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KALEIDOSCOPE

Various Hues of Deepanam



Congratulations!



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WHAT IS STEAM?

STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math. STEAM is an integral education discipline that integrates these five subjects into hands-on, project based activities for children. Using projects that have real world uses, STEAM aims to teach kids in a practical fashion.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT STEAM AT DEEPANAM COMPARED TO NORMAL CLASSES?

STEAM at deepanam is unique, as it integrates Auroville youth from YUVABE (An Auroville unit) as teachers. In Auroville, a place that represents human unity, the STEAM program at deepanam allows youth to serve the community by being teachers and the students at deepanam look up to them as mentors.

There is a strong focus on art in all the STEAM projects to make them aesthetically pleasing. By creatively making these projects aesthetically pleasing, the students add a little bit of themselves into these projects thus owning them.

WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL STEAMFEST?

The purpose of the annual STEAMFEST is to showcase the student projects from the year to the parents of students and the Auroville community in general. The visitors get a hands-on experience themselves of how the students learn by engaging in a series of fun challenges.

Showcasing the projects helps students better understand their work as they have to explain to visitors what the projects are and answer any questions they might have. This also improves their presentation and communication skills.

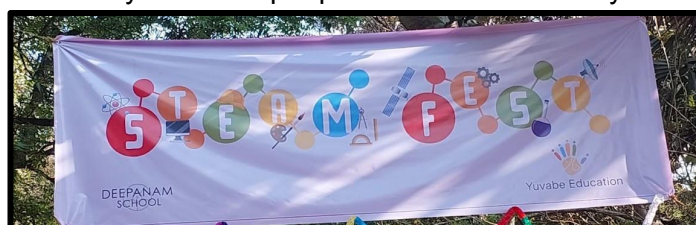
Overall, the intent of the STEAMFEST day is to increase the curiosity and raise the enthusiasm of learning STEAM.

WHAT WAS SPECIAL ABOUT STEAMFEST '24?

This year, the STEAM classes explored literature as a medium to provide context for the STEAM projects. For example, drawing inspiration from Snow White's magic mirror, the students learnt about light and reflection and made an "infinity mirror" project. Another example is how kids learnt about morse code, encryption and decryption when they heard about military strategies from the famous stories of "Ramayana". Some students explored Greek Mythology and designed weapons for their Gods learning about potential energy, kinetic energy, elastic forces, tension, etc.

Thus, this year's STEAMFEST showcased these unique projects that the kids explained and demonstrated to the visitors. The visitors, both kids and adults were given a map of twelve activities they had to complete to get ice cream. There were also four special challenges which if they were to complete, they would get a certificate and a special prize. This event was well attended by over 250 people from the community and well appreciated.

-Megha with the help of Anupama



MAHAVIR'S

message to the graduating students

Dear Egor, Isha, Lea, Phoenix and Sara.

Much awaited and anticipated moment has finally arrived.

It's a moment to reflect, and rejoice in the memories we've created together. Our journey in Deepanam together has been remarkable, marked by moments of success, and a lot of ups and downs.

I know, this year has not been easy to say the least. It has seen a lot of upheavals and rollercoaster ride of emotions for the group as a whole. We had to go through this time together with strong support and cooperation. Sometimes, it felt that we are not progressing at all, and although the effort was there but results were not showing. But, all these small moments mattered. We could eventually come together in the last term and managed to celebrate some wonderful work together.

First and foremost, the amazing talent of Faith and Hope students showcased in our play performance of Shakespeare's, 'The Tempest.' It was an extraordinary display of grit and dedication. Through countless rehearsals, and collaborative efforts, we brought the characters of 'The Tempest' to life with our collective brilliance. You will all agree that we learned many lessons along the way. The friendships forged, and the memories created during this production will forever hold a special place in our hearts.

In the classroom, our journey was one of intellectual exploration and discovery. From engaging debates to thought provoking questions. The learning was not merely confined to textbooks but extended to topics that were inspired by your enthusiasm. My goal as a teacher was not only to impart knowledge but to instill a love for learning—to equip you with the tools to become lifelong learners, forever ignited by the flame of curiosity.

I am really excited about the future as you move towards high school because you all are wonderfully talented. Each one of you is unique in the abilities that you possess. Ofcourse, you will face many dilemmas and questions as you move ahead. But remember we define ourselves by our actions. With each decision, we tell ourselves and the world who we are. Think about what you want out of this life, pursue them with determination and effort. There are no shortcuts.

