

the
RIVERSIDE TIMES



"freedom is a state of mind."

AUGUST 2024

What Does Freedom Mean To You?




To me, freedom means having the choice, ability, and opportunity to do what I choose. Being able to think independently of other people's beliefs, to express myself and my thoughts without hesitation, to voice my opinion, to be heard, and to live without fear is freedom.

-Nandana Thakershy (Grade 10)

Freedom means you get to choose what you want to do, and no one can stop you. You can be whoever you want and do whatever you want. But to me freedom should also be ethical, which means you shouldn't misuse the freedom you're given.

-Reeti Shah (Grade 6)



Freedom means having the ability and right to make decisions and fully express myself. It allows me the choice and liberty to do what I want, but with the responsibility that my actions should not overstep someone else's rights or freedom.

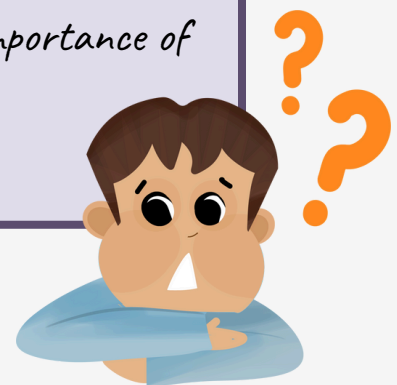
-Priyashi Purohit (Grade 11)



Reflecting On Our Heritage: The Indian Freedom Quiz



Understanding our nation's history is crucial to becoming an informed and responsible citizen. The story of India's struggle for freedom is not just a collection of dates and events but a journey filled with sacrifices, lessons, and moments of triumph that continue to shape our present. By learning about our past, avoid repeating mistakes and have the wisdom to build a better future. This awareness is vital to education, helping students understand their role in society and the importance of their contributions to the nation's progress.



The recent Indian Freedom Quiz, conducted across all key stages, was a meaningful exercise in this direction. The quiz began in individual classrooms, where students enthusiastically participated and demonstrated a strong grasp of historical knowledge. The top two performers from each class then advanced to compete with other classes in their respective key stages, making the competition both challenging and engaging. The winners showcased their deep understanding of India's journey to freedom.

As we reflect on this event, it is encouraging to see the level of participation and interest among students. The Indian Freedom Quiz has served as an important reminder of our shared heritage, helping to instill a sense of pride and responsibility in the next generation.

- Dhairya Rami (Grade 12)



Fun and Exploration For Our Youngest Buddies

Nestled in their cozy corners, these young Pre-K artists are exploring the world of colors—sharpening their fine motor skills while letting their imaginations run wild!



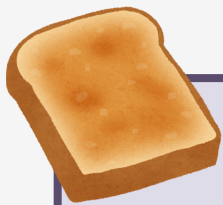
K1 had a wonderful time feeding, interacting with, and learning more about farm animals!



K2 Understanding Food and Nutrition




All smiles on kids' faces after having their tummies filled! K2 learned the value of food through the hunger challenge.



K2 examined how mold grows on bread and learned more about their relationship with food.



Grade 1 Celebrating Independence



Our young quizmasters take us on a tour through Ahmedabad!



We celebrated the sounds of India: A musical journey through traditional instruments.



Grade 2: Student-Led Play and Creativity



'Say cheese' happens even when one of our friends makes a pretend camera. For Grade 2, mini breaks have become the best time to play and build relations!



best of
LUCK

Grade 2 had their first experience of an audition as they prepared to record an Audio Tour.

Grade 3 Building Confidence and Communication Skills

Grade 3 kids had an Indian talking stick where they were able to express their feelings freely with their peers.

#1



Students took the lead of and conducted Spark Plugs in their class by building their peers' curiosity and sharing what they are passionate about.



Grade 4: Learning and Fun

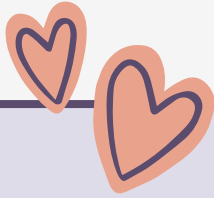


Grade 4 had an independence day celebration with tri-colored food!

Through the help of an expert intervention, Grade 4 got to learn about a bee's life in detail.



