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THE RIVERSIDE TIMES

*"Community is much more
than belonging to
something; it's about doing
something together that
makes belonging matter."*

-Brian Solis



SUMMER 2024

KEYSTAGE 1 HAPPY'NINGS - APRIL

PRE-K Settling into School

As the new academic year commenced, the youngest batch joined campus into their interactive and welcoming class. Their homeroom teachers and *Pinky Ben* helped them to settle in and feel comfortable.



Home Visits

Home visits for all grades in the *Key Stage* have been completed. The process allowed teachers to gain a deeper perspective into each child's upbringing, life back at home and background only to better their experience at school according to an individual's requirements.



Redesigning Class 'First Day, First Week'

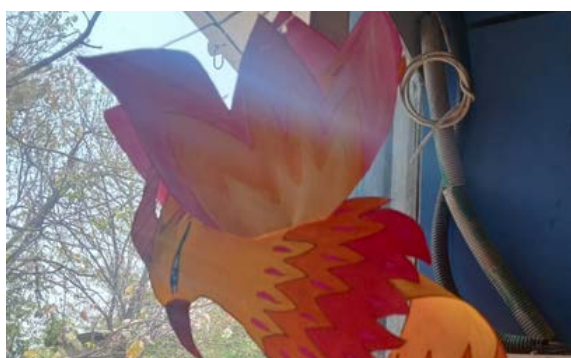
As young leaders, each class of the youngest *Key Stage* set on to redesign their class. From ensuring that every corner in the classroom had a distinct purpose (reading corner, playing corner) to decorating the space colorfully- each class went through the design-thinking process to make this happen. Interestingly, a process at *Riverside* is glass-painting. The painting outside each class represents their 'anchor,' which is a representation and illustration of what their class embodies.



KEYSTAGE 2 HAPPY'NINGS - APRIL

Makerspace Decoration

A challenge posed to the group of students was to create a decorative piece of art. Phoenix is what they chose because of its metaphorical representation to 'rise from the ashes.' By attaching the wings and coloring it, the piece was hung up to see everyday.



PRE-K Buddy Interaction

Part of the *Grade 7* practice is buddy interaction with *PRE-K*. The senior most class of *Key Stage 2* partners with the youngest class of the school to welcome them and comfort them. As the kids leave their homes for the first time, settling into a new space can be both overwhelming and scary. *Grade 7* has made this major transition smoother and has been there for them while playing games and activities. The process brought both nostalgia and an increased sense of responsibility in the *Grade 7* buddies.



Riverside DEAR Time

"Think before you speak.
Read before you think."

-Fran Lebowitz



'Drop Everything & Read'



Cycling for Change with GoodByebicycle

In a world where sustainability has become a buzzword, it is important to understand what it means and how such practices can be implemented in daily life. A masterclass with Aire & Lili, an inspiring young couple biking from Tamil Nadu to Italy while spreading awareness about sustainability, moved the children and empowered them. A major takeaway from the experience was to find balance in life, meanwhile preserving the planet.





In a world where everyone is talking about sustainability, *Aire* and *Lily's* initiative *GoodByebicycle* has been about practicing what everyone is preaching. They have taken the mammoth task of cycling from Auroville, India to Italy, but then are they asking us to cycle 6000 KM as well? Not quite.

Goodbyebycicle embodies the practice to spread more awareness about sustainable living and reduce our carbon footprints by making small changes in our lifestyles, for instance, by using public transport.

Not only are they cycling to Italy, they are also engaging in a knowledge exchange by stopping at various universities, schools and centers to share their journey as well learn from the various practices other communities follow in their contribution to sustainability. *Aire* and *Lily* pressed upon the importance of making changes by giving us data on everything that we do that leaves a carbon footprint– it's a long list, however, all hope is not lost. With steps towards waste segregation, using public

transport and most importantly- afforestation and reforestation, we should be able to reverse the damage, or at least slow its rampage. What was most evident in the exchange was the need for balance, there is no way the world works by ceasing all use of fossil fuels and plastic, and there is also no survival if we go on the way we are. It is essential, therefore, to use our planet's exhaustible resources wisely, while finding renewable alternatives for the same.

