

# The Riverside Times

december  
2024



# Keystage 1

## Pre-k Wonders



*Pre-K students learned the wonder of stories and that stories are everywhere while reading "A Very Unusual Dog". Their attentive wonder and single minded focus on the story is clear for all to see.*



*Pre-K students went on a nature walk in the sleeping forest. They were alight with curiosity and excitement while investigating the various sticks and trees and bushes all around them.*

# Keystage 1

## K1 Adventures

*For their day out, K1 went to a rural village and experienced the simplicity of life there. They also got to experience firsthand the deep connection the villagers shared with the natural world around them.*



*K1 started the day bright and early with a Zumba session. The thumping beat and energetic dance moves surely shook everyone out of their morning slumber.*

# Keystage 1

## K2 Imaginings



*K2 engaged in a fascinating activity to craft a cave from rocks by hand. It was an amazing dive into the realm of hands-on storytelling.*



*Continuing the theme of storytelling, K2 was split into groups with each group getting the pieces of a fragmented story. They worked together, collaborating in groups to piece the story together like a puzzle. They really showcased their teamwork and critical thinking skills with this activity.*

# Keystone 1

## Grade 01 Learnings

*Grade 1 learnt about the digestive system and the process through which solid food gets crushed into small particles in our body by observing a mixer.*



*Grade 1 had a buddy interaction with grade 6. They enjoyed playing different games and partaking in different activities together. It was a great experience to bond with and learn from their older buddies.*

# Keystage 1

## Grade 02 Ownership



**Grade 2 got to experience student led agenda setting in action. They cheerfully took ownership of their classroom and its processes to have an enjoyable but productive day.**

**Winter mornings became a lot more energetic with an amazing Zumba session to start the day feeling invigorated and energised. After the session, Grade 2 was ready to tackle the day with renewed enthusiasm!**



# Keystage 2

## Grade 03 Naturalists



**Grade 3 immersed themselves in both nature and art by using naturally occurring materials like flowers, leaves and seeds that they found around the school to create vibrant clay designs. Their focus and attention to detail is admirable.**

**Grade 3 took the initiative and organized fundraising for citizenship by selling delicious chocolates and laddoos as well as candles.**



# Keystage 2

## Grade 04 Entrepreneurs

*Grade 4 along with their parents had a fruitful visit to the hotel The Leela Gandhinagar, in which they proudly presented their restaurant plans as well as showcased all the hard work they had put in to make the idea a reality.*



*Grade 4 underwent an intense scrutiny with Deepa Ma'am regarding the menus they designed for their upcoming restaurant. It provided valuable insights and guidance for their new venture.*



# Keystage 2

## Grade 05 Experiences



*Grade 5 underwent the Agarbatti experience. By experiencing firsthand the treatment of children who are forced into child labor, they developed empathy for those children and a new awareness of their own privileges that they do not have to endure that fate.*

**Grade 5 had a night out where they went sky gazing which opened their eyes to the beauty and majesty of the stars and planets twinkling brightly above, if only we bother to look up.**



# Keystone 2

## Grade 06 Service

**Grade 6 visited a rehabilitation center to get inspiration to make a sensory room for their Prabhat buddies. They left with many new ideas and plans for their own sensory room design.**



**Grade 6 performed a play entitled "Nukkad Natak" at a municipal school to spread awareness about and empathy for people with different kinds of disabilities and their impacts on children's lives**

# Keystage 2

## Grade 07 Inspirations



*Grade 7 put their creativity to the test in an exciting hands on project with Tanisha ma'am. Designing unique clay molds from scratch and using those intricate molds to craft beautiful plaster flowers.*

*Grade 7 has partnered with Umang, an organization that provides education to children with hearing impairments. To get a glimpse into their daily life after school and understand their home environment, Grade 7 went for Home Visits and spent a fruitful afternoon interacting with their buddies and their parents.*



# keystage 3 highlights



**Keystage 3 recently had a coffee with the two powerhouses of aProCh, Kirti Ma'am and Raj Sir. During which the two mentors shared insights from their own experiences with the community based initiative, as well as strategies on how we as a collective can strive to make our work in persistence both more impactful and more meaningful.**

**This month Keystage 3 was treated to a special performance by our school band Resonance. They put on an electrifying show with hits like Viva La Vida, Story of My Life and Counting Stars. They had the entire Keystage singing along in a spectacular show.**

