

## In This Issue

Foundation DayF	<b>'</b> 3
Patriotic Fervour F	9
Virtual Tribute F	<b>?</b> 10

#### Young Achievers.....P 11



Expe	rienced life	eP 14
मानव	शक्ति	P 15

#### ADAPTING TO CHANGES

It is not the strongest or the most intelligent who will survive but those who can best manage change.

**CHARLES DARWIN** 

## WINDS OF CHANGE

Spring season is all about blooming and new beginnings. The challenging times have certainly brought changes in our lives. Accepting the shift, we moved ahead embracing the new mode of teaching online and facing the challenges that strewn our path as we moved froward. The students are ready for another year filled with renewed vigour. Surely in the midst of the chaos and the unknown, man began his journey towards a more sustainable lifestyle and closer union with his Maker.

The recent Pandemic, Covid-19, has fostered the skill of readiness and made the entire human race realize its strength and resilience in spite of the dark clouds glooming overhead. Life is indeed all about changes and acceptance. Man is the best example of one adapting to any unforeseen circumstances. The New Normal has taught us to be content, self-reliant and most significantly to treasure what we are blessed with.

Pablo Neruda in his poem 'Keeping Quiet' well explains what Time and Mother Earth have taught us. 'Perhaps the Earth can teach us as when everything seems dead and later proves to be alive.' In the stillness around us there was a reawakening. With ample time on our hands, we realigned our thought process with retrospection and deep introspection, valuing peace, humanity and brotherhood.

We have themed this edition of our newsletter on 'Resilience'. We saw a remarkable transition in the field of education, from imparting knowledge through the conventional mode to the digital platform using innovative methods of teaching. Both, the teaching fraternity and the students became techno wizards and created a world of prospects and possibilities.

One can see a lot of positives where the digital medium and online learning realm will endure long after the crisis will be over.

To conclude... Learning for man never ends, when he thinks he has reached the end, before him lies a bend and the journey continues... his learning for life is an on-going process.

#### - THE EDITORS

### SCHOOL'S MISSION STATEMENT

School will build language fluency and improve reading habits of the students and will also continue to introduce one educational innovation each year to make learning more meaningful. The School will continue to be a model employer and invest in teacher training and development.

# **CAMPUS STORIES**

### Grandparents Day: Connecting Hearts

hat children need most are the essentials that grandparents provide in abundance. They give unconditional love, kindness, patience, humour, comfort and lessons in life. A child needs grandparents to grow a little more securely into an unfamiliar world. The School continues to instil values even in these



Abundance of joy and love presented through cards

unprecedented times through the means of virtual events. The Primary Section celebrated the 'Grandparents Day' virtually on September 26, 2020 with great enthusiasm.

The children professed their true love and gratitude for their grandparents straight from their hearts. The students and their grandparents recorded and shared what they felt about each other. It left everyone nostalgic and overwhelmed with emotions. The virtual show culminated with a Card Making activity to thank their loving grandparents for their infinite love and wisdom. The children were very excited to showcase their love for their grandparents and this was evident on their faces while they were recording the videos and making cards.

### Promoting Greener Lifestyle

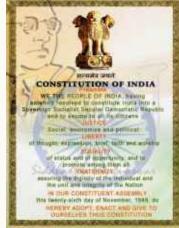
The School conducted an online activity on 'Green Consumer Day' for Classes I-III on September 28, 2020. The activities were planned to build awareness among students to purchase only those products that are environmentally friendly or eco-friendly. Students participated in 'Plant a Sapling' activity and shared the pictures of the sapling they planted. The activity made the children aware of green life practices.



Young children creating awareness about environment

### **Constitution Day**

Constitution Day was celebrated on November 26, 2020 in the School to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. As a part of the CBSE Initiative of celebrating the Constitution Day in School, a copy of the Preamble in Hindi and English was provided to



each class. The students read out the Preamble and took an oath to uphold the dignity and integrity of our Constitution.