Our step towards walking the walk has been through aiming to be a zero waste school in the coming few years. *Riverside* already practices waste segregation as well as composting. We have come up with more ways to promote sustainable living, including regularly organizing *Congloms* on sustainability in lower grades and starting gardening activities at school. As *Aire*, *Lily*, and *Schnuck* emphasized, it's important to take small steps towards our shared goal, so we can achieve our goals without feeling overwhelmed by the task ahead of us.

*By Dhaani Joshi,
Grade 12*

Birds of Innovation - April I CAN Challenge

With restriction comes creativity.' Abiding by this theory, a challenge was posed to all grades. With limited resources, they were expected to make a bird/animal that could be hung in Key Stage 3. The groups were made vertically so everybody got a chance to build relationships, meanwhile enhance their design skills.



The start of a new academic year in Riverside is incomplete without its challenge, an *I CAN challenge*, and so, as the entirety of *Key Stage 3* filled the *FIDS room*, buzzing in excitement; we were shown a video. As we saw the very teachers that were there in the room with us making their own innovative 'birds,' each one of us was thoroughly intrigued and was already feeling a glimpse of the *I CAN* spirit. Thus, when we distributed in our respective groups the task of making our own flying figures to hang from the ceiling of the *Key Stage 3* building, we started brainstorming ideas for our creations. One of the main challenges was that we had to come up with a quality end product in the time duration of only an hour, hence effectiveness was key.

There were certainly multiple obstacles unique to each group, whether it was a lack of time management or a lapse in execution. I remember that our group specifically was relatively behind other groups due to a lack of division of responsibilities, leading to a lot of people simply waiting with no work. However, I believe this was also a designed component of the challenge, allowing us to recognize our own mistakes and work on them to improve teamwork while also acting as a fun energizer and an opportunity for cross-grade interactions. From cutting, to sketching and planning, creating the mechanism, the challenge was created to allow everyone to use their individual

unique strengths and creativity to their maximum potential.

As the hour came to an end, all of us returned to the room, thrilled to see the various creations our friends had meticulously constructed, ranging from dragons to dinosaurs and even a quite literal '*Air*' *Jordan*. As each group talked about their own experiences, we realized the true relevance behind the challenge to promote a sense of teamwork, an essential 21st century skill that we occasionally fall behind on. Each group had its own takeaways such as the importance of communication, the essentiality of division of responsibilities, or the need for a collective belief in ourselves that led to the big idea of teamwork and community. A cleverly veiled secondary objective of this challenge was to allow us to welcome and get acquainted with the newcomers to *Key Stage 3, Grade 8*. While all of us may not remember the exact processes of coming up with our own creations, we will surely be reminded of the feelings of accomplishment and pride every time we see those 'birds' hanging from the ceiling and elegantly flip-flapping in the wind as we walk up the stairs to our classrooms while reminiscing of the perfect start to a academic year.

*By Angad Juneja Gupta,
Grade 12*



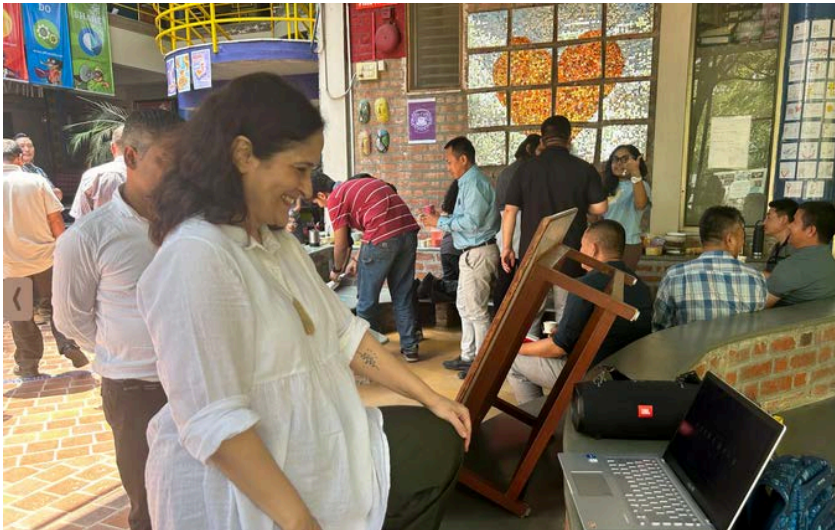


Earn & Learn Challenge

As the eldest batch of the school would graduate this year, two important lessons to uncover are financial literacy and empathy. *Kiran Ma'am* posed a challenge to them known as the 'Earn & Learn' Challenge. *Grade 12* was put into trios and expected to earn Rs. 100

