

Continuity and consistency are the key factors to the creation of the spark of interest, then the embers of a hobby and finally the flames of an obsessive passion. Following this, we celebrate our 50th Issue, a milestone built upon the boulders of this legacy.

-Jeremy Jahau, Editor-in-chief

Beneath The Crown

-Param Nongmaithem, School Captian

A leader sets the tone for those they supervise. As Covid19 hit the world, we expected our leaders to cope with the prevailing situation and steer us through this tragedy. USA, the world's largest economy with President Donald J Trump at the helm of affairs withdrew funding to the World Health Organisation amidst accusations of screening China and the Wuhan

“A leader, the pandemic has shown, is one with a global interdisciplinary perspective with strong communication skills and is collaborative in nature and who has the courage to prioritise social justice and well-being over financial growth.”

virus. Whatever the rational and politics behind this, the global population hoped that its leaders would work in tandem to see us through the pandemic.

Former President Barack Obama said the pandemic had exposed a lack of leadership in the U.S. government. Secretary General of UN, Antonio Guterres said that “there is a lack of global leadership” talking in terms of the handling and management of the Covid 19 breakout.

India, already facing an economic downslide before the pandemic, is now close to a recession with the GDP contracting by 23.9 per cent. Weighed in by lockdowns, the already-declining consumer demand and investment, the economy is in a desperate need for a fresh salvo of policies that seems to be beyond the abilities of the Finance Ministry.

The ruling party despite facing criticisms on ‘unsecularism’, economic spiral and demagoguery remain unchallenged because of a dormant Opposition that sits no longer on the fence, but is more or less, out of the picture. The political struggle in India is like a football match in which the winning team wins not because of its fantastic defence but because of the thin wall of the opponent’s attacking strategy. The Congress Party instead of giving a striking Opposition, is dwelling in its own plethora of internal conflicts. Earlier this year we saw the Congress crisis in Madhya Pradesh, the previous year in Karnataka and the most recent one being in Rajasthan(although it did not result as same as the previous ones). Another important point to be noted in context of the Congress Party is its reluctance to come out from the saga of nepotism and give chance to the so-called, outsiders These developments pose absolutely no challenge to the demigod status of PM Modi.

AVS over the year has shown that strong governance and astute vision can steer an institution through a sea of challenges. Since the sudden exit of the student community on the 18th of March this year, the School rose up to the challenge and overnight shifted the entire workings of the community to an online platform. Since then, we have had academic classes to Inter-Houses and a plethora of Online events where the community has participated. The preceding months have shown us that adaptability to change is a difficult process but definitely not an impossible one under an incisive guidance. These difficult times have also shown the conscience effort of the Student Leadership. They have engaged

in multiple platforms in School related activities and has not permitted distance to become disengagement. In this very special Founders' Semester, that celebrates the Silver Jubilee of the School's legacy, it falls on the shoulders of the 12th Graders to ensure that a pandemic does not douse the enthusiasm of the spirit that is our driving force. A leader, the pandemic has shown, is one with a global interdisciplinary perspective with strong communication skills and is collaborative in nature and who has the courage to prioritise social justice and well-being over financial growth. This is the ideal that we must seek to emulate as Student Leaders of today and Global Leaders of tomorrow.

Tale of Tails

-Lavanya Jindal, X

For the past few months, news was dominated primarily by the Corona Virus, the Black Lives Matter Movement, China and its shenanigans. Then out of nowhere came the newsflash that screamed, "Kim Jong-Un orders citizens to hand over pet dogs for meat due to food shortage in the country." If reports in the media are to be believed, North Korea is currently facing a food supply crisis and its controversial leader has reportedly ordered his people to give up their pet dogs so that they can be used as meat for daily consumption. It is hard to believe that the Supreme Leader would be moved one way or the other in concern for his people. That is one virtue his regime and those of his father and grandfather, does not seem to have been blessed with. It is possible therefore that the aforementioned food crisis probably hints at Kim Jong-Un's own table for whom the hapless pet dogs are being sought. According to the sources, authorities in North Korea have been tasked to identify people with pet dogs and 'forcefully confiscate' them. On the other hand, there is little that the pet owners can do as refusing to comply

