MEET THE CLASS

KODAI CAMP DIARIES
BOOK REVIEW

SARA'S SUMMER
GNOCCHI RECIPE

THE VARIOUS HUES OF DEEPANAM
KALEIDOSCOPE

ISSUE # 45
JULY, 2023
Hey readers! In this issue we have our introduction which we do at the beginning of each school year and in our Fope’s opinion we talk about what we would change in the world. We started a bit late and we didn’t have much time which is why this issue is late but we hope you enjoy reading.

Credits:
Editors - Isha, Megha, Sara
Cover page - Sara
Hello everyone,
My name is Sara and I am thirteen but I will be fourteen in a few days. I am in Hope group and this is my third year in deepanam and second year doing kaleidoscope. I am excited and scared both for the next year and last year of deepanam. I am a total extrovert and sometimes even talk too much (my mom’s opinion). Few of my hobbies are Photography, Trekking, Swimming and listening to music.

Hello! My name is Lea and I am fourteen. I am in Hope group. My hobbies are watching movies and listening to music. I am trying to make reading as my hobby but it’s not working that well. Anyway I am very excited and nervous for this year because I would meet new classmates and learn a lot of new stuff!
Hi, my name is Isha and I am fourteen years old. I am in Hope Group so this is my second year writing for Kaleidoscope. This is my fifth and last year in Deepanam so next year I will be going to high school. I really like singing and I think I am pretty good at it. I also like math but I am not really that good at it. I am a bit scared because this year, as I am in the older group, I will have to initiate many things but I think I can do it. I also really love strawberries.

Hey! So, my name is Oliver but I much prefer Oli. I moved to Auroville when I was one and half and I’ve schooled in T.L.C, Transition and now Deepanam for three years (wow! time flies!). In Deepanam I’ve gone from Peace to Grace and now Faith which just seems absolutely unfathomable to me because I’m in 7th grade. I have three cats. I’d say I can be very spontaneous when I want to and I absolutely love to laugh, have fun and hang out with friends, but I also like serious conversation about topics I’m interested in.

Hey there my name is Abhimanyu I love football
And I’m excited for the Kaleidoscope as it is my first time in faith group also you can call me Abhi instead if Abhimanyu is too long. I also love music, movies and video games.
Hello my name is Meet I like to read fantasy books like Percy Jackson and Harry Potter, and playing football. I like to eat pizza and pasta but not with too many vegetables. I also like to play video games, especially Roblox, because it has so many different things you can do.

Hello my name is Aarohi I am twelve years old and had just recently joined Faith group, my hobbies are drawing and sketching I personally love to draw eyes but I'm not a big fan of anatomy, I find school a very fun place and a place where you don't have to stress too much, well that's all about me.

Hi my name is Sitara, i'm twelve years old and live in transformation community. I enjoy reading fantasy books like Harry Potter or Percy Jackson. I love animals (they are far superior to humans). I have eight pets: three dogs, four cats, and a hamster that lives under my bed ;)
Hi, my name is Tara. I'm twelve years old and I've been in Auroville for four years and this is my third year in Deepanam. My hobbies are singing, drawing, and listening to music. I am very excited for the year ahead.

Hello! My name is Luce, I'm twelve years old and I'm in Faith Group. This is my first year doing Kaleidoscope and my 4th year in Deepanam. Some of my hobbies are swimming, cycling around, drawing, reading, (kind of) and watching movies. I'm very excited this year because I have different teachers, different classmates, and I'll learn a lot of new things:)

Hi, my name is Megha, and this is my introduction. I'm thirteen, I speak English and Tamil and I'm originally from America, and yes, I will screech at you like a Bald Eagle. Some things I like are: Listening to music, drawing, playing random games and sarcasm. Some things I dislike are: Max shirts, politics, my sister and English. One fun fact about me, shopping for clothes gives me Immense joy, especially when it's expensive. (Just kidding! Or am I??)
Hello, I am Aaryan Kekre. I was born on 21st May 2010 and I’m thirteen years old. For the first twelve years of my life I was living in Mumbai. I just moved to Auroville in April 2023. I am now studying in Deepanam school. I am loving my experience at the new school. My hobbies are playing the guitar and I have given my trinity grade 3 examination. I also have a interest in reading and learning about cars. Trust me, I can talk about cars for a long time without getting bored at all. I also like playing video games and my personal favourite is Minecraft.

