

31 August 2020



CHRONICLES OF NPSI, CHENNAI

I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination - Jimmy Dean

Dear Parents,

Greetings!

As the whole world adjusts itself to the new normal, we cannot but acknowledge and appreciate the way our dear students have adjusted themselves to the present circumstances. This month saw us make several strides on the academic and co-curricular front.

Science at Home

Educator John Holt said, "Learning is not the product of teaching. Learning is the product of the activity of learners." Our science faculty put these words to practice this month as they designed simple science activities for students in grades 4- 8. Every class had 5 activities, two conducted live along with the teacher while the others were to be done by the students at their own pace and time. From testing air resistance to observing density of different objects, measuring velocity and playing with air pressure, our students turned their workspaces into mini labs as they experimented and observed results.

Science activities will be extended for our lower primary students in September.

Reviews

July ended with intense recap sessions where our students in primary and middle years were rearranged into smaller groups. These sessions were truly fruitful for the teachers and students as it gave them an opportunity to revise tricky concepts, address doubts and strengthen understanding.

Students of grades 1-3 attempted their first online reviews which was conducted in oral form and it was reassuring to hear them speak with aplomb. Grades 4 -10 and 12 attempted their second reviews. Well-settled into the routine of online reviews, they worked with confidence. Students of grade 11 gave their first reviews and it gave our teachers a perspective into their understanding of new subjects and concepts. Answer papers were discussed for senior years and the way forward was charted.

Face time with Co-Scholastic teachers for Primary Years

Students of grade 2 spent the last week of August recapping and re-honing aspects that they have learnt over the various recorded sessions shared by their co-scholastic teachers. Students got an opportunity to meet their teachers online and ask doubts and engage in a discussion.

Projects

Grade 11 can be daunting for students with new subjects, expansive syllabus and the leap from grade 10. We have devised a special schedule to help them plan and complete their projects in various subjects. Should the students follow the plan as laid out, they should be able to complete their projects for the year within a period of 20-30 days, in a phased manner.

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We continue to follow up on projects for grades 9,10 and 12 and hope students will submit them as soon as possible.

PTMS

Our Principal and subject teachers have begun e-meeting parents of students in Grade 12. These meetings have given our teachers an opportunity to connect with parents and address any concerns.

Events and Competitions

*August was dotted with events. We started the month with the **Investiture Ceremony**. Results of voting for School Prefect and School Vice Prefect were announced along with names of all office bearers. Our alumnus Shibu Jeyanth joined the event and shared some inspirational thoughts.*

*Students of grade 9B presented their **virtual assembly** on the theme 'A Borderless World'. From original poems to soothing music, an engaging skit and quiz, the assembly was a complete package in itself.*

*The youngest of our students, from Early Learning upto grade 3 celebrated **Janmashtami** in a grand fashion. Dressed up as their favourite characters from the story of Krishna, we received numerous pictures that were adorable. We simply loved their enthusiasm.*

*A day ahead of Independence Day, the entire school soaked themselves in **art**, colours and creativity. Students from grades 1 to 12 drew on what they like about the country and rediscovering India. They proudly presented their work to their teacher. Entries have been collated and the judges are in the process of perusing all the artwork.*

***Independence Day** marked our first live event of the year. As the Principal hoisted the tricolour and addressed an audience of close to 1000 people, the spirit of patriotism spread across all our hearts. Passionate speeches in Hindi, Tamil and English were presented by students and faculty and the music video was unveiled. The event was a grand success.*

*We celebrated our city, Chennai with two special programmes for **Madras Day**. Ms Shalini Ravikumar, conservation architect engaged in a chat with our senior students on heritage, sustainable conservation and the likes. Dr Mrs Chitra Srikanth and Mr RSR Srikanth presented a tailor-made concert with Tamil Nadu based songs in a scintillating evening.*

*Our young students of grades 1 and 2 have done us proud by displaying their handmade Ganeshas during the classes. We are ecstatic that they watched the video and created their own little eco-friendly Ganeshas for **Ganesh Chaturthi**.*

We have received numerous entries for Freestyle Dance and Creative Writing and our judges having a whale of a time watching videos and reading our students' creative pursuits. Results of competitions held in June will be revealed soon.

Achievements

*Despite having a packed schedule, our students have pursued their interests with much earnestness. **Maya Sara Karthik**, of grade 5C was recently invited to be a speaker at the KidLit Indie Publishing Summit. She is one among 15 authors spanning across 4 continents, 6 countries, and 14 cities, and is the youngest. Maya published her first children's book titled "The Pari and Kayal Adventures - Saved by Sid" this year which was conceived and developed through her participation in the school's literary programme Young Author's*

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Day. She also won Second Place in the Purple Dragonfly Book Awards in the Youth Author Fiction category. She is on the way towards publishing her second book, *Dreamy Antarctica*, a book written in rhyme, taking her little sister Mira on a dreamy imaginary vacation to Antarctica.

Tanisha Gopinath, a student of Grade 8A has published her debut novel, *Crystallis Castle: Pet Panic!* on Amazon. First in a series of 5 novels, the story captures the journey of 6 kids in a boarding school tracing the mystery of lost pets.

In an online fest conducted by PSBB, two of our students from grade 6, **M Avanish and R Shivani** secured the second place in the quiz competition-Million Dollar Question. They won a certificate and Amazon vouchers of Rs. 300 each. The students shared that it was a great learning experience.

Parth Jaju of Grade 10 received a verbal mention for his exemplary speaking skills in an online MUN event conducted recently by APL Global.

Making a difference one step at a time, our grade 11 student, **Pranav Krishna** collected over Rs 1.5 lakh towards relief for the needy in the town of Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu through crowdfunding. Pranav used social media effectively with podcasts, social media influencers and platforms to garner support and within a period of 6 weeks, he had raised over Rs 1.5 lakh. On 13.8.2020, Pranav travelled to Sellur and distributed supplies in the presence of the District Collector. Pranav has managed to support close to 500 families in Nagapattinam through his efforts. Details of his admirable initiative are available on our website. Pranav has made all of us proud!

Pastoral Connect

Our pastoral team has been engaged in interactions based on the feedback provided by parents and students. We are happy to support our students and parents navigate through these times, in every manner possible.

August flew by with a flurry of events and academic activities. September will be no less. We have a range of workshops planned for students across grades that will equip them with key skills, nurture their creativity and ignite their imagination.

Warm Regards

Ms Sudha Balan

Principal, NPSIC

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