



SHAPING FUTURES. BUILDING LEGACIES

**ST KABIR
PUBLIC SCHOOL**

SECTOR 26, CHANDIGARH, 160019



rajkabira



**ST KABIR
CHILDREN'S
LITERATURE
FESTIVAL 2024**



[For Vault of Achievements Click here](#)

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Musings

Principal's

Dear St Kabir family,
The departure of our dear Founder, Mr. J.P. Singh has created an immense void in our hearts and our school community. Mr. Singh was more than just a founder; he was the embodiment of values we hold dear—integrity, compassion, and courage. He practiced honesty in all his dealings, and his calm, joyful demeanour brought peace and warmth to everyone around him. His ability to connect with everyone, from students to staff, was unparalleled, making each person feel valued and understood. Our school stands today as a testament to his vision and dedication. It is because of Mr. Singh's unwavering commitment that our institution has flourished and become a nurturing environment for learning and growth. As we navigate this profound loss, we are reminded of the enormous responsibility we carry to honour Mr. Singh's memory. The best way we can reciprocate the love and dedication Mr. Singh showed us is by steadfastly following the path he laid out. In this moment of reflection, let us also find solace in the shared memories and experiences we had with Mr. Singh. Our beloved Mr. J.P. Singh may no longer be with us in person, but Mr. Singh's legacy will continue to inspire and guide us, lighting the way forward as we carry on his remarkable work.

God bless!
Shilpi Gill

As a little boy entering the school library, I never truly understood the significance of the quotes that still hang on the ceiling today. But now that I'm old enough for them to make sense to me, I do realize the importance of books, their contributions to improving our lives, and how they act as our best friends. Our school offers us several brilliant opportunities beyond the academic sphere of classroom textbooks, and the Literature Fest was one such opportunity.

This first edition of the newsletter for this academic session welcomes you to read it with a fresh persona—"Ray Kabira."

In this edition, we are thrilled to share backstories about the wonderful authors with whom we interacted during the Lit Fest.

Did you know that Zai Whitaker takes an interest in not just writing hit novels like 'Termite Fry' but also in maintaining the Madras Crocodile Park and conserving endangered species? Turn to page no. 11 to read our exciting interview with the author.

We also bring to you students' and staff's personal experiences of the Lit Fest, alongside smiling faces captured during intimate author interactions in classrooms.

Turn to page no. 3 to read advice from our esteemed alumnus, Mr. Akansh Dhull, intended for the students of today and tomorrow.

Happy reading!



Student

Editor's Desk



EDUASSIST CURATING FUTURES

EduAssist plays a pivotal role in guiding individuals towards the ideal career path and selecting the best-suited colleges and universities. Each year, dedicated students are chosen to assist in curating its social media presence and supporting the counsellor in organizing impactful events. It is with great pleasure that we introduce this year's academic team to you all...

MEET THE TEAM



Kyra Reyar
Social Media Manager



Vasudha Wadhwa
Design Head



Kabir Singh
Technical Head



Gursehaj Singh Brar
Event Organiser



Tavisha Kaul
Event Organiser



Soumya
Human Resource Manager



The Tinkering lab opened its doors for the new session with the proposal for running Tinkering classes on weekdays after school. A lot of activity was also expected to happen around the World Robotics Olympiad.

It was launched on 7th May with around sixty students. Three levels are offered. Most students opted for level one which starts with the basics of circuits and conductors using paper circuits. Level 2 works on motors and solar cells, while level 3 is learning to use a multimeter.

The months of May and June also saw nine students of class VI, in three groups, apply for the World Robotics Olympiad. All three groups have cleared the virtual round and are awaiting the announcement of results for the regional round. The theme of this year's challenge was Earth Allies. The teams are developing robots to clean small water bodies, rescue people in major earthquakes and clean homes after a flood recedes.

The Tinkering Lab is also undergoing a makeover which promises a different layout as well as additional equipment. It is being rechristened 'The MakrCave@Kabir'.



Akansh Dhull's story serves as a beacon of hope and motivation. He cleared UPSC 2023 with rank no. 342. He passed out of class X from St Kabir Public School in the year 2017.



Q: What was the most valuable lesson or experience you took away from your time at St Kabir Public School?

A: Discipline and consistency were two core values that the environment of the school instilled in me. I believe perseverance is the fundamental value necessary for laying a strong foundation, and I acquired all these qualities during my early years at the school.