To watch the performance [click here](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BDRXxy4O1sKnrpFZyXeyXdk6Q6loXX3)  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BDRXxy4O1sKnrpFZyXeyXdk6Q6loXX3>

# keystage 3 highlights

## science students' factory visit

***This month the science students of grade 11 and 12 had the incredible opportunity to visit a chemical manufacturing plant and learn about its inner workings. We visited Neochem to learn about what happens behind the scenes in a chemical industry.***

***Neochem is a chemical company that boasts over 200 products. We were treated to a tour of the facilities at their factory with Arvind Sir, the plant's manager as our guide.***

***He gave us a thorough tour of everything from the raw material storage to the manufacturing plant to the R&D lab. All of these spaces were huge and it was truly a treat to get to see them.***

***One of the core tenants at Neochem is sustainability. The plastic storage containers in which bulk chemicals are housed are sent back to manufacturers to be reused once they are empty. Every waste product released during manufacturing down to the steam that is evolved is captured and recycled back into the system and reused in future processes. The only waste they release into the atmosphere is formaldehyde but only in small amounts. They are currently working to streamline their process so that even that miniscule amount of toxic waste doesn't enter the environment. Seeing this glimpse into the possibility of sustainability particularly in the chemical and textile industries, both of which are notorious for their rampant water use and chemical waste, was truly inspiring.***

***Overall, it was a very informative and enjoyable trip. Getting a peek into the behind the scenes working of everything from how the colors in our clothes are made to the paint on our walls was fascinating and I'm really glad we had the opportunity to visit.***

***-Garima Biyani (Grade 11)***



# community service

## grade 8 warmth experience

*We in grade 8 recently had our warmth experience. We reached school at 6am where we walked around in the cold morning air without our jackets, shoes and socks to keep us warm. During the experience our feet were numb, faces were cold and a few of us even quit midway. This was a mere glimpse of the harsh reality millions of people face across the globe, except they don't have the choice to quit.*

*Once the experience concluded we were shown some alarming data that shook us to our core. In India alone, 800 people die annually during the winter. However the cold isn't the problem, lack of clothing is. If each and every individual had access to warm clothing today, cold wouldn't be a kill tomorrow.*

*So we decided to make a change by initiating a warm clothing collection drive. We partnered with 10 different NGOs, donating clothes, blankets, gloves and so on. Now we have collected over 1000 pieces of warm clothing that will help protect the people of Ahmedabad from the cold this year and save lives.*

*This experience has helped us improve our persuasive skills, organization, time management and ability to work as a team. Most importantly, it has made us realize the value of the clothing we possess and the privileges we are lucky to have. Because a jacket to us may be a mere piece of clothing, but it could mean the difference between life and death for someone else.*

*-Ayaan Gupta and Riva Weir (Grade 8)*



# achievements & awards



**“Proud to share that Angad Juneja Gupta, Devrush Vyas, and Rithva Menon secured 3rd place in the Sci-Blast 2.0 competition organised by St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad. The event witnessed participation from 27 schools, making this achievement even more remarkable!”**

**-Nilesh Patel, the mentor**



**Avaan Sood Jain from Grade 9 won a Special Mention in MUN. He was a part of the specpol committee and the topic was "Impact of new colonialism on economics and the political stability of new nations".**

**Harshita Gupta and Rishi Nayak from Grade 11 got honourable mentions in the IIMUN Ahmedabad chapter. They were a part of the Lok Sabha committee over the course of two days.**

# sustainability

# CLUB



## bringing sustainability as a surplus



*After the success of the Sustainability Challenge earlier this year in Keystage 3, the Sustainability Club wanted a more concrete way to ensure sustainable practices will endure in the school. We decided to do that by turning Sustainability into a Surplus.*

*Having Sustainability as a surplus entails making sure waste is segregated well throughout the school, fresh compost is sieved, energy is conserved well and maintaining the overall cleanliness of the school. We hope that the surplus will help the school get closer to our goal of being a zero waste institution, and inspire the young minds to continue sustainable practices throughout their life.*

*On 18th December, the Sustainability Club held their first ever plastic drive carnival! It was an innovative and fun way for students at Riverside to participate in sustainable practices while helping collect single use plastics. The premise was simple, for every 3 pieces of single - use plastic, students got to play one carnival game. There were several exciting carnival games such as penalty shoot-out, bowling, and bottle flip. The students had a wonderful time participating in the carnival and we will have the details of how much plastic was collected out soon! -Rithva (Grade 12)*



# STUDENT CORNER.

## grade 09 mastery: a process

Robert Greene once said, "Mastery is not a function of genius or talent. It is a function of time and intense focus applied to a particular field of knowledge." This quote encapsulates the essence of Mastery at Riverside. Mastery is a process where students explore a question they are intrigued by, conduct in-depth research, and present their findings to a jury. Recently, we in grade 9, were given the chance to experience this one-of-a-kind process. We dedicated ourselves to researching, interviewing experts, and presenting our findings. Along the way, we honed a variety of skills, including research, critical thinking, effective communication and presentation in front of a jury.