Hello everyone my name is Vihaan. I’m twelve years old and I’m in Faith Group. This is my first year of writing for Kaleidoscope and my 2nd year in Deepanam. My hobbies are football, drawing and I am also interested in carpentry. I am very excited about this year because I will meet new classmates and I’m open to learning new skills.
If I could change one thing in the world, I would ban littering. I believe it is already banned, but I don't think people take it seriously. I reckon it wouldn't be too much work because the police could simply be instructed to fine people when they litter, resulting in fewer people doing it. By implementing this, I believe streets would become much cleaner and more hygienic.

- Isha

If I could change one thing in the world I would choose to have everyone go vegetarian or vegan. I chose to become a vegetarian at age nine or ten. The reason for this was my friend talking about how she had gone to a meat processing factory and told me all about how horrible it was. That was the moment I decided that I would no longer eat meat. It was hard and at first I still ate a little but now I eat none, not even gummies, which have gelatin which comes from pigs. I have a great love for animals and find it horrible how we take their lives. My mother told me that if we don't become vegetarian soon the human race will end in just a few decades. It deeply hurts me to see everyone around me eating meat that once was a living breathing creature, just like you and me.

-Sitara

If I could change one thing in the world I would want people to stop abandoning their pets. I don't understand why they abandon pets like that. I think they have to be responsible and respect their pets. For me pets are like family members so whenever I see pets on the road with no food and no place to stay I feel so guilty and sad. Also as they were living indoors with people so they don't know how to live outdoors.

-Lea

If I could change one thing in the world it would be having more equality. Whether that be treating everyone as equals or have everyone one actually be equals in our society. No treating anyone different because of a different language, culture, religion, gender, interest, or even look or style. We've all somehow done it by excluding, bullying or even just by not doing anything, like going up to the person or ignoring them because we have a certain idea of who they are in our heads, even if we've met or talked to them only once. This has to come to an end, and it can, if everyone tries for themselves to include others or even just to notice it the next time it happens and think on it and what you could or should done and act on it the next time. Slowly this can change but if you want it to you have to start on yourself, in yourself.

-Oli
I would add kindness into people’s normal activities, some examples could be when you go to get food, pay for someone’s meal or even something so simple like complimenting random people on the road. There are endless possibilities to be kind and I think it would make our world a much happier place to live in.

-Megha

If I could change one thing in the world it would be the invention of the wheel. It was invented in 2000 BC. Imagine if the wheel was invented by humans 3000 years before it was invented. We would have advanced many more and we would have had futuristic cities and civilizations by now. I would also like to change the education of waste segregation. If this was thought of 100 years ago it would make a big difference and we wouldn’t make the earth so polluted.

-Aaryan

I want people to stop being so cruel and abusive; to stop being so creepy and disturbing. I want people to be able to go anywhere and be with anyone knowing that they’re safe and nothing bad will happen. People are so ignorant thinking they can just treat anyone in a bad way however they want to, and not care at all.

-Luce

If I could change one thing about the world, I would end world poverty. It’s just so sad that most people have such nice, fancy things and really good food, while the people living on the streets basically have nothing. I just wish that people with lots of money or even those with a minimum amount wouldn’t just spend their money on things we don’t need that much. I’m not saying you can’t buy things for yourself; I’m just saying it would be nice if we could share some of the money we spend on ourselves and give some to the people in need.

-Tara

If I could change one thing about the Earth, I would change, or rather eliminate mosquitoes. You must have guessed why! They are these annoying, pesky, blood-sucking little insects. I mean, I understand that they have some role (probably important) in the circle of life, like being one of the largest pollinators, etc., but in my opinion, the cons are much more than the pros. Well, I could write about all the bad things mosquitoes can do, but since mosquitoes have probably tortured you too, you might understand what I am saying.

-Sara.
So I've made gnocchi a couple times before and it turned out really good, and I thought I would try it again. So, here is the recipe that I've tweaked a bit and some tips I came up with to make that gnocchi even more delicious.

The first time I did this I used sweet potato and that turned out more flavorful and interesting so I would recommend you use that, but if it's out of season like it is for me now or just not available you can just go for the regular.