Q: How did your education here prepare you for your current endeavours or career path?

A: Education shouldn't merely involve reading, writing, and speaking; it's about shaping your personality, making you confident, and comfortable in your own skin. My time at St Kabir Public School was invaluable as it exposed me to students from diverse backgrounds and allowed me to embrace different perspectives.

Q: Looking back, what advice would you give to current students to make the most of their time at our school?

A: The world is evolving and continues to change. The learning environment should emphasize discipline and perseverance. Integrity towards oneself and discipline should not be imposed externally but cultivated from within. This inner discipline will guide you on the path to success.

Luminary Scoreboard

Houses	Sports	Co-Scholastic
Daffodil	20	10
Orchid	19	13
Tulip	12	07
Violet	19	10

STUDENT AGENCY IN ACTION

DAFFODIL HOUSE

The Daffodil House project aims to tackle foul language among students through structured sessions led by cabinet members and supported by the school counsellor. These sessions will explore reasons for foul language use, promote alternatives through activities and discussions, and emphasize language choice consequences. Circle Time sessions for junior classes, moderated by Dr. Sabina Duggal and Student Council members, will provide a safe space for language-related discussions. The entire Cabinet will coordinate to manage time constraints and scheduling conflicts for effective class implementation.



ORCHID HOUSE

The Orchid House project aims to improve waste management on school buses by installing robust disposal racks under seats. It involves training bus staff on installation and safety, educating students on proper use for cleanliness. Regular maintenance will uphold functionality despite school day challenges. Monitoring by bus drivers will enforce disposal guidelines and prevent misuse. Durable materials and secure attachment methods will minimize damage risks, while stakeholder feedback will drive ongoing improvement.



TULIP HOUSE

Tulip House's Project Baatchet offers students an anonymous platform to share grievances. Chits are collected fortnightly, reviewed by houses on rotation, and addressed in the Council meetings. Sorted by age group for insights, anonymity is maintained for student privacy. Additional storage and teacher support are required resources. Challenges include managing irrelevant chits and initial high volume, handled by selective processing and potential house mergers during peaks.



VIOLET HOUSE

The Violet House project aims to promote student creativity by creating a platform for submitting articles, blogs, and paintings. A categorized website will be established for specific class groups to submit work, ensuring fairness. Cabinet members and educators will review entries over two months, selecting the best for quarterly newsletters. Students will vote for their favourite pieces to encourage engagement. Challenges include website setup, content quality control, managed through clear guidelines. This initiative enriches newsletter content and fosters creative thinking school-wide..



THE ST KABIR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE FESTIVAL

St Kabir Public School was delighted to bring back the Children's Literature Festival for the fourth successive year - that had an impressive line-up of some of India's best-known authors, illustrators, creators and an exciting collection of Indian children's books! This year's festival was special because of its focus on environment and sustainability, especially turning the spotlight on how books and imagination can help young people combat the current global climate crisis.



Interaction with Students



Newsletter Workshop & Teacher Session



Panel Discussion



Meet The Authors



Greystroke is a writer, illustrator, cartoonist, art director, publisher and storyteller. He has created content and art for several children's books and magazines for over 25 years now. His book *Wailers Three*, published by Pratham Books, is a CBSE recommended reader for English for the Kendriya Vidyalaya schools. He is the co-founder of Funky Rainbow, one of India's leading independent children's bookshop.

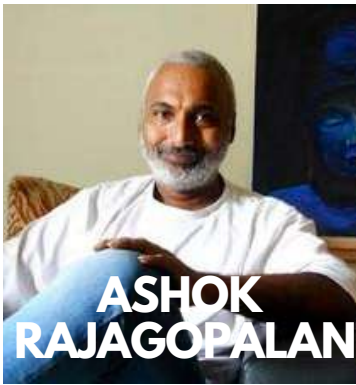
When Divya is thinking up ways not to get into trouble, she writes books about girls with big opinions and bigger ideas, like Madhu and the girl from *I Hate My Curly Hair*. Her book *Misfit Madhu* was part of the Parag Honour List 2023 and also won the 2023 Neev Book Award for Junior Readers. She gets her best ideas when she's hanging upside down or doodling.



Zai Whitaker is presently managing trustee of the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust/Centre for Herpetology, which she started along with ex-husband Romulus Whitaker in 1976. Her environmental interests began in childhood, growing up as she did in a family that included the Birdman Salim Ali and conservationist Zafar Futehally. She writes on the environment for children, and her 22 books include *Andamans Boy*, *Termite Fry*, *Cobra in my Kitchen*, *The Rumbling Island*, and *Scaling Up*, which is her latest release.