How does an athlete's upbringing influence their success on the field? Is globalization exploiting developing nations or boosting their growth? Questions like these are present in the mind of every highschooler but between juggling academics, sports, extracurriculars and healthy social lives, most of us never find the time to dive deep into any of these intriguing topics. Yet they are ever present at the back of our minds, tickling our curiosity and waiting to be answered. The Mastery process was our chance to answer some of these lingering questions, to dive deep into a new topic and uncover fascinating information through masterclasses, interviews and research.

We started our journey by picking a question and had the liberty to select a question from any domain, ranging from an individual's belief system to socio-economic topics. We came up with questions that took more than a single google search to answer.

"My topic primarily revolved around the metaphysical debate surrounding the existence of God — a vast and complex subject. To explore this deeply, I consulted numerous websites, read extensively, and designed questionnaires for experts in the field. The process demanded intense focus and taught me invaluable lessons in time management. Balancing this research alongside extracurricular activities and academics was challenging but rewarding all the same. As someone who often struggles with organization, this journey helped me cultivate structure and efficiency in managing my commitments."

After some preliminary research on our question, we had to create a mind map with the key details pertaining to our question. From there, the real journey began. We began contacting experts, looking through research papers and spent hours scouring the internet for pertinent information. Finally, after two weeks of wading through the endless sea of knowledge, we developed a fairly deeper understanding of our topic. But that wasn't the end. Before our jury presentation, we wrote a report of our findings of our research question, citing multiple research papers and evidence collected from domain experts.

The final step was presenting our research and findings to a jury. Our heartfelt gratitude to Fozia Ma'am, Joshua Sir, Kumar Sir, Simran Ma'am, Aarti Ma'am, and Andrew Sir, who not only gave us invaluable feedback, but pushed us to delve deeper into our respective questions. Mastery not only deepened our understanding of our topics, but also equipped us with essential life skills, making it a truly metamorphic experience. All in all, Mastery pushed us to traverse through the ocean of our thoughts in order to identify our passions.

-Siddhant Raj & Rohan Biyani (Grade 9)

# STUDENT CORNER.

grade 09 mastery: excerpt



**Cognitive biases are a person's tendency to perceive and interpret information based on preconceived notions, ideas and beliefs that the person inherently believes. Cognitive biases evolved as mental shortcuts to help us process information quickly in order to differentiate between danger and opportunities for better survival. For example, confirmation bias—the tendency to seek information that confirms pre-existing beliefs—helped early humans focus on**

**familiar patterns, such as avoiding dangerous places. However, now that survival is not the ultimate goal of life, cognitive biases also minimize judgment and critical thinking, leading to biased decision-making and information processing. Confirmation bias could be weaponized to make people develop a one-sided view about the world as any contradictory information or alternate perspectives would be unconsciously discarded.**

**Perhaps the most horrific example of this taking place historically is during the era of Nazi Germany. While considered a dictatorship, historical evidence suggests Nazi actions were supported by the German people. This raises the question of how the German population could endorse the removal of their civil liberties, the initiation of a devastating World War, and the orchestration of an inhumane genocide. Calculated propaganda, through mediums like posters, films, and speeches, exploited cognitive biases to brainwash the German populace into hating Jews (and other undesirables) and revering Hitler. It portrayed Jews as the root of Germany's post-World War I struggles and Hitler as Germany's savior, despite the absence of any real evidence for either. In doing so, the Nazis were able to corrode the moral principles of an entire nation, manipulating the public into becoming partners in the mindless Nazi war machine and the atrocities of the Holocaust.**

**While the Holocaust should remain a closed chapter in human history, the mechanisms used to enable it certainly have not stayed artifacts of their time. Cognitive biases continue to shape our perceptions through targeted social media, echo chambers, and political messaging. Recognition of this fact brings a responsibility to remain unbiased. As history has shown us, unchecked biases can have devastating consequences, but awareness and education can help shape a generation that values truth and open mindsets, a generation that will not repeat the mistakes of the past.**

