some of the staff members kept a fast while some students went without a meal. The kitchen was informed in advance and the money saved by fasting was kept aside to be used for some productive work.

The students were shown the movie, *Gandhi* by Sir David Attenborough. Their comments and questions about the movie and the life of Gandhiji were very relevant. They were really moved by it.

The teachers also talked about the life of the Father of the Nations. A talk followed by a discussion on the importance of khadi and its return in vogue was held. The little – little things like sanitation, equality, empowerment of women and the importance of the villages were also reflected upon during this week.

English Debate: A debate was held on the 6th of October 2007 which was also the last day of the Gandhi Jayanti week. It was the first time that the students were debating in such a formal setting. Archana Ma'am was the chairperson. Vikrant Sir was the judge. All the participants debated really well. It was hard to believe that these students debating for the first time. They have a lot of promise and we are sure that they will continue performing in the same manner in the upcoming debates.

Animal Action Week: The Animal Action Week (AAW) that was conducted at BMS has been devised by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) is being conducted by the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) in 14 participating countries worldwide.

This year's theme was "To the Rescue" - Emergency Relief for Animals based on how disasters impact animals as well as people, their rescue, rehabilitation and release and the issues of risks from climate change.

We went through the education packs and documentary films that were sent to our school. Vikrant Sir, who is a member of Emergency Relief Network (ERN) of WTI, distributed these packs to other school in order to spread awareness about this campaign in and around Ooty.

Amphibian Arc: We also participated in the Amphibian Arc Project that is being conducted by the Zoo Outreach Organization to protect the amphibians. We went through the information booklet and came to know about the amphibians. We also signed the petition to the world leaders for protecting the frogs.

Chitra Akka's visit: Chitra Akka, who is a very close friend and an important part of the BMS family, visited the school from the 1st to the 4th of October 2007. She is an animal lover who discussed about many animal welfare and environmental issues. She is helping in resetting up of our science, mathematics, geography and environmental studies laboratories.

World Sight Day: was celebrated on the 5th of October 2007. Various activities were organized that helped us realize some of the hardships that are felt by the visually challenged people of the world.

Dr. Paul's Visit: Dr. Paul Henry, a neurosurgeon in a hospital in Saudi Arabia visited school on the 13th of October and spent some time with the students. He talked about his life as a neurosurgeon. He talked about the requirements that are looked in a neurosurgeon. He also shared his insights about his life and encouraged the students to lead their lives in a meaningful and a fulfilling manner. We are really thankful to Dr. Henry for his valuable insights and messages.

Art Appreciation: In continuation with the critique activities Mallika Ma'am introduced both the staff and the students to the appreciation of art.

Teacher Training: In order to become more effective teacher and even better human beings a teacher training workshop is being conducted from the 8th of October 2007 by Archana Ma'am. The sessions are specially being tailored to the needs of our school. These sessions are proving to be really effective and helpful to the teachers.

Weaving Wide Webs: The spirit of entrepreneurship is being inculcated at a very young age amongst our students. As a part of this Hyun has started selling her beautifully crocheted woollen caps, bags and other accessories. Hyun is a master at her art and is producing great items. For orders please contact principal@bluemountains.org.in.

We would also like to thank the management for their support and their inputs. The work involving the re – fencing of the school boundaries has been completed. Now the repair work of the basketball court and the relaying of the volleyball and the tennis courts are about to begin. Also, the new sports equipments that they have sent to the school have been really appreciated by all the students.

Let's Set Mamma Free

(From Our Mistakes)

When man came to earth he could fulfil his needs without obtaining from the earth as time went past man grew more and more dependant on the earth.

If we look at the world now, it is full of new technologies, cities, farms etc....

If look at all there things which man has which man has made in comparison to forests, the forests are very few.

Man has been exploring the earth for new minerals and is discovering more and more about the earth.

Man has invented many things which have proven very useful. But many things that he has invented damage the mother earth.

As we all know automobiles give out a lot of carbon dioxide which damages the earth's ozone layer. Trees take in carbon dioxide and give out oxygen. Yet we must also face it that there are not many trees left. So the few trees that are left cannot handle such a lot of carbon dioxide. Due to this the ozone layer, that covers the earth and protects it from the harmful ultraviolet radiations of the sun, is getting depleted. As a result, these harmful radiations are entering the earth.

