



DOON SCHOOL

SRINAGAR

MAY EDITION : VOLUME 2.1

Under the aegis of Wilmot Foundation



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR DAY CELEBRATION

On 1st May 2024, Doon School Srinagar as a poignant reminder of the hard work celebrated International Labour Day and dedication of the school's janitors, with a heartwarming event that paid maintenance workers, gardeners, and tribute to the school's support staff. The other essential personnel. function, held in the school's auditorium, Senior students took to the stage to was filled with gratitude and deliver speeches, expressing their deep appreciation as students and staff came appreciation for the support staff's together to honour the unsung heroes unwavering commitment to the school. who work tirelessly to keep the school They spoke about the staff's honesty, running smoothly. diligence, and the positive impact they The event began with a solemn Dua, have on the school community. setting the tone for a day filled with The senior students shared personal respect and reverence. Following this, stories of how the support staff had students from LPD performed a series of helped them during their time at Doon plays and skits, each designed to School, emphasizing that their efforts highlight the important roles that the often go unnoticed but are deeply support staff play in the daily life of the valued. school. These performances not only entertained the audience but also served

CROSS COUNTRY RUN



The picturesque banks of Dal Lake set the stage for an exhilarating cross-country run, organized for students spanning from grades 3 to 12. With the dat just beginning to bloom, the race kicked off promptly at 6:15 in the morning from Habak Chowk, amidst a backdrop of serene beauty. In the 3 to 5 grade girls' category, Mahreen Nazir from grade 3rd C, representing House Hoopoes, clinched the top position, followed closely by Toiba Lone and Aisha Tanveer, both from 3rd C, house Hoopoes. For the boys in the same age group, Nabeel from 3rd D of house Falcon soared to victory, with Zuhaan from 4th

B, house Hoopoes and Sehbaan from 5th D, house Mallards securing the second and third positions respectively. Moving on to the 6 to 8 grades category, Reesh a from grade 8th , representing H o u s e Falcon, led the girls' division to triumph, with Suzain

from grade 7th B Mallards and Aleena from 6 B Teals claiming the second and third spots. In the boys' division of the same age group, Nabeel and Murtaza, both from grade 8th B, house Falcon, clinched the first and second positions, while Zaid Turk, from grade 8th B H o o p o e s

secured the third spot. Stepping up to the 9th to 12th grade category, Sandleen from grade 9A Hopoes dominated the girls' race, followed by Tazkiya from 11th grade Mallards and Daniya, the sports captain from grade 11th. In the boys' category of the same age group, Sheikh Saieed and Faizan Ali, both from grade 10A Teals, claimed the first and third positions respectively, with Adnan Nazir from grade 10 A Hopoes securing the second spot.



INVESTITURE CEREMONY

The Investiture Ceremony at Doon School Srinagar held on May 8th was a profound occasion that reverberated with pride and promise.

The ceremony commenced with the solemn Torch Ceremony, and the unfurling of the school flag, symbolizing the passing of leadership

and the illumination of a new journey ahead. The atmosphere buzzed with excitement as each house paraded with

precision and unity, showcasing their allegiance and commitment. Amidst the ceremonial grandeur, heartfelt prayers resonated through the

halls, echoing the hopes and aspirations of the school community. The stage came alive with vibrant performances, from the dynamic Ball

Drill to the graceful Dumbles Exercise adorned with ribbons and flowers, each act a testament to the students' talent and dedication.

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VIRTUAL MEETING WITH DIRECTOR OF WILMOT FOUNDATION



Doon School, Srinagar had the privilege of engaging in a virtual meeting with Ms. Sanne, Director of the Wilmot Foundation. The meeting commenced with warm introductions from the dedicated staff members. The esteemed Chairman led a comprehensive discussion on the school's curriculum and infrastructure, highlighting the commitment to provide a top-notch educational experience. Exciting plans were unveiled that included Doon School's delving into the upcoming activities, meticulously aligning each endeavor with the noble mission of the Wilmot Foundation. Constructive feedback and invaluable suggestions were exchanged regarding the Green School Bali, demonstrating the commitment to environmental sustainability. In line with the School's dedication to professional development, plans for an upcoming online training program aimed at nurturing the teachers' holistic growth were announced. To provide Ms. Sanne with an immersive experience, a virtual tour of the school campus was thoughtfully arranged. As the meeting drew to a close, we expressed our heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Sanne for her time and invaluable insights. We eagerly anticipate translating our discussions into actionable plans and ensuring prompt follow-up on all agreed-upon initiatives.