## Foundation Day: Celebrating Past, Present and Future



Digital display of pictures and cards made by students



There was a shift in arrangements Remote learning did not let got together and put up entertaining and a break from tradition but the pandemic hamper the musical performances on the that did not dampen the spirit of celebration of important days celebrations. The School days the students was visible in the celebrated its Thirty-Sixth Foundation Day.

celebrated its **Thirty-Sixth Foundation Day** on July 4, 2020 on a virtual platform, adhering to the social distancing norms in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. The School has never digressed from its vision and mission to provide education. Learning has never stopped here even during lockdown. The teachers and the students important occasion. The energy and passion of the students was visible in the performances that they put up. It was a journey full of enthusiasm and steady effort which had brought the students to exhibit their skills by means of online activities. Card Making, Poem Writing, PPTs, self-composed songs, musical instrument performances and art work were some of the activities that marked the celebration.

### Independence Day Celebration in the 'New Normal' Way

Independence Day celebrations at School are often a medley of patriotic activities which generates a sense of national pride in the hearts of all Indians. In the new normal of online schooling during the Pandemic, the School was set to celebrate the 74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day digitally. The Pandemic did not deter the spirit of patriotism and it was ensured that the fervour of patriotism lives on. The event was organised within the School premises, attended by the teaching fraternity. The ceremony began with the rendition of the National Anthem. The Principal Ms. Bharti Tolumbia, in her address to the gathering, said that we have achieved success in education system in terms of remote learning which did not let the pandemic hamper the learning of students. To celebrate the day, a virtual assemblage of activities ranging from Drawing and Colouring the National Flag and National Symbols of India, and Slogan Writing, were conducted online. Students adapted to the new normal and participated in the virtual celebrations.







# **IMPRESSIONS**

### Colourful creations through learning

Beautiful blending of Art into learning of various subjects by the students







# Memorial Lecture Strong Humanitarian Perspective



Virtual lecture delivered by Dr. Ginny Srivastava

To commemorate the indelible contribution of the co-founder of the School, Dr. (Mrs.) Deepa Martins, the School organised the 'Seventeenth Dr. (Mrs.) Deepa Martins Memorial Lecture' on December 5, 2020. It was an opportune moment to remember Dr. (Mrs.) Deepa Martins who was concerned and active in relation to many aspects of society - women's empowerment and activism, communal harmony and value-based education. We were honoured to have Dr. Ginny Shrivastava, Social Activist, Founder of Astha Sansthan, Udaipur and Pioneer of the Indian Single Women Movement, as the keynote speaker. In her keynote address on, 'In From The Margins-Lessons From Working With The Marginalized', she gave the mantra to keep working for 'excellence' and not be satisfied with the belief of 'anything will do.' She shared the essential values and perspectives that everyone should have in order to eliminate marginalization of any group of people in the society. The second important value that she talked about was commitment to Diversity and Inclusion and affirmed that together we all can succeed- alone, each would have trouble even surviving! In her talk, she also focused on empowerment and Human Rights. Her aim in her work has been to empower the marginalized women to recognize the strength and ability they have in themselves, and to work to solve their problems and overcome the challenges they face. She shared some of the exciting work she has done with marginalized

people, low-income single women who are widows, separated, divorced, older-never-married women or 'differently abled' persons. She said that there are many marginalized people in society – those who have been pushed to the margins of mainstream society, and sometimes, a particular person is also marginalized, because of something that the person does.

On the occasion, she spoke mostly about categories or groups of people who, without being at fault, have also been marginalized. She considered this pushing out of the people from the mainstream society as unjust and cruel.

She said that a strong humanitarian perspective is indispensable for effective work with marginalized people in India. It means that we see all people basically as human beings, and treat all people with respect and dignity. The Memorial Lecture highlighted the main point that everyone, male or female, are equal human

#### A strong humanitarian perspective is indispensable for effective work with marginalized people in India

strong beings, and that society is at its best if the diversities that make up our large population are accepted, celebrated, regardless of whether those differences have their roots in social,

historical, religious, or physical reasons. We all shall go forward as equal citizens, making up this diverse, great country, as one, in harmony. She concluded by saying that individual persons can reach out and include several marginalized people in community life.

# Learning Beyond Horizons

Inter-Class Solo Singing Competition (Junior) Staying at home doesn't mean, the music has to stop. During challenging times, music helps one empathize and evoke a strong emotional connect with Nature and Humanity at large. The period of lockdown became an opportunity for the



students who usually shy away, to perform in a larger group. The Inter-Class Solo Singing Competition was organized for the students of Classes VI–VIII to harness their vocal skills. In Hindi song, Urvik Sharma (VII-A) and Shreyansh Singh Khichi (VI-A) secured the First and Second positions respectively, and in English song, Hiya Morani (VII-D) and Aanchal Khatri (VI-B) secured First and Second positions respectively.

