



VERVE

JANUARY 2023

ISSUE-9

**A STUDENT LED E-MAGAZINE OF
JSS PRIVATE SCHOOL
AI SAFA, DUBAI**

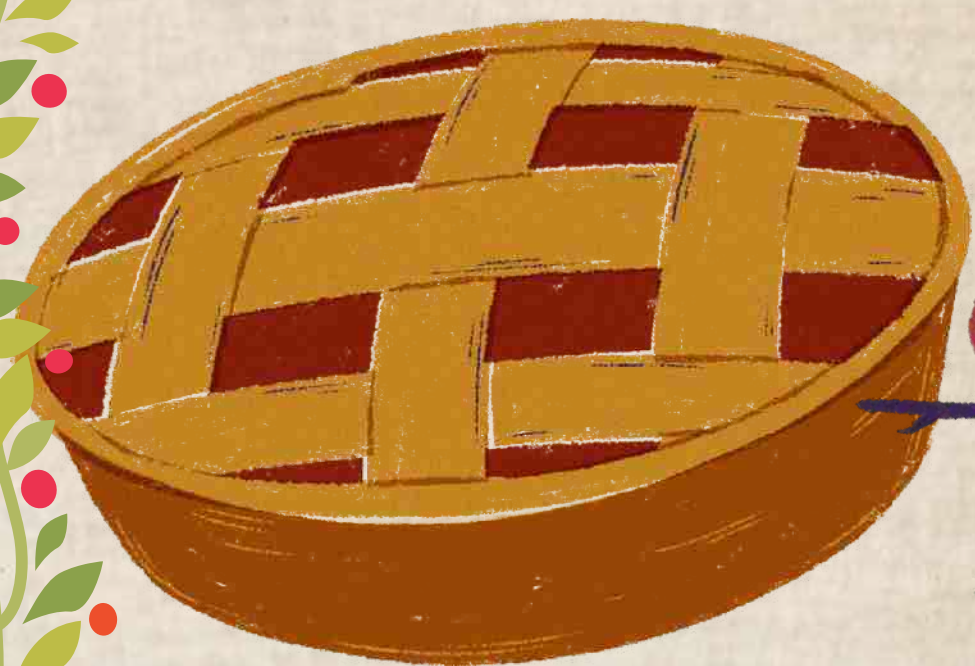


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EDITORS DESK

Dear Readers,

The eleventh graders of this year would like to extend a warm welcome to the ninth issue of VERVE. A monthly online student e - journal - VERVE is edited and published by the students of JSS Private School, Dubai. Along with a few standout comments from parents and teachers, we are always happy to share some of the key moments too. In addition to showcasing of our students as the key contributors to Verve, this also supports to build a solid platform which serves as a launching pad for the world away from School for students.

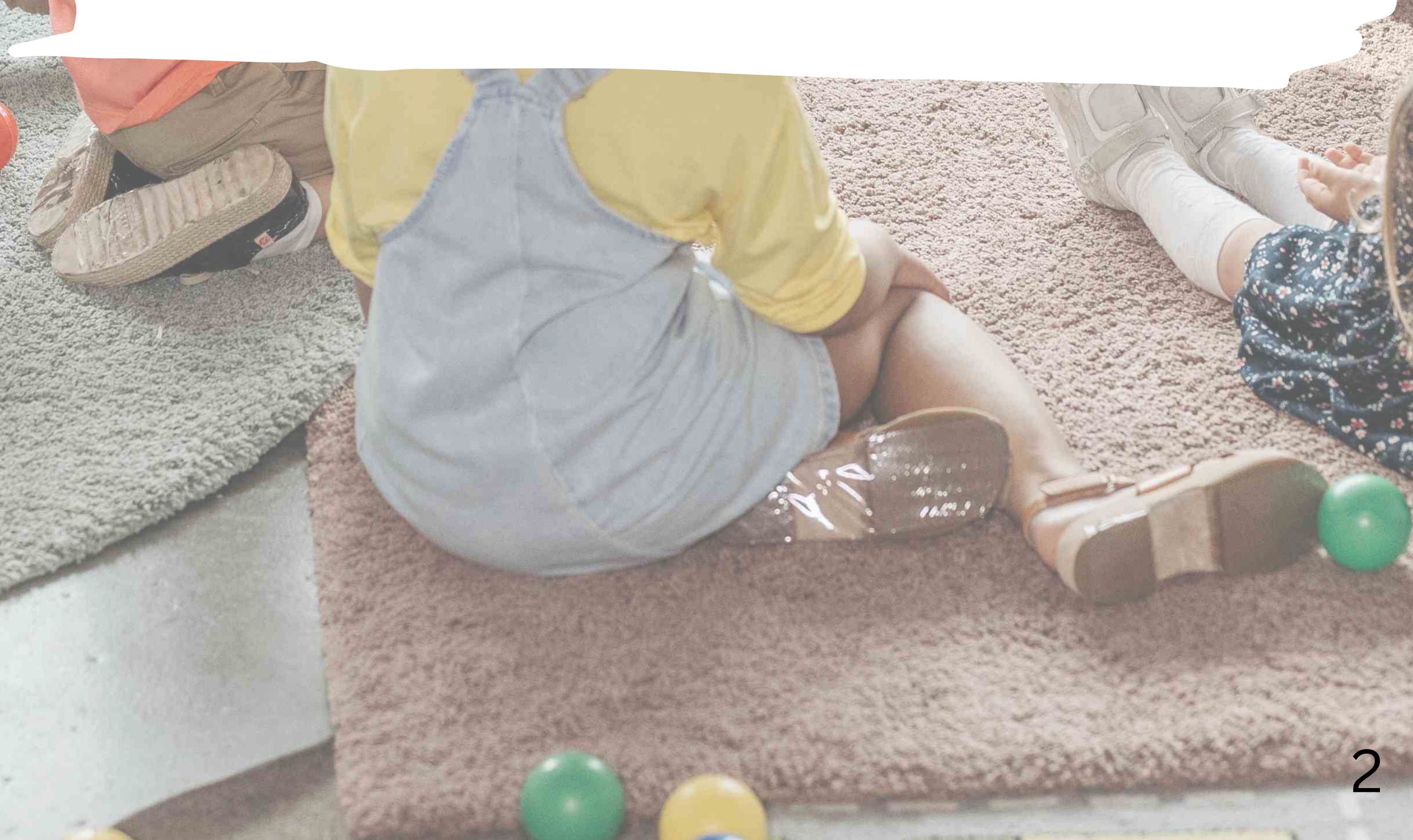
This edition of Verve will keep you updated on the current events while we keep you entertained with some exciting and fun games and riddles. At this juncture we would like to express our gratitude to CEO Mr. Govindrao Naik, as well as to our Principal Ms. Chitra Sharma and Vice-Principal Ms. Bindhu Rajiv, for their continued support and guidance to us always.

This holiday season we wish you all a Happy Christmas and Joyful New year with your Family and Friends, while we continue to stay safe and together always.

Team VERVE



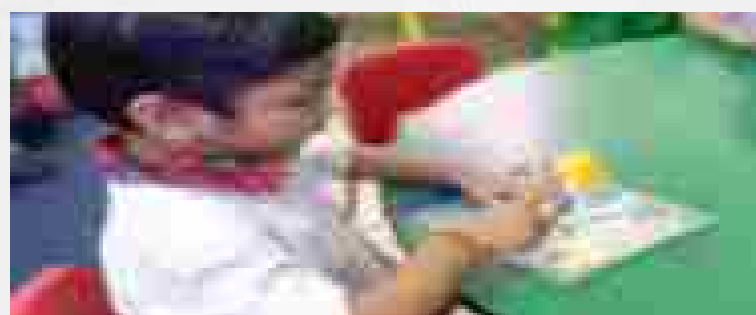
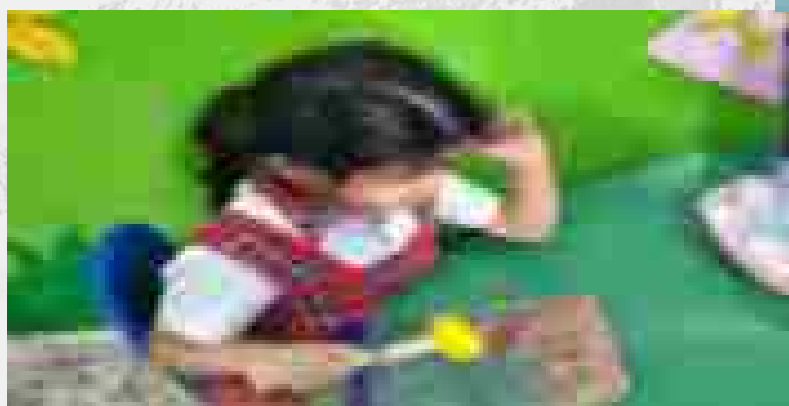
HIGHLIGHTS FROM KINDERGARTEN



PRE-KG LEARNING FOR THE MONTH

UTW:

Children had a wonderful time, exploring, innovating and creating new things through various fun filled activities. They learnt about how food wastage can be reduced and created awareness about the same. FANTASTIC EFFORTS LITTLE EXPLORERS...



EVENTS

Children's day

Children's day was celebrated with lots of fun and frolic. It was their first ever Children's Day at School hence it was a special and truly a beautiful experience for the little Christmas Santa and they loved it to the core.



FIELD TRIP

Students had an amazing time with their friends and teachers at the field trip to Dubai Aquarium and Underwater Zoo. It gave them a much-needed exposure where they learnt many new things about animals underwater. It was truly a hands - on experience for our young minds.



Assembly

Pre KG Students conducted an assembly on the topic - “Awesome Animals” on 18th November 2022 under the guidance of their class teacher. The assembly commenced with a prayer followed by an introduction of the facts about different animals.

The main agenda of the assembly was to give our tiny tots their first exposure to unleashing their communication skills and build on confidence.

Children enjoyed the animal song, followed by the animal dance too.



