

EXPRESSIONS

A MAGAZINE OF DON BOSCO SCHOOL & JUNIOR COLLEGE, LONAVLA DECEMBER 2021

*Illumine
the light of hope*





DBL EXPRESSIONS

DECEMBER 2021

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FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY





All is Well

We can recall vividly how the world was impacted and immobilised like never before when the pandemic struck us last year. We could not move out of the house even for the essentials since we were on lockdown. Everything changed in matter of days. The pandemic affected our lives in measures beyond our understanding. None of us escaped the insidious virus.

Some lost their lives, some their dear ones while some even lost their jobs. Numerous people were hit financially. Irrespective of age, nationality, creed, cultures, all inclusive were affected. Even our children were not spared as they experienced the dreadful impact of the virus. The impact of schools remaining closed for an extended period of time is long-lasting. Their regular life of schooling and playing outdoors was affected. The adverse impact of the pandemic is beyond compare.

At present, people have been vaccinated and life appears to be resuming back to normalcy. At the same time, there is a fear lurking in each of us that perturbs us. Will the variant strike us and paralyze us? How safe are our children? When will the financial situation improve? When will everything get back to the early times? Will there be another wave and will it attack us furiously again as the previous one?

These questions can make us feel anxious and depressed and drive us into despair. Due to the huge losses of life and finances, we could even lose hope. Although we have lost a great deal, everything is not lost. Everything is not cancelled. I found an inspiring poem that I want to share with you. The poem is entitled - 'Not Everything is cancelled'.

*Not everything is cancelled by the pandemic
Sun is not cancelled
Rain is not cancelled
Love is not cancelled,
Relationships are not cancelled
Praying is not cancelled
Reading is not cancelled
Music is not cancelled
Imagination is not cancelled
Kindness is not cancelled
Conversations are not cancelled
Hope is not cancelled because
God gives us hope to fight despair:
God's love for his people is never cancelled.*

When we look at only what is lost we may be pushed to despair. When we look at the whole picture and realise that the most important things in life are not lost or cancelled but still accompany us daily, we are filled with hope. Let us move ahead with hope knowing well that all is not cancelled.



Fr Blany Pinto
Rector





Now's Your Time

As an Institution we are into the Diamond Jubilee of our existence. It is truly a moment to celebrate, remember and be grateful to all those people who took the Institution to great heights and impacted the lives of so many on the way. At this moment in time, the baton is in our hands and it is our responsibility to keep moving forward with the best of our ability following the footsteps of our predecessors and ensuring that we be an inspiration for the generations to come.

With Schools and Colleges opening up gradually and the voices of children talking and laughing, the hope whispering in our heart amid the darkness of the pandemic has seen the light of day. And what better timing for it to be than during the festival of lights? As we celebrated Diwali by illuminating our houses and our surroundings, let us take this opportunity to illumine the Light of Hope in our hearts and our lives. We are also at the threshold of Christmas which celebrates the incarnation of Jesus the Light of the world. Now more than ever we see that everything is returning back to normal. Eventually and very definitely we will all be back to the days we dearly missed and longed for.

It is indeed true that grapes must be crushed to make wine, diamonds form under pressure, gold is refined in fire, olives are pressed to release oil and seeds grow in darkness. Being crushed, under pressure, refined, pressed or in darkness may on face value seem to be a miserable place to be in... although in reality they are powerful places of transformation. Aristotle Onassis rightly quoted "It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light". It is on the darkest of nights that the stars shine the brightest. It is during the darkest and the most trying of times that we ought to illumine the light of hope.

Though we remained connected virtually, there is no denying the fact that you dear students have missed out on a lot of activities be it curricular, co-curricular or extra-curricular. Now is the time to roll up your sleeves and push – push harder, push till we can push no longer... to do the things we need to do, because we are never going to feel like doing them. The bottom line is that we have to take responsibility of our own life...don't expect anyone to push you... to tell you to put off the T.V. ... to tell you to stop wasting your time on Social Media or on Netflix or on long hours of texting or any other useless activity. You are mature enough to know what you are supposed to do... so do it...do it now...don't let a single second pass by without you doing something worthwhile. The best time to take action has already passed by... the second best time is NOW.

My wish and prayer is that you level up to your full potential and be the blessing to the world you are meant to be.

May God bless us all.

Signing off,



Fr Ranson D'Souza
Principal





Gratisimum

FR CHRIS SALDANA

Fr Chrysanthus Saldanha, lovingly called Fr Chrys entered Don Bosco High School, Matunga at the age of 5, and has been with Don Boscos' ever since – first, as a student, and then as a Salesian of Don Bosco.

Fr Chrys was ordained a priest in Rome in 1970. He was appointed Provincial of the Mumbai region for a period of six years from 1982 to 1988. After he completed his tenure as Provincial, he was appointed the Director of a centre in Bangalore which took care of the continuing formation of Salesians from all the Provinces of India. Eight years later, he was called to work at the world headquarters of the Salesians of Don Bosco in Rome in matters concerning the formation of Salesian personnel worldwide. Twenty years later, after finishing his task, he opted to give a helping hand in the province of Ethiopia.

