The Thinker - quite an eccentric name if I have to say so myself but of course eccentric things always tend to have a spark in them that’s simply unbelievable!

The powerful tool of language enables human beings to communicate, interact, discuss, debate, express and much more. Channeling this very tool in a productive manner enables the human population to project their opinions and views as well as hear those of others and this is exactly what our endeavor would like to carry out. The JIRS campus has provided us with incredible facilities and opportunities no doubt but it is time that as students, we generate a platform for our voices to reach out above and beyond. It is finally time for us to step out and speak up, passively and actively in all arenas. This definitely sounds very dramatic and a little daunting as well considering the fact that we are in fact a group of apprehensive, nervous students just trying to do something different however a small but revolutionary idea can surely reach immense heights.

Alright, this being our very first newsletter will encompass a vast array of different ideas, themes, news and more. The diversity and vibrancy that teems within this school will be seen in its full glory along with some of the most pertinent news of the current day and age. Many of the works and pieces being presented are student creations including our very own campus news, yes you read that right. Some of the must-reads would be On Education by Mr. Madhavan, our mentor and guide as well as the section on unknown martyrs which is in commemoration with the coming Independence Day. We all have to have our bouts of patriotism now and then. After all, national identity is of utmost importance and necessity. Enough said with all of this fancy talk, let’s dive right into this and begin our journey of discovery.

Lekha Bengeri
Chief Editor
The Thinker

WINNERS OF ‘BATTLE OF THE BEST’

SENIOR CATEGORY:

**Distinction Awardees** –
Nandita Manoj Nair
Danika Joplin
Lekha Bengeri
Yash Jhunjhunwala
Aastha Medhi
Khushaal Motwani
Rithika Mothukuri
Anagha P.
Abdul Ameen
Swathy K.J.

**Excellence Awardees** –
Anson Kwok
Shruthi N
Bellala Aryan Reddy
Neel P. Sadasile
Sumedh Srinath
Khushali Patel

IB’S TAKE ON TOK

Mr. Babul Das, a TOK expert is an IB examiner cum Biology teacher by profession. Students claimed that even though he is an expert, the way he explained, his simplicity, the depth of his knowledge etc; made them feel surreal and extremely enlightened.

The students of IBDP are really enlightened and would like to look forward to his further guidance and help for their upcoming Internal Assessment and TOK essays. They are extremely keen on receiving further input from the management.

A.S.H.A, which stands for All Should Help All, is a club with charity as the main motive. The focus is on providing for people in need by raising money through events like ‘Football For A Cause’, ‘Junior Badminton Premier League’ etc. These events give students opportunities to purchase a water purifier the previous year for a school which was in need of clean drinking water. The club gives a platform for the students who have never been gifted the opportunity to do so now. The club hopes that their future events will be met with great success and more participation.
At least 15 pilgrims injured in Muzaffarpur temple stampede

At least 15 pilgrims were injured in a stampede at Muzaffarpur in North Bihar early on Monday morning.

All the injured have been admitted to the local government hospital for medical attention. No report of any casualty has come so far.

Heavy flooding puts Kerala in crisis

Many parts of Kerala were grappling with a looming crisis on Friday as a heavy rainfall warning and tidal flooding alert looked set to compound the worsening flood situation in the State.

The State Disaster Management Authority issued a red alert for eight districts following a heavy rainfall warning by the weather office. The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services has also issued a tidal flooding alert for Kerala.

Education and the Ethics of Convenience

The beginning of academic sessions, when parents’ whither in anxiety, students step tentatively and with trepidation, into adult shoes and advice flows freely sought or unsought, is a paradox. I thought then, that as an educator of sorts I could (should?) pen my thoughts on this whole dilemma of becoming “Educated” and the role institutions seem to play in that process.