KG:1 LEARNING FOR THE MONTH

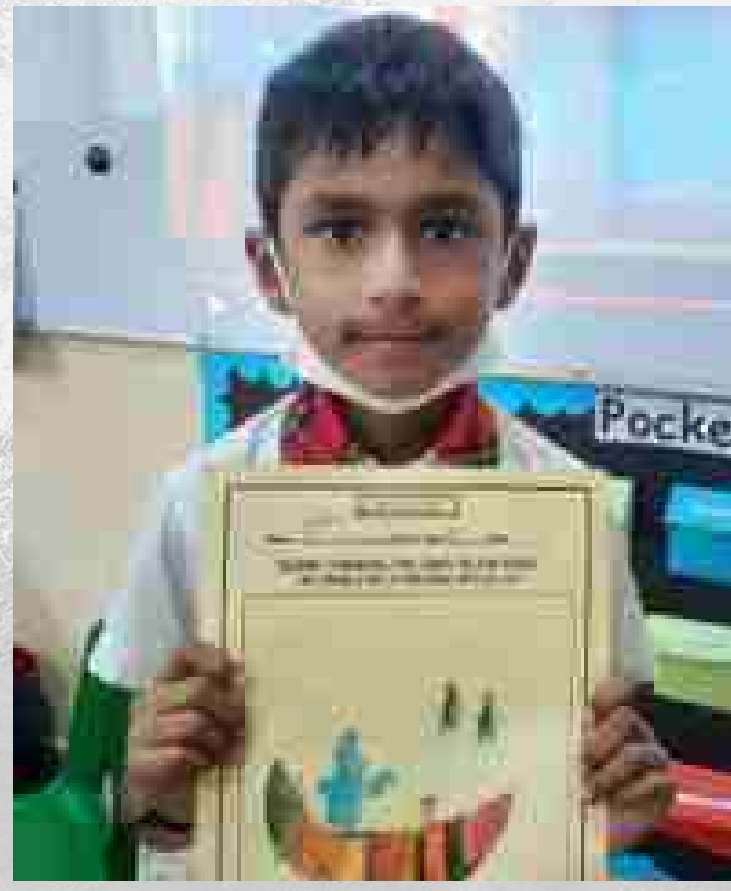
Show & Tell

A show and tell on Mathemagix was conducted where the students spoke on Math concepts learnt so far. Needless to say it truly an inspiring and enthusiastic event where they participated with total joy.



Wonderful Wednesday

A celebration of Art and Craft



MATHEMAGIX

An amazingly beautiful fashion show was conducted showcasing the Math concepts learnt so far. Students came up with innovative ideas to incorporate Math concepts in their clothing and accessories. While some dazzled in patterns, the others glittered in shapes and numbers too. It was a wonderful experience for all. Well done Children! Very proud of you all!



THEME CELEBRATION

As we successfully come to an end of yet another wonderful theme, it is time for the much-awaited celebration! Our third theme – **'My World of Wonders'** gave the opportunity to our students to think beyond the obvious. It opened the gates of imagination and led to thought-provoking discussions. The theme celebration revolved around fun activities which further helped the students recap all the elements they learnt in a game-based / hands on method



Kitchen Genius

Students had a wonderful time this week which included full of exploration, innovation and creation. They learnt so many things and developed skills like – observation, prediction, comparison, investigation and recording. They had the opportunity to observe and learn the concept of Float & Sink where they constructed towers using kitchen materials. They also innovated and turned trash to treasure and lastly, completed an experiment using simple kitchen ingredients too. It was a week of immense learning and fun.



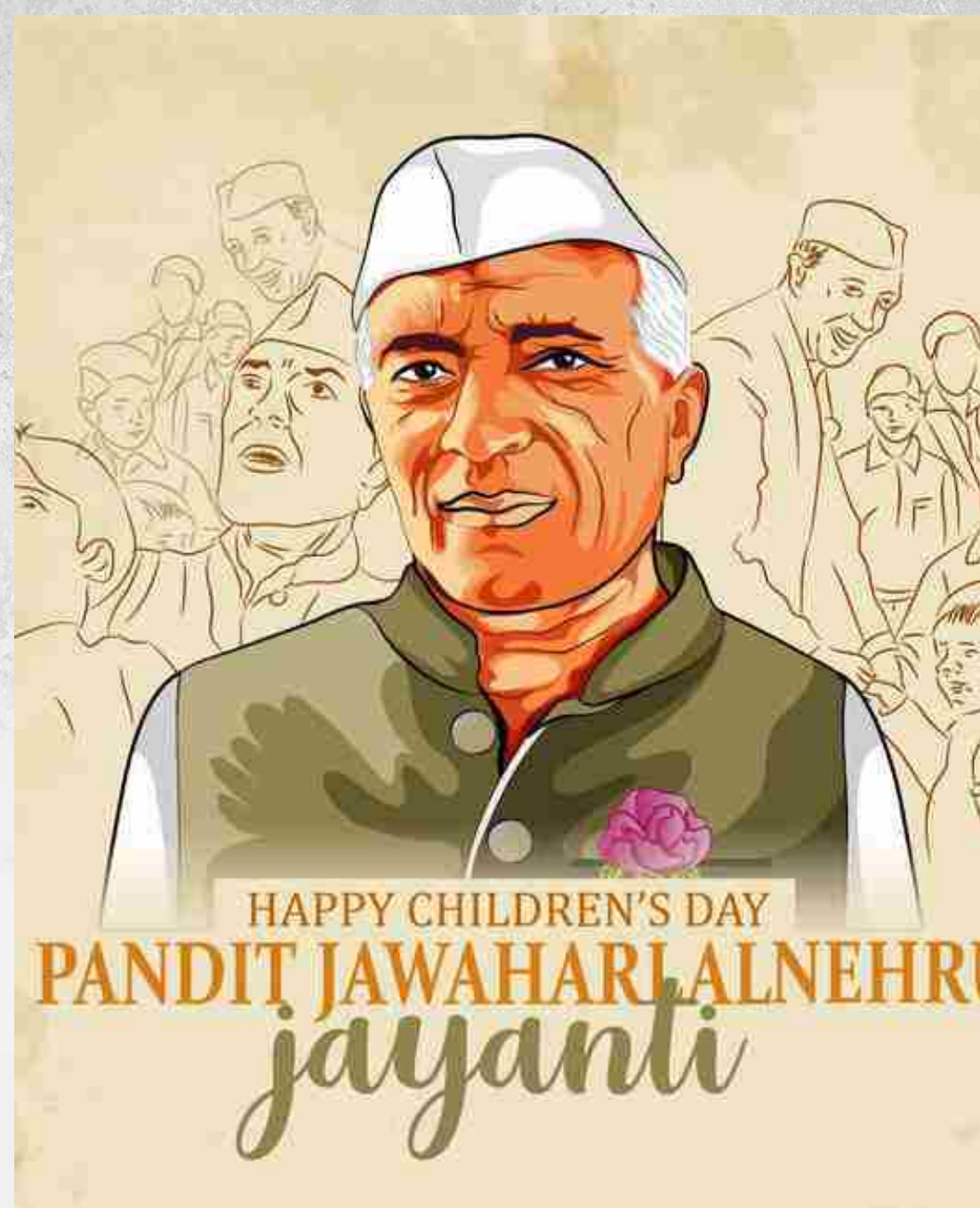
Field Trip

Students had an amazing time with their friends and teachers at the field trip to '**Green Planet**'. It gave them the much-needed exposure to come to terms with nature before they could embark on their next theme – **Nature Nurture**. It opened gates of imagination which comprised of fun-filled activities.



Children's Day Celebration

Children had a wonderful start to this week where they celebrated Children's Day with lots of enthusiasm and fun. It was my first ever Children's Day at school and they loved it to the core. Teachers planned all activities to make children feel special – where they danced, sang and even participated in a fashion show. Children had a lovely time in school where they enjoyed making some amazing school time memories.



STORY-TELLING COMPETITION

Story-telling is an art which gives wings to imagination and expression. The little students had an amazing time telling stories using props and modulating their voices. The confidence they exhibited showed how much they have improved in terms of communication and how they are now ready to take up new challenges in the near future. Well done to the little tots.





HIGHLIGHTS FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL

UAE FLAG DAY

On 3rd November, Flag Day was celebrated across UAE - a National occasion where people remember and applaud the successful and futuristic efforts of the founders of the country.

UAE flag represents meanings of justice, peace, tolerance, power and moderation.



Dyslexia DAY celebrated

World Dyslexia Day is observed on 8th October each year to raise awareness about the learning disorder prevalent in students. Dyslexia is a common learning disorder that affects a person's ability to read and write properly. JSS Private School took an initiative to create awareness among students about the disorder. An awareness campaign was organized for all our students across the school. The day was observed by pinning a red ribbon on the dress.



SANGAM- HINDI DIWAS

The Hindi Department of JSSPS organized “**Sangam**”- to celebrate **Gandhi Jayanti, Hindi Diwas and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** on the 2nd of November 2022.

The participating students enthralled everyone with their scintillating performances. Fantastic efforts!



Running out of time - Relay - Climate Education and Global Citizenship-

Students of grades 3 and 4 participated in the Global Schools Action Day in support of the **Running Out of Time Relay** on November 3rd and 4th 2022.

The Global Schools Action Day offers an opportunity for all students to engage with issues surrounding climate change, join the call for universal Quality Climate Education, take part in a range of fun activities and be part of a truly global even. It haws to be noted that **Running Out of Time** will be the longest relay ever.



**RUNNING
OUT OF TIME**

SHAPE AND SHINE

The students of Grade 5 at JSS Private School conducted an energetic - morning sessions of '**Shape and Shine**'.

The idea of behind this session is to get our students fit and charged up for the day.

Exercise boosts the child's mood, increases blood flow to the brain, and improves focus. And when done in the morning, you're setting the kids up for a full day of success.



WORLD SCIENCE DAY

On the occasion of **World Science Day**, which was on 10th November 2022, we at JSSPS gave an opportunity to grades 3-5 students to speak on the significance of World Science Day on JSSPS Ignite platform.



INTER HOUSE SEERAH ESSAY CONTEST

Character and life of the Prophet PBUH, as the best model to be followed by the Human Beings to live successful life.

Islamic Department of JSSPS organized the **Seerah Essay writing Competition** for the students of Grades 3-5 on the Topic '**Why do we love Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and the iconic message of the Prophet of Islam**' on 9th November 2022.

To help them to learn more about **The Beloved Prophet PBUH**, as part of their learning journey of Islamic Studies.

The students enthusiastically participated in the competition.