When Bijal Vachharajani is not reading a children's book, she's writing or editing one. She's the author of multiple planet-friendly books, including *A Cloud Called Bhura* and *Savi and the Memory Keeper*, both of which won the Author Award, and *When Fairyland Lost Its Magic*, which won the Kalinga Award. She has rescued lions, tigers, elephants and even a liger! She's now a climate worrier.





Ashok Rajagopalan's main aim in life is to make people, especially little people, laugh. He has been doing this since 1989 by writing funny stories and drawing pictures for them. He lives with his noisy family and books in a quiet part of Chennai.

Meghaa Gupta, MA in Environmental Humanities, specializes in literature, environmentalism, and history. She leads the youth program at India's first Green Literature Festival, curates nature writing for young readers at Azim Premji University, and co-founded a youth literature exchange at Bath Spa University, UK. Her picture book, *A Home of Our Own* (Tulika, 2018), is featured in the UN Sustainable Development Goals Book Club.



Bahar Dutt, a conservation biologist turned award-winning journalist, was an environment editor at top Indian news channels. She authored *Rewilding* and *Green Wars*, covering global environmental issues. Her debut children's book, *Planet Protectors* (TERI, 2024), reflects her commitment to decoding climate change's impact on Earth and humanity. Dutt's reporting spans from Arctic glaciers to Indonesian rainforests.





STUDENT INTERACTION

St Kabir Public School's Children Litfest showcased a vibrant array of literary engagements across all classes. From the uproarious tales of Ashok Rajagopalan in Classes I and IV to Divya Anand's empowering narratives in Classes II, VI, and XI, students immersed themselves in storytelling magic. Megha Gupta's environmental odyssey captivated Classes IV and V, while Bijal Vachharajani's exploration of nature resonated deeply with the students of classes IX and VII. Zai Whitaker's tales of conservation heroes inspired Classes X and XII, rounding out a festival that celebrated creativity, introspection, and the joy of discovery across all ages.





LITFEST'24- PRE & POST WORK

Students at St Kabir Public School engaged in diverse activities surrounding the literature festival. They explored word detective worksheets based on "Elephants" and "Gajapati Kulapati," alongside creative tasks such as describing pictures and creating book covers. Holiday homework included readings on water conservation and art projects based on colour mixing and facial expressions. Discussions and writing activities focused on themes of poaching, deforestation, and water scarcity, inspired by author interactions and stories like "When Fairyland Lost Its Magic." Additionally, students summarized their festival experiences through expressive comic strips, highlighting key moments and personal reflections.



THE ST KABIR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE FESTIVAL REFLECTIONS

FROM TEACHERS
AND STUDENTS

I was very excited to know that I would meet the writer whose books I am reading. I enjoyed talking with Mr. Ashok Rajagopalan and learned how to draw from him.

Kartavya- I A

The literature festival provided a wonderful opportunity to meet authors and hear their stories of struggle and success. It truly ignited my passion for reading. I relished interacting with personalities whose books have captivated my imagination.

Jaivir Singh Bindra- X A

My interaction with Zai Whitaker was genuinely inspiring. She enlightened us about the integral role of tribal communities in our environmental conservation efforts, revealing how often we overlook their significant contributions.

Gayathri Krishna- XII C

The Litfest was a transformative experience, where authors illuminated diverse perspectives and hidden narratives. It broadened my understanding of literature and its power to spark change. Meeting writers like Ashok Rajagopalan and Zai Whitaker was inspiring; they shared stories that resonated with me deeply, fostering a newfound appreciation for storytelling. The event not only celebrated creativity but also highlighted pressing societal issues, urging us to reflect on our roles in shaping a more empathetic and informed world.

Kabir Singh - XII C

The Litfest was a vibrant mosaic of literary exploration, which allowed students to immerse themselves in diverse narratives and discover new worlds through the eyes of the authors. It ignited a passion for reading and storytelling. It also fostered a deeper connection to literature that will resonate in their academic journey and beyond.

