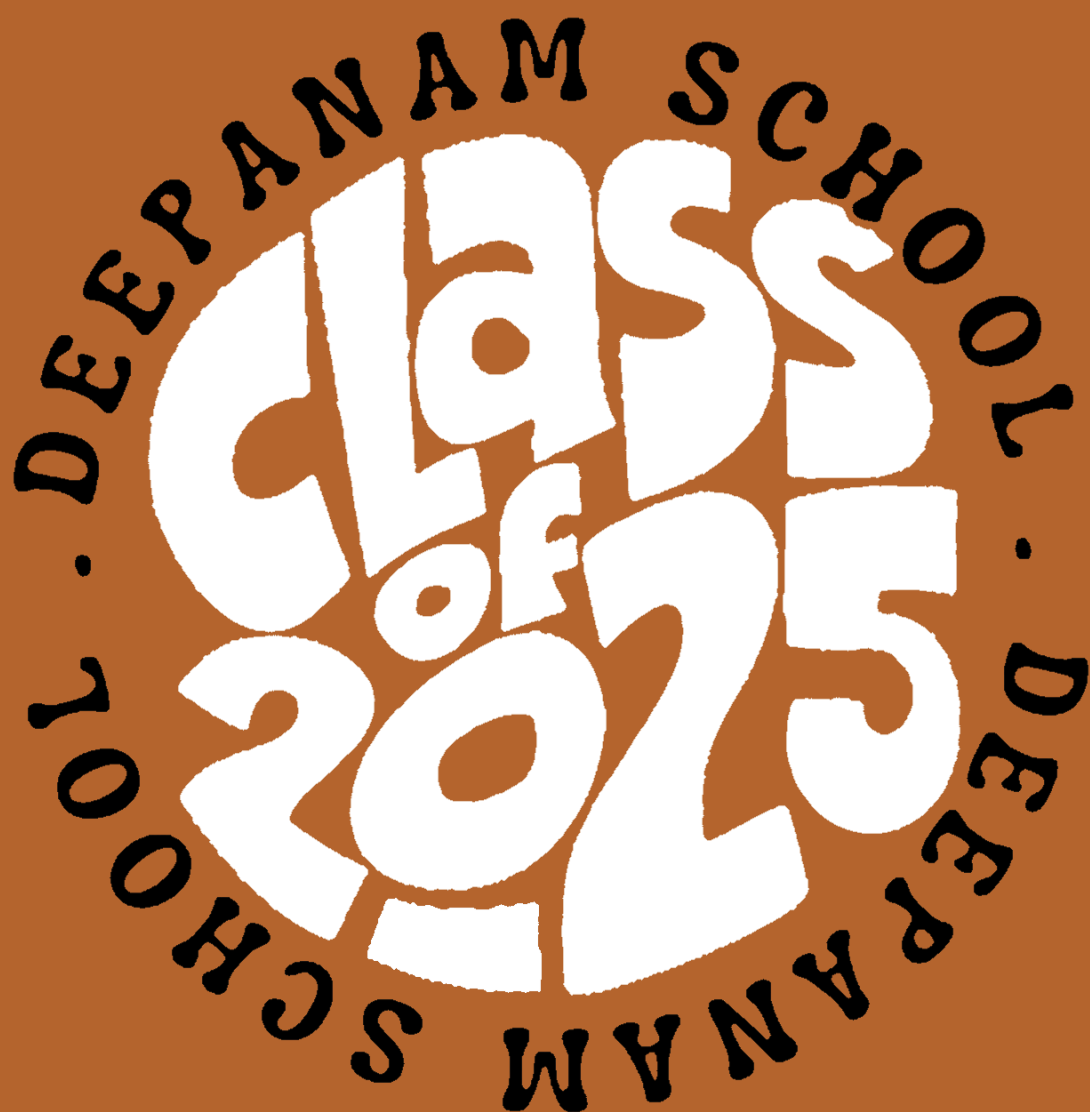


APRIL 2025

ISSUE # 63

# KALEIDOSCOPE



## GRADUATION

8 kids speak about their journey in Deepanam

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# GRADUATION HOPE GROUP 2025

Meaning of **graduation** in English



## graduation

**noun** [ C or U ]

UK /ˌɡrædʒ.uˈeɪ.ʃən/ US /ˌɡrædʒ.uˈeɪ.ʃən/

[Add to word list](#)

**B1**

the fact of finishing a degree or other course of study at a university or school, or the ceremony at which you are officially said to have finished:

- a graduation ceremony



# DEAR GRADUATES

“Be sincere in your aspiration, and the path will open before you.” - The Mother

Dear Aarohi , Aaryan , Atisha , Celestin , Luc’e , Megha , Meet , and Oli,

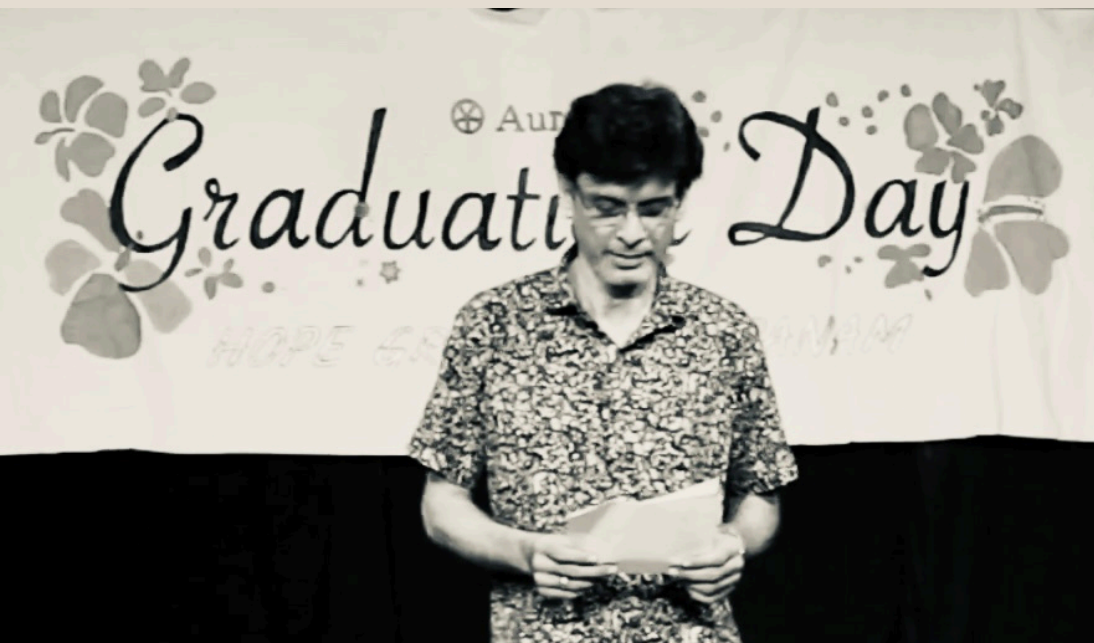
This is the moment we’ve all been waiting for—and now that it’s here, it’s not easy to find the words and summarize the moments the couple of years that we had together.

This year has been a journey of growth for all of us in many aspects. Together, we've created lasting memories through our projects, performances, and daily interactions. From publishing Kaleidoscope to podcasts and our play productions. Looking back in class, I've tried my best to give you more than just facts. I wanted to spark your curiosity, help you think for yourselves, and build your confidence to follow your own way. As you continue your journey, remember that real learning happens when you pursue what truly interests you.

One of the highlights of the year was the performance of As You Like It was not just a play—it was a celebration of your hard work and commitment. We brought the characters of ‘As you like it’ to life with our collective brilliance. You will all agree that many lessons learned along the way, and the memories created during this production will forever hold a special place in our hearts.

This year, one of the most special things we did was the internship program. You stepped out of the classroom and into the real world—cafés, farms, and different units of Auroville. You met new people. You tried new tasks. You worked alongside adults, followed instructions, and learned how things actually work behind the curtains. You learned to be on time, to take responsibility, to listen, and to adjust. You practiced patience.





Quoting one of you here about internship

“At first I thought it was just a break from school, but now I feel like I’ve learned things that school could never teach me.”

That’s the point.

The program was meant to provide you with meaningful experience that helps you get to know about the practical skills.

We all know that memorizing content and passing exams won’t be enough. In the future we will need skills to work with others, manage uncertainty, and keep learning on their own. These are not just “school skills”—these are life skills.

And no one is going to teach them to you unless you go looking.

Take James Cameron, the legendary filmmaker behind Titanic and Avatar. He never went to film school. In fact, he didn’t even finish college. He once said:

“I went down to the USC library and read everything I could on special effects and filmmaking. Then I made my own films. That was my education.”

Cameron didn’t wait for permission. He followed his curiosity. He went to the library, not the lecture hall. He learned by doing.