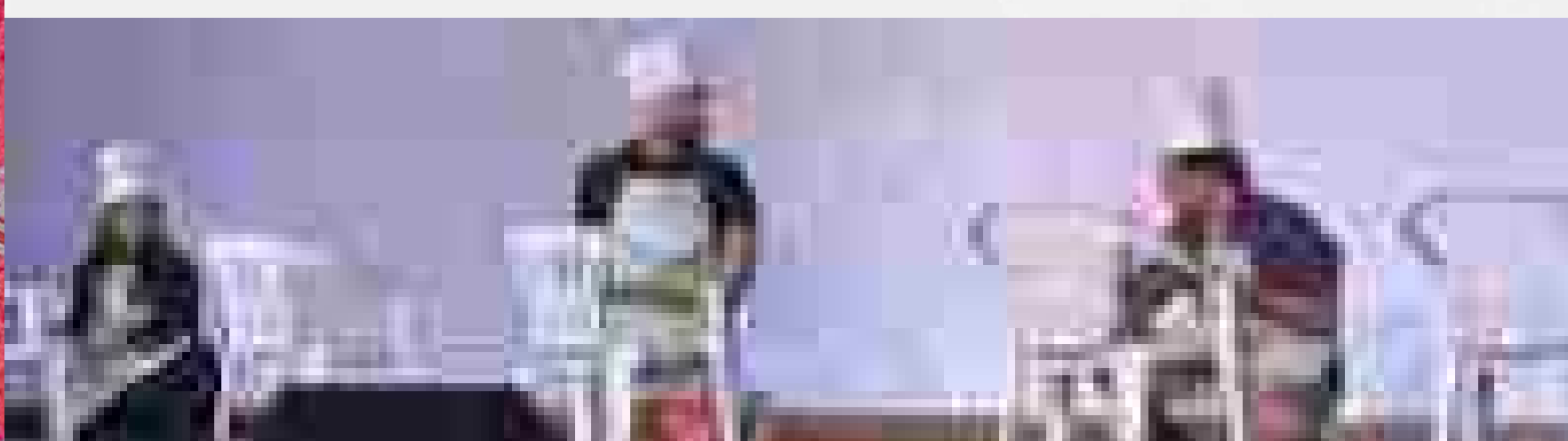
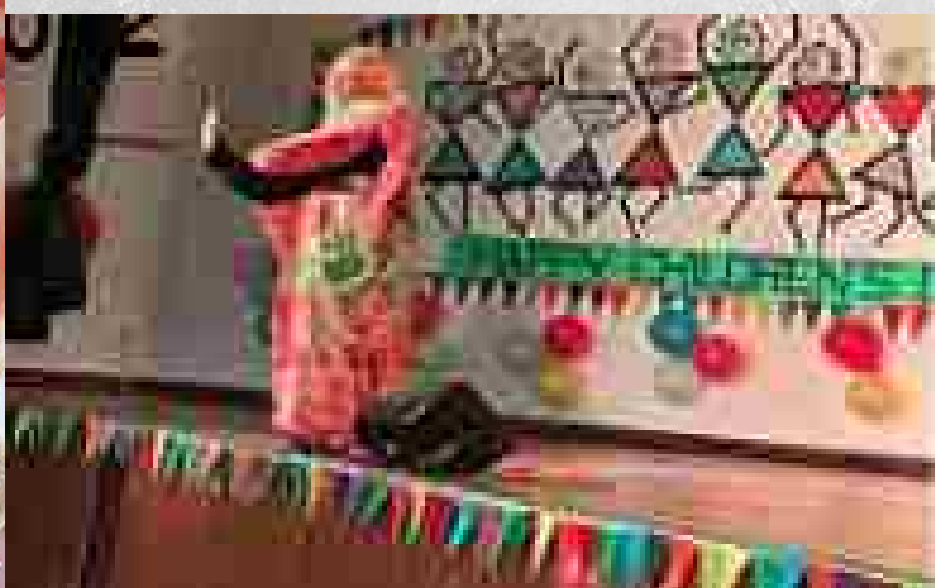
Result of Inter House SEERAH COMPETITION 2022-23				
S.NO	NAME OF THE STUDENT	GRADE/SEC	HOUSE	PLACE
1	HAMNAH GAWAI	3E	FALCON	1 ST PLACE
2	MASOOMA FATIMA	5A	MACAW	1 ST PLACE
3	KANEEZ FATIMA	4A	MACAW	2 ND PLACE
4	ZAHRA ZABIR	5E	MACAW	2 ND PLACE
5	MAAZ MOHAMMED ZUBER DELIWALA	3B	FALCON	3 RD PLACE



Children's Day

The most awaited **Children's Day** was celebrated on November 14th 2022, in all its radiance, enjoyment and fun. The day was a unique one as the children came dressed up in colourful attire. The teachers took on the stage with vigor and excitement and put up a lovely program which included singing, fashion shows, music and dance performances which enthralled the children. Students were thrilled to see their teachers performing for them which brought lots of cheer and smiles on their faces!

Teachers performed for the event and did a fantabulous job.



STUDENT LED CONFERENCE

Onsite Student - led conference was held where the little leaders of J.S.S.P.S exhibited their strengths and weakness based on their result of Midterm examinations.

SLC also gives a clear insight about students learning performance. Feedback by the teacher will help strengthen students to identify areas for further improvement.



SCHOOL CARNIVAL

School carnival is an event that is packed with lots of entertainment and engaging activities, delicious food items and several interactive programs. Truly speaking, carnival is the most awaited time of the year when we bring out the child in us and enjoy our lives leaving all our worries aside.

The event started with the ribbon-cutting ceremony by the chief guest and his speech followed by the mesmerizing performance of primary school students from KG to grade 5.

Parents were invited to attend the carnival. There were many stalls set up by the student and teachers of all sections. There were food stalls and game stalls.

Carnival is something that we must not miss because it gives us the taste of our childhood. There are only smiles, laughter, positivity, and happiness on the day of Carnival. Clowns and rides, good food are some of the things that make each carnival a special one.

Carnival also help the students the sense of teamwork, responsibility, dedication and they get an opportunity to showcase their talents too.



National Day Celebration

JSSPS students participated in the National Day program organised at **Alanah Arabic school**.

They took part in activities that included: Quran recitation, Emarati dance, Recitation of the poem Watani written by Nazar Qabani, Indian dance called Scorpion Black Costume. It was a lovely day where our children had the opportunity to explore and experience many new things.



Swimming Gala

The week was a busy one on the sports front with our Phase 2 having their **annual Swim Gala** where both the boys' and girls' teams got the competition off to a brilliant start.

The Primary Swim Gala which was held on 22nd of November 2022, which witnessed students taking part in multiple swimming events. The children took part in individual races which included backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly and freestyle. Events were arranged keeping in mind the safety of all the participants. The house captains had added responsibilities in organizing students and making sure they were there in time for races. This was a great leadership opportunity as they stepped up really well. Congratulations to all the children who took part and performed brilliantly. Kudos to our entire sports team.



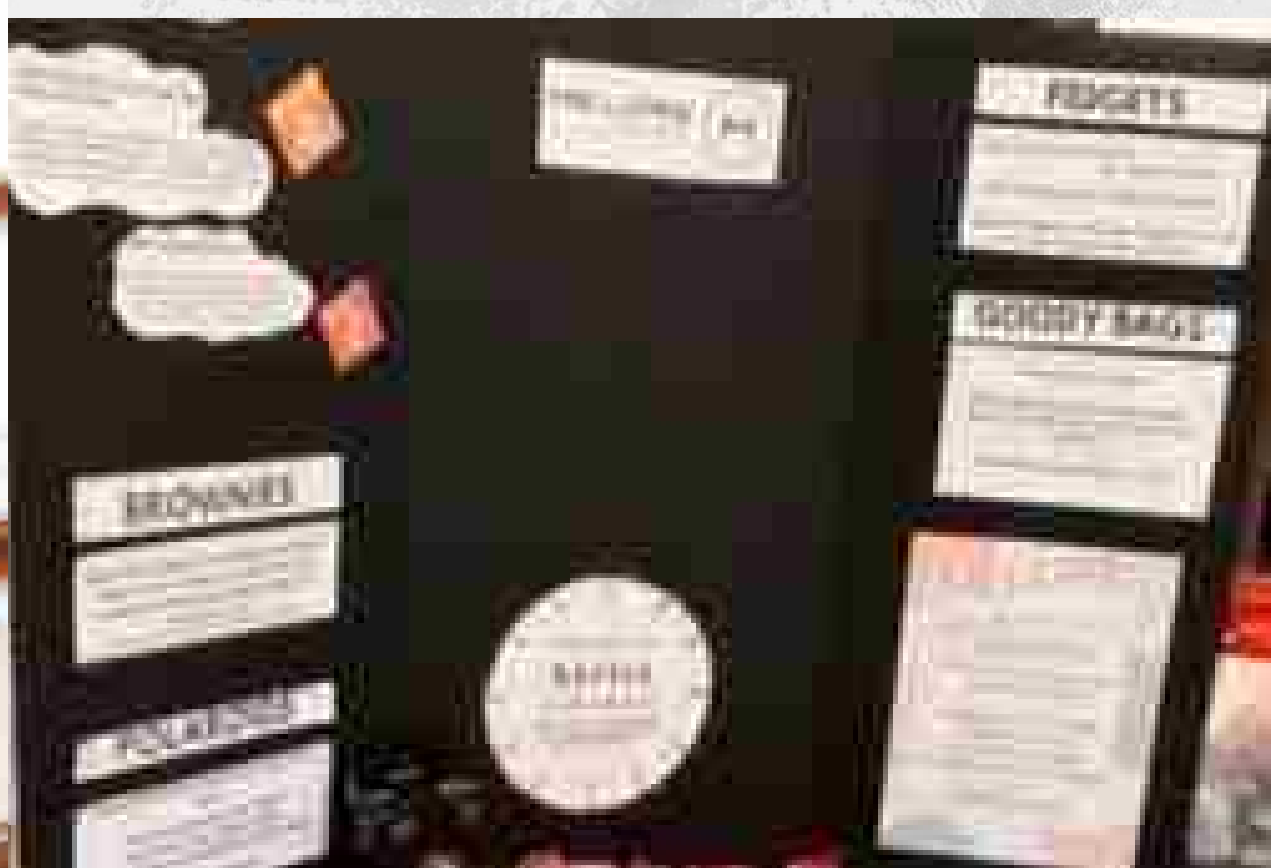
A young woman with dark, curly hair is looking through a window. The window has a white brushstroke graphic that partially obscures her face. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a window frame and some outdoor elements.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM HIGH SCHOOL

JOSH BAZZAR

“The best way to predict the future is to create it.”

SPARK , is a novel initiative of the department of commerce of JSS Private School. This program was started off with the sole purpose of fostering young minds to think creatively and critically of the various opportunities and ideas available in the business market .The Josh Bazaar served as a perfect launch pad for our aspiring student entrepreneurs. The chief guest for the event was Ms. Meena Java-an entrepreneur based in Dubai since 1989, She is one among the many entrepreneurs who has been fortunate enough to witness the pristine growth of this beautiful and serene deserts of Dubai into a large business hub!The event was a rip roaring success.



WINTER FESTIVAL

The Reason for the Season is Celebration.

The JSSPS Winter Festival - 2022 was a grand success owing to the prompt response of the whole school community. It was indeed a fun-filled event!

The Festival was inaugurated by our honourable chief guest, Mr. Rashid Al Falasi, Acting Retail Head - Emirates Post, along with our CEO Mr Govind Rao Naik, our Principal, Mrs Chitra Sharma, Vice Principal, Mrs Bindhu Rajiv and our Management. It was an exuberant and enjoyable evening for one and all. Games, fun-rides, music, stage performances... were few among the several exciting elements at the festival. Santa Ville was designed for our Younger ones.

The event culminated with celebratory dances to foot tapping music, followed by lucky draw prizes and other grand prizes that were won.



Sheikh Zayed Sustainability Prize

JSS Private School is officially one of the finalists in the category - Global high school from 4528 submissions for the **Sheikh Zayed Sustainability Prize** which is an incredible achievement for the JSS family.

We proposed our idea of a Blue-Green Solution for Global Warming which could make a difference in our local communities so that we can build a sustainable planet to share. Our objective is to cultivate algal biomass that will be used for various applications to reduce the energy, food, wastewater and pollution.

We look forward to the award ceremony on 16th January 2022, which will be held during the **Abu Dhabi Sustainability week**. Our sincere gratitude to our School-management along with Innovation Committee and our Pivotal Project teams for guiding us to accomplish this feat.



