December 2023 - January 2024

Issue #50
Like all issues this one has also been a massive struggle. Since it was the 50th issue we wanted to do something special and also wanted it to be a longer issue (which clearly it is not) but our class decided to not give articles and drag this issue on for 2 months. So sorry!

Anyways I am happy I was a part of this project and was one of the few who got to design it!

We have put in a lot of work and time so hope you enjoy it!!

-Sara
FOPE’S OPINION

“What does it feel like to be a part of Kaleidoscope?”

Publishing a magazine every month is a challenge and seeing that it has been done fifty times impresses me. It takes time and effort and it encourages you to push yourself which I like. It’s something different from what you would normally do in a school. I would be lying if I said that I enjoyed every part of the process because like I said, it’s hard to publish a magazine every thirty days for two years. It’s nice to have this unique experience like this at our age. I think that this could also help me in the future because it pushes me to be creative which is not something that comes naturally to me and it’s an important skill to develop. I don’t know if all of us feel this way but I think that it’s also a good way to develop self-motivation because it’s something that you need to do yourself and your teachers are not going to come after you if you don’t write your article on time.

-Isha

Having a magazine to be published every month is a very tough but rewarding job.

For me, writing articles is really stressful due to my procrastination but once I start writing it flows well. Even though it is stressful, it’s rewarding in the sense that every month it feels like we, as a class finished a project and got to hold it in our hands. It makes me happy to see that there is something to show for the work I did. It makes me feel accomplished. And in a way, even the stress is rewarding in the way that it makes me focus on deadlines. Anyways, happy 50th issue!

-Megha
The Kaleidoscope means that every month there is a goal, something to be **achieved** and worked on for a whole month. It means that every year we have 10 goals (the summer holidays). And even if you “don’t succeed” or do a bad job don’t do as you planned, or don’t **finish** when you wanted, there will always be next month. I think everyone can benefit from something like a Kaleidoscope. It doesn’t need to be the same thing or project every month, it could be something like NaNoWriMo, or learning a new **language**. But I think if you do the same thing every month, then at the end of the year you can look back at each month and see how you improved in that one project. I think that’s nicer than seeing a smaller achievement every month. Something from the Kaleidoscope, which you can’t get from, for example, learning a language is that it’s a tangible thing. You can see read and feel your **work**. When I read a passage or look at an image, it triggers a memory. Sometimes good, sometimes bad, but it reminds me of what went into it. Even though we make Kaleidoscopes with the intention of making an entertaining **educational** read for others. I think that we make it just as much for ourselves.

-Oli

I feel honestly **happy** I got to be a part of Kaleidoscope. I love this project of making a magazine every month. Even though we are only 13-14 years old it feels like we are not always treated like kids who can't do anything, we get the responsibility to make a magazine! It’s pretty fun even though we **struggle** most of the time with deadlines and publishing it on time. But every time we publish a magazine I’m **always** really happy with the result and sometimes I look at my article and be like “Wow I actually wrote that!” and it just gets me all excited! So yea i really like it.

-Aarohi
My experience with Kaleidoscope has been amazing. When I first came to Kaleidoscope it felt quite alien to me. It was a new experience. My previous schools never had magazines. Kaleidoscope helps us work as a team. It teaches us teamwork and how to make use of everyone's opinions. It also helps us on how to take responsibilities and handle stress in times of constraints and challenges. I feel that writing in Kaleidoscope and expressing my true opinions in my writing has also made me a better person at English and writing. I also haven't edited a lot of articles or designed a magazine. So being an editor for Kaleidoscope helped me learn these skills. There were some challenges here and there but being a part of Kaleidoscope is a different type of experience altogether.

-Aaryan

Man, 50th issue. Kaleidoscope has sure come a long way. I remember since light group, mahavir would announce that a new issue of the monthly magazine "Kaleidoscope" is out. I used to think in peace group that "man this magazine must be so easy and interesting to make". I was both, wrong and right. Wrong because I thought it would be easy. Right because it is very interesting to make.

Oh well, it's been a LONG ride since light group. And now I'm here, helping making these magazines. It feels like now I'm at the finish line, even though I still have hope group left, I still feel now when I look back at light groupers now that "Wow Abhi, you’ve made it". Anyways thanks Mahavir and Bhakti for making this Kaleidoscope year very special. It feels very special to be a part of Kaleidoscope. Happy 50th anniversary.