Student-Led Learning and Social Awareness in Grade 5



As part of their citizenship, Grade 5 had a coffee at Riverside with Ms Zeel Shah, who helped them understand the role of education in reducing child labour and protecting child rights



Kian and Veer held a student-led session on the operation of mixed fractions.



Grade 6 Learning About Themselves and Their Country



Grade 6 had a Safe Ed workshop to understand more about their growing bodies and minds, helping them take better care of themselves and their peers.



By working in groups, Grade 6 learned more about India's union territories, in light of Independence day.

Grade 7: Student Agency in Action



The Jugaad Challenge was a highlight for whole the keystone, but especially grade 7, as they took lead of all the groups

Preparing for Coffee With Umang highlighted student agency as it was completely student-led.



Grade 8 aProCh Meeting



Grade 8 had interacted with Kirti Ma'am and Raj Sir regarding the Independence Day celebrations. On the same day, it was aProCh's birthday! We were discussing what we wanted to do and what aProCh meant to us. aProCh stands for A Protagonist In Every Child. aProCh is a platform that allows children who are less privileged than us a platform to be a part and a stakeholder in the city. It gives them a voice; and aProCh has been doing that for the past 15 years! We also talked about how we can thank all those who helped along the journey by hosting webinars and keeping stalls at Happy Street and Parents Of The Park. We even ideated merchandise ideas by designing logos and discussing potential merch. aProCh has helped us learn how to improvise, make the best of our resources, and inspire the children of the city to be the protagonist of their stories.

-Tanuj Thakershy (Grade 8)

YAY!

Grade 9: Healthier Us, Happier Us



The lifestyle challenge has been a great way to learn the unit of lifestyle & health in biology. By using our own lives as case studies and documenting data from our day-to-day activities, we have learnt so much about ourselves and the topic. First off, we started by using the HealthifyMe app to track our calorie & biomolecule (protein, fat, carbohydrate) intake. Next, we entered all this data into a well-formatted Excel with the help of Adithya sir. We had Kajal ma'am & 2 experts analyze this data. After this, we had BMI experts come and record our body mass index and give advice and suggestions to improve our health, individually.

A few of us who also wanted to learn about the different biomolecules present in our bodies also did blood tests. All in all, the lifestyle challenge has helped us gain deeper insight into the practices we need to implement to stay healthy & has been a fun alternative to the regular way of learning this unit.

-Prathama Mehta (Grade 9)