He now joins us at Don Bosco, Lonavla. He is a deeply religious person and a good organizer. He is a voracious reader, and his talks are deep and incisive. His personal life is marked by simplicity. He has a heart which reaches out to poor youngsters. We, the staff and the students of Don Bosco Lonavla, welcome Fr. Chrys to our community.

FR RANSON D'SOUZA

Hailing from Mumbai, born, bred and schooled in the First City, Fr Ranson D'Souza, our principal was once a student in the Science Stream of Don Bosco Junior College, Lonavla. He was also here as a brother in Practical Training and was then a part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the institution. After his priestly ordination, he was appointed the Vice Principal at St Dominic Savio, Andheri, after which he came to Don Bosco, Lonavla, as our beloved Principal.

Fr Ranson is a lovely person in every sense of the word. Tall, with exquisitely chiselled features and a heart-warming smile, Fr. Ranson possesses an inherent affability which transforms his courtesy into grace, and tinges his charming, lively sense of humour with an enchantingly endearing kindness. He is fond of sports, music, acting and painting, and loves adventure and fun.

He believes that God is in control of everything, and that He makes – for those who love Him and do His will in their lives – all things happen for good. “The least we could do for God” He says, “is to reach out to one another and lead one another closer to God.”

DN. JOYSTON MACHADO

With a youthful spirit, exuberance and optimism, Deacon Joyston Machado joined Don Bosco High School and Junior College, Lonavla in August 2021. Born in Mumbai, he did his early schooling at Holy Cross Convent, Mira Road.

He completed his High School and Junior College at Don Bosco, Lonavla and then proceeded to join the Novitiate in Nasik in 2011. He holds Bachelor and Master's Degrees in Arts and Philosophy. Deacon Joyston is multi-talented and is very enthusiastic and passionate about channelising and guiding the youth. He takes keen interest in reading, writing, sports and music. His philosophy of life is built up on three pillars which he has formulated and terms it the three F's: Faith in God, Family Bonding, Friendship.

He credits the spark of spirituality that has grown into a flame to the Salesians, and believes that it is lighting up his life and making it purposeful to achieve his dream of touching the youth with God's love. He quotes: “If God could touch Joyston's life





then Joyston could touch the lives of those around him.” He wishes to spread this message to everyone – Allow God first to make a difference in one’s life before one goes out to make a difference in others’ lives.

We wish Dn. Joyston a bright future ahead and may God guide him towards his priestly ordination.

BR AMBROSE MONTEIRO

Br Ambrose Damian Monteiro is a breath of fresh air to Don Bosco, Lonavla with his infectious smile and his enthusiastic spirit. He has completed one year of practical training at Don Bosco, Chotta Udepur, Gujarat before joining Don Bosco, Lonavla for his further training.

Br Ambrose has graduated in Philosophy at Divyadaan, Nasik and proceeded to do his graduation in Sociology in the same year in Nasik. He is an avid lover of music and takes a keen interest in photography and videography.

He holds the philosophy in life to redefine human nature encompassing the virtues of kindness, compassion and empathy, and in a nutshell, wishes to make this world a better place just by being in it for others.

We are indeed fortunate to have Br Ambrose in our midst, and we wish him a bright and spiritual future ahead.

BR ANKIT DEVDA

Born and brought up in Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh, Br Ankit Devda has a boy-next-door appearance which belies a mature personality. Upon completion of his schooling in Madhya Pradesh, he joined the Don Bosco Junior College, Lonavla. Thereafter he completed his B.Ph. and B.A., and served as a practical trainee at Chhota Udepur for two years. He is proficient at the guitar, keyboard and saxophone, and is a keen sportsperson. He is fond of reading books. He aims to be a good priest – one who is approachable and with whom people can

relate without fear.

He believes that this earthly life is a journey which prepares us for eternal life – and hence we ought to treat our fellow companions with love and respect. We wish Br Ankit an enjoyable sojourn at Don Bosco High School and Junior College, Lonavla before he embarks further on his journey leading him to his ordination.

TR PREETHI

Don Bosco, Lonavla welcomes Tr Preethi D’Silva as part of the family! She has joined us in the month of September as a teacher.

After graduating in Economics, she pursued her Law Degree from SNTD Law College, Mumbai, and thereafter completed Bachelor of Education from Sinhagad College, Kusgaon.

She believes that teaching keeps us in touch with learning. Every day is an opportunity to learn something new, provided we are open towards learning. Learning never ends... It’s for Life!

Her philosophy is to live life to the fullest! Take each day as it comes. Fill yourself with positivity and happiness and spread the same around!