#### Junior English Debate

An Online Intra-Class English Debate was organized

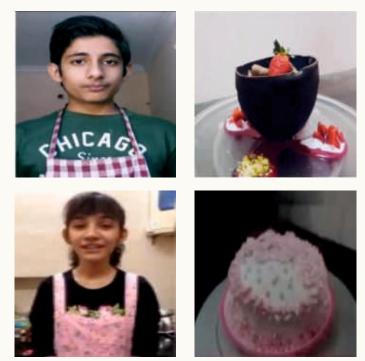


Overwhelming participation in the Online English Debate

on July 24, 2020 for the students of Class VIII. This was another successful event organised by the School to involve the students virtually, in various activities in a productive manner. The topic for the English Debate was 'Online Education is As effective As Traditional On-Campus Schooling'. Anuva Bhargava (VIII-B) and Khushi Seernani (VIII-D) bagged the First and Second positions respectively. The Competition was an enthralling experience for the students.

#### Exotic Flavour Filled Dessert Making

An Inter-Class Dessert-Making activity was organised for the students of Classes IX to XII Students came up with impressive creativity. The aim of conducting the activity was to develop and enhance the creativity of students. The beautiful imaginations were transformed into concrete reality through fabulous work created by students. The students came out with various innovative themes. Harsh Dadhich (IX-A) and Unnati Bhagchandani (IX-F) secured the First and Second positions respectively.



Budding chefs with their prized preparations

#### Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti: October 2, 2020

he occasion of 151<sup>st</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and 116<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri on



October 2, 2020 was o b s e r v e d v e r y enthusiastically on the digital platform with the students. A special Digital Assembly was conducted by students where prayers were said

to keep our country safe and disease free. Students were administered a 'Jan Andolan for COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviour' pledge whereby the students took an oath and committed themselves to the responsibilities of taking all necessary precautions that will prevent the spread of COVID-19. A Poster-Making Activity was conducted where the students came up with meaningful and creative presentations. Students also participated in various other activities like Postage Stamp Making, Bookmarks, Symbols related to Gandhiji's and Shastriji's Lives and Works, A to Z Qualities and Attributes of Gandhiji and Shastriji, Art and Craft Work associated with Gandhiji and Shastriji using Khadi.

### Founder's Day

Founder's Day is traditionally a very important day in the School calendar. This year, the School commemorate the 71<sup>st</sup> birth anniversary of Shri Gilroy Martins. The School paid homage to the founder on February 20, 2021



by reflecting on the values that have helped to shape who we are.

Peace comes not from the absence of conflict in life, but from the ability to cope with it.

Students of classes VI-IX read the chapters from the book 'My Sir' and discussed the values enshrined in it. The teachers also showed the videos related to Sir's life and his journey to establish the School. The video was a reflection of his hard work, determination, honesty, punctuality, decision-making and leadership. It was motivating for the students to see that Sir acted in a way that showed others how to act when it comes to facing challenges and difficulties.

### Republic Day

26<sup>th</sup> January is a day on which every Indian heart fills up with patriotic fervour and immense love for our Motherland. It's celebrated every year to commemorate the day when the Constitution came into effect back in 1950 and the country was declared the largest democracy in the world. This year, the country celebrated its 72<sup>nd</sup> Republic Day to mark the day India became a sovereign republic. Republic Day celebrations at School were held with a short programme in the School premises and attended by the teaching fraternity. The celebrations began with the unfurling of the tricolour by the Principal, Ms. Bharti Tolumbia. The recital of the National Anthem, a symbol of sovereignty and integrity and a patriotic song sung by the



Music teachers evoked feelings of patriotism and reminded us of the glory and rich heritage of our Nation. The Principal, in her address, reminded us of the valuable contribution of the Chief Architect of our Constitution, Babasaheb Ambedkar. She spoke about how his words will continue to lighten our path to achieve our social and economic objectives. To celebrate this day, various virtual activities, ranging from poster making to solo songs, poetry writing and short speech writing based on the theme of Republic Day/ patriotism were conducted for the students.