-Abhimanyu
Poetry evening

We have a poetry evening every December and these are some of the poems and experiences we had this year.

Football is just a game,
that's what people say.
I totally disagree, the point you just made.
It's life, there's no stopping in the bend,
play it through, my friend, till the very end.
Sacrifice a lot, face, challenges you have got.
Up at 4:00 am, the dreams you are looking for,
it's cold outside but, still in, with deep thought.
Chasing dreams you couldn't have caught.
The magic you are looking for, is the work you avoiding a lot,
now stop sitting people, go seek the magic you have got.

-Life, I know you love throwing challenges at me.
You like looking at me suffer.
You enjoy looking at me try.
But I've learned a lot from the challenges that you gave me.
And I feel very grateful.
The hard days are now good memories,
The lessons I've learned are now unforgettable experiences.
Now I'm looking forward what you will give me next.
Now I'm looking forward for our future.

-Lea

-Vihaan
I stare at the blank page hoping for a thought to come, I was thinking should I put a memory? A story? Or something fun! I was worried about the judgment on everyone’s faces. It keeps me up all night! But as I kept writing this I knew this was just right.

-Aarohi

FLOWER
Imagine walking in a field of flowers doesn’t it feel beautiful? Imagine getting a flower from your loved one Doesn’t it feel special? Imagine a bouquet of flowers at your home in a vase doesn’t it bring life to the house? Imagine a floating flower on the water Doesn’t it feel peaceful? Imagine in a grey forest there is a tree with flowers Doesn’t it look unique? Imagine a dead body decorated with flowers Doesn’t it make death alive?

-Sara
Nature is God's gift,
But humans forget about it in a swift.
The way we are destroying nature for crores,
Soon there will be nothing to adore.
I am very scared about our planet's future,
Soon there will be nothing to nurture.
Animals going extinct day by day,
Can we get them back in any way?
So let's take a stand with mother nature,
As I care a lot about my future.
And make big companies pay for their actions,
To take back the natural attractions.

-Aaryan

The Dark
The dark scares me,
That feeling of not knowing,
What's lurking, waiting for its chance.
Waiting for its chance,
To pop out and eat my toes.

I laid in bed, enveloped by darkness
As still as a statue,
Because it was watching.
It could be the silhouette outside my window,
Or the monster under my bed
Or even the shadow right next to me.

I don't move, even a millimeter,
For hours on end.
Hoping it will just leave me alone,
And move on to disrupt,
The peaceful slumber of my sister.
But 'I' was its chosen victim!

The dark scares me,
Especially what's waiting for me in it.
Like the figure wanting to jump at me
From the dark corner,
Or the creepy shadow in the mirror
Trying to reel me in,
Or the hungry presence beside me
Waiting to crunch on my toes.
The dark scares me,
Especially what's waiting for me in it.

-Megha
Thoughts of a Jellyfish

How would it feel, I wonder, to dive among the stars or orbit around mars?
Unfortunately, a fish can only wish, to be an astronaut.
What if I have siblings up in space?
Would they glow, and float or stare like I am a ghost?
The sights up there are spectacular for sure, sometimes I wonder, do they have a telescope?
Would they eat a star everyday to keep up their health? Imagine having such wealth.
Do Saturn’s rings feel like felt? For decorating your stingers, they surely would be a great help.
Would they deck themselves in finery and prepare to have a ball?
Disco lights would not need to be bought, for colours up there are nowhere close to nought.

To look at the shiny blurs reflecting in the water is simply not enough.
The only thing a fish can do is wish to be an astronaut.

To soar and swim and dive and fly among the jewels floating in the night.
To taste and feel and see the sights.

Would a star be cold and sweet like delicious jelly, or would the happiness you feel be temporary, addictive so you can’t stop?
Would you take a vacation to Pluto, since it’s so out of the way?
If there was a bay, where I may stay, could I live in outer space?

Without a brain to contain and organise such thoughts, they bounce around.
I wish I had something to ground me, but instead I can only swim in the sea.

To fly is simply not possible for me, but oh, a fish, can only wish, to be an astronaut.