each by working, cleaning or finding odd jobs in a nearby village within one and a half hours. The experience was eye-opening to say the least, as it brought in an understanding of the real world, value of money and the 'hunger' for purpose.

Young Entrepreneurs – Business Challenge



Grade 12 earned the Business Challenge after completing the 'Earn & Learn' challenge this month. The task was to set up a food stall (one tea and one snack), come up with a business plan and stay profitable. Four groups competed for this, all earning profit more than double their cost. The food stalls were open in the heart of the school, with Bhutanese and other international visitors exploring it as well as all school students and teachers.



‘Every Child CAN’ by Kiran Bir Sethi – Review

In 2023, *Kiran Ma'am* published a book about an extraordinary yet simplistic approach to learning. *‘Every Child CAN’* focuses on user-centric designing and empathy from a pedagogical point of view. *Grades 8, 9 & 10* read the book to delve into the history and foundation of their school and had a masterclass with the author to discuss their insights.

Every Child CAN – A Blueprint for HumanE Learning

'Every Child Can' is a pedagogical blueprint filled to the brim with revolutionary ideas and simplistic processes that strive to bring change not only in the world of education but the lives of everyone who reads it. *"There's no more pressing imperative than transforming education systems around the world,"* believes Wendy Kopp, CEO of TFA. In this book, Ms Sethi accomplishes just that by bringing in an amalgamation of anecdotes and ideas.

In the various parts of the book, she talks about her personal experience with the current educational system, as a student, a parent and finally an educator. Emphasized in the book is the irrefutable importance of user-centric change through the *FIDS* process. One such anecdote is the very first one in the book where the author talks about how thoughtful and good design can be a life saver by referencing a glucose sensor, and how it helped save her daughter's life; further highlighting the fact that great things are a product of great design and not chance. A monumental anecdote that speaks

volumes was about the 'elephant in the room.' The theory of how the truth can be interpreted completely differently by different people, simply through a bias. To avoid that, it is essential to approach every problem with an open-mind.

This book, published at the end of 2023, not only is a deep insight into the rich experiential life of an educator, but a curriculum that schools and individuals should adopt in order to make their world more HumanE. It vehicles the vision that *The Riverside School* has set for themselves: *'Graduating HumanE citizens with an I CAN mindset.'* The book is an urgent and moving must-read for all educators and students alike, in the agenda to all be empowered change-makers and leaders of the world.

*By Dhairya Dathia,
Grade 12*



If you haven't already purchased it, check this out!

Launching of Riverside Music Club

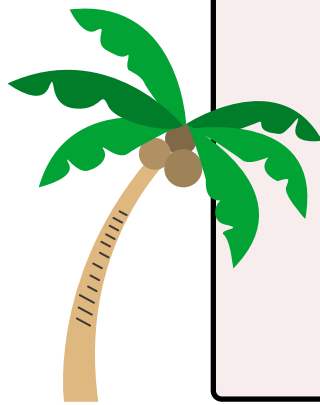


To watch the full
show, scan here!



Brainy Banter

I'M READING A BOOK ON ANTI-
GRAVITY, AND IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO
PUT DOWN. I GUESS YOU COULD
SAY IT'S UPLIFTING LITERATURE!



I TOLD MY COMPUTER I NEEDED
A BREAK, AND NOW IT WON'T
STOP SENDING ME VACATION
ADS. I GUESS IT'S TRYING TO
GIVE ME A BYTE OF
RELAXATION!

I USED TO BE A SHOE SALESMAN, BUT I
GOT THE BOOT. NOW I'M TRYING TO
FIND MY SOLE PURPOSE IN LIFE.