I would like to share the story of Josh Waitzkin

He was a chess prodigy. Josh He quit playing chess around the age of 18. He was a naturally creative, aggressive chess player. His style was to create chaos on the chessboard, and his strength lay in finding hidden harmonies." With this style, Waitzkin won the U.S. Junior Chess Championship at the age of 11 and became an International Master at age 16. Then, Waitzkin got a coach who forced him to play like the world champions, Anatoly Karpov and Tigran Petrosian—"the most positional, conservative chess players". But when he was forced, he stopped playing the way he liked to play, he lost love for the game. So Waitzkin quit playing chess, and shortly after, he took up martial arts. He trained for just two years before he won his first national championship in martial arts. Asked if he took anything from chess into the martial arts, Waitzkin said, in the learning process, he followed his unique proclivities and leaned into his unique physical and mental traits. "And in my observation, any discipline, this is a really fundamental idea," he said. "Those who succeed, I think, basically manifest their unique character through their discipline."

Somehow I would like to repeat
'Manifest their unique character through their discipline.'

All of us being fortunate in Auroville's nurturing environment, we have been afforded the opportunity to explore, learn, and grow—to tread the path of unending education guided by the principles of equality and freedom. I have grown and learnt a lot being with you. It has been transformative, and it was a joy to witness your growth and evolution into remarkable individuals.

I would like to quote couple of reflections of Hope group students which resonates so much with the aspiration of Deepanam.

'Now I am almost fifteen and in these three years I think I have really discovered myself. I still don't know many things that I really want to do in the future but I think I have my priorities straight. The thing is none of this was taught to me but because I was given the freedom, I had time to discover and question myself. By doing this I have learnt important things about myself'.

'I can see just how much Deepanam has changed me. It's not just about studying, it's about becoming a better person overall. I've learned responsibility, gained confidence, and teamwork'.

As I bid farewell, I hope you find your passion, and discover a profound sense of purpose that nourishes your soul and spirit. Your readiness for the future doesn't come from what you've learned, but from the questions you've learned to ask. As you graduate from Deepanam, I'm confident that you'll be more than ready for what's ahead.

I carry with me the wonderful memories of our time together—the laughter, the debates, and the bonds forged in pursuit of knowledge and excellence.

You have given a lot of love and respect and will be forever grateful.

Love you all

Dark red
A hundred moon jellyfish in a heart shaped tank, backlit by red
Pairs of cherries in the summer, red juice on your fingertips
Red leaves, falling upwards
Mug of hot chocolate, now cold and useless
Strawberry chapstick split in two
And an extra pair of shoes at the front door
Things that feel dark red will stay
Like your lungs swimming, eager for a break
Things dark red will stay
Like bloodstains on my hands
Dark red will stay
It always has

-Atisha

It's hard to believe it's been one and a half years since I started studying in Deepanam. Time passed so fast and I am graduating... I still remember my first day of school. Well, it was quite an embarrassing moment.