ZAYED
SUSTAINABILITY
PRIZE



جائزة
زايد
للاستدامة

RADIO ASIA

Our grade 12 students Ashish Ajin Thomas (President Hope Committee) and Malvika Libish (Head Girl) had the exceptional experience of being part of a talk show hosted by Radio Asia 94.7FM.

They shared their stories of how their journey had been at JSSPS over the past 12 years.

Incredibly proud of the opportunity they had and we express our gratitude to Radio Asia for choosing students of JSS Private School for the show.



HACKATHON

JSS Private School is proud to announce the impeccable achievement of our Teams **Team 404 Found** and **Team IUVO- Incognito Mode** who participated in the **Inter-School Murdoch Hackathon 3.0**. It was an incredible platform for students and a thoroughly rewarding experience. The students confidently presented their app in the Final showcase on November 25th and managed to bag the first prize making us all proud.

Congratulations to our proud winners and to our other participating teams for a stellar performance!!!



HERITAGE QUIZZ

"A nation's culture resides in the heart and in the soul of its people".

- Mahatma Gandhi

Thanks to JSS PS management for providing the opportunity to attend the online **HERITAGE INDIA QUIZ organized by the CBSE Board**. Indeed, it was a great opportunity to learn a lot about the Indian liberation movement and Indian culture. Undoubtedly it raised awareness among the students about the conservation and management of nation's rich heritage.

-Grade 9 students JSSPS



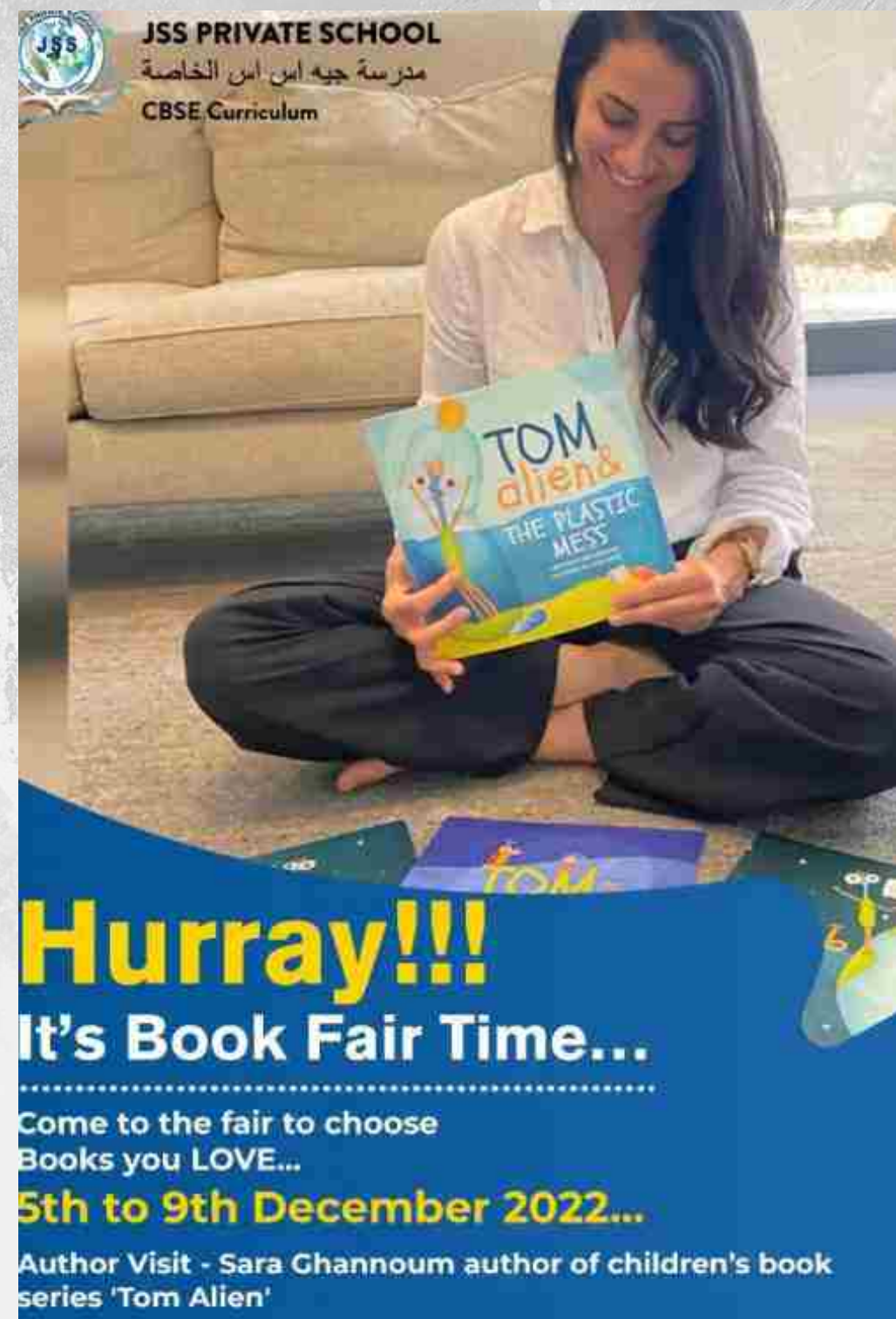
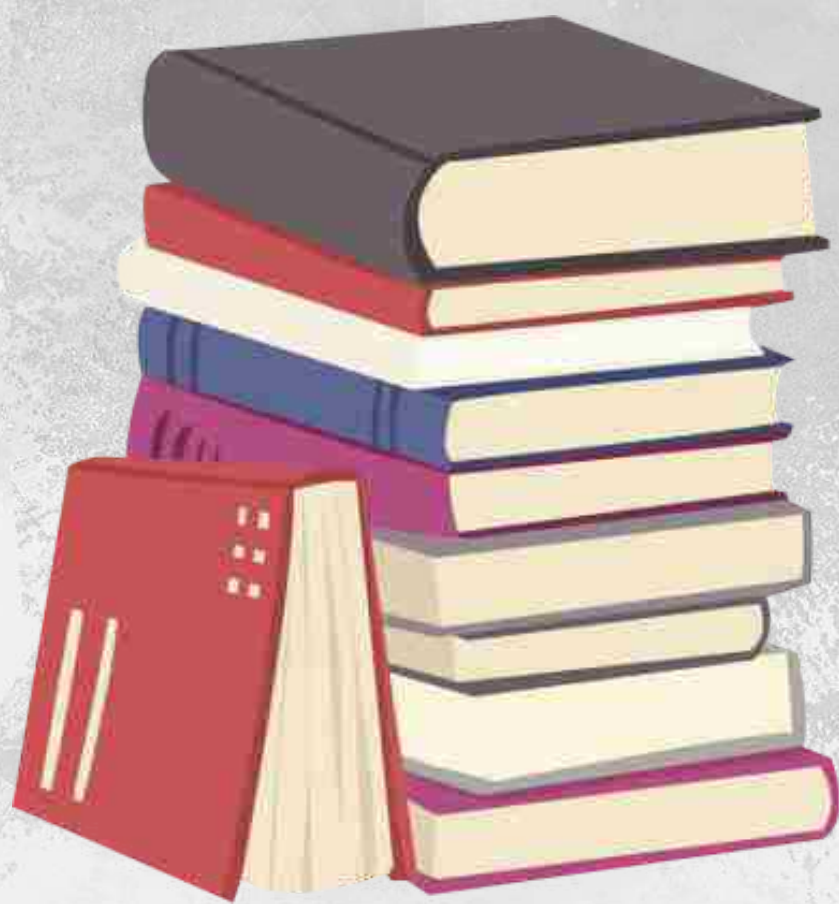
BOOK FAIR

Reading is the key to success...

The English department of Jss Private School is very proud to host a book fair in coordination with Jashanmal books from 5th to 9th of December 2022 in the school auditorium.

We are delighted and proud to have had Ms Sara Ghannoum author of children's book series 'Tom Alien' who addressed our students.

Both students and parents were very enthusiastic and were a part of this exciting journey. They explored a world of excitement, fun and wandered into space beyond through reading.



Hurray!!!

It's Book Fair Time...

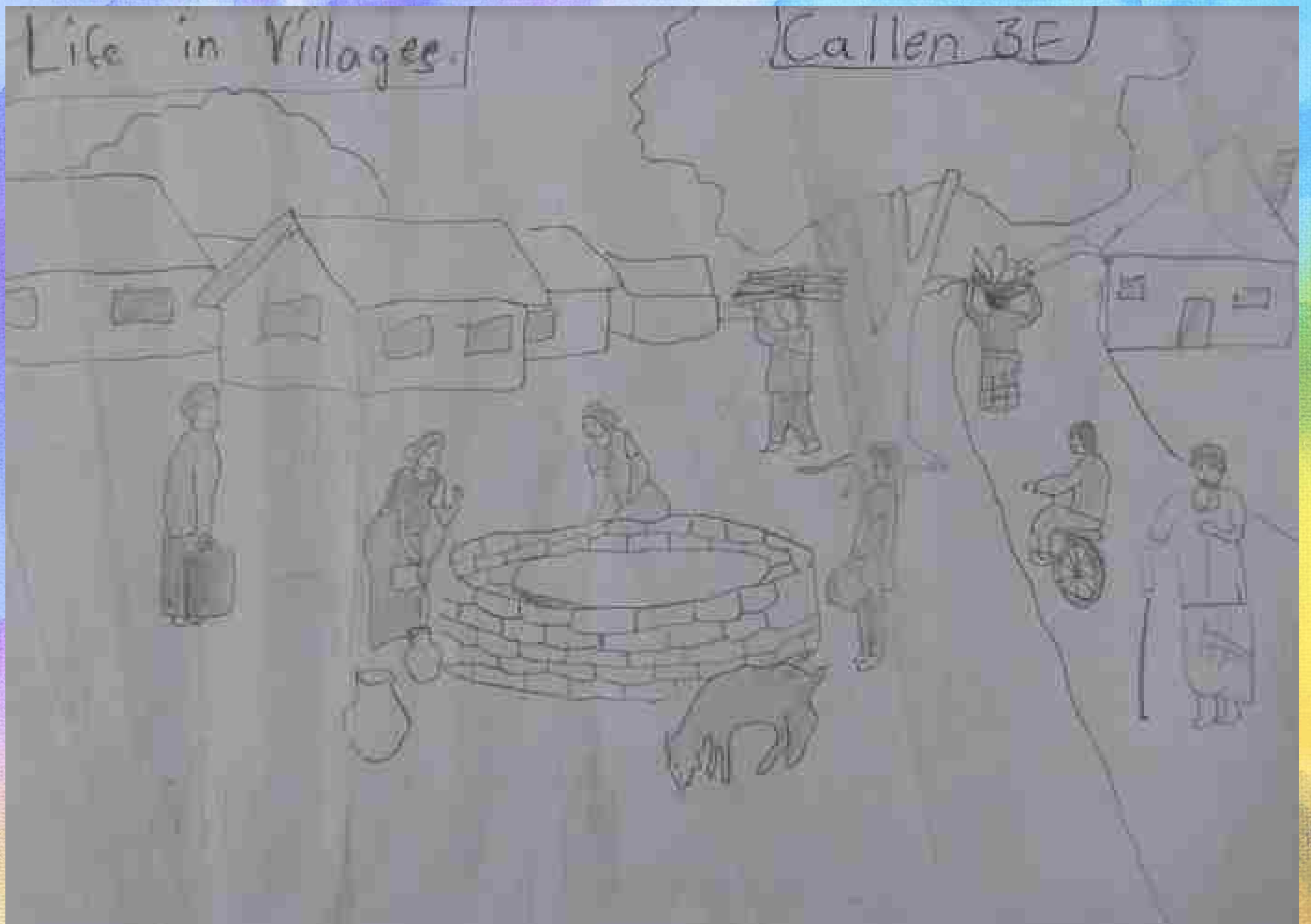
Come to the fair to choose
Books you LOVE...

