

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The resilient Deenites had a blast in the year 2022, as they stepped into the Deens campus after two long years of confinement due to the Covid pandemic. Now as we step into 2023, be sure that a new year is filled with endless possibilities, so dream big and believe in yourself! From resolutions to bucket lists, I hope you check them all off, this year!

Orphanage Visit

On December 1st, 2022, our class 8D, went to an orphanage. We were to entertain the children there, and we had a show planned for them, including music and dance. When we reached, the kids seemed elated to see us. The performances of my classmates were amazing and I think the children at the orphanage thought that too.

In addition to our performances we played some games with them too - in and out, passing the parcel. The children participated very actively and enthusiastically in both the games. They enjoyed playing with each other and us. They even danced for a little while. Then, the winners of the games showed us their talents, which they were extremely passionate about. Then, they were

given goodie bags and snack boxes, they were excited. The moment they received them, they started opening them. When we were leaving they sweetly said goodbye to us.

This experience was something totally new for me. I initially did not have an idea what an orphanage even looked like. The children were energetic and well-behaved. I felt so humbled. I could only imagine the kind of hardships and trauma these children would have gone through in the past. Despite this, they were still positive, sweet, did not throw tantrums or fussed about anything, which shows the kind of fortitude they have. It also makes me incredibly grateful to God that I am so privileged. This experience was definitely enlightening and helped me in achieving a more positive attitude towards life.

- Nicole Agnello (8D)



Street Play - National Youth Day

The street play that was conducted by the Interact club on Saturday, 21st January in the Nexus Shantiniketan mall was a great experience. Everyone had a good time preparing for it and an even better time showcasing our preparation. The theme was 'Social issues faced by the youth of today' and it helped throw light on all the problems faced by the youth of today. We had several things such as skits, a song and a dance. The main focus of all these was to highlight how bad influences and negative comments can adversely affect us. It also showed us how we all face peer pressure and try to be someone we're not just to fit in and receive compliments and it told us that we didn't need to do that.

There was a big audience and we got several compliments from them as well as from our school peers. Preparing for it was an enjoyable experience as it opened up new perspectives in our minds and we realized how things like social media were really affecting people of today and how bad influences could ruin your life, but, it only takes determination to get on the right path again.

We felt good about ourselves as we tried to educate others and helped empower them to feel better about themselves. We are all extremely grateful to everyone who provided us with this opportunity and helped us through the whole performance such as the interact club, our Headmistress Sarala Ma'am for her valuable advice, our teacher Samina Ma'am for facilitating the whole event, our dance teacher Mel Ma'am as she provided us a place to practice and several helpful tips that helped make our performance better. We would also like to thank our Vice Principal Deepa Ma'am for her insightful feedback.

- Soumya R (8B) and Aanandita B (8B)

Link to the street play:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bltrblhWcJioWdosBhhjsg_LCwfrZPtH/view?usp=sharing_eil_se_dm&ts=63cfa11



Math Week

Math Week was conducted for students to practice and show their math skills. My experience during this week was wonderful. Our group showed math tricks with matchsticks. Some of them were very easy but few were challenging. The students and teachers had a difficult time solving them.

The activities and riddles a few stalls put up were hard and fun at the same time. It was a great learning experience which taught us a different aspect of understanding our subjects.

- Moditha Cherukuri (6D)



Brains or Behavior??

Our school has decided to replace examination with class participation for earning marks and passing. But is this the right choice?

What are the advantages of this new method?
No WRITING!!!

Yes, this must be music to your ears but this way you do not get used to writing examinations. Yes, all-round behavior is judged of the student, but does this mean that a person with social anxiety should fail, even if the person is the best in the class, while the most participating but slow child gets full?? There are many skills we learn and lose in the process. For example, you learn fluent speech, debating skills and many more social capabilities needed for your everyday life while you lose the ability of giving scientific and reasonable explanations and logical reasoning. If the students do not acquire these abilities, they may face certain difficulties in the future. For example, in the 10th grade boards. As the student is not naturally accustomed to excessive writing from an early age, it will be very difficult for the child.