Sayonara

FR GLEN FERNANDES

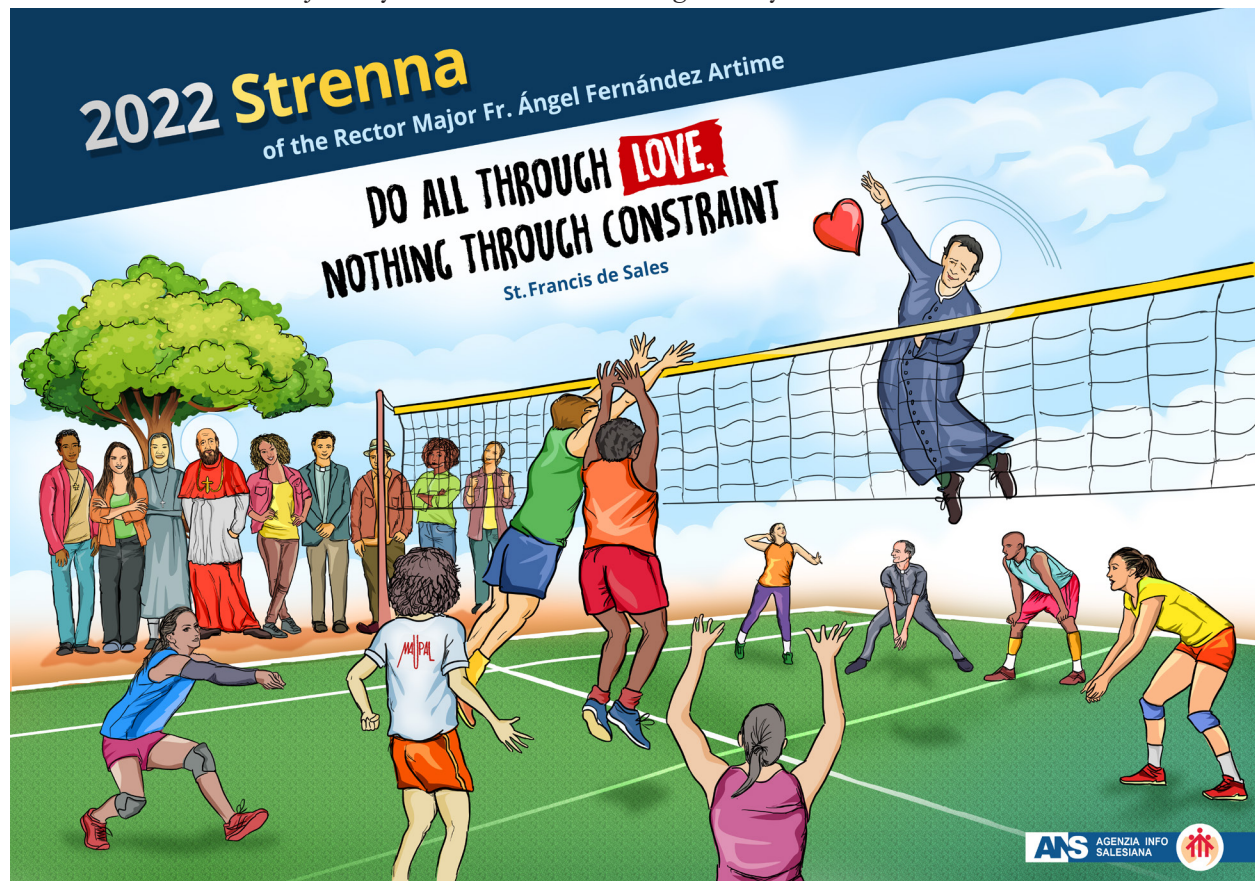
Every New Year brings in new faces to Don Bosco Lonavla wherein some bid goodbye to take up new assignments. We were fortunate to have a pleasing personality in Fr Glen Fernandes as our Principal last year. Though his stay as Principal at Don Bosco Lonavla was a short one, he won the hearts of the students and teachers with his positive approach and contagious smile.

We thank him for being an inspiration to our students and for all the efforts he took in ensuring that the pandemic did not affect their academic growth. We wish him the best in all his future endeavours. May he continue to guide and inspire all those he meets on his journey. God Bless!

BR BLESS ROMAO

We bid farewell to Br Bless Rumao. A cheerful person who always wore a bright smile on his face. Our students were incredibly lucky to have him as a guide and mentor. His kindness and humility rubbed onto the people with whom he interacted. As incharge of the Scouts, he creatively planned the Scout Week.

He came across as warmhearted, creative and approachable. Focused as he was, he put all his talents in the service of the institution. We thank Br Bless for his dedicated service at Don Bosco, Lonavla and wish him the best in all his upcoming assignments. God Bless! He was indeed a BLESSing to us all. A big thank you from the bottom of our hearts!





Leadership Team





Living Memories

TEACHING STUDENTS TO COUNT IS FINE...

TEACHING THEM WHAT COUNTS IS AMAZING...

It warms my heart to say that for the past 60 years, Don Bosco Lonavla has been educating, guiding, grooming and training young hearts towards achieving excellence not only in the field of academics but in every dimension of a student's life. It is a moment of joy as well as pride for us stakeholders to celebrate this year the Diamond Jubilee of our beloved institution.

Jawaharlal Nehru rightly said, "A student's life is a golden life". It is during this important phase of an individual's life that they are moulded to draw out goodness and the best in the gracious hands of Teachers. Don Bosco Lonavla has been having educators who have passed on their zeal and enthusiasm as a legacy in many a student's lives. The educators today have adapted themselves to the changing times and continue to positively impact their students.

As a teacher in Don Bosco Lonavla, my aim is to continue in the footsteps of the stalwarts of the past and be for my students an Educator, Facilitator and Guide.