**Harmeet Dhillon- English
Teacher**

Attending the Litfest was an enriching experience that transcended mere storytelling. It was a vibrant gathering where authors breathed life into their narratives, captivating students' imaginations and fostering a deeper appreciation for literature. Witnessing students engage with diverse perspectives and profound themes reminded me of the transformative power of words and the importance of nurturing curiosity and empathy through literature. The Litfest affirmed the invaluable role of storytelling in education, inspiring me to cultivate a dynamic and inclusive learning environment in my classroom.

Mrinal Sharma- Mother Teacher



VOYAGE OF IMPACT

Let's Know favourites of
Zai Whitaker

Authors: Jane Austin and Dickens

Pastime: Swimming

Food: Chapati & vegetable

Fruits: Watermelon & Mango

Friends- Her two sons

Q. You have dedicated a huge part of your life to environment conservation. What inspires to dedicate your time and career for this cause?

A: These are natural streams of my life because from a very early age my parents encouraged me to write about nature and enjoy it too. So writing and conserving nature came together that was something exciting. I think the parental background and their support and encouragement that inspired me for this.

Q. You play a pivotal role in maintenance of Madras Crocodile park and conserving endangered species. What advice you would give to those who would like to work in these areas?

A. There are many ways; you can be a conservation journalist. Today, we need passionate people as in this

people don't generally, make any money. Zoo keeping and zoo husbandry is also, an area as we are able to save many species because of these zoos all over the world. One can even join an NGO as an intern, volunteer or an employee. There is no dearth of opportunities now-a-days compared to my times.

Q. How do you bridge the gap between research and action to save environment?

A. I think they go pretty much hand in hand. Writing about the environment is also a kind of activism. It brings authenticity in work and is able to engage people for the cause.

Q. How are you able to bring so much humour in your writing?

A. My family was very witty so growing up with them, it just became my style of speaking and writing. Like I said, I stay in the zoo but not in an enclosure.

Q. Do you think reading books can lead children towards saving environment?

A. I think reading is very powerful tool and if teachers can guide students irrespective of their subject syllabus and can talk to them about importance of conserving our environment, it will leave a strong impact on young minds. I also feel that parents also have to play a role. We must also introduce gadget free time to make books more effective.



Hearth

From the **Stroyteller's**

Dear Reader,

This is one of the most challenging writing assignments I have been given. Writing a 200-odd word letter about the joys of reading is like trying to fit the universe in a grain of sand. I could talk about the way a well-crafted sentence can transport us to another time and place, or the power of a story to make us laugh, cry, or see the world through new eyes. But where do I even begin? Perhaps, I find it challenging because that is the very nature of reading – it's such a deeply personal experience. What one reads, how one reads, when and where one reads, and why one reads – all these shape our experience, making each one of us unique readers. The heart of reading lies not in the words themselves, but in the personal connection we form with each piece of writing we encounter. While reading itself is a solitary act, it can make you feel more connected to the world and the people in it. Isn't that remarkable?

So, this letter isn't a definitive guide to the wonders of reading. It's an invitation, a nudge to pick up a book and embark on your own reading adventure. The 200 words here may be limited, but the possibilities within those pages are infinite, I assure you. Happy reading!

Warmly, Deeptha

In the 19th century, mental health was often attributed to supernatural causes, leading to fear and isolation of those affected in asylums. Dr. Brock Chisholm, WHO's first Director-General, highlighted in 1954 that mental health is foundational to overall well-being, a view increasingly recognized over the past two decades with advancements in care, including community-based approaches and increased therapy options. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated mental health challenges but also accelerated positive changes by fostering awareness and accessibility to support services. In educational settings, where stress is common, supporting mental health is crucial. Initially a taboo, mental health is now acknowledged in schools, exemplified by India's CBSE integrating holistic well-being with academic achievement through initiatives like 'MANODARPAN'. Globally, attitudes toward mental illness are evolving, with younger generations driving more open conversations. Yet, there remains a need to normalize mental health care beyond crisis response, promoting it as integral to life improvement. As Glenn Close notes, "What mental health needs is more sunlight, more candor, more unashamed conversation."

Corner

Counsellor's



INKSCAPES

Shades of Truth

In the labyrinth of faults, I seek,
Where truths and falsehoods blend unseen.
Flipping coins of equal weight,
Echoes of voices, both argue their fate.

Is it wrong, or is perception flawed?
In the dance of shadows, truth is clawed.
For my truth may shine with joy's light,
Yet cast another's world in darkest night.

What's right, what's wrong, uncertain lines,
In the haze of confusion, where clarity shines.
Embracing perspectives, a kaleidoscope view,
Uncovering truths in hues of every hue.