“Business ethics” is an oxymoron; In addition, education is, undoubtedly, one of the most lucrative businesses in the world. So what do students, teachers and educators do? Is modern education supposed to prepare young graduates for a lifetime of vicious competition, with highly questionable ethics or train them for careers while preparing them for life? Definitive answers are still highly debatable but the importance of fostering ethical values is most certainly not.

Morality has always had a very suspicious and subjective slant. However, when educators, like others in society find ethics flexible enough to justify amoral actions and perspectives, the danger is very real. Our schools and colleges breed destructive attitudes in the name of success. Success is always measured in terms of material achievement and power. When a young person, supposedly enlightened by secular education, develops a blinkered outlook on life and moralit...
STUDENT VOICES

Home at Last.

I coughed awkwardly as I caught a glimpse of myself, my mouth parting slightly and my jaw practically dropping on the floor. Cropped blonde hair hugged my petite frame, with a lollipop stuck between my crooked teeth that jutted outwards. I was adorned in a plaid outfit, my sneakers gleaming in the sunlight, and my ocean blue eyes sparkling with delight. A cluster of freckles were sprinkled across my puffy cheeks, making it seem as though brown paint was flecked across my face in an impeccable manner.

Tracing the photograph held between my fingers in an affectionate manner, I frowned as I looked down on my 6-year-old self. My pudgy arms had tightly clasped my mother’s, while I was seated on my dad’s back. We were drenched in colorful paint and happiness, our smiles shining brighter than the stars in the night sky.

Letting out a pensive sigh, I thought about how my fantasies of a perfect family didn’t last long. Shortly after my brother’s birth, mother decided we weren’t good enough for her. We were left forlorn without any explanation whatsoever. It’s funny how a mere piece of paper can completely wreck one’s life, isn’t it?

Skipping a couple years, I joined the California School for Arts and Crafts to pursue my dreams, whereas my brother went to school in Kentucky under my dad’s supervision. Things had changed drastically, following my mother’s sudden disappearance.

In that moment, my heart was an organ lit on fire, and my memories, the kerosene. I missed home. I missed the way my brother and I fought, and the way my dad forced us to make up. I missed those rare moments when we watched movies in the cellar while throwing popcorn around like confetti. I missed the day’s dad and my little brother ganged up on me, poking fun at my pre-pubescent drawings. We weren’t the perfect family one would dream of, we were imperfect in our own ways, but maybe I liked it that way.

Wiping the nostalgia that trickled down my cheeks, I walked towards my canvas situated by the window, grabbing the closest brush and bottle of paint near me. My hands painted pictures of better times while my entire mind conceived was a black canvas. Moving my brush to the rhythm of my heart, I painted my dreams and splashed them with color, because I knew such a thing could never be real.

Furrowing my eyebrows upon hearing a heavy knock on my door, I set my art equipment down and cleansed my hands on the grey sweatshirt I was wearing. Wearing towards the door in an inhuman manner, I grumbled incoherent words and banged the door open rather dramatically, only to be greeted with the biggest shock of my life.

“You look like you stepped out of a shower of paint,” my brother remarked, pushing past me and welcoming him into my dorm room.

“That’s better than looking like you, though, isn’t it?” I smirked, proud of the retort I made up.

“Enough, you two!” my dad chimed in the middle of our banter, shooting my brother a glare and stepping forward to embrace me in a bear hug.

And right in that moment, tangled in my father’s arms was when I realized that home wasn’t always four walls, it was two eyes and a heartbeat.

Mit. M. S. M. Shah,
IB Year 1-B

UNSUNG HEROES

15th August, 1947, the date on which we gained freedom from the shackles of 200 years of brutal oppression by the British. The mere mention of this date arouses strong feelings in the hearts of proud Indians and reminds us of the struggles of our freedom fighters such as Mahatma Gandhi, Bhagat Singh, Lala Lajpat Rai, etc. Among them, some came into the limelight and some didn’t. But one thing they all had in common was their dream to see a free India bound by oneness and love. So, this Independence day, let us pay tribute to those heroes of our country whose struggles remain unsung.