Yes, each of you has your own special talents. As you move forward, you’ll face tough choices and many questions. Remember that our actions define who we are. Every decision you make shows the world - and yourself - who you truly are. Think carefully about what you want from life, and go after it with hard work and determination. There are no easy shortcuts to success.

In The Mother’s words:

“Be sincere in your aspiration, and the path will open before you.”

Thank you for being part of this beautiful and challenging year. For your laughter, your questions, your growth.

Here’s wishing you all the best for the future. May you achieve the best.

*Mahavir*



# CELESTIN

My name is Celestin. I joined Deepanam two weeks into the first term of the school year 2023-2024, and will go to Last School next year. These two years in Deepanam were nice, especially the second one because I didn't do my homework or even focus in class in the first year. I wasn't really accepted by my classmates,(and I still am) but I still don't know why they were always making fun of my “ginger hair” and other things like being slower than others in reading or writing. Apart from that my years here went pretty well and I ended up doing more of my homework and paying attention in class but I still wasn't accepted by my classmates except for two who became my “friends” even though they didn't help me much.

The classes I liked the most were: Animation with Abhijit, and craft with Victor. I knew Abhijit for a long time since he used to be my drawing teacher, i really liked his class because we watched an animated film and then we would draw a character from it, and I wanted to improve my drawing.  
In craft class I made a dragon mini figure which I finished last week.

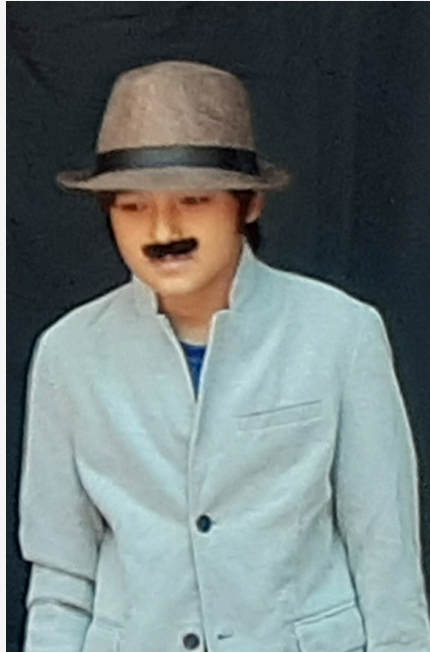
Overall my experience in this school went pretty well and I would like to thank my teachers for helping me learn so many things.(all of them)

*Celestin*

# MEET



At Solar Kitchen



Tom Sawyer , April 2024



As You Like It , March 2025

I've been in Deepanam for 5 years now, and I didn't expect it would end so fast. These five years in Deepanam have really had its ups and down, but have been a big part of my life. I would say it would be something that I would remember when I am older.

I remember the first day of Deepanam, it was on a wednesday. When I entered the class I was a little shy but since I had friends already it was easier to fit in. Deepanam has taught me more than I expected. Since Deepanam has loads of theatre, and many that i have participated in, i have come to enjoy it a lot.

I would like to thank all the teachers for coming to school everyday to teach us and having patience with us when we were loud. And also to my classmates for the jokes, laughs, and endless fights.

Lastly thank you Deepanam

Meet



# AAROHI



Three years ago I joined this school because I wanted to experience what school life is like. See, before I joined I was homeschooled, and my family travelled a lot so I never got to be with certain friends for a long period of time. A fleeting moment you could say. But coming to Auroville and joining deepanam has been one of the most memorable events of my life. Three years have never felt shorter, yet I can recall a billion things from it.

At first I was very scared, because knowing that it was my first time joining a school I thought it was going to be difficult while being with kids who have gone to school their whole life. On my first day I was really contemplating whether I should just turn back and go hide under my blankets forever. But honestly... I'm glad I didn't, Because Fitting in took way less time than deciding whether I should join deepanam or not. Since I joined in 6th grade I thought I missed out on a lot, but the teachers, the kids, they didn't mind about my past and accepted me either way. And I couldn't have been more [pause] relieved.

The friends I have made over here have left core memories for me. they really made me understand the meaning of friendship and how much [tiny pause] value it can add to someone's life. And I know that even if I ever left this place in the future, I would always keep in touch, cause I could never truly leave them.

I got the entire school experience I wanted. Some days I wanted to fake my sickness and skip, but other times I would stay up all night giggling to myself and not able to sleep because of how excited I would be for the upcoming day. Plus, when has anything been in a constant state of Perfection? But the highlights of it, the chaotic play rehearsals, and the dinner after the play. The loud bus ride to school trips, and the nights playing werewolf and snacking. the school sleep overs that always disturbed the teachers, and the morning after that, groggy but satisfied. I can confidently say those were all perfect.