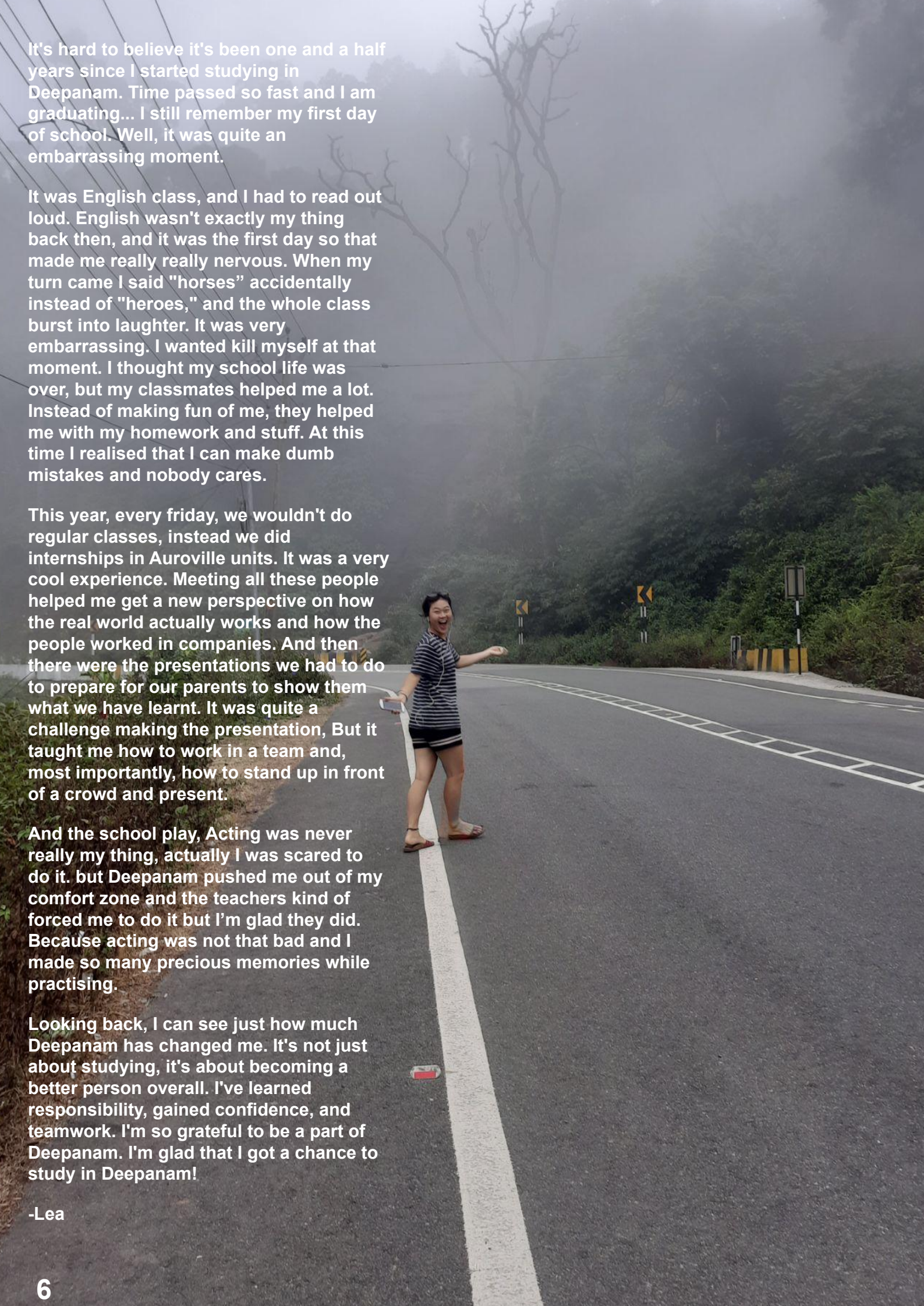
It was English class, and I had to read out loud. English wasn't exactly my thing back then, and it was the first day so that made me really really nervous. When my turn came I said "horses" accidentally instead of "heroes," and the whole class burst into laughter. It was very embarrassing. I wanted to kill myself at that moment. I thought my school life was over, but my classmates helped me a lot. Instead of making fun of me, they helped me with my homework and stuff. At this time I realised that I can make dumb mistakes and nobody cares.