But then, you must be thinking, is there even ONE advantage writing examinations give? There are subtle advantages of writing examinations. Like, we get accustomed to writing detailed answers for examinations and we get to use our logical reasoning, for application-based questions. By studying for the exam, we get a thorough understanding of different chapters in different ways. This understanding can only be acquired by writing exams. But a person can just mug up the textbook definitions without the understanding and get full marks, and a person who wants to study and puts in the efforts but just does not get the marks be called 'stupid', for the marks? And should we call the person who mugs up without understanding 'smart'? Wont the person with low marks' will of studying be extinguished because of the marks?

Both the methods are at fault, as well as have many advantages. And to give the perfect academic performance, both the methods have to be applied together in a balances manner.

My suggestion is the method of conducting 'End-Year Examinations'. Yes, this will put a lot of stress on the students, but no method could be perfect, and this is the closest balance between the two methods I can think of.

In this, the main or the final exam is conducted, you guessed it, in the end of the year. There are many minor tests spread throughout the year, but the end exam is the main one. About 60-70% should be accounted to the exam marks, notebook, etc. while the other 30-40% should be for discipline, participation, promptness, interest etc. This balance both the methods in an equalized and stabilized manner, and may be efficient.

- Agastya Soni 8A

A Change in School Tradition ?

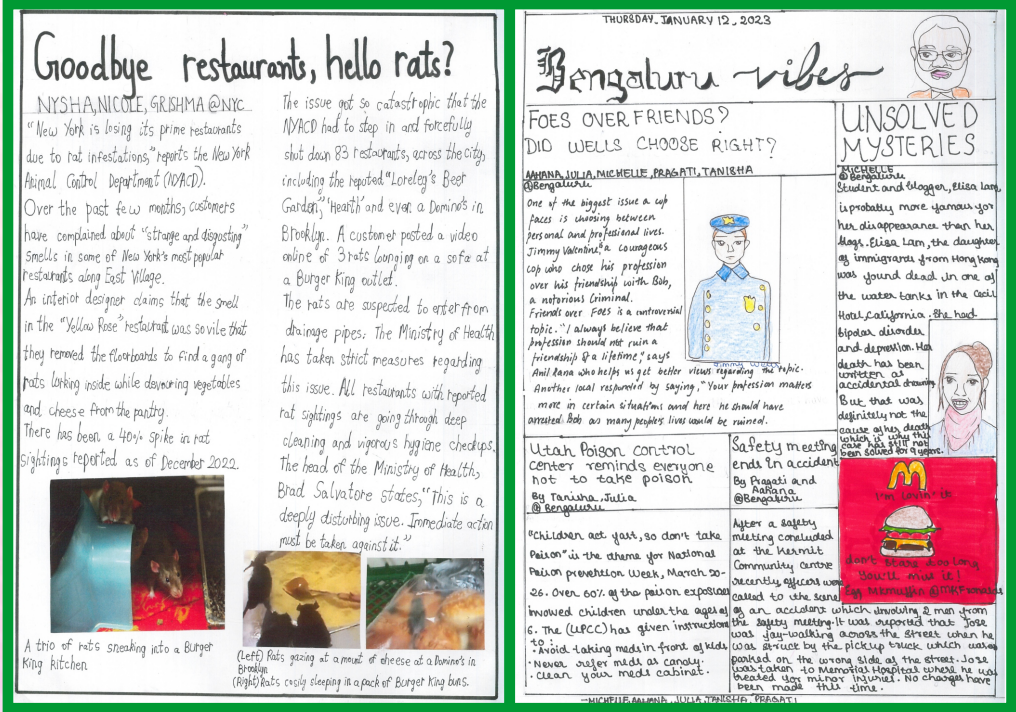
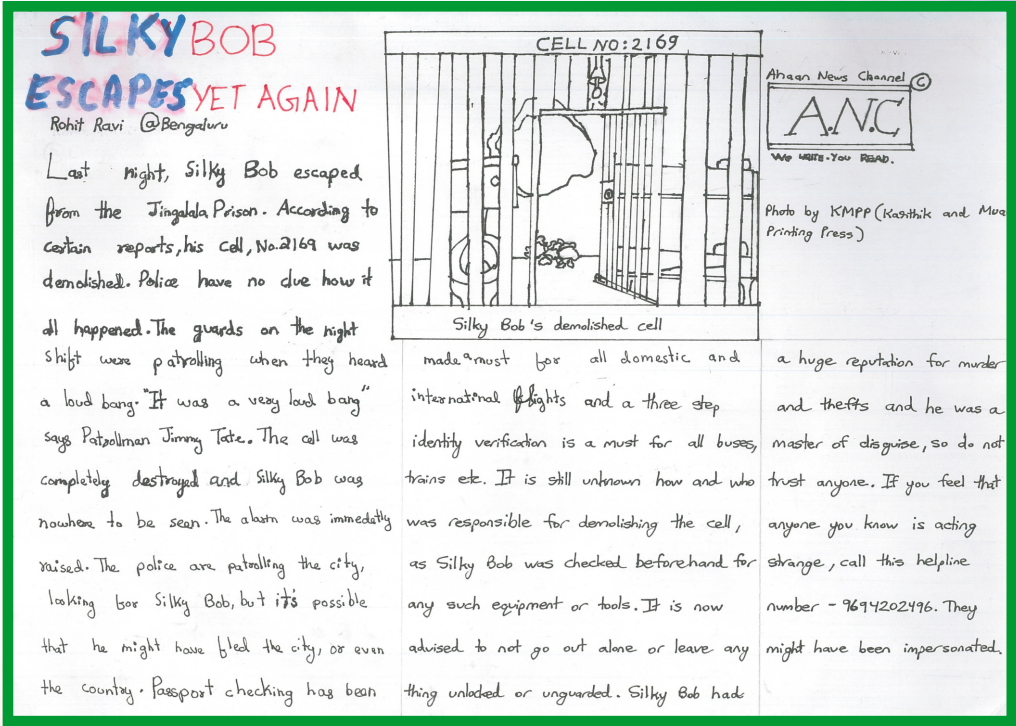
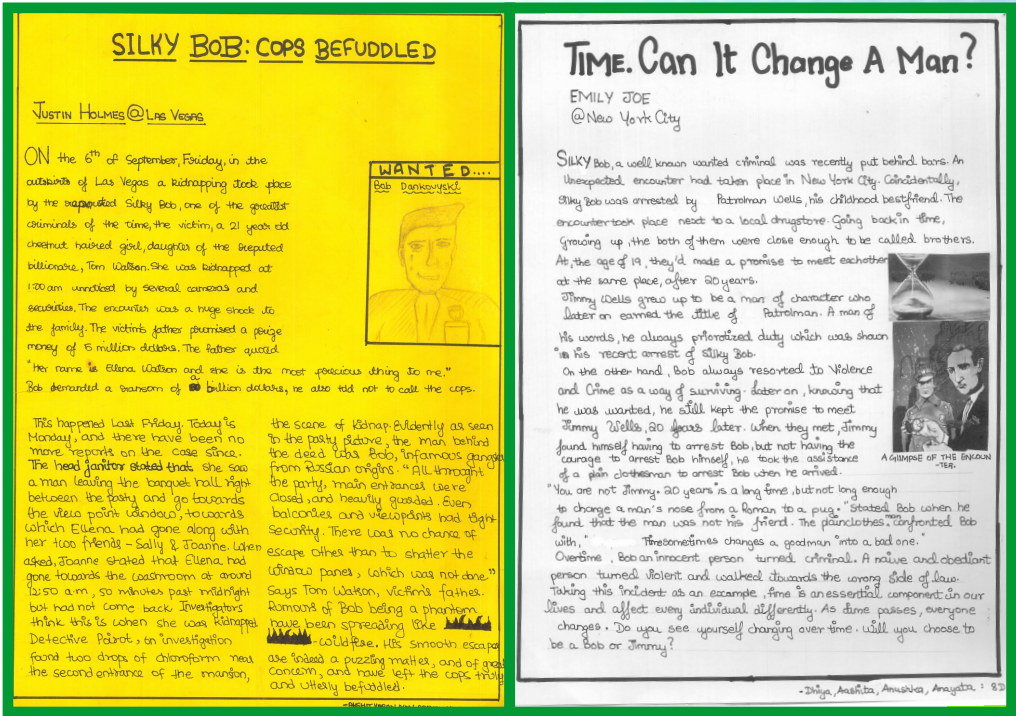
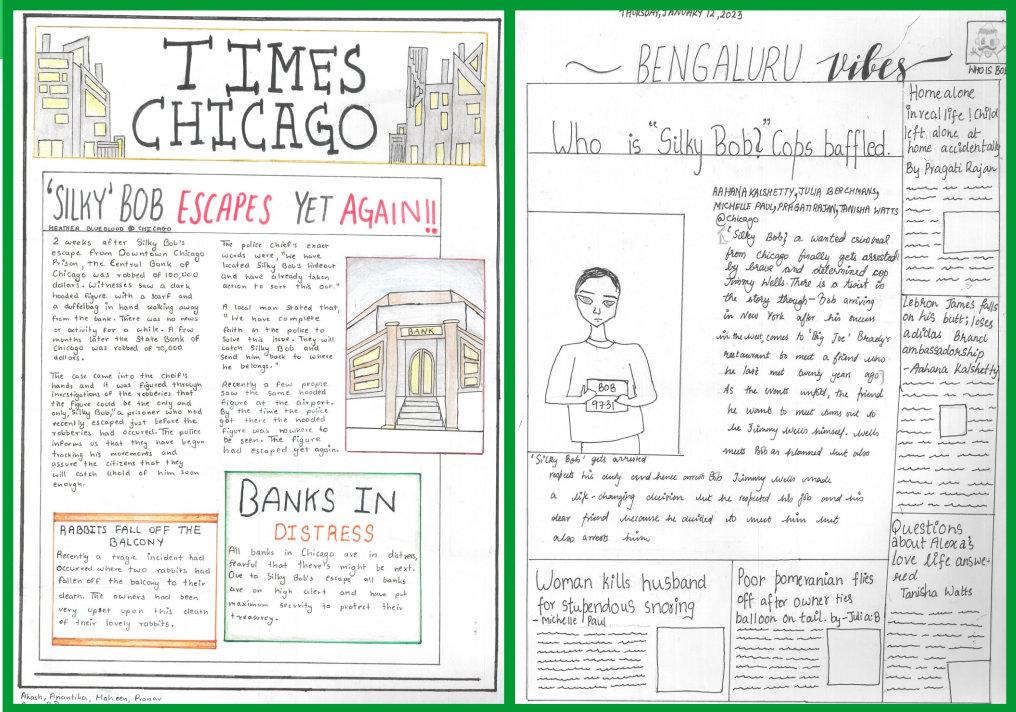
It looks like there is an impending change to the standard examinations for the students below Grade 5. 'After all, a change is as good as a feast,' as rightly quoted by Margot Durrell, from *My Family and Other Animals* by Gerald Durrell. But is it?