I couldn't be more grateful for all the opportunities I got in this school, especially internship. I never in my life thought I would be able to be allowed to do such a thing at this age, but I'm glad I got a sense of reality in it (in a good way) I loved bonding with the workers over chai and gossip, and the smile and nod they give whenever they see me passing by on my cycle. It made me realize that maybe not all adults are scary and judgemental.

This place has given me the space to grow my character, my knowledge, my creativity, my social skills, and overall my state of mind. I couldn't be more excited to move on to new places but at the same time it feels weird leaving the place that has made such a huge impact on my life.

Thank you

Aarohi



# ATISHA



I only came to Deepanam two years ago, but so far, it has definitely been my favourite school. I was in TLC originally, and while that did suit me when i was younger, i feel that at this point in my life the structure of Deeepanam suits me a lot better.

I didn't think that I would integrate well with the group, Seeing as I joined in the middle of a term, but since I already had a few friends it wasn't too awkward.

Over time, i made more friends, and started to really enjoy school. My second year has definitely been miles better than the first one, though that's not to say the first one was bad lol. Megha is the coolest one (she added that)

This past year though, and its something i never expected, one of my favourite things about school is my class(EW) We somehow actually like each other, and we speak to each other(??), and i feel like we're sort of friends which is maybe the biggest accomplishment i've ever achieved.

I never really thought that you could enjoy hanging out with your class(beyond your own group of friends) But this class has proved me wrong! We even do things outside of school and it really has been so much fun. It's actually been really fun this year, and i'm glad that these are the memories i'll always have of deepanam.

I also want to thank the teachers who helped me out and taught our evil class (special mentiom Shaalini bc i wasnt in grace group but i love her)

Yeah, so no matter where i go ill really miss Deepanam and keep it in a special place in my heart. I'm really sad now that it's ending and i know I'll never be in school here again, it really feels like the end of something. I hope my class and environment is this nice or even better next year and I have i stay in touch with all my friends. When I think about Deepanam it will be with happy kind of nostalgia, and even though I've not been here for as long as others it feels like I've been here forever.

Atisha

# MEGHA



They say the beginning of something new is always the hardest. For me, that was February 2021.

When I came to Deepanam, the school year was basically at its end. By then, everyone had settled in and found their place. Everyone except me.

I didn't really know how to talk to people, so making friends felt impossible. I would say whatever popped into my head—because it made people laugh. But I didn't realize they weren't laughing with me... they were laughing at me.

That realization hit hard.

I spent many evenings crying beside my mom, wondering what I had done so wrong. What was so off about me that the universe decided I didn't deserve friends?

My confidence crumbled. I started to lose the spark that made me me.

Until I met my first real friend.

Her name was Vegaa. We met outside of school—our moms had just become friends. She would come over, and we'd quietly watch shows and make

random stuff out of clay. We were both shy, but connected in no time. When she finally joined Deepanam, it felt like everything changed. I finally had someone who didn't judge me, someone who liked me for who I was.

Vegaa has since left the school, but she still has a special place in my heart. Because without her, I wouldn't have the friends I do today.

The first friend we made together was Aarohi, on the very first day of 6th grade. From the first time I heard her talk, I haven't stopped listening since.

Then Aarohi introduced me to Chaaru—who, to this day, is my go-to source for all the faith group gossip.

And finally, there's Atisha—the friend I made all by myself. We bonded over our love for a band, and quickly found out we had a million other things in common. Endless conversations followed, and we haven't stopped yapping since.



Now thank you to my family, for always being there for me, you guys have known me for longer than i have known myself, and I wouldn't be here without you guys. Figuratively and literally.

And thank you to the teachers, plus a special thanks to Shaalini, Anu, Bhakti and mahavir for putting up with us. I know we really weren't the easiest batch, but you guys still did everything you could to get through to us.

From 9-year-old Megha to who I am now, I wouldn't be standing here without all of you. My friends, my family, my classmates, my teachers, every single person who made Deepanam what it is.

This journey has been anything but smooth. There have been highs and lows, tears and laughs, but I wouldn't trade it for anything. I'm ready to begin a new chapter, and I hope your journey ahead is just as beautiful, fun, and full of love as mine has been.

Thank you.