5th to 9th December 2022...

Author Visit - Sara Ghannoum author of children's book
series 'Tom Alien'



**GALLERY WALK OF
ARTWORKS, ARTICLES,
BOOK REVIEWS ETC.**

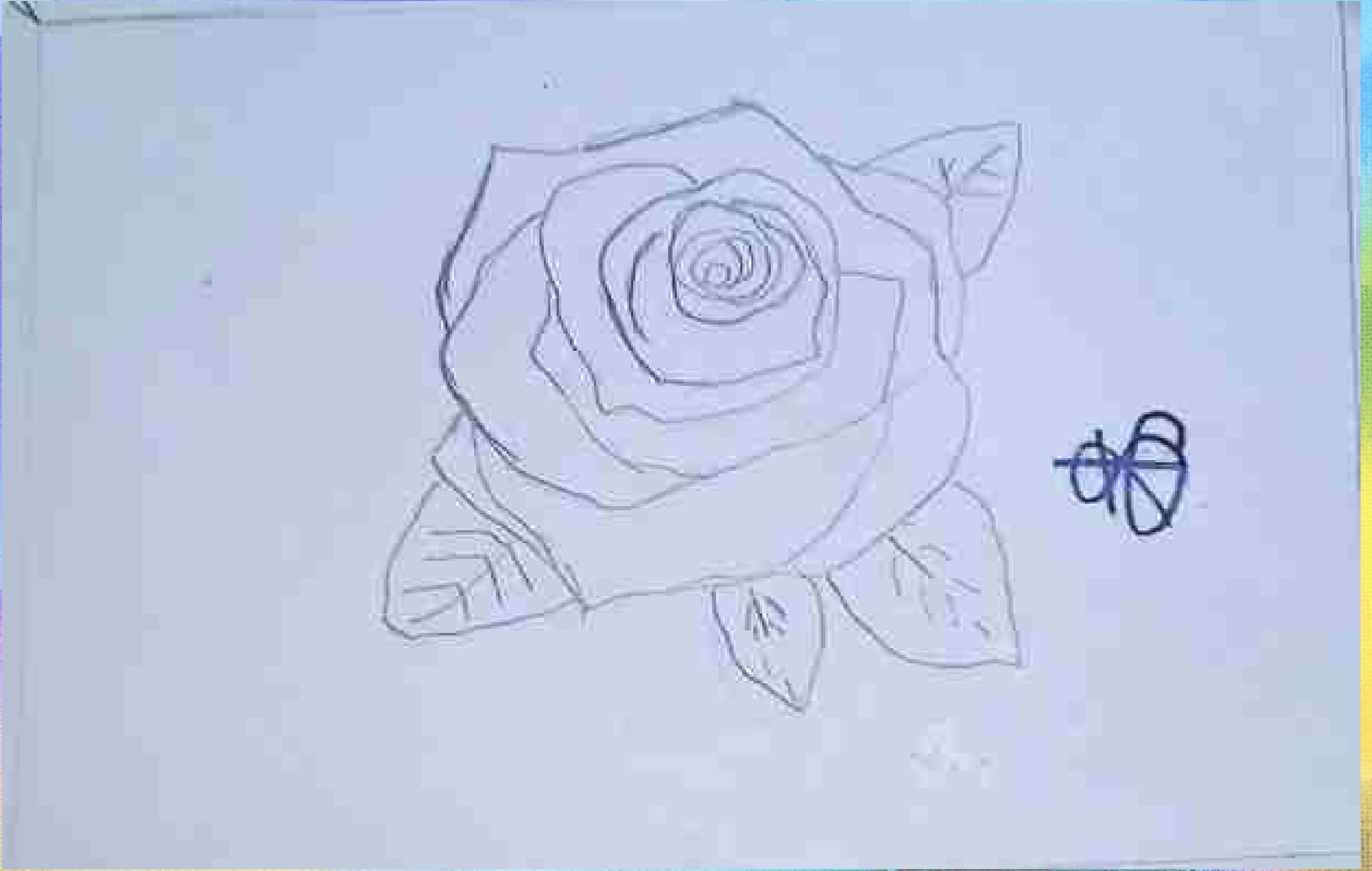


-Callen 3E



-SREYANIKA SRIDHAR

4f



-SREYANIKA SRIDHAR 4f

Our trip to motion gate

A week ago, we got a message from our teacher. When I read it, I almost exploded with happiness and excitement. It read about a field trip on 19th of November, and to where? Motion gate! I love motion gate as it has many rides that are scary and loaded with fun! I couldn't wait till that day. A few days past by and to my surprise it was 18th of November! That was the night I seriously couldn't sleep. I was thinking about which ride to go first and what to prepare for the trip. I finally slept at almost 12 o' clock in the night. You cannot imagine that in the middle of the night I woke up, thinking that the new day had finally begun.

After a few more hours, I heard my mom calling to me, so that I would wake up. In fact, I don't wake up so easily. But this time, it was different. The moment my mom called me, I woke up at once. I dressed up in my PE

uniform and blue jeans. I grabbed my cap, drank my milk, ate some fruits

and rushed to the bus stop. Guess what! For the first time, I arrived before the bus did! I sat comfortably in the bus and the bus driver dropped us to school. As we reached, I entered my class and noticed that all the children were jumping up and down with joy and exhilaration. Our class teacher, Ms. Saniya then informed us about all the rules and regulations we needed to follow. She had divided our class into two separate groups with two teachers and leaders as, a single teacher could not handle the whole class.

One of the groups held all the boys and the other held all the girls. There were further subdivisions in these groups that had their own leaders. After the instructions, we boarded to our specific buses that accommodated two classes, 6A, my class and 6B. On the way, I sat with two of my good friends and we played games and thought about the trip all along.

The bus drive continued for about one whole hour. Later, we saw the motion gate logo and were curious about the fun we will have. One by one, we got down the stairs of the bus. Then we started to walk towards the wonderful place full of fun! On the way, we took many photos, in which all the faces were filled with enthusiasm. As we walked further and further, we could see all the thrilling rides. We all raced toward them.

Our first ride was the famous ride called Madagascar. It was a good starter. Me and my friends waited for our chance to arrive. As we were waiting in the cue, we saw that the children who completed their ride wanted to go once again. Later we got our turn. I put my glasses, cap and bag inside a box that they provided. . At first, the roller coaster was going slow but then, it zoomed and rushed through the tunnels. The wind was blowing fiercely on our faces. We took many twists and turns and then returned to the exit point. Though our ride was short, it was amazing! We got out of the ride. But then I noticed that I had forgotten my cap! But I didn't take tension and thought that I would grab it the next time I arrive at the ride.

Then, we went to the next ride, The Bullet train. Unfortunately, there was some electrical issue in that, so we had to leave. A ride called Drop Down was frightening. In that ride my stomach started to act weird and I almost lost my breath!

Similarly, we did many other stunning rides like Hotel Transylvania, Green hornet, Now You See Me, Kung Fu Panda, How to Train a Dragon and many more. There was even a ride in which me and my friends even got soaked completely in water! That was not it! We had plenty of hours left. We decided to go to the Bullet train once more as we thought that the technical issue had been fixed. We got into the waiting cue which was about thirty minutes long. But I wasn't giving up! I had to try this ride! A few minutes later, it was our turn. I knew I had made an excellent choice waiting in the cue. But when the ride began, I screamed with terror, as the roller coaster went into twists and turns and a 360 degrees circle too!

Then, we decided to go for the Madagascar ride once more. I kept all my loose belongings in the provided box. The ride began once more. I also noticed that the ride was going faster than before. When the ride ended, I started to look for my bag and glasses. I found my bag, but my glasses had been misplaced probably by a staff member. I finally found it and wore it above my nose.

Though, I couldn't see clearly. Then I realized that one of its lenses were missing. I got shocked, as I cannot see clearly without my glasses. I asked one of the ride attendants to find it for me as they were the ones who lost it. I could say that they understood the trouble I would face without my glasses so they bent down to look for it. After a few minutes of looking, they couldn't find it, and so, I got tensed.

But fortunately, they found it! I thanked him a lot! I understood my mistake and then after, I always kept it in my bag. We all were then bursting with hunger after all that walking and running. We took our coupons that our teacher supplied us with to get our meal. We arrived to the food shop and took our box. It had a heavy meal of burger and French fries along with orange juice and water. After eating our food, we decided to go to a ride called the High Roller.

As the name describes, we knew that the ride was another roller coaster. We waited patiently for our turn. After about fifteen minutes, we were finally ahead of the cue that formed behind us. We placed our belongings in a shelf and then boarded the ride. I really loved this ride as well. It was speedy all along. Later, when I looked at my friend's watch, I saw that it was 3:50 sharp and we had to assemble at 4:15 near the fountain as to disperse. Now, we had the time for only one ride. We all really loved the Bullet train, so we went there once again.

On the way, we saw a person, from another school who got hurt on her chin. She was crying in pain. Then I felt a little scared but I wanted to go to the ride.

Sadly, the cue was a lot but I am not the person who would give up. My friends and me lined up in the cue and crossed our fingers for this last ride.

We had to wait for a long time but then the attendants called out for the seats of three people, that was where we got lucky and went in front of the whole cue. We were glad that we got a chance. We shook the belt on to our waists and then the ride began. Our ride was over and we rushed towards the meeting point. We saw that there was another ride there called the Haunted House in which we really wanted to go but unhappily, we couldn't go. Instead, our class started playing tag. We were having a blast! The buses then arrived and we knew that it was the end of the day. Overall, the journey to Motion Gate was overwhelming and immense. This was the best field trip ever!