As a student, I know that we students hate exams. All the pressure, and no relaxation! However, with this new change, it seems as though we might have to adjust. The school has decided to replace written examinations for students below Grade 5 with marks for class participation and projects. The teachers feel that this will keep the students on their toes, as they will constantly be assessed. This may, however, be a challenge for students, especially those who find it difficult to be social and do not participate in class discussions.

It could be convenient for students who find it tedious to memorize all their subjects right before the exam, as they could keep recapping as they go along, instead of saving it all up for the end. Though all these points may be true, in the long run, students will be required to write many competitive examinations, so regular examinations could help them prepare for that.

Having discussed the pros and cons of this change, I think it is safe to say that it could be a better way to assess students. This change *may* just be 'as good as a feast'.

- Sridaya S - 8B



BGMS Visit

Since being introduced to the concept of the Interact Club, we all have found a great sense of satisfaction and delight in working for our society to help brighten smiles and can only say that this is something that has introduced us to a variety of new surroundings.

Several of us had practiced for days to perform for the children and the aged, and it was truly an astonishing experience to see all of the efforts my classmates put into that – and honestly, it paid off. Our hard work led to blinding smiles and deafening cheers from the audiences.

It was a beautiful experience to interact with the children. All of us were very excited to meet them and perform for them, and it was worth the wait to see the children enjoy themselves. The children had smiles nearly bright enough to shine in every crevice of the world and so did we. The experience was extraordinary and it will be a painful wait until we see the dainty faces and excited beams of the children again.

- Anushka Singh (8E)

A group of students and elderly people are sitting together in a room, smiling and interacting. The students are wearing school uniforms, and the elderly people are dressed in casual clothing. The room has large windows and a table in the background.



Mind Map Grade 7



Inter House Music Competition