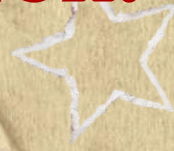
**For those who are interested in learning more about the Nazi Regime's exploitation of cognitive biases, [click here](#)**

**[https://docse.google.com/document/d/1CVVKE9VPFk8rxTDPvIZg5yz9t\\_qp4KaPV4EpRmvCI50/edit?usp=sharing](https://docse.google.com/document/d/1CVVKE9VPFk8rxTDPvIZg5yz9t_qp4KaPV4EpRmvCI50/edit?usp=sharing)**

**-Aangi Shah (Grade 9)**

# STUDENT CORNER.

*student poetry*



## *A Masterpiece*

**One ailment, born of the mind,  
Cured at once, with one act more than kind.  
Many people in this world, many lovers too,  
but few find love that runs true.**

**A masterpiece made, at the end of a lifetime,  
With many strokes, both beautiful and fine.  
One life saved, one unfairly taken,  
It was an act so selfless, it had to be written.**

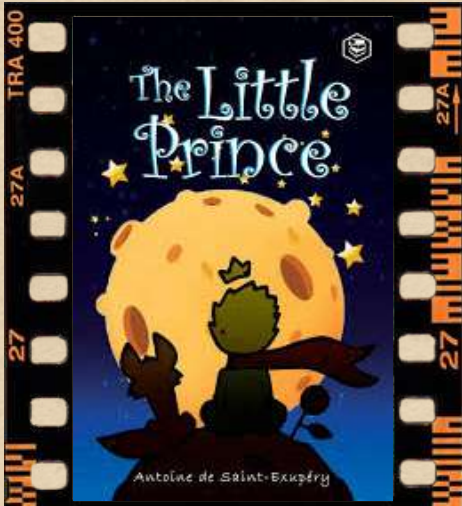
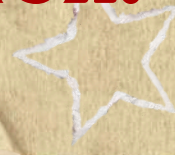
**A life so cherished, a precious birth,  
As life seeped away from him, none could have mirth.  
As the last tear fell from his eye,  
This son of god bid the world goodbye.**

**-Kiara Shroff (grade 6)**

*inspired by the short story "The Last Leaf"*

# STUDENT CORNER.

book review



## ***The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry***

***The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry is a modern classic that reaches beyond age to explore deeply significant messages about life, love, and human connection. At face value this book seems to be a mere story about a young prince travelling across the far reaches of the universe, interacting with everyone he meets in his path, but this is***

***actually a story with a deep take on the most important things in life.***

***The book felt at once symbolic and accessible. It resonated with me and forced me to ask myself what truly matters. At the core, The Little Prince is a reminder to us of the value of love, friendship and kindness. It shows how embracing the intangible, those things that are “invisible to the eye” and can only be understood with the heart, is a value and ability of great value. This can be seen through the Prince’s encounters with the Fox and the Rose.***

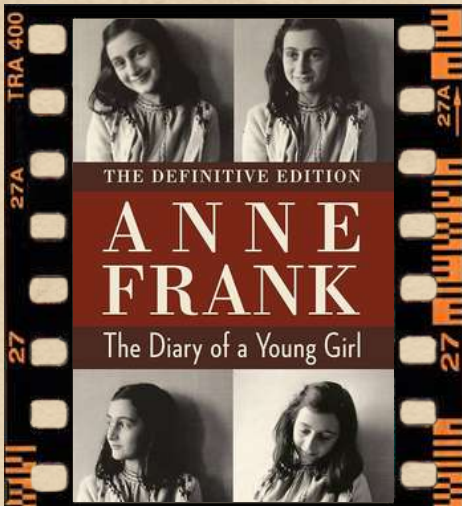
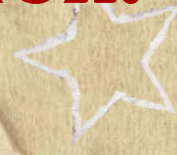
***The book’s wisdom is wrapped in timeless quotes like “It is only with the heart that one can see rightly,” urging readers to live a compassionate and wholesome life. While it might seem difficult to understand and vague at first, if offered considerable thought, it starts to be a wholesome guiding light offering a hopeful message to your life.***

***The Little Prince may be short, but it will linger in your being. It is more than just a story, it is a great reminder for us to embrace simplicity, savor our loved ones, and enjoy the small things in life which provide happiness. It is a must read for people young and old alike.***