My warmest greetings to the institution of Don Bosco Lonavla as it celebrates its Diamond Jubilee this year. My wish and prayer is that our institution may continue to grow as it reaches many more milestones in the years to come.

Preethi D'Silva

DON BOSCO'S AND ME

34 lovely years of association with Don Bosco has been a blessing for me in his master plan for my life.

My association with Don Bosco's is amongst the many other good things that occurred in my life, making it blissful and making me fertile enough to be able to nurture young minds.

As I near the end of my career, when I look back

at the many years that I spent working within the walls of these buildings, carving and creating mind sets, I am reminded of the many times my efforts received failure, and the many times when they were rewarded with success.

Don Bosco's gave me the opportunity to make many friends and nurture fond memories. Here, I got the good fortune of enjoying the proud moments when my students proved meritorious at exams, and of turning out to becoming fine professionals.

My association with Don Bosco's has humbled me with the many accomplished ambitions I stand upon today. It has always felt as an honour to see my students opting teaching as a career and returning to my school as teachers and priests.

Among the many blessings, being part of the Golden and the Diamond Jubilee celebrations are added blessing.

The value of academics remains more vital than the aids used to convey it. I hope we impart it as we did in the past. I pray for a brighter future for our students in these uncertain times. Don Bosco's has stood the test of time. I assure that soldiers of my kind shall stay true to its cause until need be.

Finally, I feel grateful to the school for promoting me to represent it and achieve the post of Chief Moderator and paper setter at the state level which has been the greatest achievement for us as an institution in decades.

Fr Dominic Almeida inducted me as a teacher here. I feel truly humbled to have received the acceptance and respect for my work from students and parents.

As I conclude, I would wish that Don Bosco Lonavla be the cradle of knowledge for hungry minds who would have a wise vision for the future, and a reasonable grit to stand for principles, as these are slowly turning to be rare qualities.

Apunba Chatterjee



**MY JOURNEY IS BEST MEASURED IN FRIENDS**

Teaching is an art which engages students in learning and active construction of Knowledge. I am grateful that I am excelling at the art of teaching in Don Bosco Lonavla. Here I have learnt to get out of my comfort zone because Don Bosco's has given me the opportunity to widen my horizons by teaching me positive and innovative things which have not only instilled in me professional qualities as a Teacher but also groomed me to what I am today.

I feel blessed to be a part of the family of Don Bosco Lonavla. It is rightly said that sometimes we will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory. I can say for sure that fond memories of Don Bosco Lonavla will be edged in my memory forever. I am grateful to be a Teacher in Don Bosco, Lonavla for I relive my own school days again with my lovely students!

My prayer and wish for Don Bosco Lonavla as it celebrates its Diamond Jubilee is that it continues to change the lives of the young for the better.

Anita Pande

EDUCATING WITH LOVE

Life is like a roller coaster, full of twists and turns, ups and downs, and filled with surprises. But when life's journey is smooth, life is beautiful. My journey in Don Bosco started when I was a student in the Junior College. The college years were genuinely a surprising and a wonderful part of my life. I thoroughly enjoyed these 2 years in Don Bosco as a student participating in the different co-circular activities that were organised.

In Don Bosco's I got a platform which filled my life with confidence. Every day was filled with creative and innovative presentations, assignments, homework, teamwork and a lot more. The moments which I spent in Don Bosco's helped me build a strong rapport with others and set my goals for the future which I achieved with co-operation, co-ordination and guidance from others. My sincere gratitude to all the Fathers and Teachers who moulded my life.

After completing my education I joined Don Bosco's again as a Teacher. This was my second journey working as a teacher in the Junior College for the past 15 years. I am really proud to be a part of this institution wherein the Management is really wonderful and takes care of all our difficulties no matter how small. There is an excellent Teaching staff which helps in the overall growth of every student.

As a teacher I will continue to shape the lives of the future generation and provide every student with an enjoyable holistic educational experience to grow. So let's remember, "Without confidence and love, there can be no true education. If you want to be loved...you must love yourselves, and make your students feel that you love them".

Pournima Kale

ALL HAIL TO YOU DON BOSCO

Hail the moment I stepped into Don Bosco Lonavla. I was an Interviewee... brooding, hovering like many others. I give all credit to the principal who showed confidence in me...appointing me recognizing my hidden talents. Thanks to my professional Guru guided by the spirit of Don Bosco for carving and sculpting me as a fitting persona for Don Bosco, Lonavla. I came not with the intention of staying on but looking back 15 years have flown like a blink of an eye. There were moments when I was at the verge of quitting but something in me held on... It can't be anything else but the spirit of Don Bosco! It's not me but the Saint who chose me for Don Bosco's. I am sure he will continue to work through me during the years to come and I will be able to serve this institution in the best possible way. I will always cherish these enriching years of my life!

Finally, I express my gratitude to the Almighty for being a part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Don Bosco Lonavla.

Bindu George





WIND BENEATH MY WINGS

Recalling the memories of my journey at Don Bosco Lonavla, bring a smile on my face and a feeling of gratefulness towards the institution, my alma mater wherein I grew and enjoyed two beautiful and most memorable years of my college life. The lesson of life and encouragement from the fathers, teachers and brothers groomed me and enhanced my personality.