with the authorities would be interpreted as an act of defiance against the leader who likes to be referred amongst many other titles, as the 'Supreme Leader'. This almost casual decision to use as meat what to most is nothing short of a family member, is a callousness of character that the North Korean leader is infamous for. While the debate over dog as meat rages on, to force those who own pets to give them up as human fodder, is plain evil. Dogs are meant to be a human's best friend but unfortunately, this is a failed premise for the Supreme Leader to comprehend., According to reports, this dictat was not well received and while people took to hiding their pets, the government announced in July that owning a pet dog is illegal and against the law. According to him, pet dogs were a symbol of capitalist decadence and one should not own them at any cost. They say every statement can be argued over but I am hamstrung to justify this at any cost including hunger. Dissociation of dogs from their owners and killing them for whatsoever reason is not only fiendish but it compels us to ponder over as to the extent humans are inclined to satiate their own selfish needs.

Illustration: Sourav Khodal





“I write this letter of appreciation to the wonderful figures that we are blessed with in School. To all the DAMES of The Assam Valley School, this is a sincere and a humble admiration for the amount of hard work and effort you put in on a daily basis. You are the early bird and the late night owl who ensures our well-being over all else. Words would never be enough to express our sincerest gratitude, yet, we attempt just that, ‘THANK YOU for EVERYTHING.’”

-Param Nongmaithem, School Captian

Mrs. Lipika Pathak

From ensuring that we are always on time to listening to our never-ending complaints, Ma’am has done it all. Coaxing us out for breakfasts that we hardly ever want to attend, she always ensured that not a single girl started the day on an empty stomach. Thank you so much.
-Anoushka Rabha

Ma’am Lipika treats everyone in the House as her own and works extremely hard to make sure each girl is well groomed. From ensuring that everyone made their beds in the morning to moving them out of the House on time, Ma’am keeps a check on everything. She is also really approachable and a fun person to talk to.
-Aditi Thekedath



Mrs. Jyoti Sharmah

Maam Jyoti, the Dame of Namdang and Dhansiri lower is the one who makes us feel at home. She not only maintains the House in every aspect but when it comes to a student in need, she goes out of her way to do everything possible to help.
-Naman Tibrewal

Ma’am Jyoti has always treated us as her own, cheering us on before our events and scolding us when we are late. Her presence in the House is of great comfort to us, and her around there’s no way any Dhansiri-Namdang lower boy can be late for anything.
-Ryan Dorjee



Mrs. Janet Bharadwaj

Ma'am is a very kind hearted person. She is strict about the daily schedule which helps us to get to places on time. She always helps us whenever we are in need. We are really grateful to have her as our Dame.

-Nokaulong Angh

Without Ma'am, we would be a bunch of bumbling schoolboys, lacking direction and slouching in routines. We are immensely thankful to have her.

-Krishna Tibrewal



Mrs. Nancy K. Baruah

Ma'am Nancy, the Boss of Tihu and the person who has seen most of us grow from "Mom, don't leave me behind" to "Ma'am, I don't want to leave school". Ma'am you have taught us the basics of life and helped mould us into strong individuals. Your personality booms through the Tihu corridors and from you we have learned the presence of mind and strength of character. You are a delightful friend whose company we always look up to. You were a friend, a mother and our guide.

-Zeenat Ullah

Thank you Ma'am Nancy for being such an amazing Housemistress! I have learnt many things from you. You have been really helpful challenging us every step of the way.

-Pema C. Khrime



Mrs. Nomita Huidrom

Anyone who does anything to help a child in his life is a hero to me. Ma'am Nomita had come to Lohit when everything was in a mess and three years down the line look at us now! Life has never been so easy at Lohit with everything so simplified and systematic. From your scoldings and generosity I have learnt much of life's philosophy. For all your caregiving, your generosity and your love, Thank you. P.S. Sorry for skipping meals

-Aftab Ahamed

Ma'am Nomita is a powerhouse who runs Manas and Lohit without batting an eyelid. She is a typical nanny McPhee who with a snap of her fingers and a tap of her shoe gets the house in order and the boys in a marching line. She is loved by the boys and deeply respected for not only doing what she does but for being who she is.

-Jeremy Jahau





Mrs. Jhilpa Bhutia

Mrs. Jilpa Bhutia has been with Bhoroli-Jinari for the past four years. It is for her precision that the girls of Bhoroli-Jinari are so punctual and tidy. It is the creative streak in Ma'am that warms the girls to her making them work closely and share a camaraderie.