NEWS CORNER



ECONOMIC NEWS



UAE GDP up 7.6% this year on strong non-oil performance says Central Bank

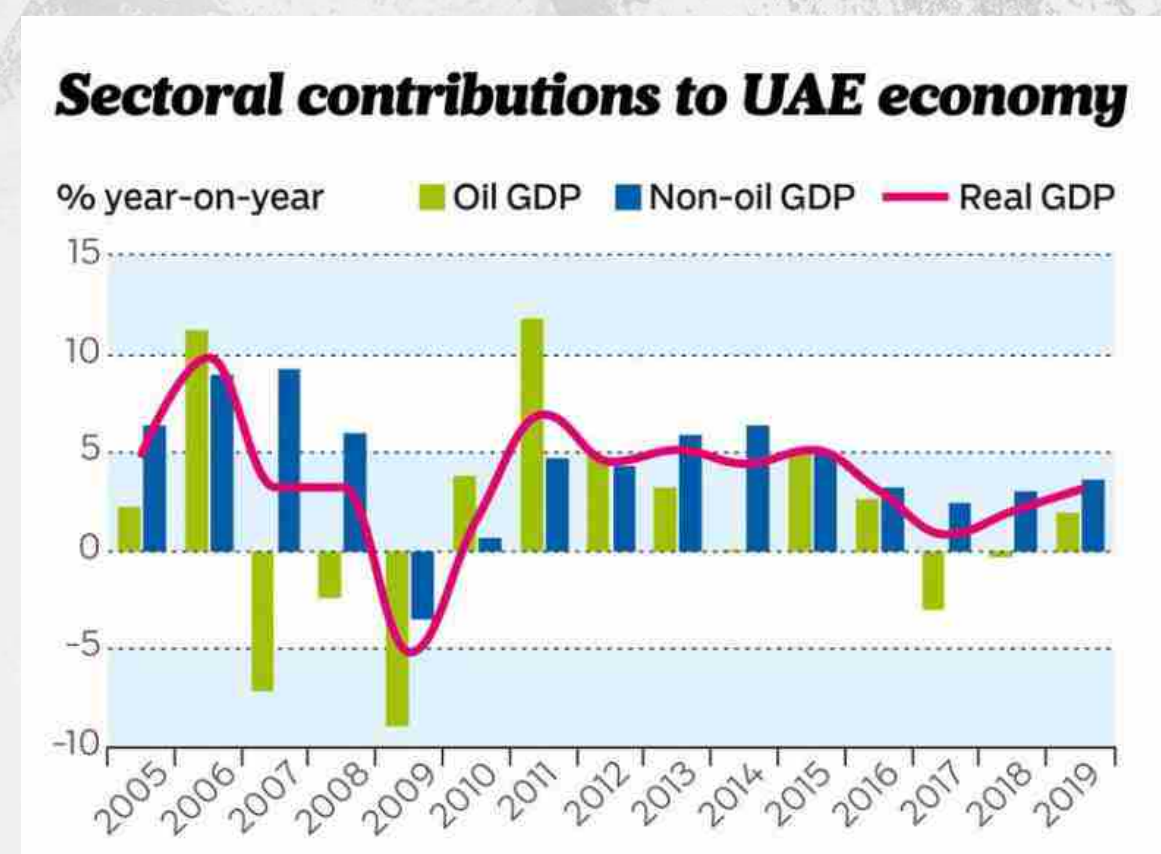
The UAE Central Bank says real GDP will grow by 7.6 percent this year, instead of its previous expectation of 6.5 percent.

In its Q3 Review, the apex bank attributed the upward review to the robust performance of some non-oil sectors, including tourism, hospitality, real estate and manufacturing.

The review expected the non-oil GDP to grow by 6.1 percent in 2022, against 4.3 percent previously, with the oil GDP to expectedly grow by 11 percent this year.

The report explained that the overall real GDP continued to grow at a strong pace in Q3 following a significant growth in H1, underpinned by a rise in oil production and improvement in real non-oil GDP, as well as removal of most COVID-19-related restrictions.

It was also buoyed by the recovery in the global travel and tourism sector, boom in the real estate and construction sectors, and the expansion of manufacturing activities, and various global events.



TALIBAN BAN AFGHAN WOMEN FROM UNIVERSITIES

Female students in Afghanistan have been banned from universities in the latest blow to women's rights under the Taliban. Women and girls are barred from public and private universities "until further notice", a statement from the Taliban-led Ministry of Higher Education said. Millions of girls are barred from attending school under rules enforced by the Taliban. While girls in primary school are generally allowed to attend classes, restrictions remain and vary from province to province. Women and girls have held protests across the country, demanding they be let back into the classroom. The latest decision is another sign the Taliban is tightening restrictions on Afghanistan's millions of female adults and children after hollow public claims its takeover would not affect women's rights.

The decision is the "final nail in the coffin", said journalist Deepa Parent.

The Taliban have continued to exclude women from public life, barring them from parks and hammams this month. They have also resumed executions and public floggings, sparking fears of a return to their iron-fist rule of the 1990s. Girls' schools that have stayed open have been targeted by extremists.

In September, at least 35 people — mostly women — were killed in a suicide bombing as they prepared for university entrance exams in the Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood of Kabul. Six people were killed at a high school in the same neighborhood in April, and in May last year a bombing killed 85 at a girls' school.

RULER OF DUBAI AND CROWN PRINCE OF ABU DHABI MEET TO DISCUSS UAE 'MEGAPROJECTS'

SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AND SHEIKH MOHAMED BIN ZAYED MET FOR TALKS IN DUBAI ON MONDAY. SHEIKH MOHAMMED, VICE PRESIDENT AND RULER OF DUBAI, AND SHEIKH MOHAMED, CROWN PRINCE OF ABU DHABI AND DEPUTY SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES, FREQUENTLY DISCUSS THE NATION'S DIRECTION AND PRIORITIES.

"I MET MY BROTHER MOHAMMED BIN RASHID IN DUBAI," SHEIKH MOHAMED SAID ON TWITTER. "IN OUR RENEWED MEETINGS, WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING TO IMPROVE OUR COUNTRY AND THE HAPPINESS OF OUR PEOPLE."

DUBAI GOVERNMENT MEDIA OFFICE SAID DISCUSSIONS CONCERNED THE "UAE'S DEVELOPMENT JOURNEY AND THE NATION'S MEGAPROJECTS". GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES IN RECENT MONTHS HAVE INCLUDED POLICIES TO PLOT OUT THE NEXT 50 YEARS, AS THE COUNTRY MARKS ITS GOLDEN JUBILEE, AND POST-PANDEMIC ECONOMIC PLANS.

THE UAE HAS LONG BEEN RENOWNED ACROSS THE GLOBE FOR ITS MEGAPROJECTS. AIN DUBAI, THE WORLD'S BIGGEST AND TALLEST OBSERVATION WHEEL, OPENED IN 2021, AND HAS TRANSFORMED DUBAI'S SKYLINE, WHILE MUSEUM OF THE FUTURE, WILL ALTER IT ONCE AGAIN WHEN IT OPENS ON TUESDAY.

OTHER MEGAPROJECTS TRANSFORMING THE UAE INCLUDE ETIHAD RAIL. ONCE COMPLETE, THE RAILWAY LINE WILL CARRY FREIGHT AND PASSENGERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.



UAE'S LATEST MEGAPROJECTS IN PICTURES: -



THE MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM SOLAR PARK PHASE 5 IN DUBAI. PAWAN SINGH



THE DUBAI URBAN TECH DISTRICT IS SLATED TO CREATE 4,000 JOBS.

UAE'S LATEST MEGAPROJECTS IN PICTURES: -



UPTOWN TOWER IS A NEW SKYSCRAPER SET TO OPEN IN DUBAI LATER THIS YEAR. VICTOR BESA



THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM ABU DHABI'S DESIGN ALLUDES TO NATURAL ROCK FORMATIONS, REFLECTING ON THE ITS MISSION OF ENGAGING THE PUBLIC WITH THE NATURAL WORLD.

UAE'S LATEST MEGAPROJECTS IN PICTURES: -



UPTOWN TOWER IS A NEW SKYSCRAPER SET TO OPEN IN DUBAI LATER THIS YEAR. VICTOR BESA

A teal background featuring various sports trophies and medals. In the bottom left, a brown football with "WARRIOR" printed on it is visible. In the bottom right, there is a large silver trophy with a red cup. Scattered across the bottom are several smaller medals and rings, some with "CHAMPION" and "WARRIOR" inscriptions. The background is decorated with small gold stars.

SPORTS NEWS

KARIM BENZEMA HINTS AT INTERNATIONAL RETIREMENT THROUGH TWITTER POST

PARIS — France forward Karim Benzema indicated he is retiring from internationals in a post on social networks on Monday, a day after the team lost the World Cup final without him.

After earning the Ballon d'Or as the world's top player to crown his remarkable rise, Benzema's dream of winning the World Cup ended before the tournament in Qatar when he tore a left thigh muscle in training with Les Bleus.

"I made the effort and the mistakes it took to be where I am today and I'm proud of it! I have written my story and ours is ending," Benzema wrote on his 35th birthday, in a post accompanied by a picture of him in a France shirt.

The Real Madrid striker was France's top scorer at the 2014 World Cup but did not play in the country's victorious 2018 World Cup campaign because he was still exiled from the national team for his alleged role in a sex-tape scandal with then-France teammate Mathieu Valbuena. The fallout from that scandal led to a dramatic fall from grace for Benzema. He faced a nationwide deluge of vitriol and scathing criticism, including on the political level. It led to a long exclusion from the national team from October 2015 until his recall by Deschamps in May last year.

With his relationship with Deschamps repaired, Benzema scored freely for France with 10 goals in 16 games after his return to reach 37 overall, and he formed a great partnership with Kylian Mbappe.

INDIA EXPECT KL RAHUL TO PLAY MIRPUR TEST DESPITE HAND INJURY

India's stand-in skipper KL Rahul suffered a blow to his hand during practice but the touring side are optimistic the opener will play the second and final test against Bangladesh beginning on Thursday.

India, who won the opening test in Chittagong by 188 runs and are pushing for a 2-0 sweep, missed the service of regular skipper Rohit Sharma who missed the series with an injured thumb.

"It doesn't (look serious)," India batting coach Vikram Rathour told reporters on Wednesday.

"He seems to be fine. Hopefully he'll be okay. The doctors are looking at it, but hopefully he'll be okay."

Should Rahul miss the match in Mirpur, vice-captain Cheteshwar Pujara is likely to lead the side.

Rahul's injury could mean a test debut for opener Abhimanyu Easwaran who was added to the squad following Rohit's injury.

India's pace duo of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami and allrounder Ravindra Jadeja are among the several frontline players missing the series with injuries



DEMAND FOR LIONEL MESSI, KYLIAN MBAPPE SOCCER GEAR SPIKES AFTER WORLD CUP

IN the wake of Sunday's (Dec 18) World Cup final, football fans around the world have rushed to buy merchandise, with demand for Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe football club jerseys more than tripling, sports merchandise retailer Fanatics told Reuters.

Argentina beat France 4-2 on penalties after a dramatic 3-3 draw, with Messi scoring twice and France's Mbappe netting three times. It was Argentina's first World Cup win since Diego Maradona hoisted the trophy 36 years ago.

Global sales of football gear were up more than 700 per cent for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar versus the 2018 World Cup in Russia across the Fanatics network of online stores.

Fans flocked to buy Nike-brand Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) football club jerseys, with sales in particular for Messi and Mbappe jerseys on the official PSG online store surging by more than 200 per cent on Sunday.