The world, they say, not black or white,
But shades of grey in day and night.
Understanding, empathy, guiding the quest,
Through layers of truth, we find our rest.

Seema Singh, Mentor- English



Dhruv I-A

Reflections on a Troubled World

Is this the future we are looking upon?
Wherein the potters are cruel and greedy
And transfer these emotions to their creations

Is this the world we want to grow up in?
Where wealth is accumulated by a few
And we don't have enough

Why is there hatred everywhere?
I still don't understand why god created
mankind
Don't we love our own brothers and sisters?
Actually, we are blinded by our own destructive
ambitions

Is this the world we are looking upon?
Whose existence is bleak
I leave this choice up to you.

-Devanshi Goyal (X A)

Strings of Triumph

As I watched him, his fingers dancing across
the strings
The great classical guitarist, as the music in my
ears rings
His fingers quick to switch, from an A sharp to
a G sharp minor, taking not a second

The sound of people clapping and hooting
reached my ears "What a legend!"
His talent immeasurable, his music of such
great value
I truly have to say, he left me imbued

The great Spanish guitarist, finished his show,
his fingers stopped dancing across the strings
As the music in my ears stopped to ring
A roaring sound of applause begins to rise

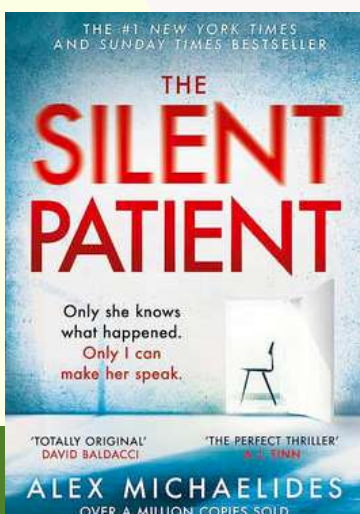
The happiness in the guitarist's eyes,
For him, these moments are like winning a
grand prize

~Parina Arora(XII-C)

BOOKWORM'S PARADISE

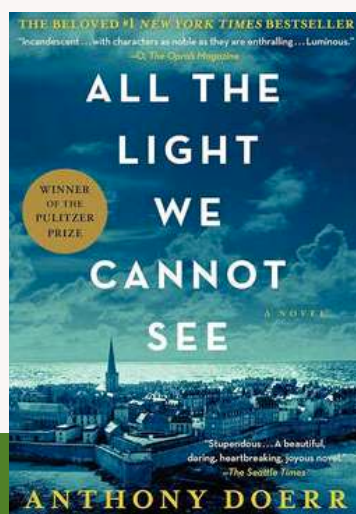
"The Silent Patient" by Alex Michaelides centers on Alicia Berenson, a painter who stops speaking after her husband's murder. Theo Faber, a psychotherapist, seeks to unravel her silence and the truth behind the crime. The novel captivates with its masterful twist that reshapes the narrative in a single line, showcasing Michaelides' skill in creating a gripping, suspenseful thriller filled with surprises and emotional depth.

-Tavisha Kaul (XII-C)



"All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr intricately weaves the lives of Marie-Laure, a blind French girl escaping to Saint-Malo, and Werner, a German orphan enlisted by the Nazis for his radio skills. Amid World War II's chaos, they confront moral dilemmas and the impact of their choices. The novel poignantly explores human connection, moral complexity, and resilience in adversity, offering a profound testament to the strength of the human spirit.

-Kyra Reyar (XII-C)



In Ernest Cline's novel set in a dystopian 2044, people escape their bleak reality by living in the OASIS, a superior VR world. Orphaned teenager Wade Watts, known as Parzival online, embarks on a quest within this expansive simulation. Designed by the late Halliday, the OASIS hides easter eggs—keys and gates inspired by '80s pop culture and geek lore. Finding them promises immense wealth and control over the virtual realm, driving a thrilling narrative of adventure and nostalgia.