-Anuja Barooah

Ma'am Jilpa is hardworking, caring and a passionate person who bonds really well with the girls around her. She may sound stern while telling us to go for our meals but truly it is the care in her heart to ensure that none of her girls go hungry. No Jinari and Bhoroli girl can ever deny the fact that we need her and we truly appreciate what she does for us!

-Trinayana Saikia

Mrs. Neeta Hazarika

Ma'am Neeta is a person full of possitive energy and happiness. She is a diva and a perfect person to go for company when the day has not gone as planned. Her booming laughter in Kopili, the sincerity in her care and the genuineness of her actions helps Kopili be the house it is. We miss your scoldings and all the laughter we had.

-Anisha Baruah

From waking us up in the morning to making sure that we take our medicines properly, Ma'am Neeta is like a second mother to us. No matter how much we trouble her, she has never stopped trying to bring out the best in us. Her exuberant personality has a calming effeect for which we are eternally grateful.

-Yuthika Kejriwal



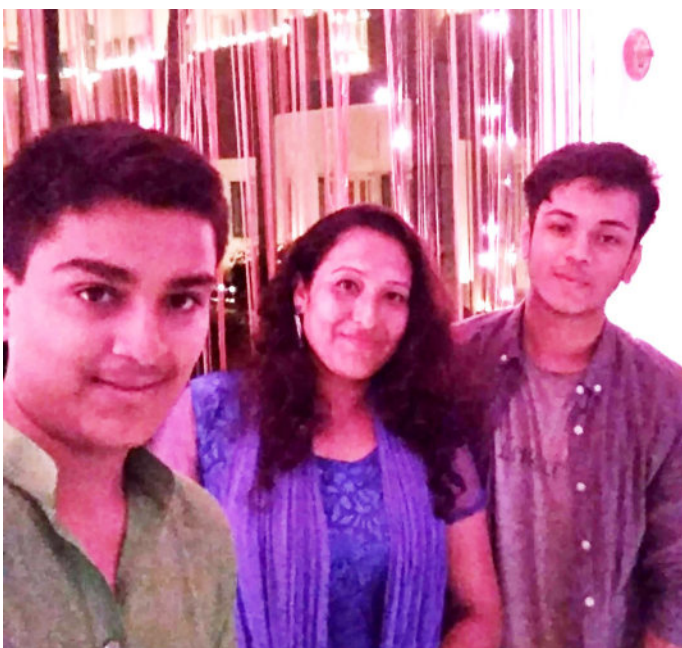
Mrs. Daisy R. B. Ahmed

Mrs. Daisy Baruah Ahmed has been with Dhansiri for over half a decade now. She makes the proverb "Only a mother can turn a house into a home" come alive. Rising earlier than the sun, she makes sure that every boy starts their day on a happy note. From managing our linens to managing our life issues too, we grew up in the company of her love, care and guidance. The boys may at times strain her lung power, but deep down she is a dash of green and yellow, the colours she helps thrive.

-Aryaman Choudhary

The mother-like figure of Dhansiri-Namdang Upper has been an epitome of endurance and patience. For 4 years now, she has entrenched herself in the hearts of the boys. Her sheer dedication and attitude to fight challenges everyday deserves a resounding salute.

-Hrishi Raj Sureka



Reformed

-Aanya P. Sarkar, VII

The mountains lit up with the rising sun and the river sang with the birds making a pleasant orchestra. On that particular 3rd of July in the busy- bustling marketplace of Marseilles, one would have noticed a young, skinny girl with two really thin pigtails walking with her hand clutched tightly by a middle-aged lady. The lady was a little overweight wearing bright red lip- stick which made her plump lips

seem like they had just

feasted on vampire blood. They were redder than ever! Agnes however was less interested in whatever the matter it was they were going to Madame L'mon'Decoli

(who was a very important French business woman and Agnes's aunt) for and was happy prancing about carelessly almost stamping on a mouse in the process. "Try to walk with some dignity Agnes"

the Lady said sternly. "Zis is very important business. You are ze daughter of Mon'sure liquor and You must carry yourself with dignity". "Oui,