1. VELU NACHIYAR
   Velu Nachiyar was the name of the freedom fighter who created the 1st human bomb. When she found the place where the British stored their ammunition, she walked into the ammunition store after dousing herself in oil and lighting herself to destroy the arms. She had opposed British Rule and emerged as one of the most daring freedom fighters of India.

2. THE TRIO OF BENOY, BADAL, DINESH
   The trio of Benoy Basu, Badal Gupta and Dinesh Gupta targeted a brutal Inspector General of police, Colonel NS Simpson. They wore European outfits, entered Writer’s Building and killed him. When they were caught, Benoy consumed cyanide while Badal and Dinesh shot themselves.

3. MATANGINI HAZARA
   Matangini Hazara was a part of Quit India Movement and Non-Cooperation Movement. She was shot thrice in one of the processions but kept moving ahead with the Indian flag in hand while shouting “Vande Mataram”.

4. SURYA SEN
   His revolution gave rise to several freedom fighters in Bengal. He was the man behind the Chittagong Army Raid and had 64 revolutionaries with him. During the raid, they captured the city and hoisted the Indian National Flag declaring Gandhi Raj. He was later captured, brutally tortured and hanged.
Don’t trust your memory

Memory. We rely on, the one thing that we can trust our life with the one thing. This is because it is our own. But is our memory that trustworthy? Is it foolproof? Is it actually our own?

Memory is a playful and notoriously unreliable thing. Most of our memories are our own, formed due to first-hand experiences. However, not all of it is our own. The human brain and its mechanisms have always fascinated scientists and psychologists. Researchers have led them to believe that memory is not constant. Memory is the reactivation of a specific group of neurons. When they investigated the reliability of memory, what they found was unexpected and shocking. They conducted experiments with people, recorded their behavior and studied the functioning of their brains at different situations. They concluded that; Memories are motivated. For instance, when witnesses to an arranged robbery were asked about the color of the robber’s hat, they said a dark color. The catch in this situation is that in reality, the robber was not wearing a hat at all. Even then the witnesses were sure that they were wearing the dark colored hat. After much research, the scientists were able to explain this kind of behavior. They concluded that memories may or may not always be true. How do you know if we should trust our memory? Well, just don’t trust it!

-Swathy KJ (12 CBSE)

Friendship

Recall the worst time of your life. Now try to remember that one person who stood by you in that hour of crisis. It could either be a parent, sibling or close friend. Chances are it was the latter. Your friend was there for you, comforting, reassuring and supportive. That is what friends are about; providing constant support. They are the family we always wanted to or dream of.

A true friend is one who is always there at your best times and in your worst times of your life. He is the only one other than your parents who is always ready to offer his shoulder when you cry, and always ready to motivate you for whatever path you feel like choosing. Friends are people we love to spend time with. They give us company when we are lonely, support us unconditionally and accept us despite our shortcomings. They make celebrations fun, and they help us be ourselves.

There are few friends who we meet just for a day or may be a month, but still occupy the biggest part of our lives. These are temporary friends. The friends who we know more than a year, still know them, and are closely in touch are known as permanent friends.

In conclusion, good friends are like a star. You don’t always see them, but you know they’re always there.

-Pranay (11 CBSE)

SUCCESS

Learn from your mistakes, reflect and accept the failure, revisit your passion and keep pursuing your goals no matter what.

Just how committed are you to your goal? How important it is for you, and what are you willing to sacrifice in order to achieve it. If you focus on the excitement of discovery, your motivation will always be fuelled. If you focus only on results, your motivation will be like weather—it will die the minute you hit a storm. Therefore, the key is to focus on the journey, not the destination.