## LEARNING FOR LIFE

The COVID-19 pandemic forced all the educational institutes to shut down, profoundly disrupted education systems across the country, changing what classrooms and learning looked like on a day-to-day basis. But educators did not stop learning and sharing their knowledge. As necessity is the mother of invention, this situation became an opportunity for teachers to become more empowered, creative and innovative. To help

themselves adjust under the new normal while teaching, teachers at St. Stephen's continued to receive training by attending webinars on various themes related to Educational Technology (ET) and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in education. These webinars have proved useful for them in implementing the latest techniques to help create an effective learning environment, motivate the learners towards learning and make the learning environment a joyful, playful and entertaining one.

### Adolescence and Awareness

Awareness of a Good Touch and Bad Touch

To ensure the safety and security of our children, it is important that we teach them about protecting themselves. 'Sparsh Online Session' was conducted for the students of Classes III-VIII. Ms. Varsha Joshi, Ms. Sonica Sharma, Mr. Vikram S. Raghav and Ms. Chandrika Beggarhatta were the Key Speakers for the session. Ms. Baljeet Kaur Virdi was awarded 'The Youngest Innovative Teacher to Complete Five Post Graduations' in English, Sociology,

History, Education and Political Science. She has been recognized as the Youngest Innovative Teacher for using Constructivist Approach and Experiential Learning



Techniques for teaching innovatively. She is also the recipient of an award from the India Book of Records

## IN MEMORIAM

A Memorial service was held on February 26, 2021 to mark the 16<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of our Founder-Director Shri Gilroy Martins. A PowerPoint presentation based on the core values enshrined in the acronym SIMPLE was shown and a floral tribute was offered by the staff members. The Principal Ms. Bharti Tolumbia recollected fond memories of Sir's time at St. Stephen's and shared the values attached to the institution with all present.



# CAMPUS STARS Academics



26 students of our School secured 90% and above in AISSCE (Class XII) 2020

S.No.	Name	Class	Percentage
1.	Shreshtha Mathur	XII Sc.	96.20
2.	Abhishek Soni	XII Sc.	95.80
3.	Mayank Saini	XII Sc.	95.60
4.	Sahil Samyani	XII Com.	95.40
5.	Aishwarya Choudhary	XII Sc.	95.20
6.	Anjali Sharma	XII Arts	95.20
7.	Srishti Goyal	XII Com.	95.00
8.	Shreya Sharma	XII Com.	94.60
9.	Anushka Panwar	XII Sc.	94.60
10.	Neeraj Kourani	XII Com.	94.00
11.	Sakshi Sharma	XII Sc.	94.00
12.	Istuti Consul	XII Sc.	93.80
13.	Parimeeta Sharma	XII Sc.	93.80
14.	Sakshi Chandil	XII Com.	93.60
15.	Vishwas Sharma	XII Com.	93.20
16.	Anjnay Vaishnav	XII Sc.	93.00
17.	Manan Chaturvedi	XII Sc.	92.80
18.	Shripal Singh Naruka	XII Arts	92.60
19.	Pavitra Srivastava	XII Sc.	92.00
20.	Rushil Goyal	XII Com.	91.80
21.	Abhimanyu Barotia	XII Sc.	91.60
22.	Priyal Mathur	XII Arts	91.00
23.	Preeti Bhurani	XII Com.	90.80
24.	Saksham Pokharna	XII Sc.	90.80
25.	Vidhi Totlani	XII Sc.	90.40
26.	Rochak Jain	XII Com.	90.20

#### Our AISSCE (Class XII) 2020 Star Performers and Subject Toppers



Fizza Jagirdar Secured 100/100 in Painting







 Shreshtha Mathur
 First in Science
 Sahil Samyani
 First in Commerce
 Anjali Sharma
 First in Arts



S.No.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

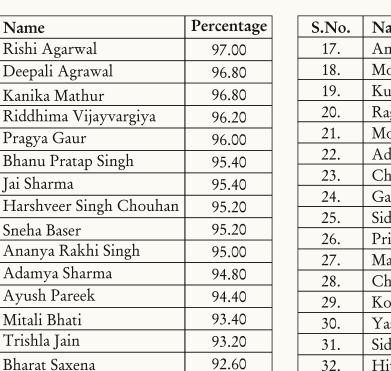
13.

14.

15.

16.