Madame Def'ujour", Agnes replied softly. Then she noticed a gypsy man sitting on the sidewalk mending some pots and pans under a signboard that announced 'Café of the Laughing Frog', which needed some fixing. "Bonjour, Mon'sure", she exclaimed and waved at him. The gypsy looked at her in awe, as if he could not believe what he had just heard. As for Madame Adrienne Def'ujour, she stopped mid-way and stared hard at Agnes her face having turned beetroot from anger. "Comment oses-tu", she whispered with a dangerous

tremble in her voice. "Agnes! Wait till your Aunt hears of zis. Zis kind of behavior is unacceptable", she shuddered dramatically. "It is absolutely insulting. You are not supposed to talk to just anybody you see on the street!". "You know what is actually insulting Madame Def'ujour?" Agnes thought, "It is the fact that you only have respect for the rich and the powerful. The snooty

group who own fancy houses

and Standard Poodles and don't care about the poor at all." She was too polite to tell this out aloud however and humiliate here Nanny. Instead they carried on their way to Agnes's aunt's home with Madame

Def'ujour giving her a stern lecture on the importance of being rich. It all merely made Agnes sigh, in exasperation. When they reached Agnes's aunt's home, Madame Def'ujour informed Madame

L'mon'Decoli, of all that had happened. Madame L'mon'Decoli turned towards Agnes and merely said, "Lunch is ready my dear. Chef Gustav has made your favourite Confit de

canard.' Then she turned to

Madame Def'ujour and said, "Please join the help in the kitchen for your lunch, Madame Def'ujour". Agnes was appalled to hear this. She immediately said, "Pardon me Tante but I would really appreciate if my Nanny could eat with me at the dining hall. Else I will happily join her with the others in the kitchen." Agnes's aunt hid her knowing smile. Madame Def'ujour quickly looked away towards the window to hide the sudden stinging of her tears. Looking back at her, was the reflection of a woman reformed.



Illustration: Dechen Sangay

THE OUTPOST

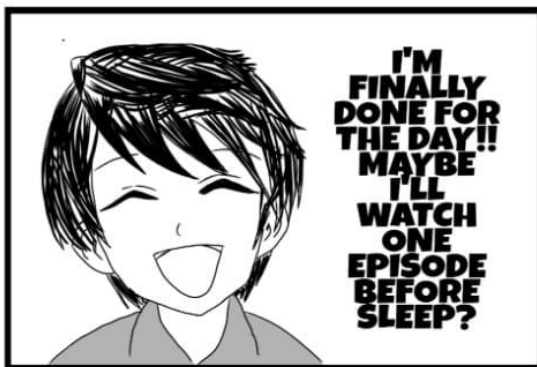
Illustration: Eloziini Senachena



India stands poised as it fends off attacks on three sides- the ceaseless onslaught of the Covid19, the spiraling economy and the unpredictable neighbour, China. As China's One Belt One Road faces road blocks, India's BRO is set to create history with Project Himank building the link road with Eastern Ladak over glaciers. U.S President Donald Trump has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize following his role in Israel-Middle East Negotiations, ironic to some and justified to others. Wildfires rages in Oregon, killing people and forest while speculation over the SSR case keeps TRPs high over lost moralities.

the middle page #5

By: Neelabh Kashyap and Tanisha Bhadra



The Quarantine Readlist

Need help finding a gem amidst a sea of monotony? Grab a cup of coffee or tea and dive into the world of these enthralling stories, here is a list of some of our suggestions:

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS BY KENNETH GRAHME: An eccentric classic continually retold, Wind in the willows chronicles the adventures of four anthropomorphic animals.

FRANKENSTEIN BY MARY SHELLEY: This gothic masterpiece of science follows the tale of Dr Victor Frankenstein, a gifted but wilful scientist who creates a human from dead flesh.

THE ABC MURDERS BY AGATHA CHRISTIE: Detective Hercule Poirot starts receiving mysterious letters from serial killer "A.B.C.", prior to murders committed in alphabetical order.

THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA BY ERNEST HEMINGWAY: A modern classic about the tragic story of a Cuban fisherman and the giant Marlin he kills and loses.

Ripple #140

-Christine Houmai, XI

*Isolated and deprived of human
warmth,*

*My time has come and
It's getting harder to breathe*

My lungs are collapsing and

My mind is racing

But my soul is at ease,

*For in the end, at least i have
the good memories to keep me
company.*



Keep It Reel!

Outlook

-Dhrupad K. Choudary, XII

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