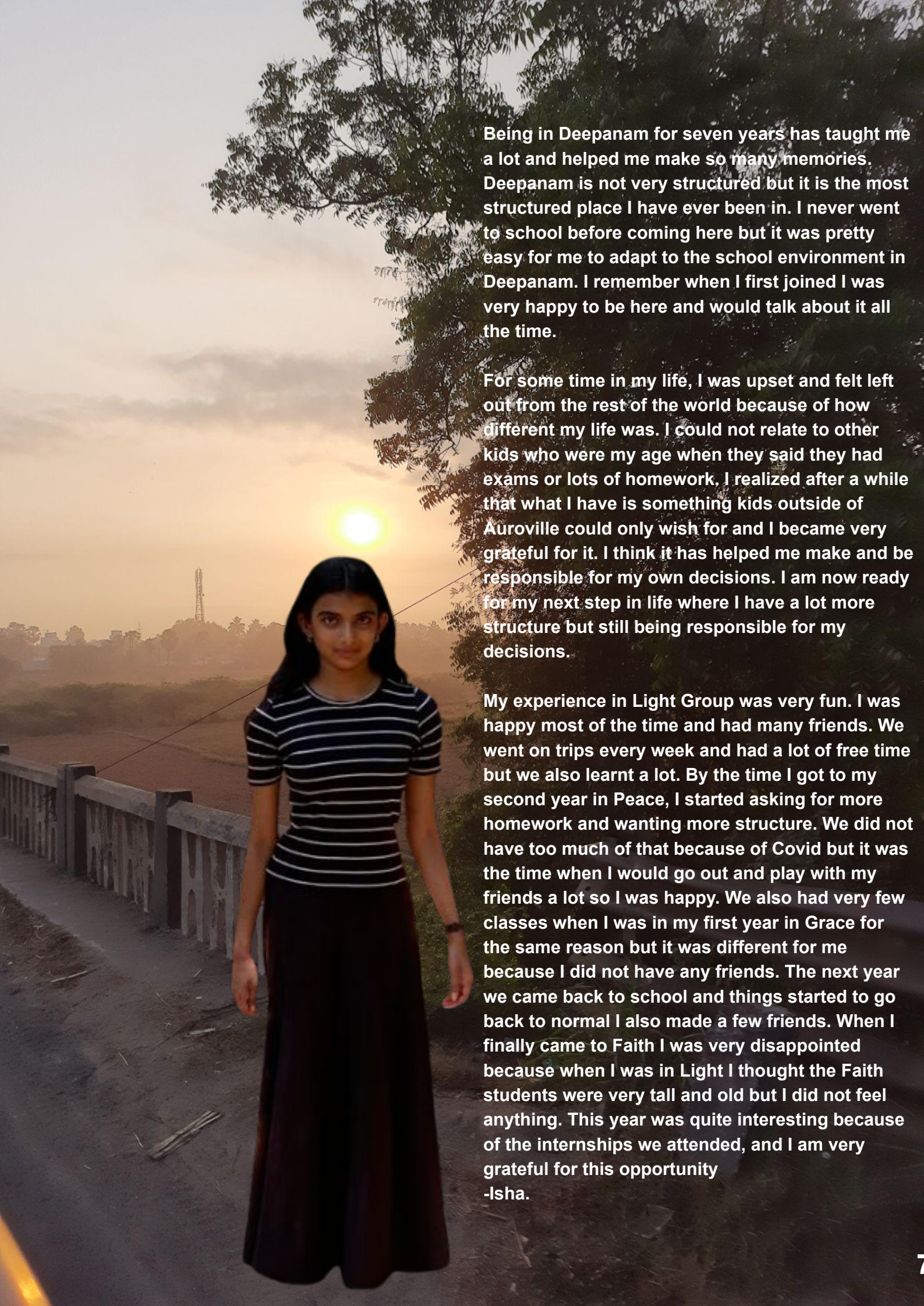
This year, every Friday, we wouldn't do regular classes, instead we did internships in Auroville units. It was a very cool experience. Meeting all these people helped me get a new perspective on how the real world actually works and how the people worked in companies. And then there were the presentations we had to do to prepare for our parents to show them what we have learnt. It was quite a challenge making the presentation, But it taught me how to work in a team and, most importantly, how to stand up in front of a crowd and present.

And the school play, Acting was never really my thing, actually I was scared to do it. but Deepanam pushed me out of my comfort zone and the teachers kind of forced me to do it but I'm glad they did. Because acting was not that bad and I made so many precious memories while practising.

Looking back, I can see just how much Deepanam has changed me. It's not just about studying, it's about becoming a better person overall. I've learned responsibility, gained confidence, and teamwork. I'm so grateful to be a part of Deepanam. I'm glad that I got a chance to study in Deepanam!

-Lea





Being in Deepanam for seven years has taught me a lot and helped me make so many memories. Deepanam is not very structured but it is the most structured place I have ever been in. I never went to school before coming here but it was pretty easy for me to adapt to the school environment in Deepanam. I remember when I first joined I was very happy to be here and would talk about it all the time.

For some time in my life, I was upset and felt left out from the rest of the world because of how different my life was. I could not relate to other kids who were my age when they said they had exams or lots of homework. I realized after a while that what I have is something kids outside of Auroville could only wish for and I became very grateful for it. I think it has helped me make and be responsible for my own decisions. I am now ready for my next step in life where I have a lot more structure but still being responsible for my decisions.

My experience in Light Group was very fun. I was happy most of the time and had many friends. We went on trips every week and had a lot of free time but we also learnt a lot. By the time I got to my second year in Peace, I started asking for more homework and wanting more structure. We did not have too much of that because of Covid but it was the time when I would go out and play with my friends a lot so I was happy. We also had very few classes when I was in my first year in Grace for the same reason but it was different for me because I did not have any friends. The next year we came back to school and things started to go back to normal I also made a few friends. When I finally came to Faith I was very disappointed because when I was in Light I thought the Faith students were very tall and old but I did not feel anything. This year was quite interesting because of the internships we attended, and I am very grateful for this opportunity
-Isha.

What comes back to me most from this year is my internship at Mason and Co. and the class play Tempest. It was my first experience of working at a factory. It was really interesting and exciting to see how the entire chain works, how different processes and machines work, and to be a part of the whole production. Also to understand that the final product depends on how I do my job. It was fascinating to work in different stages of manufacturing from sifting fresh cocoa beans to packaging finished bars of chocolate.