Messi, Argentina's 35-year-old team captain, said the final would be his last match in the World Cup, though he intends to play a few more games for the national side.

Mbappe also shone with three goals in the game, becoming only the second hat-trick scorer in a World Cup final after England's Geoff Hurst in 1966.

The background is a world map printed on a light-colored fabric with a visible weave. The map shows various countries and cities in different colors. A yellow speech bubble with a white border and a tail pointing towards the bottom right is centered on the map. Inside the bubble, the words 'CURRENT AFFAIRS' are written in a white, serif, all-caps font. The bubble's left side has a diagonal hatched pattern.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

TWITTER TO REACH CASH FLOW BREAK EVEN IN 2023, SAYS MUSK

Elon Musk projected that Twitter Inc would reach a cash flow break even in 2023, a Bloomberg reporter tweeted on Wednesday. In a Twitter Spaces session, Musk attributed this to cost cutting measures he had undertaken at the social media platform recently

Since taking over Twitter on Oct. 27, Musk has laid off 50% of the company's employees and demanded remaining staff commit to long hours and a "hardcore" culture, prompting more employee departures. The controversial moves have rattled advertisers, who contribute 90% of Twitter's revenue. "We have an emergency fire drill on our hands," Musk said. "That's the reason for my actions."

Musk said Twitter was previously on track to spend \$5 billion next year. With \$12.5 billion in debt due to the acquisition, Twitter was facing a net cash outflow of \$6.5 billion with revenue of about \$3 billion next year. That amounted to negative cash flow of \$3 billion, Musk said



NEPAL COURT ORDERS RELEASE OF SERIAL KILLER CHARLES 'THE SERPENT' SOBHRAJ

Nepal's top court ordered on Wednesday the release and deportation of Charles Sobhraj, the French serial killer portrayed in the Netflix series 'The Serpent' who was responsible for a string of murders across Asia in the 1970s. The Supreme Court ruled Sobhraj, 78, who has been in prison in the Himalayan republic since 2003 for murdering two North American tourists, should be freed on health grounds. "Keeping him in the prison continuously is not in line with the prisoner's human rights," read a copy of the verdict seen by AFP.

"If there is not any other pending cases against him to keep him in the prison, this court orders his release by today and... the return to his country within 15 days."

Sobhraj needed open heart surgery and his release was in keeping with the law allowing the compassionate discharge of bedridden prisoners who had already served three-quarters of their sentence, the verdict added.



UKRAINE'S ZELENSKY PLANS TO VISIT US, MEET BIDEN, CONGRESS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky could travel to Washington, meet President Joe Biden and visit the Congress on Wednesday, sources familiar with the matter said, in his first known overseas trip since the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine crisis on February 24.

The two leaders were expected to meet at the White House, a source said. The visit by Zelensky would coincide with Biden's intent to send Patriot missiles to the Kyiv government, CNN reported, to protect it from heavy Russian bombardment.

CNN also reported, citing two sources, that Zelensky was already on his way to Washington.



SRI LANKA: EX-PM MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA SAYS HE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT WICKREMESINGHE

Sri Lanka's former prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa addressed his first public meeting on Saturday since he was forced to resign in May and ouster of his younger brother and former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa in July.

While addressing a public meeting organised by his party Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) at Kalutara here, 77-year-old Mahinda initially got confused as to who was the current president of the country.

An aide whispered to him to correct him when he mentioned Gotabaya as the president.

Quickly correcting his mistake, Mahinda said, "We will continue to support President Ranil Wickremesinghe to defend this government. He was our opponent, now he is with us."

The entire Rajapaksa clan was forced to resign from the government earlier this year following violent countrywide protests against them for leading the island nation to its worst economic crisis since independence in 1948.



SAUDI PLANS 2KM-TALL SKYSCRAPER, OVER DOUBLE THE HEIGHT OF DUBAI'S BURJ KHALIFA

Plans for a skyscraper that will become the world's tallest building are currently in the works in Saudi Arabia, according to reports by MEED.

The new mega project, estimated to reach a height of 2km, will be over double the height of the world's tallest building – Dubai's Burj Khalifa, which is 828 metres tall – upon completion.

The tower will be part of an 18sq km development in Riyadh; a site adjacent to King Khalid International airport has reportedly been identified for construction.

According to contractors, and based on prices of existing towers in the region, the final structure could cost about \$5 billion to construct.

A design competition has also been announced, say sources close to the project, with developers, architects, construction specialists and project managers invited to take part and design the mega building.





**ENTERTAINMENT
NEWS**

WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HIM: 'PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN' PRODUCER ON JOHNNY DEPP'S RETURN TO FRANCHISE

Hollywood star Johnny Depp, who was dropped from future Pirates of the Caribbean films following ex-wife Amber Heard's op-ed, still seems to hold fancy of the franchise's long-time producer Jerry Bruckheimer.

According to Fox News, a USA-based news outlet, during a recently published interview with The Hollywood Reporter, Bruckheimer was asked if Depp was "somebody a studio like Disney would put front and centre again in a Pirates sequel?" The outlet reported that he responded by saying, "You'd have to ask them. I can't answer that question. I really don't know. I would love to have him in the movie. He's a friend, a terrific actor, and it's unfortunate that personal lives creep into everything we do."

Depp and Heard's defamation trial against each other concluded in June 2022, when a jury found both celebrities liable for defamation but awarded Depp more than USD8 million in damages.



A THOUSAND TALES BALLET TO PREMIERE AT DUBAI OPERA

A Thousand Tales, a new ballet production that promises to bring your favourite childhood tales to life, will premiere at Dubai Opera on January 6 and 7, 2023.

Presenting an original narrative inspired by various childhood literary classics, including Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Snow White, Aladdin, and many more, A Thousand Tales boasts original choreographed routines from the celebrated Francesco Ventriglia, who is a graduate of the La Scala Ballet School, former soloist at the La Scala Theatre Ballet, and the co-founder and Artistic Director of the Sydney Choreographic Centre.

The ballet is set to music composed by the acclaimed contemporary composer Alexey Shor and is based on a new libretto written by Ventriglia himself. Audiences are invited to travel along on a magical adventure within this fantasy world, which features a series of stunning costumes and exquisite set decorations designed by the award-winning Roberta Guidi di Bagno.



'TOP GUN,' 'BLACK PANTHER' ADVANCE IN OSCARS SHORTLIST

Blockbusters like *Top Gun: Maverick*, *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* and *Avatar: The Way of Water*, and pop stars like Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift and Rihanna just got one step closer to getting Oscar nominations.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on Wednesday announced shortlists in 10 categories for the 95th Oscars, including documentary feature, international film, makeup and hairstyling, score, original song, sound, visual effects and shorts.

Alejandro González Iñárritu's *Bardo, False Chronicle of a Handful of Truths* was along the 15 films shortlisted in the international film category, one of the most competitive. The category also includes already decorated films like *Holy Spider* (Denmark), *All Quiet on the Western Front* (Germany), *Saint Omer* (France), *Corsage* (Austria), *EO* (Poland), *Return to Seoul* (Cambodia), *Decision to Leave* (South Korea), *Close* (Belgium) and *Argentina, 1985* (Argentina).





RECIPES



FRENCH TOAST RECIPE

INSTRUCTIONS

1 To make this easy French toast recipe:

Beat egg, vanilla and cinnamon in shallow dish with wire whisk. Stir in milk.

2 Dip bread in egg mixture, turning to coat both sides evenly.

3 Cook bread slices on lightly greased non-stick griddle or skillet on medium heat until browned on both sides. Serve with Easy Spiced Syrup (recipe follows), if desired. Voila, easy French toast.

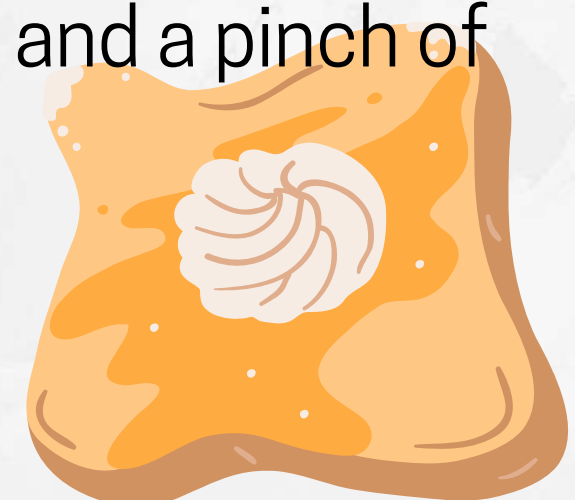
4 Easy Spiced Syrup: Add 1 teaspoon Vanilla Extract and 1/4 teaspoon Ground Cinnamon to 1 cup pancake syrup; stir well to mix. Serve warm, if desired



Recipe Tips & FAQ's

How to make french toast without milk?

Any plant-based milk can be used as a substitute for regular milk (or cream) to make a custard. If you don't have any of these, then use a very small amount of water (about 1 tablespoon per 2 eggs). If using water, note that you will end up with an eggier French toast--we recommend mixing in some ground cinnamon, vanilla, and a pinch of salt to add flavor and cut the "scrambled egg" flavor.



SIMPLE GINGERBREAD COOKIES!

THIS RECIPE FOR SUPER EASY GINGERBREAD COOKIES WITHOUT MOLASSES CAN BE MADE COMPLETELY FROM START TO FINISH IN LESS THAN 30 MINUTES! THIS SLIGHTLY MILDER VERSION OF THE CLASSIC COOKIE REQUIRES FEW INGREDIENTS AND IS A NO-CHILL DOUGH!

Prep time 15 MINUTES

Cook time 10 MINUTES

Total time 25 MINUTES

INGREDIENTS

2 STICKS (1 CUP, 8 OZ, 224 GR) UNSALTED BUTTER, COLD AND CUT INTO SMALL CUBES (IMPORTANT THAT THE BUTTER IS COLD SO THE DOUGH DOESN'T NEED TO BE CHILLED)

2 1/2 CUPS (20 OZ, 500 GR) LIGHTLY PACKED DARK BROWN SUGAR (YOU CAN ALSO USE LIGHT BROWN SUGAR FOR A MORE MILD FLAVOR)

2 LARGE EGGS, COLD

1/2 TSP KOSHER SALT

1 TBSP GROUND GINGER

2 TSP GROUND CINNAMON

1/2 TSP GROUND CLOVE (OPTIONAL, BUT RECOMMENDED)

1/2 TSP ALLSPICE (OPTIONAL, BUT RECOMMENDED)

4 CUPS (17 OZ, 476 GR) ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR (MEASURED PROPERLY)



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat your oven to 350 F (170 C). Line two sheet pans with parchment paper and set aside.
2. Put the cold cubed butter and brown sugar in the bowl of a stand mixer fit with a paddle attachment, or in a large bowl with a hand mixer. Mix the butter and sugar on medium speed for about 3 minutes, until well combined. It won't really be creamed. Scrape down the sides and bottom of the bowl with a rubber spatula.
3. Add the egg, salt, ginger, cinnamon, clove, and allspice (if using) to the bowl. Mix for 1 minute more on medium speed until all the ingredients are incorporated. Scrape down the bowl again.
4. With the mixer running on low speed, slowly add the flour into the bowl. Mix just until combined. This will be a very thick dough, and you may need to knead it gently with your hands until it comes together.
5. Gather the dough together into a ball and divide it in half. Lightly flour a clean work surface and start with half of the dough. Lightly flour the top of the dough and a rolling pin. Roll out to about 1/4"-1/3" thick. Thicker will produce softer cookies and thinner will produce crispier cookies. Alternatively, you can roll the dough between 2 pieces of parchment paper.
6. Cut out your cookies and place them on a parchment or silicone mat lined baking sheet.
7. Bake at 350 F (170 C) for 9-12 minutes. I like my cookies cut out 1/3" thick and baked for about 10 minutes. This produces cookies with slightly crispy edges and soft centers. Longer baking times will produce crispier cookies.
8. If you are decorating the cookies with candies and sprinkles, as I did in the pictures, press them into the cookies when they are still hot. If you are frosting the cookies, allow them to cool completely first. I like to use this super simple 3 ingredient icing.
9. Store cooled cookies in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 5 days.