You have many thoughts in your head, and you always have a choice of which ones to focus on; the ones that will make you emotionally stuck or the ones that will make you move you forward. Next step after getting rid of negative thoughts is to use your imagination. When things go well, you are full of positive energy, and when you are experiencing difficulties, you need to be even more energetic. So rename your situation. It is a matter of imagination! You can always find something to learn even from the worst boss in the world at the most boring job. I have a great exercise for you: Just for three days, think and say positive things only. See what happens. It is easy to burn out when you are very motivated.

Your body and mind rest when you schedule relaxation and fun time into your weekly calendar. Do diverse tasks, keep switching between something creative and logical, keep working alone and with a team. Meditate, just take deep breaths, close your eyes, and focus on one thing for nothing but five minutes. That’s all you need to stay motivated and achieve success.

Jeet Chandan (IB)

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**CROSSWORD-01**

**Something to think about...**

**ACROSS**

1. Sound when hydrogen is flushed
2. Parent is fond of
3. Bollywood song
4. American singer (1)
5. Notorious B.I.G.
6. Women’s weapon of choice
7. Extra information
8. Cauliflower variety (2,2)
9. One of the main results of erosion (2,3)

**DOWN**

1. Tomato(1)
2. Dairy(1)
3. Fabric(1)
4. Something you use to clean(3)
5. What one says when you are introducing (2,4,4)
6. Unpopular(3)
7. Capital of China(2)
8. Baked(2)
9. 14 TAO’s singer(2)

**THE SCRAMBLED WORD GAME**

**SOLVE THE FOLLOWING JUMBLED WORDS TO FIND THE FINAL CLUE:**

1) RAOUTH
2) KINGS
3) DINKLE
4) CRANED
5) BREMM

The herdsman mistook the lamb for a basketball, claiming it to be a ___ ___ _ ___ ___ !!!
PLAYLIST FOR THE WEEK

1. In My Feelings - Drake
2. Remedy for A Broken Heart - 6lack & Ty Dolla Sign
3. Fefe - Xxxtentacion
4. Feels - DJ Khaled ft. Justin Bieber, Quavo, Chance The Rapper
5. Only You
6. Better Now - Post Malone
7. Nice For What - Drake
8. Ocean - Martin Garrix ft. Khalid
9. OTW - Khalid ft. 6LACK & Ty Dolla Sign
10. OTW - Martin Garrix ft. Khalid
11. 10.OTW - Martin Garrix ft. Khalid
12. 9. Ocean - Drake
13. 8. Nice for What - Post Malone
14. 7. Better Now - Post Malone
15. 6. Only You
16. 5. Feels - DJ Khaled ft. Justin Bieber, Quavo, Chance The Rapper
17. 4. Remedy for A Broken Heart - 6lack & Ty Dolla Sign
18. 3. Fefe - Xxxtentacion
19. 2. In My Feelings - Drake

BOOKS TO READ

1. Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children
   - An eerie gothic fantasy. A satisfying creep fest for teens.
2. Stolen
   - Stolen is the tale of a girl and her captor. It talks about isolationism and a fear that grows into something indescribable.
3. Percy Jackson and the Olympians
   - A fun mix of modern and myth. A MUST READ!
4. Will Grayson, Will Grayson
   - It’s a beautiful and almost reckless but sweet story of emotion. Brilliant.
5. Norwegian Wood
   - The novel that raised Haruki Murakami to literary superstardom ranges across the seasons, but the heart of its meaning is found in winter.

FUN FACTS

1. There are more lifeforms living on your skin than there are people on the planet.
2. In 1948, before Pakistan had the facilities, The Reserve Bank of India Issued Provisional Notes for the Pakistani Rupee.
3. In 2006, a woman lit matches in a flight to cover her fart smell. That forced an emergency landing.
4. Prince Charles & Prince William always travel in separate planes in case there is a crash, as one needs to survive.
5. Scientists conclude that the chicken came first not the egg, because the proteins which make the egg shells are only produced by the chicken.