The Tempest was an interesting experience and comes back to me as an overcome challenge. Even tho I had a small role it was really nice to be a part of the whole process. In the end, it turned out to be a very good play and will stay with me for a long time as a vivid memory.

This year was packed with a lot of events, both positive and negative but at the end of it all I am grateful to be a part of Deepanam and to be with my friends and teachers.

Egor



It feels long yet not enough! A three year journey comes to an end.

I have always enjoyed structure, a timetable, a routine and back then I didn't realise it but my mom did and I see it now that I was very caught up in it and I was being spoon fed and also spoon stuffed sometimes. The subjects were given, the timetable was given and so was the syllabus. I didn't have space to actually question and think about what I really wanted to do.

And it was then, when I had just turned twelve and I came to Deepanam. Now I am almost fifteen and in these three years I think I have really discovered myself. I still don't know many things that I really want to do in the future but I think I have my priorities straight. The thing is none of this was taught to me but because I was given the freedom, I had time to discover and question myself. By doing this I have learnt such minor yet important things about myself. And these are not the only things that I have gained. I have also learned maths, biology, literature, poetry, history and a lot of other subjects that schools are supposed to teach.

Every year in school has been different. The first year was an easy breeze, I was just chilling, getting to know my classmates and the teachers at school. There wasn't much studying or homework but more of fun projects and experiments. I made friends instantly and got along with most of my classmates. This was also the year I found my best friend "Nayomi". I was just experiencing all that Deepanam was offering. Things like ATB were completely new to me.

The second year is what I would call my best year. Nayomi and I found the hope group students very intimidating. For the first three months we kept to ourselves and didn't really interact. We didn't even talk to Mahavir or ask any questions in any class. It was during the rehearsals for "midsummer's night dream" our annual theatre production that we started interacting with each other. After that we really started bonding and getting along and by the end of the year we had a really great friend group. Then came the graduation after which Nayomi shifted to Delhi and the hope groupers were gone. The thought of continuing school with zero friends was scary but I decided I would stay for sometime and see how it went.

The first day of last year started and honestly speaking this year has been a challenge. It has been a long year but looking back at it, it wasn't that bad and like last year, Faith and Hope have finally become one group (after a lot of struggle) and besides that I have learnt a lot.

The biggest teaching has been through the play performances. I have done about 7 plays in this school, 2 major ones, The Midsummer's night dream and Tempest. In the first one I learned a lot of tips on acting, learning lines. I also learned how to enjoy the process, not stress too much about the end results but to give your best while you practise. The second one was the real challenge, it was not easy for me at all, there was always a thought of quitting and there were too many obstacles in the process but again that experience taught me how to collaborate and have a lot of patience.

But one thing that did go right was my bond with Mahavir. It all started on a random Tuesday afternoon when he said I need to talk to you. The only thing that went on in my head was "what did I do wrong now!!" but all he was asking me was questions about my sports schedule. That was the beginning to my talks with Mahavir on every Tuesday. We would talk about anything like what books I should read next, what I could consider doing in the future along with the fun discussion about cricket. These conversations have really helped and will guide me to my future.

By now you must have realised that I can go on and on about my Deepanam experience but at last I would like to say that, It has been one of the best decisions to come to this school. I will always be grateful.

Thankyou

- Sara



OUR YEAR IN



My year in Faith had a lot of ups and downs. Let's start from the beginning. When I started this school year, I was happy with how it was going and things were going smoothly. After some time, things were more difficult, not the classes or anything, I'm sure you know what I'm talking about, so then it dragged me down a lot. My focus and energy on classes were so low, and I'm pretty sure my class felt the same way. As time passed, things were better than they had been. My days in school started feeling more ordinary and I started getting used to it.

For the first time, I tried doing NanoWriMo. I was very excited to try and make my own little story and see what ideas I would come up with, though I didn't know that after some time, it would get a bit boring. Don't get me wrong, I had a fun time coming up with the story. What I really liked about me writing

my own story is that while I'm writing, ideas come running to my head and I just had so many options that I could put. I also loved that while writing, there was so much creativity throughout the whole process.

Then, Bhakti and Mahavir got the idea of doing a play, but wait, not just any play, a Shakespeare play. The fact that it was a long play was already difficult, but a Shakespeare play? The words that are written in the script don't make sense! Also, way harder to memorise than a normal script. I'm just happy Bhakti changed some of the lines, otherwise it would actually have been a disaster. Honestly the way I see it, it really felt like the play took like half the time in faith group, because it felt like such a long process! I was so relieved once we got over the play, cause the stress it gave everyone was plenty. We put so much of our time on the play, it didn't feel like school anymore, (I'm not saying it's a bad thing). It was a really chaotic and crazy experience though, and for me that means it was fun.