-Atisha
One such morning,
I woke up yawning
I woke up to the sound of my alarm
And I felt a weird sensation in my arm
Going up to the mirror
Looking at me beam
I woke up to find that it was a dream
What i realised from this learning
Is that it was one such morning…

-Abhimanyu

A long time ago,
my eyes reached out to the end of a path,
and I still saw an opening.
I was curious, so I went to the end,
and it started closing.
My eyes saw an opportunity,
so I tried to take it.
As I tried to take it, my mind said,
whatever Luce, just escape it.
When my eyes see something challenging,
they claim that I won't make it,
that I won't succeed,
that I won't manage.
I tend to take advantage
when I'm not forced to do something hard,
because I'm always scared to fail,
And I would be scarred.

-Luce

Here i am
Sitting comfortably
thinking endlessly
yet nothing comes
i was empty at that time
but then the thoughts started
pouring in like a river

-Meet
Our 2024 Pongal
It seems unbelievable that Jan 24 will mark the 50th issue of Kaleidoscope, considering the struggle to get the first issue published in September ’18. Even, to come to a conclusion for the name of the magazine in itself was a process of brainstorming and arguing that took a great deal of time and effort.

I am really happy that it has reached a very important milestone and also proud of the students who planted the seeds of creativity, collaboration, and discipline.

It has been a great tool and medium to express their thoughts and opinions like the name Kaleidoscope. The mix of culture in the classroom makes it even more diverse the way they write.

Few important points that comes to my mind about the publishing are

The process

It was very important from the start that students owned the content and editing of the magazine. So, editors (2 or 3) come forward to take the responsibility of the specific month. There is a meeting that happens to set the timeline and topics of the magazine. It is very chaotic but achieves its purpose. Deadlines are set and students come forward with their articles in the form of poetry, reviews, Fope’s opinion and so on. I also get the chance to say if I raise my hand to express or suggest. They may or may not accept it. This process is very good as it makes them feel empowered and responsible for their work.
Team work

The next task is to get the things done on time. Although deadlines are set up from the beginning, articles do not arrive on time. Editors have to coerce the writers to submit their work on time. It is very frustrating for the editors. They get upset and sometimes want to give up or not take their articles.

Faith group students are new to the magazine process, but they learn from the Hope group students. It brings them together and creates a sense of camaraderie.

All contribute in different ways like layout, illustration, cover design etc. The final result looks like it is being done by professionals. It is that good.

Writing skills

It is not easy to write for anyone. Even the best find it difficult. There is a mental block to writing their first article and a big effort to deal with it. The quality of the writing of all students improves and the style also changes as they get in tune with the process.

As we celebrate and piece together a special issue, it feels as if we just started and there is a lot to improve.

Of course, the magazine will undergo changes in its style and content as the years pass by.

Students have spent a couple of years in the class and graduated but still remember the incredible experience of publishing Kaleidoscope. The magazine had a profound impact on the overall development of the students. It was possible because of persistence, collaboration, and the hard work of spending endless hours of editing.

Here’s to the next 50 issues, each promising new stories, insights, and growth for the generations to come.

-Mahavir
Internship

We just finished our second term of our internship program and here are our thoughts on it.

My internship experience at Auro Orchard was very interesting, (in a good way). I really liked volunteering over there because they taught a lot of ways of gardening, and there were many things we did there that I never knew how to do, because I’ve never been taught. Normally I wouldn’t be interested in working at a farm, because I had this lazy side of me that just wanted to ignore the unit because I already knew that I would be working in the sun and doing some things that I wouldn’t wanna do, because I would be too tired or I would just get a headache if I stayed in the sun too long, etc. The reason I changed my mind about going is because I didn’t want to allow this lazy side of me to just take over me and never allow me to do hard work. I’m very happy I joined because the people there were super welcoming, and would help if I needed anything. It was a very fun experience since my friend was also there with me for 3 months, and helped me a lot if I didn’t understand the assignment that the people who worked there gave us. I’m glad I tried volunteering at the Auro Orchard unit.

-Luce

I enjoyed my experience at Sharadanjali because of the real work experience OF COURSE and also the environment which I was in during my internship. It felt very welcoming, I never felt judged my entire time there no matter how loud I was. If I needed help with anything, they would help out immediately without any judgment. Again, I am very happy I chose Sharadanjali, and I have gained a new form of respect for nature.