MOTHERS' DAY SPECIAL



Doon School Srinagar celebrated infact was heartwarming and left many Mother's Day on 17th May as a tribute to teachers as well as students in tears. all mothers who sacrifice their lives for As a token of appreciation, a special their children. Mothers' Day card was given to each A special assembly was conducted by teacher starting from the respected vice the students of house Teals in which the principal and followed by the co- role of a mother and her love for her ordinator Ms. Shabnam. It was a children was beautifully depicted. heartfelt experience. The choir sang a melodious song which

INTER-SCHOOL ZONAL COMPETITION - 2024



We are thrilled to announce that our talented students have brought laurels to Doon School - Srinagar (DSS) by winning multiple medals at the Inter-School U14/17/19 Zonal Competition 2024-2025, organized by the Zonal Physical Education Officer, Batamalo. The event featured a variety of competitions including Chess, Table Tennis, and Basketball. Medal Winners: Chess: Zayeem (Grade VII) - Bronze Table Tennis: Maheem Aijaz (Grade VII) - Silver, Azra (Grade XII) - Silver Basketball (U-14 Girls Category): Heartiest congratulations to Mufti Fajar, Mannat, Syed Zara, Aayesha Yaseen and Sukhara for their selection to the Inter-School District Level! Basketball (U-17 Boys and Girls): In basketball, our U-17 boys and girls teams displayed outstanding talent. Heartiest congratulations to Hazik Bin Afzal, Peerzada Haadi, Hasaan, and Mohd Fajar in the boys' category, and Nimra and Binnat in the girls' category, for their selection to the Inter-School District Level. Table Tennis: In table tennis, Yahya Rather (Grade IX) and Rehaan Naseer (Grade XI) clinched Gold medals, while Mohd Abass (Grade XII) earned a Silver medal. Their hard work and dedication have truly paid off. We are incredibly proud of our students' hard work and dedication. Their achievements reflect the excellence and competitive spirit of DSS. Keep shining and making us proud!

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY

On International Museum Day, 18th May 2024, the students of Doon School visited Srinagar's SPS museum, highlighting the crucial role that cultural institutions play in delivering a comprehensive educational experience. This day underscores the importance of fostering a sustainable, conscious, and inclusive world. The event saw the jury & audience enthusiastically applauding the Doon students for their exceptional presentation, which aimed to enlighten society and emphasize the significance of cultural awareness and education. The showcase by the Doonians were met with great admiration, reflecting their commitment to promoting a deeper understanding of cultural heritage and its impact on holistic learning.

FRIDAY ACTIVITY-1

On 25th of April, Students from LPD creative one can be by just looking at made and drew plants on their charts something and defining it on a piece of making them imagine and understand paper. Students engaged in this activity about various plants and showing how with Fun and Creativity at its finest.

WORKSHOP ON CAMBRIDGE APPROACHES & ATTRIBUTES

We are thrilled to share insights from our recent training session led by Ms. Achama Mathew that focused on the Cambridge educational frameworks and attributes. Understanding "Cambridge": "Cambridge" refers to the educational frameworks developed by Cambridge Assessment International Education, designed to equip students with essential skills and knowledge through a global curriculum. 'Learning Stages and Pathways': The session covered the various learning stages in the Cambridge curriculum. Primary: Foundation level focusing on core subjects. Lower Secondary: Expanding on



primary education with a broader subject range. scheme was introduced to organize and

Upper Secondary: Preparation for IGCSE / GCSE examinations. Advanced: Advanced level qualifications like Cambridge International AS and A Levels. These stages ensure a clear progression pathway, providing a cohesive learning experience. 'Colour Coding Scheme': A colour coding differentiate curriculum components, aiding in lesson planning, resource allocation, and enhancing visual understanding. 'Scheme of Work': The "Scheme of Work" outlines content, learning objectives, activities, assessment methods, and required resources, ensuring structured and efficient teaching. 'Curriculum Frameworks': These frameworks provide a structured outline of essential learning, ensuring consistency, alignment with international benchmarks, and comprehensive subject coverage. 'Use of Activities': Activities are crucial in the Cambridge approach, promoting active learning, critical thinking, and practical application of knowledge. 'Metacognition': Metacognition, or thinking about thinking, encourages students to reflect on their learning, develop effective strategies, and enhance self-awareness and independent learning. 'Resource Book Utilization': The resource book is an invaluable tool in the Cambridge educational framework, supporting structured and effective teaching.