Started June with I CAN Party Challenge



To watch the
teachers' video,
click here.

KS3 were given a challenge where they were divided into 12 groups. Each group represented a political party, each equipped with an identity, slogan and vision statement, speech, manifesto and promise. The twist in the challenge was to create everything, from speeches to logos, using AI. The winning party was to be selected by a voting system. Similarly, teachers had this challenge before and students followed suit.

Key-stage 2 All Energised After Summer Break

Grades 3,4 & 5

Grade 3, 4 and 5 were given a challenge where they were divided in groups and they had to sing a song in a language they did not know. The groups that had excelled were given the opportunity to perform in front of the keystage. They understood the diverse cultures and languages.



To watch the
video, scan here!

Grades 6 & 7

Grade 6 and 7 were given a challenge where they were divided in groups and had to be elected as the student council. They had to prepare a speech, a manifesto, a promise, slogan, name and they also had to get votes from the keystage. The group that won would get the opportunity to be the student council for the year.



Renovation Rendezvous



The children enthusiastically took on the ICAN challenge by devising ways to support and express gratitude to the workers who built their new classroom.

They interviewed the workers and empathized with their hard work, especially under the summer heat. The K2 students amazed everyone with their considerate actions, such as serving juice to the workers, which they carried out with great enthusiasm.



Hands-On Learning



Grade 6 had an expert intervention with Jaya ma'am on the topic of microbes. Through a microscope, they understood how microbes looked. This helped them get a better understanding of microbes and an understanding of whether they're good or bad.



As Riverside believes in the balance of content and character, K2 started the Camel unit, in which they got to meet a real-life camel and learn about the camel's habitat and physical features.

Young Debaters

Debate sounds like an idea for grown-ups but it helped shape the these young minds. They started with the iconic topic of whether uniforms should be institutionalised and ended up having the debate on junk/healthy food.



Persistence - Masterclass



At Riverside, inspiration is an essential component to the Persistence Program to ensure that we keep learning from the outstanding examples all around us and applying those ideologies to our own initiatives and personal lives. Having Uday Bhai, lovingly nicknamed 'Ahmedabad no Rikshawalo' was an honor and a privilege, his philosophy of being kind, selfless and trusting of other people are all values we can all bring back into our own lives.

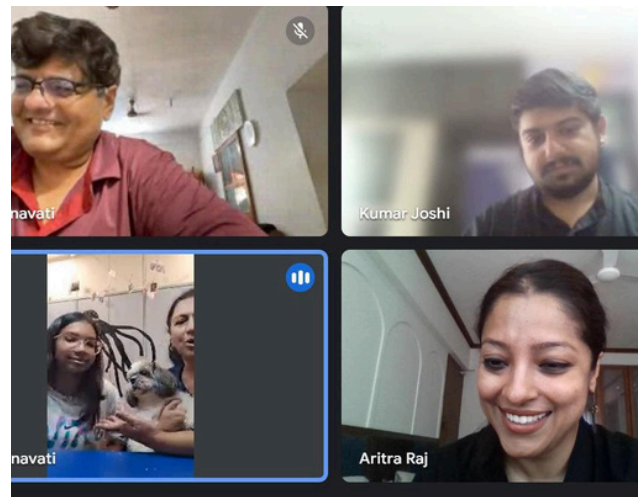
Uday Bhai is a rikshawala who believes that all of his passengers have the right to 'pay from the heart' and not for themselves, but for the people after them. He shared that his goal was to make his rikshaw the most comfortable for all passengers; he has toys for toddlers, books, water, an MP3 player and many other things. He believes that we as a community should help each other and do our own jobs with passion and compassion, and that when we do things from the heart, the good always comes back to us.

Not only does he use the money collected to help his wonderful wife run their household, but he also donates money to other people in the community that need it more than he does. During the pandemic, there were many generous patrons who helped Uday Bhai and his family via financial aid. He used what he needed and then helped other people in his community to ensure that everyone was being helped. This level of integrity to the cause can only come from truly believing in what he does, which is the kind of attitude and morality we aim to have and build through persistence. I believe we can all take something back from Uday Bhai's bubbling and joyous personality, whether it be the concept of giving back or trust in ourselves and each other, we can all work towards it through consistency and showing up for ourselves and each other.