Here are the things you'll need:

1) Flour, 1 cup and extra for dusting
2) Potatoes 300ish grams, around two big potatoes
3) 1 egg, room temperature and large
4) Big pot, for boiling potatoes and gnocchi
5) Ricer, for mashing the potatoes
6) Fork, for rolling the gnocchi on and mashing potatoes if you don’t have a ricer

To start, wash your potatoes and boil some water. Once the water has come to a boil put the potatoes in for around twelve minutes. You will know that the potatoes are ready when the fork goes in easily enough to lift the potato out. Cut them in half and let them cool for 5 minutes. After that take the peel off and put them in a bowl and start to rice them until there aren’t any individual pieces. Then put the flour in, a couple teaspoons of salt and pepper and mix it with your hands, it should form a crumbly texture. Once you’re done with that form a well out of it and crack an egg in.

Mix it together and then knead it on a dusted surface for a bit until very together and you have a ball of dough.Split that dough into fourths and roll them out into long pieces.

Then cut it into pieces, like little pillows then take your fork, put it upside down and gently roll them on it (tip: make the pillows half the size you think you should as they expand a lot once they’re boiled). Then boil some water with a lot of salt and put your gnocchi in carefully and once the first few start to rise to the top let it boil for a couple more minutes(gnocchi cooks very fast so make sure you don’t overcook it).

For sauces I recommend either pesto, tomato, or just butter with herbs.(sage pairs really well)

-Oli
Kodaikanal Camp:

I went to a Summer camp with my classmates a few months ago. We left late at night and arrived early in the morning. On the first day, we stayed at the camp because we were all tired, and the next day we went trekking. It was very tiring and hard, but the view was amazing, and I felt so proud of myself when I reached the top. Every day, we would wake up really early and go trekking. The first few days were fine, but after some time, my knees started hurting, and I had really bad muscle pain. I think it was because I was not used to walking intensively every day. I wished I could stay and rest, but the teachers didn’t allow us, so I was really upset, and the mountains around us started to look like prison walls after some time.

However, it was fun trekking with friends, and sometimes we found wild berries. I had a lot of fun staying with my friends at the camp. It felt like having a huge sleepover. We would go swimming in the river after trekking and play games together... it was so much fun. When I was at the camp, I wanted to sleep in my bed, not in sleeping bags in tents, but now I want to sleep in sleeping bags in tents with my friends.

- Lea

I went to Kavunji during the summer break. When I first heard about the summer camp, I was really excited to go but when I heard from my brother how fun it was, I wanted to go even more.

When we reached Kavunji, the weather was much cooler there than in Auroville, and I liked it. After we arrived, we had hot chocolate with bread and jam for breakfast. I really enjoyed the hot chocolate they served every morning because it was cold, and it was nice to have something warm.

The next day, I went trekking for the very first time. The treks were adventurous and exciting. We got to explore the forest and see a few animals like a big squirrel and some horses. During breaks in the treks, it was fun to play frisbee in the elephant or bison field. There was only one thing I didn’t like about the treks, and it was the leeches. They were disgusting, especially when they crawled inside your shoes and sucked your blood. It was almost impossible to avoid them.

During free time, I mostly spent my time playing cards with others or swimming in the freezing cold river. Sometimes, I even climbed the hill to get a good view of the mountains and forests. Anyways, the summer camp was really fun, and I would like to go again next time.

-Meet
At first, when I had heard about the summer camp, I had very mixed feelings. I was scared because I thought I would lose a lot of my stuff (I am very good at that), but the thought of adventure got me excited. I wanted to be in the same group as all of my friends, so I was worried because I kept thinking, "What if none of my friends are in my group?" After all, I did end up with my friends, so I was happy.

A few weeks later, it was time to board the bus, and well, the bus ride wasn’t a great experience at all. It was an overnight bus and was very tiring. The bus was cramped, some kids were annoying, and towards the end, a few people started vomiting and feeling nauseous. Finally, we arrived, and after that long journey, we carried our bags all the way to camp. Upon reaching camp, we met the previous group, picked our tents, and finally had some rest. We didn’t spot many animals during the treks, which was a bit disappointing, although they were still exciting. The teachers also pranked us toward the end of camp. Basically, they claimed that they saw a tiger during the night, and all of us were very scared. On the last day, the teachers placed a speaker and played the sound of a tiger. We all ran to the kitchens, and after it stopped, we came back and continued to enjoy the night. Then they played the sound again, and that really got us.

-Abhimanyu
This summer started with saying goodbye to all the last year’s Hope groupers and my best friend Nayomi, which I would say was the most difficult thing I did in the summer. After that, I went to Pune for two months to stay with my grandparents and father. Of course, when I reached there, I was living the best time of my life (at least the first week). After the first week, I started swimming in the morning and attending a fitness class in the evening. Due to me doing all these activities, I had only a few hours of the day free, but I think that was the point of me joining all these classes.