HOUSE BOARD DECORATION



On May 22nd , Students started showing decorated board in the premises, but their creativity by decorating the boards surely, the winner is always One, so of their respective houses on the topic of everyone gave their best. S.T.E.M, i.e: Science, Technology, At last the boards were looking filled Engineering, Mathematics. with creativity and the dedication Every house did their best for decorating of Students. their house Boards to the best, and 14 achieve the title of the best and well

FRIDAY ACTIVITY-2

On May 31st , Students from the LPD giving rise to curiosity in their minds. had a fun day. They learned how to make Students enjoyed the whole day with a lemonade, learned how to craft things teachers, and teachers engaged with the from just a piece of paper and many students throughout the day and more things. appreciated each and every little effort Many students this way can get the best they would put in. out of their thinking and creativity



EDUCATIONAL TRIP TO BURZAHAMA

On May 18, students from Doon School Srinagar enjoyed an exciting day at Burzahama, an ancient archaeological site in the picturesque Kashmir Valley. They explored mud-brick houses and

ancient tools, with guides bringing history to life through fascinating stories about Neolithic people. The lush green fields and stunning mountain views added to the enchantment of the experience.

The trip was a perfect mix of learning and fun. Students had a picnic, participated in group games, and bonded amidst the beautiful scenery. This memorable outing not only

deepened their appreciation for history but also provided a wonderful opportunity to create lasting memories with friends.

DIPLOMACY INITIATIVES MODEL UNITED NATIONS (DIMUN)



Highlights from DIMUN held at Doon school Srinagar on 25th and 26th May, 2024: We had an incredible experience at the Diplomacy Initiatives Model United Nations (DIMUN) in Srinagar! This

year, our youth-run organization provided an amazing platform for young minds to engage in critical discussions and develop their diplomatic skills. Hosted at the beautiful Doon School

Srinagar, DIMUN 2024 featured six dynamic committees: 1. International Press (IP) 2. United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) 3. United Nations Human Rights

Council (UNHRC) 4. Anime (First of its kind!) 5. Lok Sabha 6. JKPP Jammu & Kashmir Political Party Meet (JKPPM) Each committee brought forth lively

debates and insightful resolutions, reflecting the passion and commitment of our delegates. From tackling global issues to exploring creative scenarios, DIMUN 2024 showcased the power of youth in

shaping our future. Thank you to everyone who participated and made this event a success.



CAREER COUNSELLING SESSION

Doon School Srinagar organised a comprehensive career counselling session for students of grade IX to XII on April 22, 2024 in the auditorium. The session was conducted by a team of career counsellors from leading universities of the world with a vast experience in the education sector.

Ms. Life Kadamba Ilunga, the International Enrollment Counselor from Boise State

University Idaho, along with Manasi Dedhar, Program Manager at San Mateo County Community College District, Blair McElroy, Senior International Officer at the University of Mississippi, and Richa Agarwal, Country Manager for guidance and recruitment in India at Bocconi University, comprised the esteemed panel, spearheaded by Mr. Girish Ballola.

The session fostered an

environment of interaction and information exchange, allowing students to articulate their career aspirations and address concerns related to admissions, available programs, and scholarship opportunities offered by the participating universities. It served as a platform for students to gain valuable insights and guidance for their academic pursuits and future endeavors.

REFLECTING ON MY JOURNEY AS ACTIVITY COORDINATOR AT DOON SCHOOL SRINAGAR

Reflecting on My Journey as Activity Coordinator at Doon School Srinagar: INTRODUCTION:

Serving as the Activity Coordinator at Doon School Srinagar has been an enriching and transformative experience, both professionally and personally.

This role has allowed me to explore my leadership capabilities, foster creativity, and contribute to the holistic development of students. Here's a reflection on my journey and the key experiences that have shaped my tenure in this position.