***-Manit Shah (Grade 7)***

# STUDENT CORNER.

book review



## *The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank*

*The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank is a heartfelt and powerful account of a Jewish girl's life while hiding from the Nazis during World War II. Anne Frank was just 13 years old when, due to her Jewish race, she and her family were forced to stay hidden for their lives, hoping the cruel dictator's soldiers wouldn't find them. Along with facing the ups and downs of adolescence, she was cut off from the world at a very crucial point in her life with just this diary to share all her joys and sorrows with. Written between the years 1942 and 1944, after which her family was discovered by the*

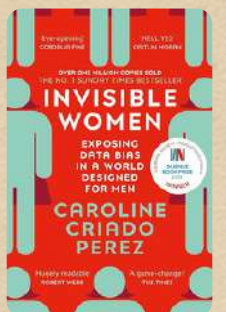
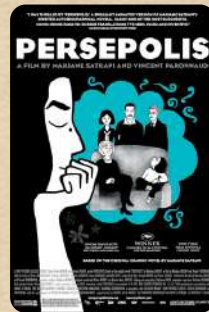
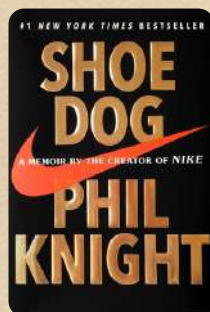
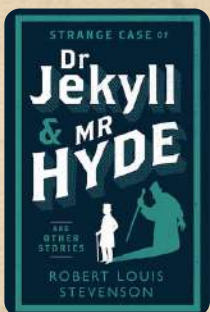
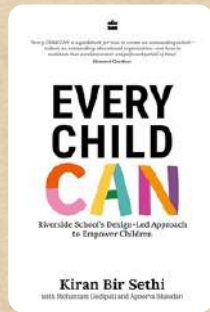
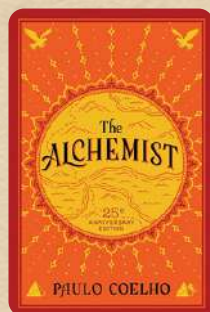
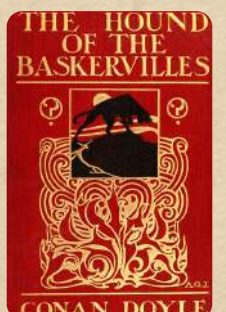
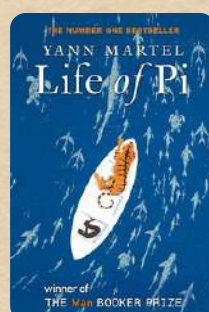
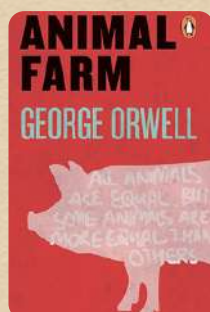
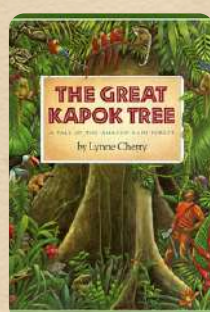
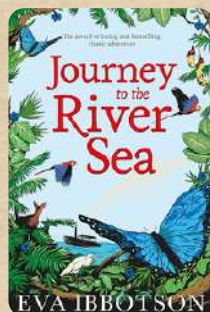
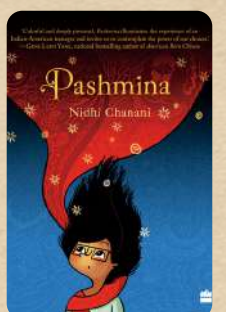
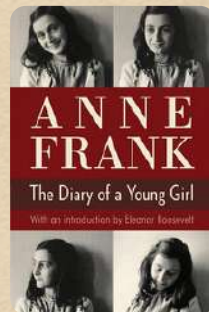
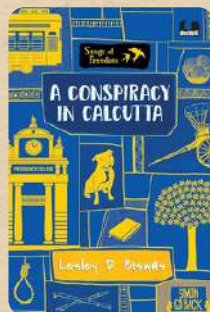
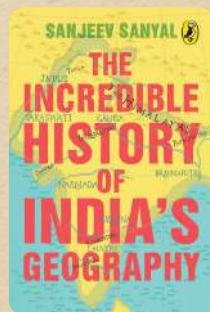
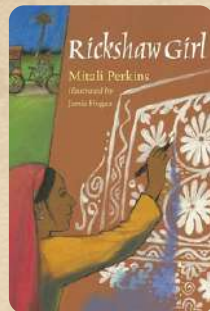
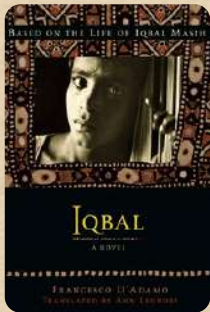
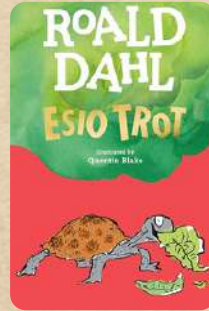
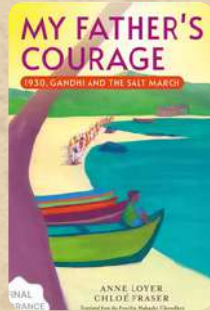
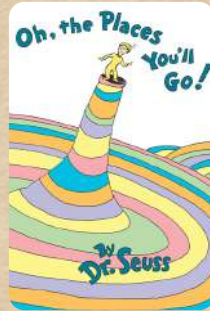
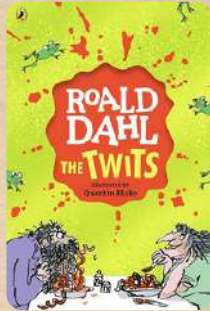
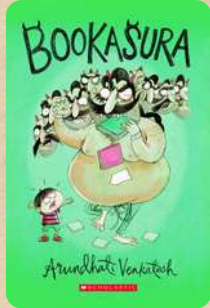
*Nazis and sent to die in a concentration camp, this book is a reflection on what living in the midst of a greed-driven world-crushing war for power is really like.*