The best part of studying in Don Bosco Lonavla was its focus on holistic growth which helped me participate in different activities headed by wonderful personalities. I excelled in sports, thanks to Br James and Fr Paul who made me realize my legs had the speed and strength to win. I held the torch for the inter-college sports held in Don Bosco Lonavla, indeed a great honor for me. I learned to speak in public...thanks to my Rector & English teacher late Fr Ronnie Menezes. I remember he said, "I don't want you to win but learn to stand on the stage and speak." With nervousness pressing across my entire body, I was beside myself – it was

the worst performance I had ever given – on the contrary I was relaxed, confident and happy walking down the stage, almost felt like a winner, as I learnt to stand on stage and speak. With similar other activities and experiences the teachers and brothers helped me realize my potential. I then realized how important is the role of a teacher in a student's life... their encouragement and trust can shape students into beautiful human beings.

Today I am a teacher in this very place where I grew as a student. As I walk through the corridors and classrooms with the inspiration and energy of my mentors I try passing on the same for my students. Salesians play a very important role when it comes to learning in Don Bosco. It's not about how many students you have taught...it's about how many lives you have touched. Truly, Don Bosco has been the Wind Beneath my Wings...

Asgari Sayeed





EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



HINDI ELOCUTION

9 July

Theme: Unifying people, and sustaining tradition

Animators: Ms Sunita, Ms Anita & Ms Asha

Judges: Mr Rajesh, Ms Asgari

Winners

Std V-VII: **Ishan Tare**

Shaurya Chaudhary

Ashton Dantes & Shreyas Gupta

Std VIII-X: **Soham Gaikwad**

Daksh Shetty

Omkar Ranawade & Zahid Shaikh



G.K. QUIZ

20 July

Theme: Quizzing @Home

Animators: Ms Priya & Br Aliester

Winners

Std V-X, XII: **Sarthak Jadhav**

Yajat Boke

Kiran Prabhu

Std XI: **Mahek Kohli**

Shrishalini Muthukumar

Madhura Pawshe



DANCE COMPETITION

12 October

Theme: Dancing Star

Animators: Ms Pournima Kale

Judges: Ms Qaafiya & Mr Omkar

Winners

Std V-VII: **Tanuj Mehta**

Shineil Mathias

Naitik Desai

Std VIII-X: **Atharva Mehta**

Rajkumar Gupta

Std XI-XII: **Senoreita Gomes**

Siddhi Agarwal

Sidhi Oswal



INTERHOUSE DRAMATICS

8 December

Animators: Ms Bindu

Judges: Fr Blany, Fr Godfrey & Fr Ranson

Winners

Std V-VII: **Yellow House**

Red & Green House

Blue House





SPELL BEE

8 September

Theme: Enhancing Vocabulary

Animators: Ms Jasmine

Winners

- Std V: Ashton Dantes
Amog Purohit
- Std VI: Hamza Mir
Shourya Chaudhary
- Std VIII: Antonio Britto
Hrugved Gavhane
- Std IX: Vismay Chanduruthi
Ajitpal Singh Mathadu
- Std XI: Dishon Siddhapur
Mahek Kohli
Priyanshu Rai & Bhoomika Pathania
- Std XII: Sanjana Purohit



ENGLISH ELOCUTION

27 August

Animators: Ms Bindu, Ms Jasmine & Ms Marina

Judges: Fr Ranson, Fr Joyston, Br Jansen, Br Ambrose,
Ms Rosy, Ms Preethi & Ms Bindu

Winners

- Std V: Ashton Dantes
Naitik Desai
- Std VI: Hamza Mir & Shineil Mathias
Malhar Kale
- Std VII: Arush Deshmukh
Rounak Diwakar
- Std VIII: Joechrist Fernandes
Soham Gaikwad
- Std IX: Chaitanya Bodke
Ishmith Singh Mathadu & Omkar Ranawade
- Std X: Ajinkya Parkhe
Meet Rathwa
- Std XI: Rhudvi Padwal
Senoreita Gomes
- Std XII: Sheryl Zacahariah
Inshara Shaikh



MARATHI ELOCUTION

1 October

Animators: Ms Sushma & Mr Dinesh

Judges: Mr Rajesh, Ms Vrushali

Winners

- Std V-VII: Naitik Desai
Sarathak Deshmukh & Ishan Tare
Ashton Dantes
- Std VIII: Soham Gaikwad
Hrugved Gavhane & Johann Fernandes
Joechrist Fernandes
- Std IX: Omkar Ranawade
Chaitanya Bodke
- Std X: Tejas Kulkarni
Daksh Shetty & Ketan Patil
Josiah Magar



SINGING COMPETITION

24 September

Animators: Ms Asgari

Judges: Ms Erika, Fr Ranson & Fr Joyston

Winners

- Std V-VII: Ashton Dantes
Shineil Mathias
Arush Deshmukh
- Std VIII-X: Macbeth Aranha
Preet Oswal
Dillon Falcao & Ajinkya Parkhe
- Std XI-XII: Senoreita Gomes, Zara Khan & Anuj Mandoriya
Sanamaria Stephen
Swithin Mendis