Megha



# OLI

It's been almost four years at Deepanam and I can't believe it's over now. I remember being in 2nd or 3rd grade in Transition and daydreaming of the day I'd be in 8th grade getting ready to move onto highschool. Back then I thought I'd stay in Transition. I'm so happy I came to Deepanam, it's hard to imagine having gone anywhere else now. I wouldn't have met some of the most amazing people and made the best friendships if I hadn't come here and I'm so grateful for that.

I remember my first day, feeling like quite an outsider joining this class who'd been together for a while, but after a month I already felt like a part of the class and it was great, making the same sucky jokes and accents. It was easy to make friends as it is when you're really young, but it felt different at Deepanam. It was a fresh start and it felt good. Some of my new classmates I'd met before but I didn't really know them, so it was nice to be around different people.

Deepanam has affected who I've become quite a lot, especially the people here, from classmates to teachers. From the trips to a regular day at school. School became somewhere I wanted to go because it was fun and free. We had different interesting projects where there was a lot of creative freedom and that was amazing. I feel like Deepanam wasn't afraid to try different things out and see where they went, which I think embodies a certain aspect of Auroville of constant. Deepanam is always trying to improve itself and change like a living thing. Sometimes, something is tried out and doesn't work but that's okay. I've seen Deepanam change before my eyes and I think it's a great thing. From being the first Group to do a Grace group magazine to being the first to try out the internship program. I didn't always notice it at the time, but Deepanam helped me become someone who doesn't wait to be told what to do. I learned to trust my own direction and enjoy figuring things out on my own.

Deepanam has always had quite a focus on science with steam and the life science lab which I really loved. SO thank you Monica and Anupama for giving me a fun view on science.

In Deepanam we've had our fair share of new teachers, some which were great but couldn't stay and others which we weren't very fond of but could stay. But we could talk to our other teachers, like Anu, Shaalini, Mahavir and Bhakti about it, so thank you for always trying to listen to us.



Thank you Deepanam for all the plays, sometimes testing our limits and sometimes just being a joy. And thank you for the Internships, I've learnt so much from those and I've met even more amazing people through that, making me feel more connected to Auroville. I feel like both of these things have helped me become someone who's not scared of talking to people, asking questions, and slightly less afraid of public speaking.

Thank you again Anu, Shaalini, Narmadha, Patricia, Monica, Anupama, Veronica, Veronique, Evgenia, Sabrina, Sonia and Suguna for bringing so much joy into Grace and Peace group. You all made those years really wonderful for me and I'll always remember them.

Thank you Bhakti, Mahavir and Aurevan for managing us these last two years, you've made them fly by and I can't believe the daunting years of Faith and Hope are over. And thank you Natasha, Honour, Amir and Larra for being so patient with us in ATB.

Thank you to my class, I can't imagine being with anyone other than you guys, you always cracked me up, especially in the worst of situations and honestly school would be so much harder and more boring without you guys.

Lastly, thank you to all the gardeners, people working in the office and kitchen ladies who tirelessly make Deepanam possible.

I'll miss Deepanam



# LUCE

I don't know how 5 years have already passed. It feels like I've just been in 8th grade this whole time.

When I came to deepanam, I came from a school in France. France had made me think school was a terrible thing, it made me think that every morning I would have to fake being sick and not go to school.

My first day of deepanam, it was a Friday. I was in assembly and I already knew that this school would be different. The atmosphere, the people being welcoming, the school campus, it all made me excited to join. But, I was scared that no one would talk to me, as it took me a while to make friends in France. But here, when they took me on the tour of the campus, someone just started talking to me, asking me questions about my life, and she became my first friend. I was so surprised by how nice everyone was here. It was such a relief being able to speak English and not stutter every sentence when speaking french. Deepanam definitely changed my opinion about school teachers. The teachers here are so understanding, and you become comfortable with them as if you've known them for so long.

I have definitely made my bestest friends here at Deepanam, so I'm really happy I came here. I'm definitely going to miss all of the chaotic kaleidoscope meetings, playing four square with our class, all the fun and messy class trips, some of the most chill classes, and all of the teachers here. It's honestly kind of impossible to sum up everything that's happened at Deepanam over the years. Some days felt like they'd never end, and others flew by way too fast. But in between all that, I learned a lot, not just school things, but real life things too. And yes, not every moment was amazing, but every part of it added up to something that helped me grow.

To my classmates  
We've had our ups and downs, but you guys were the people I spent most of my days with, and that matters. From random conversations to the weirdest class moments, you always managed to make things more fun (or at least more entertaining). Whether we were being loud for no reason or just sitting around doing nothing, thanks for being there, even if we were mostly just distracting each other.