I'm really glad this year we got to go to units and try them out, because it was such a memorable experience. It's like, whenever I think of the past units I used to go to, I get so many memories and it's just really nice because I also went to the units with different people so all the units I went too, were so different. Most of the units were pretty boring after some point, but before that I enjoyed it. We also had to make presentations for the two that we went to, the first presentation not gonna lie was pretty tough. I wasn't sure how to start, and neither did my classmates. So at some point we kinda just started and then I guess we got the hang of it. The second presentation I had to make was so much easier! Because then I got to know how to start and the rest.

After the play was over, Bhakti and Mahavir told us where we were going for our trip. He said we were going to Kerala (?). I was so surprised because I've never gone on a class trip that far away. Later on, he said we were going for 4 days?? Again, I was very surprised. I was really curious to see how it would be going on a trip to Kerala with my class, cause I thought it was gonna be absolute chaos... (no offence to my class) In the end, it was really fun actually, but like I said before, also pretty chaotic (but in a good way, I guess). WE WENT BOATING:O

And that's my year in Faith, I hope that Hope group will be less, you know, crazy. Thank you, and bye bye:)

-Luce

FAITH GROUP

My faith group experience was quite amazing!

Starting of the term I was really nervous, but It all went well. I remember my first day of 7th grade I was in groups in math class and loving some problems and having a great time. But I was expecting a bit different like the studies will be advance, which was the case later on...

I thought other kids will respect us, because we are 7th GRADERS!! but it wasn't what I expected it to be but later on we gained respect by showcasing our play.

This 7th grade has been a important part of my life. I just entered my teenager years and got to meet new classmates, teachers and various subjects. The main part about 7th grade is we get to perform a big play! That's a oppportunity that we don't get in regular schooling system and I'm grateful to have it.



I wanna talk about the teaching style. It's really unique, teachers will personally help you with things you don't understand they will repeat it again and again just so that you understand and not just mug up. And you don't feel you are left behind I really liked the things they provide us for better learning, by showing us a small video before a subject. And usually gained knowledge by doing practical things and visuals. I things I liked that we could get our mobile phone to school and use it only if necessary not for watching instagram reels.

I feel really confident on my academic level that every before. Including arts and crafts. But I have a faced a lot of ups and down this year, few challenges. But it's part of life you gotta move on isn't? I have made some memories, had a lot of fun with my classmates. And the trips we have been on was amazing!

I really can't express through words anymore, but yeah.. So...far I love it! I really wanna thank Mahavir and bhakti for this wonderful experience!

- Vihaan

My year in Faith was good. my favorite subjects were craft, clay, and ATB.

I went to internship at Naturellement and I really liked it. my favorite thing to do there was Packing the products, because every time I packed something different.

Now about the class play. I didn't really enjoy it because its not my kind of thing (it was still fun tho).

The school trip was nice but I was sick since the first day of the trip that kind of spoiled the fun.

-Celestin



My year in Faith had good parts where I wanted to go to school and bad parts when I really didn't want to, but in the end it turned out amazing. Before going to Faith Group, my expectations were different from reality. First, I expected it to be just working all day, but we actually had a lot of freedom, like coming to school at 9:00 and having longer breaks than the other groups. I also definitely did not expect us to have an internship program. In the first term, I chose film and documentary for my internship, and our goal was to make a film based on Deepanam at the end of the term. During the term, we did multiple things: planning, recording, and interviewing the teachers in Deepanam. But because we only had internship once a week, we ended up leaving the film half-finished. In the second term, I decided to try out Mason & Co. In Mason & Co., there were 2 parts to the factory: the first part, where cocoa beans get roasted, then broken into smaller pieces, and then sifted until they are turned into cocoa nibs and melted into rich dark chocolate sauce. In the second factory, the melted chocolate is placed in molds, put into a refrigerator, and later wrapped in foil and



packed. When I first came to Mason & Co., we did various different jobs: sifting, packing, and placing molds. But after a while, we kept on repeating the same things over and over, so I got bored of it. I also really enjoyed the Tempest play that happened on March 15th. I was a slave to Prospero, and I didn't really like my role because I had to hunch my back, which gave me back ache, but since everyone said it "suited my role, I was ok with it. The play went way better than I had expected, and everyone played much better than in the play practices.