EMBRACING LEADERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY:

Taking on the role of Activity Coordinator involved embracing a leadership position that required meticulous planning and coordination. From organizing inter-school competitions to planning annual events, every task demanded a blend of creativity, organizational skills, and team management. The responsibility of ensuring that activities aligned with the school's educational objectives while being engaging for the students

was both challenging and rewarding. FOSTERING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT:

One of the most fulfilling aspects of this role has been witnessing the enthusiasm and talent of the students. Whether it was a debate competition, a cultural festival, or a sports event, each activity offered students an opportunity to showcase their skills and passions.

My role was to ensure that these activities were well-organized and that students had the support they needed to excel. Seeing students grow in confidence and capability through these events was incredibly satisfying.

COLLABORATION AND TEAMWORK:

Effective teamwork was crucial to the success of the various activities and events. Collaborating with teachers, administrative staff, and students helped in creating a cohesive plan that addressed all aspects of the events. This collaboration not only ensured smooth execution but also fostered a sense of community within the school. Working together with such a

dedicated team made the challenges more manageable and the successes more meaningful.

CREATIVITY IN EVENT PLANNING:

Planning and executing activities required a great deal of creativity. From designing themes and concepts to handling logistics and problem-solving on the go, each event presented its unique set of challenges. Balancing traditional practices with innovative ideas was key to making each event memorable and impactful. This creative aspect of the job kept me engaged and constantly thinking outside the box.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH:

The role of Activity Coordinator has significantly contributed to my personal and professional growth. It has honed my skills in leadership, project management, and communication. Managing multiple tasks and navigating through unexpected challenges have taught me valuable lessons in resilience and adaptability.

Moreover, the opportunity to mentor students and work closely with a diverse group of individuals has enriched my understanding of educational dynamics.

CONCLUSION:

Reflecting on my experience as the Activity Coordinator at Doon School Srinagar, I am filled with a sense of accomplishment and gratitude. The role has provided me with invaluable experiences and has allowed me to contribute meaningfully to the school community.

As I move forward, I carry with me the lessons learned and the memories made, eager to apply them in future accomplishments.

Warm Regards
Ms. Summaya Tareen



HEALTH CAMP

On May 2nd, 2024, Doon School Srinagar, in collaboration with Ujala Cygnus Hospital Nowgam, organized an extensive general medical camp specifically for the school's lower Primary Department (LPD) students. This initiative aimed to promote and ensure the comprehensive health and well-being of our students, emphasizing not only their physical health but also their emotional and cognitive development.

The camp was led by Dr. Zarak Jan, a renowned pediatrician, who, along with his dedicated team from Ujala Cygnus Hospital, conducted thorough medical assessments.

The event was seamlessly organized on the school's premises, providing a safe and familiar environment for students to undergo health evaluations and receive valuable medical advice.

The collaboration between Doon School Srinagar and Ujala Cygnus Hospital highlights our shared commitment to nurturing the overall growth and development of our students.

This initiative serves as a testament to our ongoing efforts to support every aspect of our students' well-being, ensuring they have the resources and support they need to thrive academically and personally.



GOOD HEALTH

Oh dear! I wish for a good health ,
as it is the most precious wealth.

Doctors ask money for a treatment of a day or two,
that's to God who took care of us with care which is true .

Oh dear! I wish for a good health .

It's everything a man wants ,
it's about what everyone would like to flaunt .

Oh dear! I wish for a good health,
as it is the most precious wealth.

Yes, I'm taking care of myself because
I don't want medicines on myself .

Ofcourse , health is the most precious asset,
taking care of it will have a good outlet .

It adds onto your age,
it's what makes everyone engaged .
With it you need to be a bit wise,

and gradually it will make you rise.

Oh dear! I wish for a good health,
as it is the most precious wealth.

- Hazika Tanveer (VII B)



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Technology is the study of scientific knowledge in order to create tools and process that may be used to change world by increasing efficiency in nearly every aspect of our lives. Technology is something that helps us to make a process simpler, easier and faster.

Earlier people used to collect wheat with their hands. Now machines like harvesters are used. This makes work easier and faster also. Wheat has to be grinded first to make it into rotis and chapati. Azla (VIIA)

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Ensure children understand and follow these school bus safety rules:

- Arrive early: Be at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus arrives.
- Stay visible: Stand at least three giant steps away from the curb.

before crossing the street, and always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you. By integrating these practices into your routine, you can create a healthier and safer environment for yourself and others.