To the teachers  
Thanks for putting up with all of us. Seriously. I know we weren't always the easiest bunch, but you still showed up, helped us out, and let us figure things out our own way. I appreciate the fact that most of you were actually willing to have real conversations and we didn't just stick to our notebooks writing. You gave us the space to mess up, try again, and ask questions without feeling weird about it, and that's something not every school gives you.

Shoutout to Shaalini, Anu, Mahavir and Bhakti, Aurevan, and the rest of the teachers. Whether it was a chill class, a chaotic one, or something in between, thanks for being part of my experience here.

*Luc'e*

# AARYAN

So this is it, the day of the graduation. I never expected 2 years to fly by that fast.

If I'm going to be honest, these 2 years in Deepanam only bring a word to my mind: Chill. I do mean that in the best way possible. This might and only be the 2 most chilliest years and that's saying something.

When I first came to Deepanam it was weird. Not weird in a bad way, but in a way that it just threw me off because it was different. The schooling was nothing like what I had experienced before, no monthly tests, minimal homework and no stupidly enforced competitions. It took a while to grow upon me.

The two plays that I have been part of were a mildly catastrophic experience. In the end it turned out great, especially the second. I've grown to like theatre due to this and I can list it as one of the things that I have improved in during my time in Deepanam.

Now that I am looking back, I strongly wish to have come here sooner, especially hearing from my classmates their experience on how the lower grades were.

To all the teachers, thank you for having an open mind, for answering our questions how many times we wanted. I don't know how you guys have the patience to do it everyday. Mad respect.

To my classmates, for the inside jokes, mindless conversations and the insults we threw at each other for fun, I'm glad we all came together.

Thank you Deepanam for giving this experience and thank you Mahavir and Bhakti for giving us the internship program. Helping us set out in the world a bit less confused than we would be. I would also like to thank Aurevan for helping me write better, for without her I wouldn't be reading this speech right now.