-Meet



This school year has been pretty wild. It started out pretty good and quite calm. I remember being quite scared of our classroom and I found it weird that now we were the inhabitants of it. After a month or so I started to feel more at home here and it felt natural. Coming to Faith group is actually kind of what I expected, a decent amount of homework, a higher level of maths and science and the Kaleidoscope work, though that has died down a bit since the start of the year. Then we had our NaNoWriMo but I couldn't finish that with Tara's passing making everything a pandemonium. I stopped school for a month and a half and now I'm back. I missed the chaos of the play so I think my review of the year will be a bit higher than that of others... This year still turned out good even with the constant fights about us being terrible students and how we do not compare to last year but I am still grateful for it all and I learnt tons this year in so many different ways, so I honestly don't really care about the crappy stuff this year and I still *hope* that next year will be better and I will try to be more involved with the Kaleidoscope as it really is an opportunity I don't want to waste.

-Oliver

My year in the Faith group is something I will never forget. There were many good times, but of course with highs, there are also lows. Though I think there were more sad moments than happy, those happy moments are truly something I will never forget. I became closer with many people who I never thought I would even talk to. Of course, with many friends came many fights. But even though we have all had disagreements, we are now all closer than ever. I've also learned plenty of new things, some interesting, some boring, but I'm happy to have learned it all. Overall, I really enjoyed my time here. Thank you, Mahavir and Bhakti, for this nice time in the Faith Group.

-Megha



My time in faith has been a rollercoaster of emotions, good times, bad times and times when I didn't want to come to school. Weirdly this year has been more to the bad side rather than good; which is why I have more bad memories than good. This year has had few good memories, but the few have been great, it's like that line that goes "Quality over Quantity". This year I also got to experience internship, the internships I went to were film and documentary making and KINISI- E mobility. Out of the two I enjoyed film and documentary making more. I did one term of film and documentary making and two terms of KINISI, I couldn't go for film and documentary making since it wasn't available the next two terms, I enjoyed KINISI too. I also kind of explored history and a little bit of economics for the first time. I also loved doing the play, even though the practices were very stressed out, but the end product felt like I accomplished something nice in my life, after the play finished I almost started missing our practices. One of the best memories was the Munnar trip, it was a very enjoyable and fun trip, the place was really beautiful and picturesque. I don't think I want to write about the bad memories so I will leave it at that.

-Abhi

My experience in deepanam so far has been pretty short, since I joined during September 2023. However, during the short time I've been here, it's been really fun. I can't wait to become a hope grouper next year and learn a lot of new stuff such as marine biology so we can learn about... jellyfish.

So anyway I enjoyed deepanam a lot and I hope it stays that way. (Threat)

- Atisha

Cont'd on last page



OH, MUNNAR, THOU

it all started with a lot of debates as to where to go and for how many days. We kept telling Mahavir we wanted a longer trip but the only excuse he had was “budget” but I believe that it wasn't that, it was that he didn't want to spend more than four days with us (we can be very unbearable).

After a lot of arguments Mahavir decided we were going to Munnar for 3 nights, 4 days. I was very happy because first of all it was a different state and second, it was a hill station, so good weather. The only thing I was dreading was the journey. It was a 10hr drive with the bus full of kids (I sound so old) but actually it turned out to be pretty fun. When we reached the hotel room we were told where everyone was sleeping. The rooms were quite decent but most importantly, clean!. I was sharing the room with Lea, Luce and Oli. We all get along well so I was content with the sleeping arrangements. Now, Lea and I have very picky needs about how we stayed in the room (I WONDER where we get it from??) so Oli and Luce had to cooperate with things like. No walking around with shoes, you have to have clean feet before getting on the bed!! Etc.

Munnar as a place is beautiful. It's covered with tea plantations and just bright green everywhere. It was a bit crowded and considering that I was with 13 teenagers there wasn't a lot of peace and quiet.

Overall we did a lot of activities, trekking, a lot of walking, viewpoints etc, but one of the highlights has to be kayaking. I have no idea why Lea and I wanted to suddenly go kayaking. Both of us had never done anything like that and it was a huge lake which was most probably very deep also. Everyone was wise enough to choose boating but me as the adventurous (borderline dum) person I dragged Lea with me. As the guide walked us to our kayak my legs were actually shaking, I was contemplating all my life decisions and I was VERY scared but as we started paddling it got way easier. It felt like we were floating on water and that's why the views looked 10 times better.

Another fun thing that we did was every small shop that had sunglasses, we would select the most horrendous and hilarious ones in the collection and put them on. I don't know what it was but we found it funny every single time and then we clicked photos of each other!

Overall the trip was amazing and it is forever engraved in one of my best memories of my life at Deepanam.