*Anne's isolation from her friends and the rest of the world caused her to withdraw into herself and think deeper thoughts at an earlier age, and many of the things she wrote are applicable for us even today. "Laziness appears attractive, but work gives satisfaction." I only hope there comes a day when people everywhere understand the wisdom of this teenage girl, that they learn to love and learn to eradicate hate from the world. Because "despite everything, I still believe people are truly good at heart."*

*Anne Frank was here, on our own Earth. She was alive. And now she's dead. It wasn't the Nazi's guns that killed her. It wasn't the typhoid epidemic in Bergen-Belsen that killed her. It was the word 'hate', the word 'racism' and the word 'exclusion' – those words killed her. Those words are going to kill us all if we don't fight them. Those words are the reason so many people are dying around the world. And those words can only be removed from our hearts when we invite peace and compassion in. And this book, this dark yet truthful diary, this memoir of a girl not much older than me right now, instils the values of kindness, of courage, and of love, not hatred into readers and helps them become the change the world needs. A must read for anyone and everyone.*

**-Sanaya Singh (Grade 7)**

# riverside 2024 #bookflix



# riverside **2024** wrapped

kiran ma'am  
felicitated by TOI,  
at the "She Rise"  
event

world's best school  
to work in,  
platinum certification

kiran ma'am is  
selected as part of  
the group of  
inspiring leaders

kiran ma'am received  
hindu businessline  
change maker award

aProCh won  
the world smart  
city award '24

ranked no.1 in ahm  
and gujarat, no.5 in india  
educationworld india  
school ranking

a **DREAM TEAM** of  
80 staff members  
and 437 students.

# CREDITS

## editors

Aritra Raj  
Garima Biyani  
Ayana Jhala

## designers

Yashmit Agarwal  
Harshita Gupta

## contributors


Garima Biyani  
Siddhant Raj  
Rithva Menon  
Sanaya Singh  
Ayaan Gupta  
Rohan Biyani  
Aangi Shah  
Manit Shah  
Riva Weir  
Kiara Shroff  
Nilesh Patel

if you wish to contribute to the next edition of the riverside times, please send your submissions to :


[aritra@schoolriverside.com](mailto:aritra@schoolriverside.com)  
[ayanajhala28@gmail.com](mailto:ayanajhala28@gmail.com)

you can also check out our social media for exciting content and updates on [@theriverside.times](https://www.instagram.com/theriverside.times) on instagram.





**A HAPPY 2025**  
**WITH**  
**WARM WISHES**  
**TO YOU AND**  
**YOUR LOVED ONES**



**with love from the riverside team**