-Megha
This term’s internship at Maroma was really fun and I also learned a lot from it. More than learning skills, I learned how a company works and what the atmosphere is like. Of course it’s always different everywhere but going there is also something different from a normal school day. The people at Maroma were also really welcoming and I am really grateful to have this opportunity to work in this place. At the beginning I was really worried that I would make a mistake but after a while I realized that the people were very supportive when it comes to mistakes. I felt that since I was less stressed I also made less mistakes.

-Isha

Ex students’ thoughts

When I look back on Kaleidoscope, of course I remember the chaotic meetings, the tears and tantrums. But all that is engulfed by the pure joy of writing and putting it all together. I spent so many late nights working on Kaleidoscope not because anyone told me to, but simply because I loved the magazine that much. I learnt to go above and beyond for what I care about, to take on responsibility with pleasure and run headlong into challenges. I would’ve done anything for Kaleidoscope. I still would.

-Manya
Deepanam has been one of the best times of my life. It is where I thrived to learn and was eager to participate in different activities. One of those activities is Kaleidoscope. Do I miss it? Yes and no. Listen, Kaleidoscope is fun if you aren’t the editor.

Being an editor means screaming at classmates to give their work, which gets annoying. But it’s fun when there are philosophical questions to be answered from one’s perspective (in the form of an article, of course). If I remember correctly, one was ‘What makes us human.’ It was quite an intriguing experience to question the baseline of life and give reasons/explanations for your thought process. It is a brilliant quality of Kaleidoscope because it makes you think outside and inside the box.

And it’s not only about writing boring articles. It’s for all kinds of writing, for example, book/movie reviews, sometimes recipes, story writing, poems, photography skills, etc.

Kaleidoscope, from the editor’s point of view, tests your leadership skills, how well you communicate with classmates and persuade them to be on time, and also basic skills like organizing the articles on the page, the creativity put into the design of the cover, knowing how to write an editorial, arranging the content page, and so on. If it wasn’t for Kaleidoscope, I don’t think my English would’ve improved as much. There is still a lot to learn and space to improve. Kaleidoscope has given me all these qualities to carry and use later in life. And I am grateful to Mahavir and Bhakti for giving me this opportunity to write all this.

P.S.: This is my last appearance in the Kaleidoscope magazine. I am honored to be part of such a great project. And for the readers who read this, a final goodbye to you all.

- Kishore
NaNoWriMo stands for National November Writing Month where we try and write a novel in one month. These are the experiences that some of the people in our class had.

So my experience of NanoWrimo was very nice. I was excited when the teachers announced that we will start NaNoWriMo. I remember that I had heard of it as a Peace grouper, the Faith grouper I had met had told me that you basically write a novel on your computer and you set a word goal for yourself, that you try to finish until the month of November ends. I always dreamt that one day I would write my own novel, and now I got the opportunity to finally do it. I had a very interesting book in mind but unfortunately I failed my word count. I wish I had finished and published my novel.

- Abhimanyu

Here, I begin my sad story of writing a story. Yes, I have done two years of NaNoWriMo and yes, I have ended with nothing at the end. Last year I was too disappointed with myself to even write an article about it but this year has made me realise that it is not really my cup of tea. Like last year I started very motivated with an idea in my head and a keyboard in my hand and started writing on the first day itself but after about thousand words I don't like the idea whereas I don't really ever get to a thousand words last year in Faith. After not liking the idea I was basically back to square one. After brainstorming AGAIN! I got nowhere because I lost hope. So yes this is my tragic story of writing a story.

-Sara
The month of November was a special month for writers all around the world. It’s National Novel Writing Month or NaNoWriMo. This year, I enthusiastically took on the challenge. I tried brewing up some stories in my head and tried plotting them down and connecting all of my ideas. I had chosen a science fiction story for my novel.

I tried making a storyline and it took me a couple of days. As I sat down to write my novel, I just started jotting down ideas from my head into the computer. I found the Nanowrimo website quite fun to use. There were achievements and awards for how many words you have written and it kept me motivated. I started writing my novel and I didn't care about my spelling mistakes or grammar and I just kept writing.