SCIENCE EXHIBITION

10 December

Animators: Ms Vrushali, Ms Kiran & Ms Priya

Judges: Ms Smita, Ms Qaafiya & Mr William

Winners

Std V-VII: Ashton Dantes

Asir Khalifa

Ronak Diwakar

Std VIII-X: Swanand Bhosale

Omkar Ranawade

Antonio Britto and Group

Std XI-XII: Mahek Kohli and Group

Priyanshu Rai and Group

Dishon Siddapur

Best-out-of Waste: Dhanashree Date

Siya Rego

Akhter Pathan




INVESTITURE

16 July



BIRTHDAY: FR VELASLI

30 August



TEACHERS' DAY

3 September



PRAYER SERVICE

18 October



TEACHERS' TRAINING

9 June



BIRTHDAY: FR RANSON

28 October




REOPENING DAY

15 June



CHILDREN'S DAY

15 November



YOGA DAY

21 June



BIRTHDAY: FR BLANY

7 December



ELECTIONS

29 June



CHRISTMAS SYMPOSIUM

22 December



Reading Hosseini

Book: The Kite Runner (324 pages approx.)

Time Taken: 15 days

Storyline: The novel is set in the 1970s in Afghanistan. It is a story about a boy, Amir, and his servant friend, both of whom are like flying kites. An incident however shatters their lives. With the invasion of the Russians, Amir's family has to flee to America. When he returns to Afghanistan later, the country is under the Taliban rule. This novel portrays that while betrayal and hatred is rampant in society, loyalty and love brings about miraculous changes.

Personal Opinion: The book is simply fantastic. It describes the struggle to live life under the rule of terror. It made me emotional many a times. However, hope and happiness finds its way throughout the story. It is the story of life! The book is interesting because of the ups and downs in the storyline. **My Rating:** 4/5

Book: A Thousand Splendid Suns (414 pages approx.)

Time Taken: a month

Storyline: The novel is set between the 1960s, and steadily takes you into the Afghanistan of the 1990s. There are two female protagonists in the story: Mariam and Laila. Though coming from different places and even different generations, the two women have their fate intertwined. It is a story of pain, of struggle and finally redemption. Of course, we get a glimpse of life of the commoners under the Taliban rule of which Khaled Hosseini has been good at describing.

Personal Opinion: I had read this book during the recent re-taking of Afghanistan by the Taliban. It was simply unstoppable. Hosseini has beautifully written, and I felt as though I was walking in the shoes of these characters. One cannot but feel strongly emotional about the way life comes for the protagonists of the novel. It is indeed a story of how sacrifice is necessary to sustain joy and hope, and the power of love which overcomes fear. **My Rating:** 4.5/5

Book: And the Mountains Echoed (402 pages approx.)

Time Taken: a month

Storyline: The novel is also set in Afghanistan. It is about a brother who will do anything to make his sister happy. In a life of poverty and struggle with no mother to take care of them, their father takes his children across the desert for work. The novel explores the meaning of sacrifice. Hosseini takes us across generations and continents as he continues to narrate this magical story. He speaks of the ways in which we help our loved ones in need, how the choices we make resonate through history, and how we are often surprised by the people closest to us.

Personal Opinion: I had read this book right after reading 'A Thousand Splendid Suns'. This is another heartbreaking, powerful story: a story of love, sacrifice, exile and compassion. The book did drag on here and there, but overall it is a story worth a read. The characters in this book blossom as they slowly unfold across the pages. **My Rating:** 4/5

Gladnick Baa (XII Com)
Rex Menezes (XI Com)





India at Tokyo

For more than a century, India has been participating in Olympics. Recently in 2020 Olympic games (held in 2021) India got its highest tally i.e. seven medals (1 Gold, 2 Silver, 3 Bronze). Let us see the more information of players who participated this year and won medals for India. We can also learn from them and for achieve success in which ever field we are!

NEERAJ CHOPRA

Chopra was born on 24 December 1997 who serves in the Army. Even from the young age of 12, he was interested in javelin throw. On 7 August, the last day of the Tokyo Olympics, the country was glued to the television as Neeraj threw the javelin 87.58 meters, and bagged the gold for India.

SAIKHOM MIRABAI CHANU

She was born on 8 August 1994 in a small village of Manipur. She used to practice weight lifting ever since she was 12. People laughed at her for being female weightlifter. On 24 July, she won the silver in the 49kg category.

RAVI KUMAR DHAIYA

Born on 12 December 1997, Ravi dreamt of becoming a wrestler. He used to practice *kusti*, and progressed from practicing in *akada* to professional mat. Finally on 5 August, he grabbed the silver, missing the gold by just a point. He won in under 57kg category.

BAJARANG PANIA

He was born on 26 February 1994 in Haryana. He is the only Indian wrestler to win 3 medals at

the World Wrestling Championships. He won the Bronze for India in 65kg men's category.

P.V. SINDU

P.V. Sindu former champion of 2016 Olympic games, was born on 5 July 1995 in Hyderabad. She was passionate about badminton, and proved herself by winning the silver medal at Rio. At the Tokyo Olympics, she won the bronze medal.