-Sania Dhawan (XII-C)

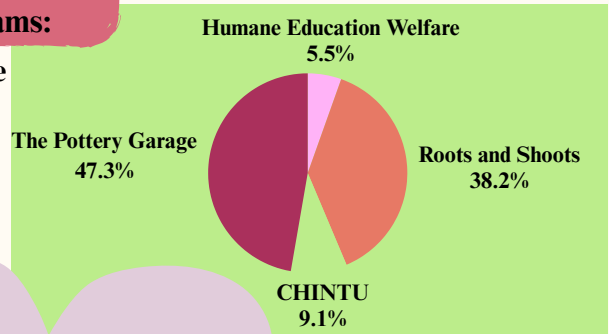
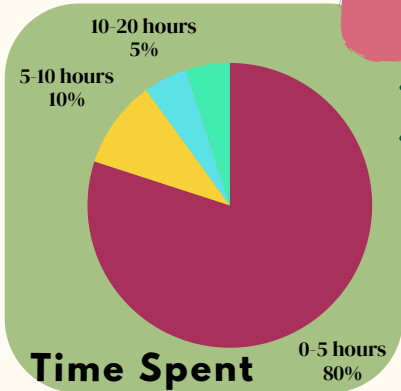


OPINIO QUEST

A survey was conducted in classes V to XII regarding the Community Connect programmes. These were conducted to get the students' views and feedback on the community service sessions.

The students participated in the following programs:

- ✓ The Pottery Garage
- ✓ CHINTU
- ✓ Roots & Shoots
- ✓ Humane Education Welfare



1.

The programme should reach a broad audience and focus on important yet overlooked societal issues to raise awareness and inspire discussion.

2.

Yes, We can tutor the underprivileged section of our society or even teach children in our school, in subjects they are not doing well inon any 2 days of the week

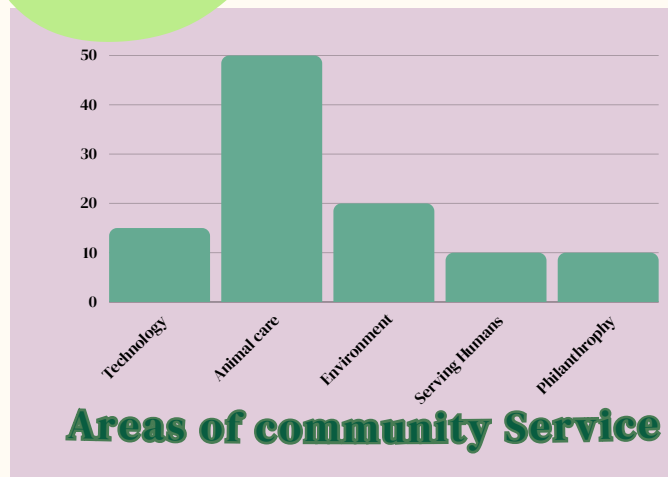
3.

There must be more focus on environment related programmes in school

4.

We can gather students on the basis of their interests and can do community service projects like animal welfare, helping sick children, providing assistance to the homeless in getting shelters, work for NGOs.

Suggestions for Community Service Programmes



HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

Dear Parents and Students,

Greetings!

We value your diverse opinions, and believe that the richness of our content lies in the collective knowledge and experiences of our readers. Whether you have a compelling article, a heart warming story, a useful tip, or an exciting event to share, we want to hear from you!

Here are some potential topics you may consider:

- Personal anecdotes or experiences related to the next newsletter theme i.e. “Kagaz ke Kafilé”
- Inspirational stories of overcoming challenges and achieving personal growth.
- Practical tips and advice on different aspects of life that can help the student community thrive.
- Reviews of books or any creative art /writing piece i.e. poems, articles, paintings, etc.

Submitting your contribution is simple! Just send your piece to newsletter@stkabir.co.in, and our editorial team will review it for possible inclusion in our future newsletters.

We can't wait to hear your voice and invaluable insights which we would love to share with others. Thank you for being a part of this exciting journey!

Warm regards,
Editorial Team

Upcoming Events

@SKPS

LKG	Show & Tell Fancy Dress
UKG	Show & Tell Fancy Dress
Class I	Paint & Write, Kavita Vachan, Picture Reading
Class II	Paint & Write, Word Power, Picture Reading
Class III	EVS Quiz, Hindi Group Recitation
Class IV	Hasya Kavita Vachan, JAM, LOGO Designing
Class V	EVS Quiz, Digital Card Making
Class VI	Digital Poster Making
Class VII	Science Fair, Bhashan Pratiyogita
Class VIII	LOGO Designing in CANVA
Class IX	Hertage Quiz, Science Seminar Doha Prashnotri
Class X	Hertage Quiz, Science Seminar, Painting Competition
Class XI	D.I. , Social Extravaganza
Class XII	D.I. , Social Extravaganza



Daisy Bains XII-C

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