- Board safely: Wait for the bus to stop completely and the driver's signal before boarding.
- Sit properly: Sit facing forward, keep the aisles clear, and listen to the driver.
- Exit carefully: Look both ways

Stay proactive and prioritize your health and safety every day. - SHADAB (XI)



Any health and safety strategy should naturally focus on those who are most at risk. Safeguarding the health and safety of workers is a concern for us all. These

analysis based on clear and transport guidance should help to improve the legal situation and common policy as regards to health and safety. -Qubra (VIC)



It is important to recall that science and technologies are two of the most interrelated fields because they are the foundation for making changes for the better. Science is a way to know the nature, the physical, biological and social phenomena by observing the events and conditions and conducting experiments to draw conclusions that can assist in increasing the

understanding of the universe. Science, however, is characterized as an organized and systematic form of knowledge aimed at discovering, sharing, and circulation of knowledge that has been generated through research in a bid to provide answers to questions or enhance the quality of life. Here one can point out those works where both the science and the technologies are met: For instance, in the field of physics;

advancement in understanding quantum physics has led to discovery of quantum computing. Similarly, more research in the area of biotechnology is enhancing the medical profession through the introduction of new therapies and treatment options that are tailored to an individual's needs. Innovations which occur as a result of the advancement in the technology produce a number of areas for

scientific research, thereby giving rise to the cycle of innovation. It remains depended and active that this relationship can help and further improve humanity in areas that consist of the Artificial Intelligent's, space findings, among others. -Haadi Wani (XI)

HEALTH SAFETY



Maintaining health and safety is crucial for our well-being. Here are some essential tips to keep you and your loved ones safe and healthy:

STAY HYDRATED: Drink at least eight glasses of water a day to support bodily functions and manage weight.

REGULAR EXERCISE: Incorporate 30 minutes of physical

activity daily to boost physical and mental health.

BALANCED DIET: Eat a variety of fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, and whole grains. Avoid excessive processed foods, sugar, and unhealthy fats.

ADEQUATE SLEEP: Aim for 7-9 hours of quality sleep each night to support your immune system and overall health.

STRESS MANAGEMENT: Practice meditation, deep-breathing exercises, or hobbies to relieve stress. Seek professional help if needed.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS: Follow safety guidelines, use protective gear, and maintain safety equipment like smoke detectors and first aid kits.

PREVENTIVE HEALTHCARE: Regular check-ups and screenings are vital for early detection of health issues. Stay up-to-date with vaccinations.

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS: Foster positive relationships for better mental health and emotional support.

CREATIVE CORNER

Whispers of the Night

In the velvet of night, stars softly gleam,
Whispers of dreams in a silvery stream,
Moonlight dances on the quiet sea,
Bringing forth secrets, wild and free.
Beneath the boughs, where shadows play,
A nightingale sings its soulful lay,
Each note a tale of love and lore,
Echoing softly on the shore.
The breeze caresses the willow's hair,
Filling the night with a fragrant air,
In this tranquil, starry embrace,
Time slows down, leaving no trace.

Nafiah (XI)

Failure

Failures are the pillars of success
There are many examples in history,
to prove what this proverb says to us.
Failure is not fatal like
it can be the
stepping stone to success.

Sana Bahar (X B)

Not A Curse

Stars adorn the night to
catch your gaze, In their
brilliance, a dance of
cosmic praise. The wind,
it whispers, caresses your
hair, Oh, how I wish to
be its fleeting air.
Yet, in darkness, a sanctuary I find,
A shield from your dark
spark, unkind Amidst
pain's grasp, lessons I've
been taught, Grateful for
the growth that pain has
brought.
Anxiety, a conduit for
tears held fast, Emotions
are released, liberated at
last. Depression's trial,
forging courage strong,
Within its depths, I found
where I belong.

Haadi Dar (X-B)

Lost Voices Of Truth

Since we were little, we
learned to apologize, for
things we didn't do, a sad
compromise.
Be it elders or parents we
face, Taking blame, even
if it's not our case.
Mistakes not ours, yet we must agree,
Saying sorry, though our hearts disagree.
With parents, we can't
reason or defend, even if
we try, it's sorry we must
send.

Haadi Dar (X-B)

Filled Marks Card

They never valued my emotions,
Their priorities are like positions.
All they want is a filled marks card
Oh God, why is the world so fraud.
Unworthy and unlucky they call me
Like dark nightmares that haunt me.
They spit on my entity;
they doubt my dignity.
They call my existence a curse,
oh lord, what could be worse?
They see me as an awful Satin.
Oh lord, why don't they see my pain?