LOVLINA BORGHAIN

Lovlina hails from Assam, and was born on 2 October 1997. She won the bronze for boxing in the 69kg category.

INDIAN HOCKEY TEAM

After 41 years, the Indian Hockey Team with their excellent performance grabbed the bronze medal. The team was led by Manpreet Singh, and coached by Graham Reid.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THEM?

What we see is the athlete climbing onto the podium, receiving the medal. What we do not see is the hours of hard work, put in day in and day out for months in order to reach the hallowed stage of competing in the Olympics.

It is also a matter of discipline which the athletes need to imbibe. Without focus and dedication to their rigorous exercises, diet and practice, they cannot dream of participating at an event where the world is watching them carry the hopes and the name of the country upon their shoulders.

Chaitanya Bodke (IX)





Jakow Trachtenberg

It was about the time when the Second World War was going on, and in those troubled times, the Nazis captured a Russian Engineer and sent him to a Concentration Camp. To keep himself busy, this prisoner developed a Fast Mental Calculation System or a kind of Speed Maths, which could make calculations really easy and fast. The name of this prisoner was Jakow Trachtenberg and that version of speed Maths devised by him is popularly called as Trachtenberg System.

Jakow Trachtenberg was a Russian Jewish Engineer who was born in Odessa (in today's Ukraine). He graduated from the famous Berginstitut (Mining Engineering Institute) of St Petersburg. He joined the world-renowned Obukhov Arms Factory as a student-engineer, and even while he was in his only twenties he was named as the Chief Engineer.

He was a dedicated pacifist, and during the First World War, Trachtenberg was instrumental in organising a society of Good Samaritans which trained students to care for the wounded soldiers and his good work was acknowledged by the Czar Nicholas II. Then, in 1918 Imperial Family was murdered, and communists got hold of the Russian



Empire. After this, he escaped to Berlin by walking through the night, and hiding through the day. He felt nostalgic in Berlin as it always reminded him of the city, St Petersburg. There he became popular as an expert on Russian Affairs.

He compiled the first reference book on the Russian industry.

When Hitler became the chancellor of Germany, Trachtenberg dared to criticise his fascist methods. Considering the threat on his life he moved to Vienna, where he became the editor of a scientific periodical. There he wrote *Das Friedensministerium* (the ministry of peace) and this brought him praise from people like Roosevelt and Masaryk.

The annexation of Austria by Hitler forced him to move to Yugoslavia. At last, the Nazis caught him, and took him to a concentration camp.

He spent seven years of his life there. Even while he was in the prison he kept working on numbers all the time. As pen and paper were not easily available to him he kept doing most of this calculations in his mind. He began to visualise numbers, and started doing calculations mentally, and in this process he created an effective and accurate method that would make it easy for even a kid to execute big numbers without making a mistake. Even today one can use his methods and can do calculations without using pen and paper, which is actual beauty of the Trachtenberg System.

Jakow Trachtenberg later became the Founder of the Mathematical Institute in Zurich, Switzerland. He was of the firm opinion that everyone comes into the world with 'phenomenal calculation possibilities'. He died in 1953. Recently in a Hollywood Movie 'Gifted', Trachtenberg System got a mention and many people also started exploring about it.

Ms Preethi D'Silva





Billie Eilish

Billie Eilish Pirate Baird O'Connell is a nineteen-year-old American singer-songwriter, born in Los Angeles, California, who started her career in 2015 by debuting her first song "Ocean Eyes" at the age of fifteen. Billie Eilish has won several awards and has been the youngest person ever to win a Grammy.

Billie Eilish was born in a wealthy family and has found her interest in music. At the age of 8, she joined the choir, and at the age of 11, she started writing and singing her own songs. Finneas O'Connell, her elder brother, was her biggest influence in her life. He had his own band, and wrote a song titled "Ocean Eyes" that Billie Eilish performed and released it online which brought her into the world of music. Later, her brother helped her to record a single "Bellyache" and with the success that followed, Billie continued her career in music.

Even though as successful it might seem there were some dark times where Billie suffered the most. At the age of 13, Billie suffered from depression when she badly injured her hip at her dance class that left her unable to continue dancing. In few interviews, she had expressed her thoughts when she was in depression - "It sent me down a hole." She said. "I went through a whole self-harming phase — we don't have to go into it. But, the gist of it was, I felt like I deserved to be in pain."

As she gained success in her career and music, the outside world did not know the suffering Billie was going through inside. "It's funny when anyone else thinks about Billie Eilish at 14, they think of all the good things that happened," she said. "But all I can think of is how miserable I was. How completely distraught and confused. Thirteen to sixteen was pretty rough."

Eilish's expression tells us that no matter how successful and happy a person may seem on screen, that doesn't mean they have no problems or difficulties in life. No one is perfect in life, and no



one has a perfect life: everyone has their own share of difficulty because that's what life is.

Billie Eilish is a whole different singer than the others, that's why we all love her for her uniqueness. She is a type of person who does not follow the crowd, but instead swims against the current, and with her achieving her goals at a young age she indeed let the world recognize her. That is not all, she captured the hearts of many young people with her songs, her dressing sense and her personality.