Grade 10: Words at War

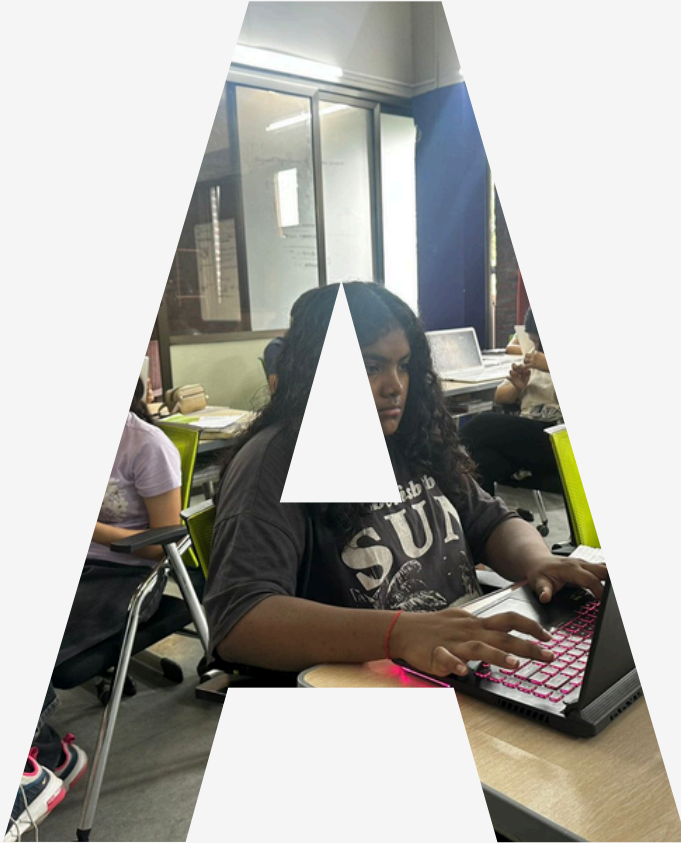


*The grade 10 debate around whether sustainability is a relevant global issue stemmed from three things. One was the differences in opinions of the class regarding sustainability. We had heard multiple sides of the argument before in congloms. The second was a need for structured arguments. When we discussed these topics in class, what started with varying perspectives turned into a heated argument. A civil medium of communication was necessary. Lastly, it stemmed from the debate club. We had done a debate earlier on our class read, *The Life of Pi*, and even started our debate club. The response from the class was that of excitement, and since so many people were willing to participate and speak up, it went wonderfully.*

When the debate did take place, we saw our class, grade 8 and grade 9 come together to have fruitful conversations in a civil manner that allowed for differences in opinions to be expressed. We learned articulation, re-established the importance of persuasive writing, and most importantly, listened to and respected other ideas.

-Nandana Thakershy (Grade 10)

The AI Learning Revolution



This month, students participated in a student-led workshop that explained the workings of AI and prompt engineering. The session commenced with a breakdown of fundamental concepts such as LLM's, tokens, and temperature. The students then engaged in a hands-on image generation activity, where they had to use descriptive prompts to replicate a given image through generative tools. Through this, they were able to learn the intricacies of crafting an effective prompt for generating both images and text. Finally, the various applications of AI were discussed, along with a conversation on using it ethically. Through this, they were able to gain a fresh perspective on the productive utilization of AI.

-Mahir Halani (Grade 12)



A Meeting of Minds



Keystage 2 and 3 had a thought-provoking session with Jay Vishal Tugnait and Army officials, discussing India's independence. The talk provided valuable insights into the nation's journey to freedom.



Menstruation Made Sustainable



As the world is on a polluting spree, the most important thing humans can do is try to improve it. Keystage 2 and 3 girls had a "green menstruation" conglom with Ms. Pankti Pandey on how women can turn to more sustainable resources for when we are menstruating. Initially, she discussed how disposable pads aren't a socially or environmentally conscious choice. The workers who pick up our trash are exposed to all kinds of chemicals, the same as us; and the disposable pads aren't very biodegradable. Through the conglom, we learnt that there are a lot of other products we can use. Reusable cloth pads, menstrual cups, and even period panties are all amazing choices. Of course, we all thought it to be a bit uncomfortable, but we learned that through safe and continued use, we would get used to those products. The conglom was a step towards a sustainable and safe future.

-Tanaya Dalal (Grade 11)

Rain or Shine, We Celebrate!



Many students from Riverside attended the 15th of August Parents of the Park celebration. It was a joyous event with student performances, arts and crafts, games and a wonderful Independence Day parade. It was exhilarating to see the pride on everyone's faces as we celebrated our country, and the rain made the day extra special!

-Rithva Menon (Grade 12)



Beyond the Classroom



This month, students from grades 8, 9, and 10 had the opportunity to participate in the annual IIMUN conference at Aamby Valley. The conference provided a unique platform for students to delve into global issues, develop their research and communication skills, and contribute to meaningful discussions.

For many students, this was their second year attending IIMUN. The increased experience allowed for more impactful debates and interactions, as participants took on the roles of diplomats from various nations. The conference tackled pressing global challenges, including climate change and women's rights, fostering a deeper understanding of these complex issues.

Students were empowered to create solutions that could impact the future and were encouraged to take on the responsibility of becoming global citizens. The collaborative environment promoted teamwork and leadership, essential skills for both academic and personal development.

Beyond the committee sessions, the conference offered a variety of social events and inspiring speeches from prominent figures like Dr Shashi Tharoor and Boman Irani. These experiences made IIMUN 2024 an unforgettable event for all participants.