Khayriyyah Kaiser (VIII)

For All I Care

In the misery of life,
You try to find one fine line
Of friendship, love and care
Though it latter shatters You fear,
For you are no controllers
To do anything All you can do,
Is sit back and tear,
The pity rolls down the cheek,
Ever so slowly
You can't help but
Sigh, and live in the misery of life.

Arwa (X -A)

Hearts Are Fragile

Those fragile hearts Grew distant,
Hour by hour, as the
time passed and things
changed.
As to for one
The heart remained unbothered
As to for the other one
It shattered,
Small little tiny pieces
Getting searched by the broken
Pieces of souls turned into puzzles
And they tried to fix it,
The memories of it, stayed
Longer than wanted as
to for them, they
flaunted the happiness
Broken pieces of them
nonetheless.

Arwa (X A)

THE ROOM 204

Haadi Khan was an ordinary 11th grader at Crestwood High, known for his quiet demeanor and impeccable grades. His life took a turn into the extraordinary when he stumbled upon a secret that would challenge everything he believed about his school. It all started one crisp autumn afternoon. Haadi was studying in the school library when he found an old, dusty book wedged between some outdated encyclopedias. The book's cover was plain, but the title, "Room 204: The Forgotten," intrigued him. Leafing through its pages, he discovered cryptic notes and faded photographs of Crestwood High, with one room in particular—Room 204—highlighted repeatedly. Curious, Haadi went to Room 204, a classroom that had been closed off for years and was now part of the school's abandoned wing. The door was locked, but he noticed a small, barely visible keyhole. After several attempts, he managed to pry the door open. Inside, the room was covered in dust and cobwebs. At first glance, it seemed like a typical abandoned classroom. However, Haadi noticed something strange—a set of old, handwritten ledgers scattered across a desk and a map of the school marked with red crosses. As he examined the ledgers, he realized they detailed a series of strange and unexplained incidents involving past students and faculty. Haadi's investigation led him to a chilling discovery: Room 204 had once been used for experiments conducted by a secretive group within the school. These experiments involved attempts to unlock

supernatural phenomena, and the room was rumored to have been the site of disappearances. The more Haadi dug, the more unsettling his findings became. He found mentions of a particular student, Ethan Carter, who had vanished from Crestwood High a decade earlier. Ethan was rumored to have been involved in a ritual gone wrong in Room 204. The accounts spoke of shadowy figures and inexplicable occurrences that mirrored the strange sensations Haadi felt in the room. One evening, as Haadi returned to Room 204 to investigate further, he was startled by an eerie whisper echoing through the empty halls. The whisper seemed to guide him towards an old janitor's closet in the corner of the room. Inside, Haadi found a hidden panel leading to a narrow staircase descending into darkness. Against his better judgment, Haadi descended the stairs. The air grew colder, and the darkness seemed to press in on him. At the bottom, he found a small, dimly lit chamber filled with old, dusty equipment and a large mirror that reflected nothing but darkness. As he approached the mirror, Haadi saw a figure standing behind him—Ethan Carter. Or at least, someone who looked like him. The figure's eyes were hollow and soulless. Ethan's doppelgänger spoke in a voice that was both familiar and foreign, explaining that he was trapped between worlds, a prisoner of the ritual's failure. Panicked, Haadi attempted to leave, but the door slammed shut. The doppelgänger revealed that Haadi had inadvertently triggered the same ritual that had doomed Ethan, and now, Haadi

was the next to be trapped in the mirror's dark realm. Desperate to escape, Haadi remembered the book's cryptic instructions and recited an incantation he had found. The room trembled, and the mirror shattered. Haadi was thrown back into the abandoned classroom, breathless & disoriented. The next day, Room 204 was locked and sealed even more securely. Haadi tried to tell others, but no one believed him. The room was officially declared off-limits and soon forgotten by most students and staff. Haadi, however, knew the truth. He had uncovered the dark secret of Crestwood High and narrowly escaped the fate of those who had come before him. Haadi's life returned to normal, but he could never shake the feeling that Room 204 was watching him. Every time he walked through the school's hallways, he felt the shadow of the room lurking behind him, a constant reminder of the danger he had faced and the secrets that still lay hidden in the darkness.