### 33 students of our School secured 90% and above in AISSE (Class X) 2020



S.No.	Name	Percentage
17.	Anmol Kaushal	92.40
18.	Mokshi Jain	92.20
19.	Kunal Yadav	92.20
20.	Raghvendra Singh	92.00
21.	Mohit Mathur	91.80
22.	Aditya Agarwal	91.80
23.	Chamin Gupta	91.80
24.	Garima Singh	91.40
25.	Siddharth Kumar Sahu	91.20
26.	Priyanshi Sharma	91.00
27.	Manan Jain	90.80
28.	Chhavi Jain	90.80
29.	Kovid Dadhich	90.40
30.	Yash Mathur	90.40
31.	Siddhi Gupta	90.40
32.	Hitesh Chotwani	90.00
33.	Sahil Kumar	90.00

Our AISSE (Class X) 2020 Star Performers and Subject Toppers





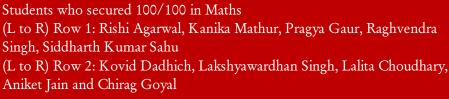


Lakshya Narwani



92.60









(L to R): Rishi Agarwal and Riddhima Vijayvargiya Secured 100/100 in Social Studies



(L to R): Gajendra Singh (VIII-F) and Nikhil Choudhary (IX-F) won the Gold Medal in the SOF National Cyber Olympiad (2019-20) Juniors & Seniors



Row 1 (L to R): Manya (I-B), Aditi Wadhwa (II-C), Suyash Garg (III-B), Yashasvi Chaturvedi (IV-A) and Swapnil Goyal (V-A) Row 2 (L to R): Harshit Adwani (VII- B), Ishant Khandelwal (VIII-A), Garima Pradutt (IX-A) and Rishi Agarwal (X-B)



Gold Medal Winners in the SOF International Mathematics Olympiad Level-1 (2019-20) Juniors & Seniors



(L to R): Siddharth Jain (XI-Com.A) and Vishwas Sharma (XII-Com.A) won the Gold Medal in the SOF International Commerce Olympiad (2019-20)



Row 1 (L to R): Manya (I-B), Yakshit Khandelwal (II-A), Mishika Choudhary (III-C), Gurpreet Kaur (IV-C) and Swapnil Goyal (V-A) Row 2 (L to R): Chandra Raj Singh (VI-B), Saksham Jain (VII-E), Harshit Saini (VIII-B), Lakshay Sajnani (IX-D) and Manan Jain (X-A)

## **Sports**



Himakshi Purohit (V-B) won the Silver Medal in Rajasthan State Fencing Championship (Sub-Junior U-14) organized by Jaipur Fencing Association held at Muslim Senior Secondary School, Motidoongri Road, Jaipur

## **Co-curricular Activities**



An Online Inter-School E-Fest 'Technovation' was organized by DPS, Ajmer. Lakshya Bachani (VI-A) and Aaradhya Sharma (X-C) secured the first position (Junior category) and third position (Senior category) respectively in English Debate.



# WORDSCAPE

n the past year, students experienced life in ways they had never imagined. The Wordscape section describes how this massive change impacted their learning and accepting the changes for the betterment of their lives.



Harshit Chopra(VI-D)

### **MY SCHOOL JOURNEY**

y school journey began with a cry. Because I was very shy. But now I have resolved to try, try and try.

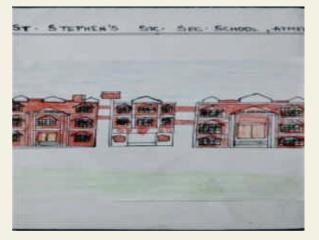
We go to school not only to study and play, But to make friends in an amazing way.

In school we learn many things, We also learn to dance and sing.

We may forget the stories, But we will never forget the memories.

Our school celebrates lots of occasions, Place where we get a lot of persuasion Time to think of old memories, Time to link with each other's new stories.

#### Charvi Patel VII-C



Mimansa Singh VIII- C

### संघर्ष और सफलता

न जाने कितनी ही जाने ले लीं इस कोरोना ने और हम भी गिनते चले गए परंतु कुछ ऐसे भी थे, जिन्होंने इस गिनती के चालू होने से पहले ही इस गिनती को खत्म करने की ठान ली– वैज्ञानिक और चिकित्सक। आज उन्हीं के कर्मफल से सब कुछ करीब–करीब वापस पहले जैसा हो चला है।