-Sanya Raval (Grade 9) & Siddhant Raj (Grade 9)



Beyond the Classroom



Siddhant and Avital, both from Grade 9, have been honored with a Special Verbal Mention and High Commendation, respectively.

Goal-Oriented Learning



Grade 11 and 12 had a conglom about goal-setting and going for gold ahead of our mid-terms. We discussed what our distractions are and how we will work towards overcoming them to help reach our expectations. Overall, it helped students reflect on what exactly they have left to do ahead of the tests, and also how they plan on achieving it.



Opportunities Await



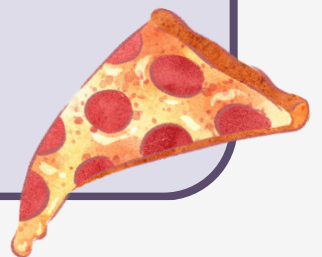
This month, many students auditioned for the upcoming I Can Global Summit in Dubai. After a rigorous selection process involving application letters and interviews, three representatives were chosen based on their abilities, passion, and commitment. We look forward to seeing them represent our school at this exciting event.

A Taste of Community



Grade 12 and Grade 7 came together for a community lunch, cultivating a sense of camaraderie and breaking down barriers between keystages. They engaged in lively conversations about music, food, current events, and sports. The space was filled with laughter, shared meals, and a friendly football match. This community lunch was a valuable experience, creating bonds and enriching the school culture.

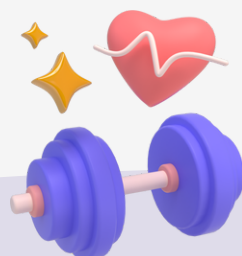
-Viha Patel (Grade 12)



Wellness Wins



Prioritising physical wellness with regular group congloms.



Golden Moments



Champions Among Us



Reyna, Viyana, and Ishayaa brought home multiple medals in the Open Gujarat Athletics Championship, with Reyna clinching gold in the 200m and silver in the 100m, Viyana winning gold in both the 50m and 100m, and Ishayaa earning bronze in the 100m. Additionally, our Under 12 Boys team triumphed over Shanti Asiatic A by a score of 2-0, with Aaryan from grade 7 being named Player of the Match.

Our Under-17 boys' basketball team put up a strong fight, winning their first two matches against Prakash School (14-8) and Airport School (11-2) before reaching the quarterfinals of the SGFI tournament. Meanwhile, our Under-17 girls' football team advanced to the quarterfinals of the ARA Tournament, and our Under-14 boys' team is still competing in the ARA Tournament.



Athletic Triumphs



Our talented athletes, Sanaya Raval and Anika, have achieved remarkable success at the SGFI District Athletics meet. Sanaya secured first place in both the 200m and 800m races, while Anika excelled in the field events, winning gold in the javelin throw and silver in the shot put. Their outstanding performances have earned them the title of District Champions and qualified them for the State-level competition.

Club Highlights



The Innovation team has been having meetings every Wednesday to plan events, sessions and congloms for the rest of the school, as well as create the AI curriculum. This month, the Innovation team held many sessions and workshops, helping students integrate AI into their daily lives ethically and productively.

The sustainability club held a session with grade 4, showing them how to make notebooks from one-sided papers, and showing that repurposing materials can be easy and fun. We also had a meeting with Prasmi Maam to discuss ways forward with taking sustainability seriously in school. Lastly, we created a goodie bag out of reused materials for Pankti Pandey, the Expert who gave us a talk on Green Menstruation.



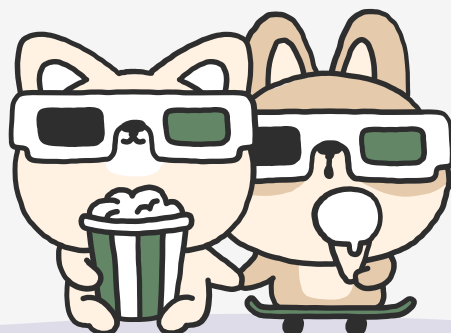
Wild Snapshots



-Tanuj Thakershy (Grade 8)



Must-See Movies



Kantara, a 2022 film directed by Rishab Shetty, offers a captivating exploration of Mangalore's rich cultural heritage. The film centres around the Buta Kola, a revered ritual practised by the protagonist, Shiva, a rebellious youth deeply connected to his land.