Nabecha (XI)

THE LAST TRAIN HOME

It was a bitterly cold night when Emily missed the last train home. The station was deserted, its once-bustling platforms now empty and echoing. The clock on the wall ticked with a slow, ominous rhythm, its hands nearing midnight. She sighed, feeling the weight of isolation settle in. As she paced the platform, a flickering streetlamp cast eerie shadows that danced around her. The last train, having disappeared into the darkness, left her with only the faintest sound of its departing whistle. Emily's phone had no signal, and the station's only payphone was broken. Suddenly, a dim light appeared at the far end of the platform. It was a small, older train, the kind that seemed out of place with the modern rail system. It

slowed to a stop right in front of her, the doors opening with a creak. Without a conductor in sight, the train seemed almost to beckon her inside. Emily hesitated, but the thought of waiting alone in the cold drove her to board. The interior was surprisingly warm, the seats covered in worn, but clean, upholstery. The train started moving again, gliding smoothly into the night. The carriages were empty except for one other passenger seated at the far end: a man in a dark, weathered coat. He sat with his back to her, staring out of the window. Emily sat in a seat closer to the front, trying to ignore the growing sense of unease. As the train rattled through the darkness, Emily noticed the man had not moved. His stillness was unsettling. She decided to investigate. As she approached, she noticed a faint smell of decay in the air. Her footsteps echoed through the carriage, but the man remained motionless. When she was close enough to see his face, Emily's breath caught in her throat. The man's face was pale and gaunt, his eyes wide open but lifeless. It was clear that he was not just asleep—he was dead. Panicking, Emily stumbled back to her seat and tried to get up, but the train had slowed to a stop. The lights flickered out, leaving her in pitch darkness. Her phone remained dead, and the

silence was absolute. Suddenly, the intercom crackled to life, a voice with an unsettling calmness speaking through the darkness. "Final destination. Please prepare to disembark." The train's lights flashed back on briefly, revealing the station outside—an old, decrepit platform that looked nothing like the one she had boarded from. The platform was abandoned, and a chilling wind howled through the empty space. Emily was paralyzed with fear but forced herself to get off the train. The platform was eerily quiet. She glanced back at the train, which had vanished, leaving only a layer of frost where it had been. With no other option, Emily began to walk toward what she hoped was the way home. As she turned a corner, she saw a familiar figure emerging from the shadows: the man from the train, but now he was moving, walking towards her. The realization struck her with cold terror—she had never left the station. The train she boarded had not been meant to take her home but to a place far darker. She had become part of a macabre cycle, and now, as the man drew nearer, she understood that she was destined to join the ranks of those trapped in the endless night, forever awaiting the final, fateful journey. -Schreen (XI)



CREATIVE CORNER

THE CLOCKMAKER'S SECRET

In a quaint village known for its charm and old-world aesthetics, there was a clockmaker named Edgar who had a small, inconspicuous shop. Edgar was renowned for his exquisite craftsmanship and the intricate mechanisms of his clocks, each one a marvel of precision and artistry. His most prized possession was a grand antique clock, which he claimed was his family's heirloom. One day, a wealthy collector named Mr. Thompson visited Edgar's shop, expressing an interest in purchasing the grand clock. Edgar, though

reluctant to part with it, agreed to show Mr. Thompson its inner workings. The collector was fascinated and offered a substantial sum for it, but Edgar declined, insisting the clock was not for sale. As Mr. Thompson left the shop, he couldn't shake his curiosity. He began to investigate Edgar's past and discovered an old rumor about the clockmaker's family: a hidden fortune said to be concealed within the clock itself. Determined to uncover the truth, Mr. Thompson devised a plan to retrieve the clock

for himself. One night, Mr. Thompson broke into Edgar's shop and carefully dismantled the grand clock, searching for the rumored treasure. But as he removed the final panel, he found not gold or jewels, but a series of intricate gears and a small, sealed compartment. Inside the compartment was an old letter and a peculiar key. The letter, penned in Edgar's precise hand, revealed an unexpected twist. It explained that the grand clock had been built with an elaborate

mechanism not for hiding wealth, but for protecting a valuable secret: Edgar's own identity. Years earlier, Edgar had been a renowned inventor who vanished from the public eye. He had assumed a new identity as a humble clockmaker to escape the relentless pursuit of those who sought to exploit his inventions. The grand clock was his final masterpiece, a symbol of his new life and a safeguard for his true identity. Mr. Thompson, now realizing the depth of Edgar's secret and his