*By Sahana Patel,
Grade 12*

Bridging the Gap between School & Home

Home room teachers visited the homes of children or virtually spoke to their families to understand them better and enrich their learning experience and well-being in school.

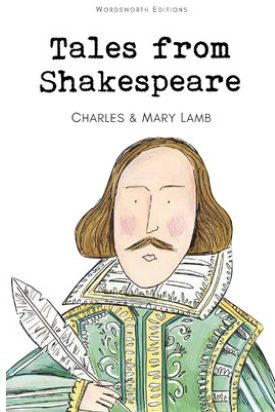


Kicking off the Sustainability Club



April and June were fruitful months for the sustainability club. We kicked off our initiatives with insightful congloms in grade 12 about waste segregation and the issues of climate change. We also had a wonderful time having a mini debate with grade 8 about how helpful electric cars are. The students had a BA about sustainability to complete over the summer, so that we can foster sustainable thinking through insightful conversations and stimulating tasks. There will be a lot more to come from the sustainability club this year, so stay tuned!

The Summer We Turned Readers



Grades 6 & 7

Tales from Shakespeare
Charles & Mary Lamb

"The tales of Shakespeare we came across were intriguing. They included comedy in it and a lot of plot twists. I feel that this is a book which had quite differing thoughts and opinions."

-Reeti Shah, Grade 6

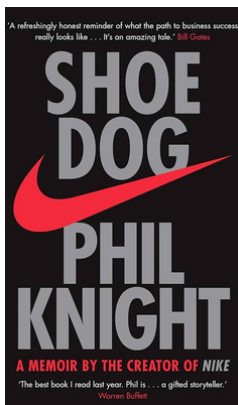


Grade 10

Life of Pi
Yann Martel

"Life of Pi is about a 16 year old boy- Piscine Molitor Patel, passionate about religion and animals, who's lost at sea. With interesting characters, witty storytelling and stunning imagery, the book is extremely gripping. Apart from being an epic voyage, the book delves into compelling themes such as faith, nature, and survival, and has left me with better insights."

-Yuvika Dotwani, Grade 10

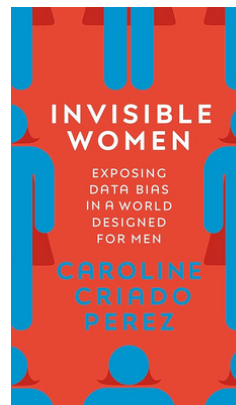


Grade 11

Shoe Dog
Phil Knight

"Shoe Dog is a journey filled with struggles, mistakes and realisations. This book inspired me to never give up and to always be hardworking and optimistic. If you believe in yourself, everyone else will too."

-Rutvi Jain, Grade 11



Grade 12

Invisible Women
Caroline Criado Perez

"Devastatingly distressing yet profoundly promising. As Perez debunks the pervasive gender data gap and unveils innumerable case studies on misogyny, it has become an urgent read for all young adults."

-Maahi Shah, Grade 12

Academic Achievements

IGCSE Results of 2023-24

More than **50%** of our **grade 10 exams** resulted in either **an A* or A**

Our students got over **37 A*'s & 53 A's** across all subjects



AS Level Results

50% of our **grade 11 exams** resulted in an **A or B**

Our students got over **30 A's and 15 B's** across all subjects



A Level Results

More than **34%** of our **grade 12 exams** resulted in either **an A* or A**

Our students got over **13 A* and 18 A's** across all subjects



Editorial Team

Editors

Aritra Raj (Educator)
Maahi Shah

Designer

Viha Patel

Writers

Dhairya Dathia
Angad Juneja Gupta
Dhaani Joshi
Rithva Menon
Sahana Patel

Contributors

Aara Ko
Archie Mehta
Henvi Patel
Kushal Khetan
Nikhil Lleyton Nair
Zainab Memon
Samriddhi Dugar
Shruthika Nair

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*aritra@schoolriverside.com
shahmaahi997@gmail.com*

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- GRADE 12