*Aaryan*



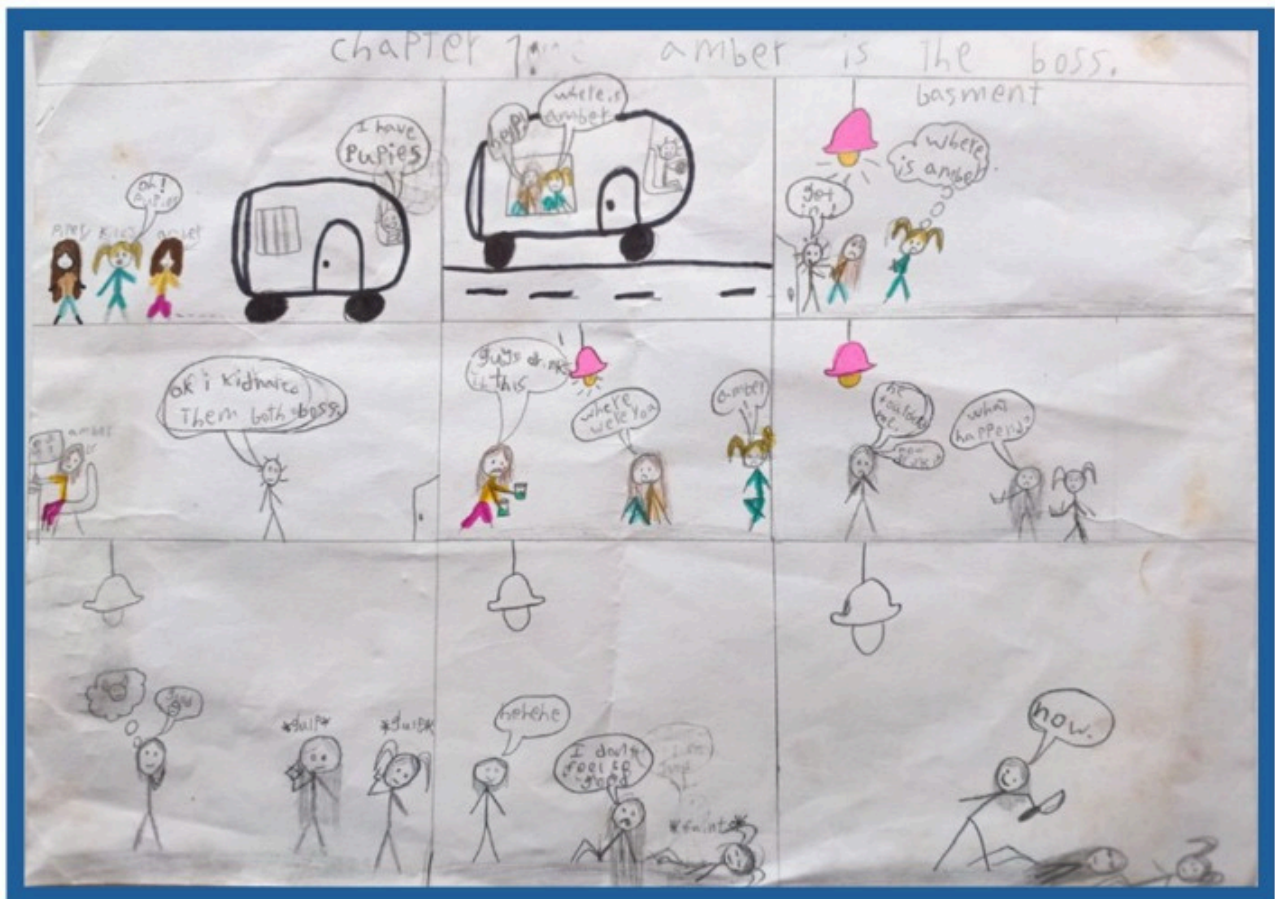
As You Like It 2025



The Tempest 2024



## Chapter 1: Amber is the Boss - by Liv



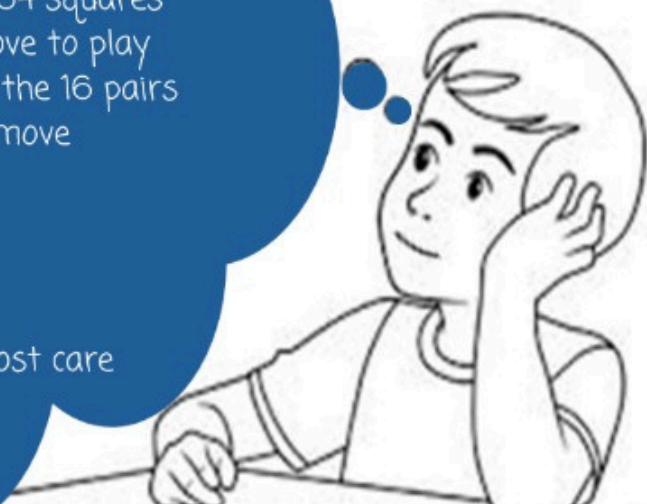
(...to be continued)

## Chess - by Samath

Chess is a game  
In which you use your mind  
Just the same  
As a game diff-easy

As I look over the 64 squares  
Thinking which move to play  
I wonder which of the 16 pairs  
of pieces should I move

Chess is fun  
It is won  
By the player  
Who takes the most care



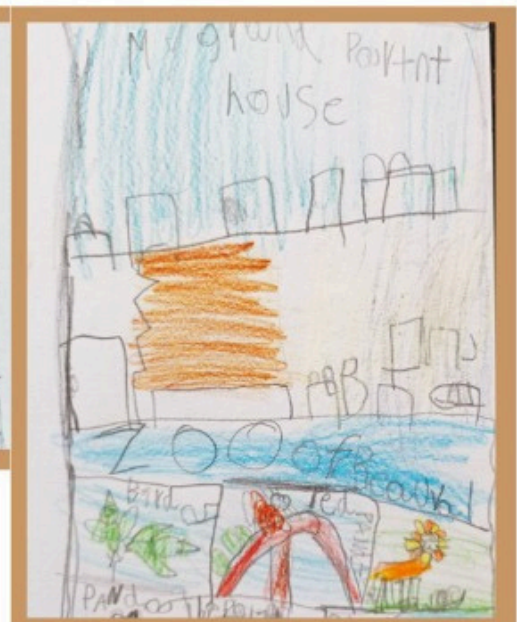
## The Kid Who Wanted to Be A Footballer... - by Sun



## I Like France - by Ishaan



I like France. I like the market and my grandparents' house. In France I like park I go with my scooter at the park to play with my sister.



Sometimes my grandpa brings me, my cousin and my sister to the park and we play there. When we go back to the home of our grandparents sometimes, we see TV. We go to the library, we take DVD and after when we go back home, we see the movie.

I also like zoo in France. When we go to the zoo we travel long to a hotel and after we go to the zoo and see the animals. I saw panda, otter, red panda, a crocodile and lots of birds. I also saw hippos. Some were in the water and some were on the earth. I like the ocean at Normandy and the museum there.