When corrupt officials threaten to seize the village's sacred land, Shiva transforms from a carefree individual into a determined protector of his community. The film beautifully portrays the clash between traditional beliefs and the modern world, culminating in a dramatic and had a mystical climax involving the Panjurli deity. The acting and cinematography are exceptional, creating a goosebump-inducing experience.

-Sharvaree Ballal (Grade 9)

Cornfields, love, space, dust, aliens, time travel and gigantic black holes. This might seem like a strange assortment of words to the average person but for fans of Christopher Nolan, it's a callback to arguably one of his greatest films: Interstellar.

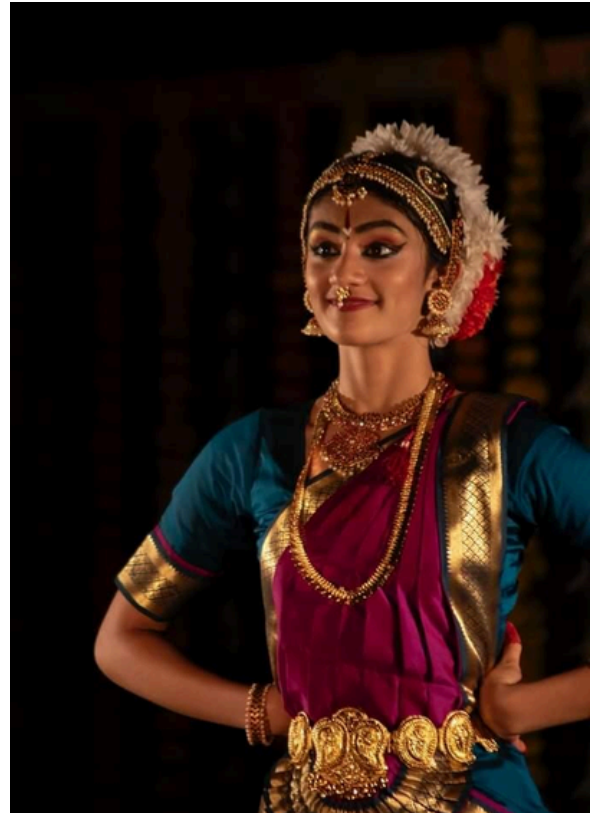
This profound and elegant exploration of some of the most complex ideas of physics is set in a future where resources are continuously decreasing and droughts are a common phenomenon. The protagonist Cooper goes on a mission along with a crew to look for an alternate planet to sustain life. The crew go through wormholes and looks through planets revolving around a supermassive black hole and faces numerous difficulties along the way. The movie showcases a beautiful story of the indomitable human story set in a sci-fi yet still believable world. This surreal feeling was achieved because Christopher Nolan worked with Nobel prize-winning physicist Kip Thorne for the movie to ensure it was as scientifically accurate as possible. It also creates a sense of immersion unlike any other with the grand scenes of the simulated black hole and its breathtaking score by Hans Zimmer.

The delicate balance crafted in the script and its masterful execution by Mathew McConaughey is what sets this movie apart from others in the sci-fi genre and also in cinema as a whole. It allows for a logical plot while also keeping it engaging and interesting for the viewer and easy to understand. I believe Interstellar is a must-watch for everyone as it is a classic and an experience unlike any other. It is rereleasing in theaters this September for its 10th anniversary so be ready to book your tickets!

-Angad Juneja Gupta (Grade 12)



A Night of Elegance- Arangetram



My first step on stage felt unreal as if it were all a dream. I was worried I wouldn't smile on stage, but as soon as the lights shone on me, the cheers and applause made it impossible not to smile.

I was also concerned that I might go offbeat, but everything felt natural once I was up there.

I can't even describe how much anxiety I had during my last week of practice, but I kept pushing myself, and I did it. I've finally made it here.

-Rewa Malhotra (Grade 9)



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