Normally, on my summer vacations, I go on a trek in the Himalayas with my father. However, if you are a regular Kaleidoscope reader, you will know that I already went on my first solo Himalayan winter trek this year in February. So this year in the summer, I decided to do more treks in the Sahyadris and in Maharashtra. As decided, I did one-day treks almost every weekend, and I am really glad I did because it is a totally different experience and, to be honest, it is way more difficult than the treks I normally do. There is sun over your head throughout the day, which is one of the reasons it is difficult; you are constantly sweating, whereas in the Himalayas, the weather is cold, so it is always pleasant even at twelve in the afternoon. Another important aspect is that you are normally walking in a riverbed, so the soil is loose and you tend to slip much more than usual. There are much steeper climbs, and since I went on one-day treks, I would have to carry a lot of weight. Also, another thing is that in the Himalayas, there are plenty of streams on your route, but in Maharashtra in the summers, there are zero streams on the way, so you have to carry all your water, which tends to be very heavy. But at the end of the day, I am very happy that I pushed myself to actually do the treks.

Other than that, I met a few relatives and a few friends from my old school. ATE a lot (a bit too much). Got pampered by my grandmother, and most importantly, slept in an air-conditioned room. After living in Auroville, having an A/C room is a pure luxury. Apart from that, we went on a two-day trip to Mumbai and Imagica Water Park, which was the most fun part of the whole summer.
Although Percy has many powers and sometimes seems a little unstoppable, everyone has weaknesses. Will we find out how Percy can be defeated?

Percy Jackson and his friends are demigods or half-bloods, meaning they are half god and half mortal. They are training at a magical camp called Camp Half-Blood, which is run by the centaur Chiron and the god of wine, Dionysus.

Rick Riordan, the author of this wonderful series, has found an amazing way to put ancient Greek mythology into an exciting children's book!

There are five books in this series, with The Lightning Thief being only the first. That's right! Percy still has four more adventures ahead of him, and even after those, will he ever get the rest he deserves?

- Sitara
This was my second time doing the podcast, and I must say it is not any easier. I don’t know how many times I have to do this before it becomes easy.

This time we have interviewed Anshul from auro orchard. He has been working there for a few years. He loves farming and he has done engineering in his college years.

The podcast started very shaky, but it became smoother as we kept going. It was interesting to get to know more about farming because farming is such an important factor of life - IT’S FOOD, MAN. It’s also very interesting to know that even farmers want their kids to study and get nine-to-five jobs. So, who is going to farm in the next 5 years? How are we going to provide our basic need for food? In general, I thought it was a very informative podcast, and I think it was nice that we had a change of genre and spread more awareness about farming. The podcast is out. I hope you enjoy it.

-Sara

So I’m not really sure what to write on the podcast as there was just many interesting things on it so I think I’m just going to talk about doing the thing itself so that you HAVE to check it out(; So I had actually forgotten but this was actually my second podcast I’ve done and the first one was also about gardening except we were sorta the ones being interviewed. It had been on a garden I had worked on with friends. Anyways last time I was probably as nervous because even though I was with quite a few other people crammed into that little room I was a little younger and so that kinda cancelled stuff out. This time was also hardly stressful, especially with Anshul who is very smart nice and just a good talker. We had a few questions ready but we both felt it would be easy to add or subtract on them as seen fit, and we were right because even though it still sounded a little like an interview it started to feel more like a conversation. Overall I’m very happy I got to have this opportunity to do this again and hopefully I do it again within this year or next.

-Oli

Visit https://www.aurovillerradio.org/teens-connect-ep-6/ to enjoy the podcast.
THE MOON AND THE STARS

The moon and the stars shine bright at night,
it stays like that till the first tiny streak of sunlight.

The moon, a pearl so round and bright,
casting its glow upon the night.

The stars they sparkle like a sparks of fire,
they make the sky impossible to not admire.

-Tara

MATRIMANDIR

Matrimandir, a symbol of love and faith.
A place where people feel calm and safe.
When you look around, your eyes get filled with light,
amazement and joy.
In the gardens, the beautiful colours everywhere, the
fragrance in the air, the sunlight, the wind caressing your face,
you realise that beauty is in everything.

-Luce