JAMIE OLIVER'S PEA AND FETA SALAD

METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 190°C. Using a mortar and pestle, crush garlic with oil. Place bread on a baking paper-lined tray, pour over garlic oil, then toss and scrunch the bread to combine. Season with salt.

2. Bake, tossing halfway, for 15-20 minutes until golden and crisp. Cool slightly.

3. Meanwhile, blanch peas (fresh only),

green snow peas and sugar snap peas in boiling salted water for 2-3 minutes, then drain and refresh in iced water

4. For the dressing, place all the ingredients in a jar, season, then shake to combine.

5. Place croutons, vegetables, parsley and pea shoots on a platter. Scatter over feta. Serve salad gently tossed with dressing.

INGREDIENTS

21 garlic clove, peeled

Extra-virgin olive oil

75g ciabatta, torn or sliced into small pieces

150g fresh peas (or frozen, defrosted)

100g mangetout

100g sugar snap peas

A small bunch of parsley, leaves picked

75g pea shoots

130g feta, crumbled

CHRISTMAS HOT CHOCOLATE!

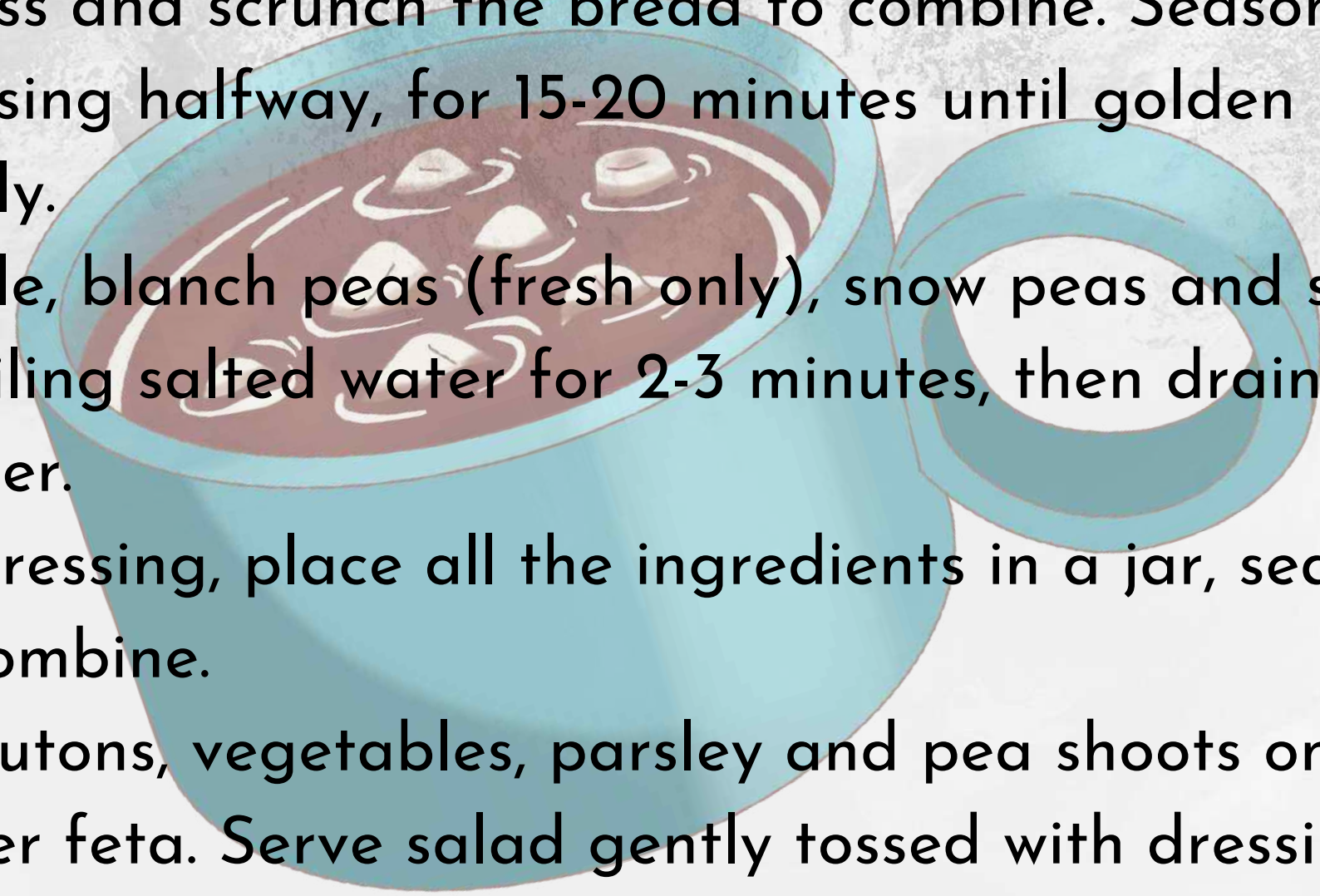
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4. For the dressing, place all the ingredients in a jar, season, then shake to combine.
5. Place croutons, vegetables, parsley and pea shoots on a platter. Scatter over feta. Serve salad gently tossed with dressing.



CARAMEL MACCHIATO!

Try this homemade recipe of the most popular Starbucks drink – Caramel Macchiato! Lightly sweetened vanilla milk mixed with smoky (homemade!) espresso and topped with buttery caramel sauce. This Starbucks Caramel Macchiato recipe is not to be missed!


Ingredients:

- 14 oz reduced fat or whole milk
- 2 tbsp. vanilla syrup
- 2 oz espresso
- caramel sauce, to drizzle



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Prepare the espresso using a macchinetta or espresso machine. (You may use a very strong regular coffee, but you'll need to double the amount: use 4 oz instead of 2).
2. While the espresso is being made, warm up the milk. Froth the milk using milk frother. If you don't have a milk frother, you can use a regular whisk instead. (Just whisk the milk until foam forms).
3. Pour the espresso into a measuring cup.
4. Add vanilla and milk to the cup. Then, pour the espresso on top of the frothy milk creating a "mark" on the foam. (Macchiato means "marked" in Italian).
5. And the last step is to drizzle the caramel on top.



GAMES AND RIDDLES

MERRY CHRISTMAS

K F A M I L Y T R N K B J L H
Y M U T J C O R B S X G O J H
Y U P L R C A R O L S I Y I F
Y C M R R E Q N W E E V E N N
L H F E E P E H D N D I J G O
S R B T D S C S S Y W N G L R
Y I Q M T Y E R C M C G S E T
U S T O C K I N G S J A E I H
U T L I G H T S T G S D N W P
L M F L I O V S M S N J S E O
K A V F X B I Z G I I G D T L
B S R E B Z S L E I G H X C E
F K Y O L Q H R N S N O W R U
X N L R J F Z C D N D E X X V
H S T A R W S A N T A T L V M

BOW

CANDY CANE

CAROLS

CHRISTMAS

ELF

FAMILY

GIVING

JINGLE

JOY

LIGHTS

NORTH POLE

PRESENTS

REINDEER

SANTA

SLEIGH

SNOW

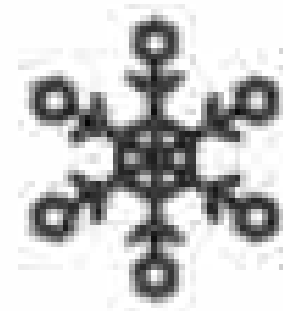
STAR

STOCKINGS

TREES



Winter



R L S E N Y B F Q S A H
 X E R K C M O P D N J I
 S C T V A O S K I O G T
 W E D N K T A H Z W L O
 O C C X I F I T P M A Z
 L O J I R W T N Y A B S
 E L W E P I L S G N T S
 B D E V C F M R E O L E
 N Z S E T A K S O E G T
 E T U D K P S B D Y N I
 R S N O W B A L L C U H
 F I L S A R U N Y I B W



BELOW	SKATING
BOOTS	SKI
COAT	SLED
COLD	SLIP
FREEZE	SNOWBALL
ICE	SNOWMAN
ICY	WHITE
SKATES	WINTER





Sudoku #1199 (Easy)

	1	5			7			
			6				3	2
			5	3			8	
	4		1			2		
		8		2		3	7	5
		2		7	8			
				1				
7		4						
								4

Sudoku #1199 (Easy)

3	1	5	2	8	7	9	4	6
8	7	9	6	4	1	5	3	2
4	2	6	5	3	9	1	8	7
6	4	7	1	5	3	2	9	8
1	9	8	4	2	6	3	7	5
5	3	2	9	7	8	4	6	1
2	6	3	7	1	4	8	5	9
7	5	4	8	9	2	6	1	3
9	8	1	3	6	5	7	2	4

solution

Sudoku #1200 (Easy)

				3				
			6	7			9	1
			4			6		
								2
1					3		6	
2		9	1	6		3		8
	6				4		2	
3			8	1		9		
8			9				1	

Sudoku #1200 (Easy)

				3				
			6	7			9	1
			4			6		
								2
1					3		6	
2		9	1	6		3		8
	6				4		2	
3			8	1		9		
8			9				1	

Sudoku #1238 (Easy)

4	8	7	6	5	9	2	1	3
5	1	9	3	2	8	7	4	6
6	3	2	4	1	7	9	8	5
7	6	1	9	8	3	5	2	4
3	9	4	5	7	2	1	6	8
2	5	8	1	6	4	3	7	9
1	7	3	8	4	5	6	9	2
8	2	5	7	9	6	4	3	1
9	4	6	2	3	1	8	5	7

solution

WE WHOLE HEARTEDLY THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THIS EDITION OF VERVE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU WITH YOUR VALUABLE SUGGESTIONS AND FEEDBACKS.

**SEND IN YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO :
VERVEJSSPS@GMAIL.COM**

VERVE TEACHER COORDINATOR:

MS S.K GOWRI

(HOD OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT)

STUDENT EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

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