There were some struggles with the writing and the amount of time we had to finish our novel. As I even had to edit the November issue of Kaleidoscope, I did not have the desired amount of time I needed for writing my novel. Writing the novel also became a bit hard for me when building up to the climax of the story. I tried using an extensive loadout of characters and that is what I thought confused me. I kept writing and then deleted it and then wrote something else and then deleted it again. I kept thinking that I could make this scene better and better and I think that is what took more than ninety percent of my time.

In the last few days of completing the challenge my inspiration ran dry. I no longer felt motivated to complete my story. Completing my word count of 50,000 words felt miles away from where I was. But I still kept writing and it kind of paid off. I made the climax of the story and made it more simple so that a person could read it without stumbling upon some confusing scenes. It was the last day and I was nowhere close to the end of my story. Instead of being unmotivated and sad, I was quite satisfied with what I achieved. I had completed half of my story. It felt like an achievement.

So in the end my Nanowrimo experience wasn't the best but it also wasn't the worst. Of course, it had many challenges and time constraints but in the end, I could construct a story purely out of my imagination and I'm quite happy with myself. But now I can look back at the time-consuming things and plan my Nanowrimo for next year better than this one.

-Aaryan
Aanya’s chess tournament

Uday, Samath, and I went to a chess tournament in Pondy. Mahesh took us in his car. It was an hour’s drive. We left at about 8 am and came back home at around 9 pm. Our main goal was to eat and that’s what we did. There were 7 matches in the tournament. I won 5 matches, Uday won 4.5 and Samath won 4 matches.

Mahesh was expecting us to win 3 or 3.5. But of course, we did better. We had to wait 20 to 30 minutes for us to know our opponent. Uday and I got easy pairs at first but Samath got hard pairs so it wasn’t easy but he still managed.

We played in an AC room. There were 3 categories; Under-9, Under-13, and Under-17. We played Under-9. There were 167 kids under 9, otherwise way more kids if you add them all together.

It was our first time representing Deepanam or any school for that matter. When we were going we were excited but while coming back we were tired and so sleepy.

In the last round, like one in a million chances, Uday and I were paired up. Technically, he had won but we continued playing and then I won. So, finally, I won. I played against both boys and girls but while giving the prizes they gave them separately to girls and boys. I was in the top ten girls so I got a trophy but technically we all won it. Mahesh told us to play slowly. Well, I guess Samath played slow as well as fast but Uday and I played fast.

It was a great experience and I would like to play more chess tournaments with my friends.

Hope you liked my article.
We interviewed Santa Claus and it was way different from what we expected.

So first we sat down and introduced ourselves and we wondered since Santa lives in such a cold place wouldn't Santa get sick most of the time so we asked him and he said that he doesn't live in the north pole, he uses a remote control setup and actually stays on a cruise in the Indian Ocean and relaxes on it for the entire year till Christmas again. We also asked Santa if he ever gets exhausted due to delivering presents to every single house but Santa surprised us with his reply, he said that he only delivered presents to people who believe in him, so that reduces a lot of work and he said that since the population is changing all the time so is his helpers so he respects other cultures. Another fun fact he told us is that The naughty list Santa has is not real and it is actually a tool for parents to maintain their children's behavior.

Santa encourages his fans to keep believing him and thinking that everything will be fine. I've always wondered what Santa's favorite cookie is, but he replied that he actually didn't have one. He said he prefers biryani and other salty foods which really shocked me, but he notes that no matter what gift it is, if it's made with love it's the best thing.
Santa also discusses the creativity and flexibility to deliver children's wishes so he doesn't have an exact list. He mentions that he is not a machine and has leeway to adapt to each child's desires. You know we all think of Santa as this big guy right? Well since there are various different chimney sizes we asked him how he managed to get into each house, he said that he changes his shape to fit into each chimney and delivers the present. Santa also clarifies that he regulates the number of believers to maintain a manageable size, and operates a magical factory with elf helpers to create and deliver gifts in various sizes. But at the end of the day Santa said that what he really loved is when the children come down to the Christmas tree and they see their presents that sparkle in their eyes and that wide smile on their faces is what really makes him happy, santa said he was happy that he was able to make people happy because of himself. So then after that he mostly talked about how he was eager to go back home and eat his Christmas biryani so that was it. Thank you Santa for being here in this interview with us.

-Aarohi
Our trip to Gingee