-Sara



ART UNFORGETTABLE!

As a reward for our extensive and long play, our teachers planned to take us on the trip to Munnar. It was my first long school trip in Deepanam. I was all ready and packed from 2 days before. On the day of the trip, waking up at 4:00 am never felt so easy. After a gruesome 10 hour journey we finally arrived at our guest house. It was a relief to be out of the cramped bus. Few hours after we arrived we went for a short walk to the chocolate factory. After getting chocolate and eating dinner at the guest house, we spent most of the night ding dong ditching each other's rooms and playing uno.

The next day we went paddle boating near a dam. We raced each other and we pissed off a guy who was working there because we crossed the time limit. Eating maggi after looking at the dam and getting half wet in the boat was heavenly. The guy who sold us maggi was friendly, and we were talking about our school and what we were studying. The next day we freshened up and then we set off to the museum. But sadly we couldn't go in it. Instead we went into the main market to get more chocolate and goodies.

In the night we mostly stayed up till 12 and played uno and ludo. Playing 6 way ludo was really time consuming and I wasn't that good at it. On the other hand i just felt like a card collector in uno having more than 20 cards. We mostly had a lot of fun and the nights were mainly cool for us to chill in the balcony of the room. We went on a walk the next day through a tea garden. It was really fun but all of my energy was sapped out due to the heat. Upon reaching the waterfall I had taken many pictures of the landscape and flowers. We even had a refreshing lemon soda and it regained energy. Having the paper dosa after the walk was probably the most memorable experience. The Dosa took up more than half the table. Somehow I managed to eat it all.

The third day we went to a rose garden. But most of us, including me, were just interested in having the coconut water next door. We took the bus to the echo point where we found our own spot to shout from and then went to a viewpoint where I saw some bikers and sick bikes and also a great valley nestled between the mountains. Many of my classmates also bought some mini katanas from there. Knowing that it was the last day was kind of sad but also really exciting to get back home. I dreaded the journey again, knowing that it will take the majority of the day. I tried not to think about it a lot.

Surprisingly the bus ride back was quite smooth. I didn't feel that nauseous and was enjoying the reclining seat with the A/C on. After 10 hours we reached again. It felt weird coming back after 4 days. But it was all good and I had a fun experience with my class. I would also like to thank mahavir and bhakti for taking us on this trip

AARYAN.

My time in faith group has been a lot of ups and downs and a LOT more than I expected. When we first had the meeting with Mahavir I only thought the main goal was making the kaleidoscope magazine but it was way more! I remember when I first came to the class me and my friends were talking about how nervous we were, I was kind of worried because I heard that faith group was going to be a lot harder, mahavir was explaining the classes and i was surprised with how many classes there were, I did not expect there to be so many options and I was really excited to experience them all, and classes were changing every term, we even made our own class! We had normal classes too like math, english, science, etc...just like any other place, but there was also a bunch of other classes like coding, debate(which is the class we made), and on fridays we went for an internship to some auroville unit! Internship was the one that really excited me I loved the idea of going out the school and experience working with other people



It gave me an idea of what the real world was like, we could also go to some units in kulapalayam, like, mason and co, maroma, and ptps, and the other units in auroville was, kinisi, nandanam, upasana, yuvabe, naturellement, and film and documentary i think. So that is one thing I really enjoyed about faith.

I will admit there was a lot more work than usual. We had to make presentations and kaleidoscope work was added and it was quite some work but I also really enjoyed faith. And people also came and visited us and took classes too! There was this one korean traveling school that came to our school and taught us body percussion, it was really fun being with them they were all very nice and enthusiastic.

The play for our school is one of the main things for the school year and i remember it was quite chaotic this year, it was hectic, it was messy, people got mad, there was a lot of miscommunications, and after tara's passing it was not easy for any of us i would say this year was one of the hardest and i was also really stressed with the play i had to sing and i am definitely not good at singing so it was a bit embarrassing, and we also had to do a shakespeare play so the language was complicated and it took a while to learn it, but i remember we all liked the result, probably because we kept our expectations really low because of how much we struggled but i liked it definitely!

And we had such fun trips too! Faith and hope goes for a 4 day trip to some place and I was so excited to go for 4 days! This year we went to Munnar and it was really fun! And it was cold so even better! We all divided our room and I will admit it was nice to go alone and not always with parents but i loved traveling around! We went to many different places and I will never forget about this trip! In the night too we played games like uno and we were all talking and having fun with each other. It was nice to go on a trip with friends.

I will say faith was very difficult for me but i also had a lot of fun with it

-Aarohi