## A Girl and A Butterfly - by Rudra



Once a girl followed a butterfly. The butterfly went to a forest and the girl lost her house. Then she went to a new forest. The butterfly turned and the girl followed her butterfly. She found her house and went in. She told her mother the whole story. Then she told her father, her sister, her brother, her grandfather and grandmother

## The Bird Caller - by Daniel



This is a bird caller. It attracts birds to you. They come in the area where you live. You turn the hollow bell-shaped wooden thing. Under the cylinder you see a little pipe. Around the pipe you put some powder. Below it is attached to a metal ring. It comes with a small powder capsule which is orange, brown in colour. When you turn the bird caller it makes bird sounds. You can make it go soft or loud.

Today morning I turned the bird caller. It made sound 3 times. Then some birds replied. They were green, blue, orange and red. Everytime I use a bird caller I will track how many birds I see

# TEENS CONNECT

APRIL 2025

EPISODE 15

## IN CONVERSAION WITH ARYAMANI



HOSTED BY LUC'E AND OLI

Hope and Faith group's monthly podcast

### Aaryamani's Journey in Auroville

Interviewed by Luca and Oli | Teens Connect Podcast  
In this episode of Teens Connect, hosts Luca and Oli sit down with Aaryamani—to trace her remarkable journey from Brazil to Auroville, and her decades-long commitment to creativity, education, and the Auroville spirit.

#### From Brazil to Auroville

Born in Brazil, Aaryamani arrived in Auroville in 1979, drawn by a yearning for “something more” in life. She speaks of her early inspiration from Sri Aurobindo's vision and a desire for a freer, more creative way of being. This inner calling eventually led her to the experimental township of Auroville, where she found not just a place, but a purpose.

“I was looking for a space that allowed me to live more authentically... and Auroville offered that.”

#### Pioneering Days

When Aaryamani arrived, Auroville was still in its beginnings, with very few residents. She quickly became involved in shaping the Cultural Zone, offering modern dance classes throughout the community. Her work combined movement, self-expression, and healing—paving the way for a culture of embodied learning.

#### Deepanam and Educational Experiments

Aaryamani's love for education brought her to Deepanam, a school where she introduced creative bodywork and theater into learning. She also played a role in Miramukhi School's early experiments, which focused on balance—between structure and freedom, exploration and learning. “Deepanam was special. It allowed freedom and creativity, and yet was respected for what it was achieving.”

Her stories of teaching and exploring theater with children reflect a deep respect for the innate wisdom and energy of youth.

#### Spiritual Anchoring at Matrimandir

In the early 2000s, Aaryamani felt drawn to volunteer at Matrimandir. She recalls the profound sense of peace and the idea of it being “a city with a soul” as central to her experience. This quiet, inner work mirrored the depth of her commitment to Auroville's ideals.

#### Reflections on Change

When asked about the changes in Auroville, she acknowledges both physical growth and the evolution of its inner spirit. Despite challenges, she believes the essence of Auroville remains intact—a space still anchored in a deep vision of human unity and transformation.

#### Words of Wisdom for the Next Generation

To young people in Auroville, Aaryamani offers a passionate reminder:

“Never forget your fire. Stay connected to your soul and remember why you are here.”

She encourages youth to remain rooted in the deeper vision that brought them—or their families—to Auroville, and to trust in the collective journey.

<https://www.aurovilleradiotv.org/episodes/teens-connect-ep-15>



# OPEN HOUSE PRESENTATIONS AT DEEPANAM

25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025

## PEACE GROUP



The Peace group (ages 9–10) opened the event with *Homo Sapiens*, a humorous yet thought-provoking journey through human evolution. The students, dressed as early hominins, animals, and modern-day humans, took the audience on a time-travel adventure that raised questions about what truly makes us human. With scenes depicting the use of fire, the invention of tools, and the birth of language, the play offered more than entertainment—it invited reflection on consciousness, cooperation, and the future of our species.

## LIGHT GROUP



Next came the Light group (ages 7–8), presenting the poem *The Golden Light*. Their performance was a visual poem in itself—a gentle, lyrical portrayal of the soul's inner journey. Using flowing movement, vibrant scarves, and minimal dialogue, the students conveyed a powerful message of hope, transformation, and inner beauty.

## FAITH GROUP



The event concluded with *Shakespeare Matters* by the Faith group (ages 13–14), a witty and insightful presentation that combined performance, commentary, and reflection. Drawing from their experience staging *As You Like It* earlier in the year, the students explored why Shakespeare still matters today.



ALL THE BEST !