There is a lot of air pollution due to the smoke released from the factories and the automobiles. Some of these gases are also very dangerous. We all remember the Bhopal gas tragedy in which numerous people died and countless of them suffered.

Water pollution is another major problem. The waste from the factories and the water runoff from the fields are polluting our rivers and our seas. Due to this many marine species are dying.

We can also resort to alternative means like using composed natural gas (CNG) for running our vehicles and solar power for

generating electricity to light up our homes. We can also use electric cars which use very little fuel and thus are eco - friendly.

Plastic is another major cause of concern. We should reduce our dependent on plastic. Also we should try to reuse it as it is very difficult to recycle.

So we can carry bags with us when we go shopping. The packaging of milk in plastic bags, and tetra packs also for that matter, should be stopped.

I know that plastic is used because it is cheaper and more convenient than other packaging material. Yet it should be avoided to help our mother earth fight and become free from the menace of this plastic.

Men invented bombs which cause severe damage. Pollution is deadlier than any bomb. Why should we have this mess? Is it necessary?

There are a lot of people who are trying their level best to save mother earth. Yet it is not enough. We all need to join hands and try our level best to save our mother earth and get her freed from pollution.

Abhay

Answers to the Crossword

J	I	F	F	Y	G	L	A	B	E	L	L	A
A			K	I	L	O		O				
M	H				N	E	M	O		F	E	E
E	U				G	R	A	M	B	O		
S	I	G	H	T	O		E	O				
		O			D	E	H	R	A	D	U	N
					W			O				
	A	L	P	A	C	I	N	O		M		
O	Y	H	K		N				M			N
M	N	V	I	K	R	A	N	T		M	O	R
E	R		L	A		U			R			W
G	A	L	I	B	E	S	T		A			T
A	N		P	O	E	T			A	L	E	O
	D		S		E				S			N
					D	O	N	A	L	D	U	S

Let your heart rule the intellect

At the crossroads of your life, you come across someone who is very much into living life than enduring it. The person may sweep through your life momentarily, yet, when the going gets tough ... you remember ... and you try to live life by his rules. We always use our decision making powers based on what we think rather than what we feel. Decisions that are more information based, than intuition based. We come to rely more on what the head tells us to do – to rely on our faculty of reasoning and cold analysis.

Doesn't that make us Superficial and turn us into heartless Robots?

Situations may vary and some decisions may require logical thinking, yet we always experience that when you feel it right at heart, you know that's the best solution for you. Obey the inner voice that guides you and take aid from it. Never replace it with fact based decision making. The wisdom of the heart would surely make the right combination to get things going when faced with dilemmas. Rediscover your inner vision through feelings. You may have to scratch away the hard core that has settled on your heart, set by dull routines and mechanical life. It dulls our senses; and you may have to replace the workalcoholism with a desire to be just alive – to be yourself than let the unending desire and ambition to keep on going, even if it is to nowhere. The inner self dies in you, as you allow the realities to take over; your heart succumbs, like in a hard disk being formatted. But, with us, the damage is not irreversible. When it does show up, pay heed, take a pause and introspect – listen to the silence – the silence of your conscience.

Let your mind unveil to the simple pleasures of life ...

Let your eyes reveal in the beauty of the rainbow...

Let your heart weep for those who are distant...

Create a tune of your own ... Which will be played deep from your heart

And not from your sense of the intellect.

as sensed by Jyotika Neginhal

13th September 2027.

Dear Teacher,

I happen to be Johnny's father. I am writing this letter concerning Johnny.

I want my son to follow his dreams. I want him to achieve what he wants.

Help him please; ask him what his interests are. Take extra classes if he wants.

Listen to him. Correct him when he is wrong; but also give him reasons why.

I don't mind even if he doesn't get a certificate. If he achieves his dreams; I am fine.

I am sure my son would love it, if he could learn by observing, making mistakes, exploring rather than by books.

I do not except anything from him. It is my duty to feed him, dress him, send him to school; rest is his life and choice.

Yours sincerely,
Park Sung Joon.