Her song 'I love you' is one of the deepest, heart touching song that will perhaps make one cry. It is a soft song speaking about the struggles of someone in a relationship telling their significant other that they love them, and the other feeling scared about her feelings towards him.

Sanamaria Stephen (XI Com)



the SYM Lonavla

SYM

The Salesian Youth Movement comprises groups and associations which accept the Salesian spirituality and pedagogy. As a movement “of young people for young people,” it brings together young people from every kind of background. While remaining autonomous in organizational and operational terms, young people are animated to have a meaningful experience of life.

SYM DBL

This movement in Don Bosco’s comprises of its past and current pupils – a group called ‘Bosco Friends’ - who are familiar with the Salesian spirituality and pedagogy and have been animated into having a meaningful experience of life through various activities.

VISION

Integral holistic development of the young in Don Bosco Lonavla aiming towards being Good Human Beings and Upright Citizens.

MISSION

Reaching out to the young through the Preventive System and Salesian Youth Spirituality and thereby awakening their sense of God, proposing to them ways to holiness and encouraging them to contribute positively to society and nature.



**OBJECTIVES**

- To offer opportunities for integral and holistic development.
- To impart the significance of being good human beings and upright citizens.
- To give an experiences of connecting with God and Others.
- To develop in them a sense of social responsibility and care for nature.

LATEST ACTIVITY

The DBL Bosco Friends organized a Winter Thrill S1:E1 for the students of the school on November 27, 2021. Following are some of their learnings from the experience.

LEARNINGS

Being a part of the SYM Bosco Friends in Don Bosco's is a joy for me. Apart from the fun and frolic I got to learn a couple of new things. Being part of the organizing team I have learnt how to go about planning and executing the plan together in a team. Through the event I had the opportunity to practice fairness, equality, inclusion, perseverance, respect and discipline. I wish always to be part of Bosco Friends and I am looking forward to the next event.

Siddhi Oswal (XII Com)

SYM was something totally new to be part of for us. Organizing an event gave us a first-hand experience and an opportunity to be leaders. It gave us a sense of pride at the same time encouraged us to give our best. The best learnings that we received is to be prompt in taking action with the ability to improvise and be flexible when dealing with situations and unforeseen circumstances. Evaluating the event also revealed how things could have been done better which we will surely consider for our next event.

Inshara Shaikh (XII Sci)

Diya Patwa (XII Sci)

As an SYM leader bring me great joy as there are some many things you get to do and learn. Getting involved in meetings, planning, preparing together as friends, organizing an event as a team and sitting to evaluate was a journey which enriched my personal life as an individual. I realized looking back at what we have accomplished that the little things that we enjoyed we actually the big things which I will always lovingly remember.

Shravani Kachare (XII Com)



So, stay tuned to the SYM of Don Bosco Lonavla. We are to bring you many more activities in the coming months.

Maseera Shaikh (XII Sci)

Swithin Mendis (XII Sci)





Memories







Infotainment

IF YOU THINK YOU ARE TOO SMALL
TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE,
TRY SLEEPING WITH A MOSQUITO.
DALAI LAMA

REMEMBER, TODAY IS THE TOMORROW
YOU WORRIED ABOUT YESTERDAY.
DALE CARNEGIE

UNTIL THE LIONS LEARNS HOW TO WRITE,
THE HISTORY OF THE HUNT
WILL ALWAYS GLORIFY THE HUNTER..
CHINUA ACHEBE

AGE IS AN ISSUE OF MIND OVER MATTER.
IF YOU DON'T MIND, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
MARK TWAIN

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE IT TOUGH,
READ HISTORY BOOKS.
BILL MAHER

A WISE MAN NEVER KNOWS ALL.
ONLY A FOOL KNOWS EVERYTHING.
AFRICAN PROVERB

HARD WORK SPOTLIGHTS THE CHARACTER OF PEOPLE:
SOME TURN UP THEIR SLEEVES, SOME TURN UP THEIR NOSES,
AND SOME DON'T TURN UP AT ALL.
SAM EWING



Study
the act of texting, eating and
watching TV with a textbook
open nearby

FUNNY
DEFINITIONS

Clapping
repeatedly high-fiving
yourself for someone else's
accomplishments

FUNNY
DEFINITIONS

Sibling
you would give them your
kidney but you wouldn't allow
them to borrow your charger

FUNNY
DEFINITIONS

Irony
drawing trees
on paper

FUNNY
DEFINITIONS

Never Mind
you were too stupid to
understand the first time,
so I give up explaining

FUNNY
DEFINITIONS

Cellfish
people who focus on their
phones while hanging out
with you

FUNNY
DEFINITIONS

Education
never confuse it with
intelligence: you can have a
degree and still be an idiot

FUNNY
DEFINITIONS

Best Friend
roast you on your face,
and defend you
behind your back

FUNNY
DEFINITIONS

Brain
something we all have
but most do not use

FUNNY
DEFINITIONS

English Teachers
people who put more
thought into the novel than
the original authors ever did.

FUNNY
DEFINITIONS





THE MANAGEMENT OF DON BOSCO, LONAVLA 2021-22



THE STAFF AND MANAGEMENT OF
DON BOSCO LONAVLA
WISHES YOU

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