reasons for secrecy, returned the clock and left a note of his own. He apologized for his actions and expressed his respect for Edgar's choice to live a life of anonymity. When Edgar discovered the returned clock and the letter, he was both relieved and grateful. The incident reaffirmed his decision to live quietly, free from the pressures of fame. The grand clock remained in its place, a reminder of the hidden layers behind even the simplest of lives. The village continued to admire Edgar's clocks, oblivious to the

grand clock's true history. And as for Mr. Thompson, he learned that some secrets are worth keeping and that the true value of a person lies in their choices, not their possessions. -Tazkia (XI)

THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

In the heart of our bustling city, nestled between towering apartment buildings and busy streets, lies a small, unassuming plot of land. This is the site of our community garden—a place that, until recently, was a neglected corner of weeds and overgrown grass. The transformation began with a group of local volunteers who saw potential where others saw a

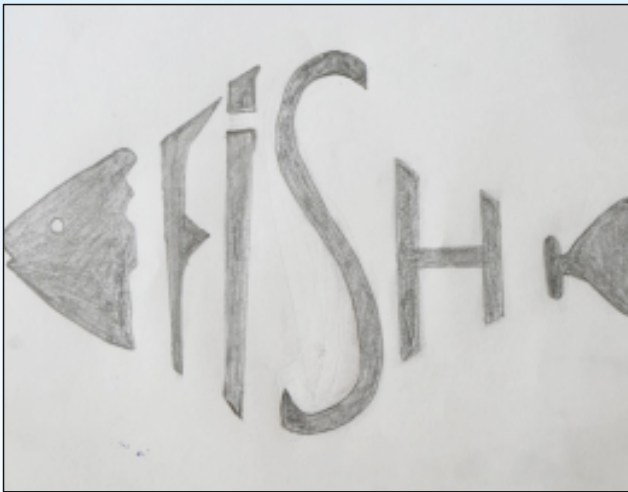
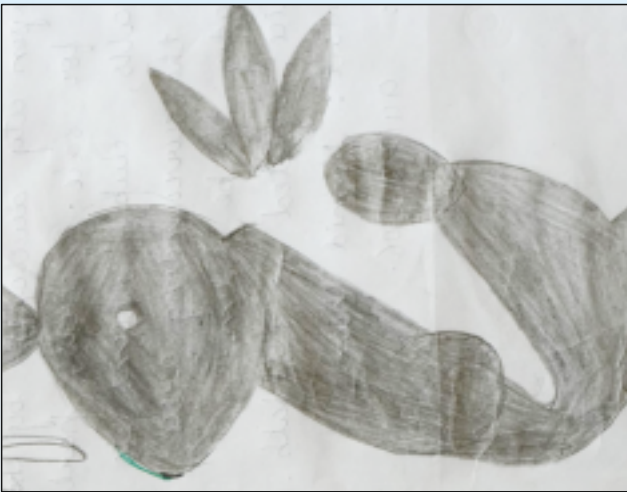
wasteland. With shovels in hand and a vision in mind, they turned the vacant lot into a vibrant oasis. Raised beds were constructed, seeds were planted, and soon the garden began to flourish. What started as a simple project grew into a community hub. Neighbors of all ages gathered to tend the garden, sharing tips on planting, composting,

and organic pest control. Local schools incorporated the garden into their science curricula, allowing students to learn firsthand about ecosystems and sustainability. One day, a young girl named Mia discovered a small, hidden patch of wildflowers at the garden's edge. She decided to cultivate it, and within weeks, the flowers attracted butterflies and bees.

Mia's discovery sparked a new interest in pollinator-friendly plants, and the garden's success story continued to grow. The community garden became more than just a place to grow vegetables and flowers—it became a symbol of what can be achieved when people come together with a shared purpose. The once-neglected plot of land now thrives as a testament to the power of

collective effort and a reminder of the beauty that can emerge from unexpected places. As we continue to enjoy the fruits of our labor, let's remember the lesson of the community garden: even the smallest actions can lead to the most remarkable transformations. So, next time you see a neglected space or an abandoned idea, think about the community garden. With a

little imagination and a lot of teamwork, there's no telling what might bloom. -Sadiya Binte Irfan Khan (IX)





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