मनुष्य परिस्थितियों के अधीन हैं तथा प्रत्येक परिस्थितियों से निकलने का साहस उनमें है। यह बात कोरोना के इस विषम महामारी के दौरान हुए प्रदर्शन से प्रमाणित होती है। मनुष्य अपने भाग्य का स्वामी है तथा जो चाहे वह कर सकता है। वह अपनी और अपनों की खुशी को बरकरार रखने के लिए कुछ भी कर सकता है। परिस्थितियाँ मनुष्य को भले ही कितनी भी देर के लिए मजबूर करें परंतू अंत में परिस्थितियों को ही मजबूर होना पडता है। ऐसा ही एक उदाहरण हमें इस कोरोना काल में देखने को मिला। दोपहर में अंधेरा सा हो जाया करता था, कोई घर के बाहर न निकलता था परंतू कुछ थे, जिन्होंने दूसरों के लिए रास्ता बनाया, आत्मविश्वास जगाया और उन्हीं को देखकर सबमें साहस आया। आज जब हम उस दिन के बारे में सोचते हैं तो अहसास होता है कि मनुष्य एकमात्र ऐसा प्राणी है जिसमें प्रत्येक परिस्थिति पर विजय पाने का सामर्थ्य सन्निहित है।

कुनाल नाथानी कक्षा दस—फ

## Passing chimes, Rhyme or not Rhyme

t all began with a morning bell, And then it never ended, Carrying bags and Lbottles Roaming with friends, With a Vision in one's head You all were prudent peaceful amid my incautious bellicose. Here is a small hug to you all. Dear Watchman bhaiya, Thank you for opening the gate for me to a new world, my second home. Dear School makers, Thank you for keeping my second home clean. You have always helped me From guiding me to my class, To reminding me to sanitize my hands at regular intervals, I have come a long way. Dear Fellow students, Thank you for helping me build an independent me, And for making every lesson fun, With your jokes and sometimes puns. Thank you accepting me and for all the memories we shared, Lunch breaks, zero periods and activities for the time we spent, I remember how shy I was and realize how confident vou all made me, I am taking you all with me, captured in my heart. Dear Teachers, With a few baby steps to all those warm-ups for life. For the fast paced, never ending marathon, You have guided me where to be straight and where to bend. All those glitters and sparkles, Felt dust, under pressure of my self-centred soul.

You made them shine, Better brighter for lighting the dark, You erased my wrong, And taught me the right, With your words of wisdom and gestures of kindness. You let me reach the skies, There is a lot that I have achieved From a Class monitor to being the School Editor From being too shy to speak to debating. When dust covered my eyes, Where the paths diverged and diverted, You shone like the guiding light. Thank you for always being by my side.

Suhani Sharma XII - Science

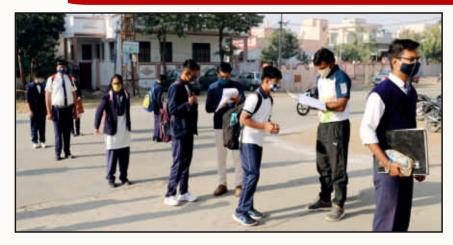
### मानव शक्ति

चहुँ ओर छाई घनघोर घटाएं, उडने लगी चित्त चोर लताएं. जागो! मानव धरती पूकारे, प्रकृति हुई अब तेरे सहारे। रौद्र रूप प्रकृति का छाया, मानव इससे कब है घबराया. चाहे जितनी फैली महामारी. मानव ने इसको दूर भगाया। अब कहाँ हम रूकने वाले हैं. अब कहाँ हम झुकने वाले हैं, हम पंछी मतवाले हैं, हवा का रूख बदलने वाले हैं। जबसे हमने जग को पहचाना मानव शक्ति को सबने माना, प्रकृति, अपना रौद्र रूप हटाना, अब. सिर्फ अपना सौम्य रूप ही दर्शाना।

तनिष्ठा सोनी कक्षा आठ—द

# BACKDROP

### Returning to School after Covid-19







#### **Editorial Board**

 Staff Editors:
 Principal,

 Ms. Judeline D'Souza, Ms. Nidhi Goyal, Ms. Deepika Sharma, Ms. Priyanka Nelson & Ms. Hetal
 St. Stephen's Sr. Sec. School, Ajmer.

Vadodaria Graphics & Layout: Ms. Nupur Goyal, Ms. Krishna Paulus





Published By: Ms. Bharti Tolumbia

Phone: (0145) 2640851, 2641851 Email: <u>stephania@ststephensajmer.com</u> Printed at: Vikas Printing Press, Ajmer.