IN OUR DARKEST HOURS

In our darkest hours we tend to look for ‘hope’
For that one light that guides us through all,
That one blissful feeling we all crave for
That one touch of light, Till then hold close and tight.
Rage into the darkness —
Rage into the darkness with all your strength;
Fight it till the end
Don’t let it engulf you,
Don’t let it put you down,
For the pleasure after the pain!
Let your pain bear the fruits to your pleasure,
Your soul is always with you
Listen to it, let it guide you through it.
But sometimes it deceives you.
It simply means you’re not on the right path
Just always remember, “Hope can be a sad thing”.
-Amruth (CBSE)

Jewel of the South Seas

Undoubtedly the most celebrated island in the South Pacific, Bora Bora, is French Polynesia’s leading lady. Her beauty is unrivaled and her fame, unwavering. Bora Bora is one of the few places on earth that everyone hopes to witness in their lifetime, and once you see it, you are forever enameled.

Since water is a way of life on the island, popular lagoon excursions include snorkeling, diving, cruising, fishing, paddle boarding, kitesurfing, jet skiing, and of course, shark and ray feeding. You can also take your experience to new heights by parasailing, skydiving, or touring the island by helicopter.

Final Impression

Once seen, Bora Bora is never forgotten. From the day you arrive until the moment you part ways, you will be in awe of how her soaring mountain peaks, turquoise lagoon and luxuriant overwater bungalows somehow look even more spectacular than the pictures. It is a place to go to before you close your eyes forever.

BRING THE BEAT BACK!

Time travel back to the artists that reign the 80s prime pop or pop/punk. Go old school for a change; probably not too old school like Def Leppard or Lynyrd Skynyrd, but those that still have not lost their touch in music. And maybe, just maybe, you’ll love it.

Bands. Who doesn’t love them? Okay maybe a few out there but come on! Being a music critic you have to explore the genres; finding the one that screams you. Don’t just stick to the Top 100. Be a Misfit. Bands like The 1975, 5 Seconds of Summer (Yes, 5 SOS) and Imagine Dragons really capture the lost agenda of what rock is.

Youngblood (which is out now!) gives us an insight on how music can develop. Even though they’ve gone completely pop, they’ve developed a slight inclination towards the realm of the Eighties, preceding their punk, heartbreak-pop attitude. Youngblood is a diverse collection of songs, one where it throws light on Japanese Retrospect, and another on a chorus of ‘Valentine’, where they sing about “chocolate eclairs” which is a deliciously weird treat. A lost girlfriend in ‘Ghost of You’ breaks us down, an emotional crisis where this could be what you feel when the one you love goes, to ‘Moving Along’, a song that speaks of an agonizing feeling of the aftermath following a break up.

A gulf of difference between their debut album and their recent, Youngblood will give you all the feelings you’ve been craving for your life ever since you’ve hit puberty.
UNKNOWN MARTYRS

Voices heard are registered. But those unheard found no place even in the faint memory of many patriots. We are proud of all those Indians who have sacrificed their lives for the freedom of our country. Today is the most significant day to commemorate the irrevocable contribution of those unheard martyrs, without whose invaluable martyrdom the independence we enjoy today would not have been a reality. Let us pay our due reverence to these valiant martyrs and take this particular moment to acknowledge our sincere gratitude; “We salute you.”

1. Begum Hazrat Mahal
She played a vital role in the Indian Rebellion of 1857. After her husband was exiled, she took charge of Awadh and even seized control over Lucknow during the rebellion. Later, Begum Hazrat had to retreat to Nepal, where she died.

3. Benoy-Badal-Dinesh
Benoy Basu, Badal Gupta and Dinesh Gupta were 22, 18 and 19 years old respectively when they wore European outfits and entered the Writer’s Building. Their target was the brutal Inspector General of Police, Colonel NS Simpson. They succeeded in killing him but were outnumbered by the pose. Benoy took a cyanide pill while the other two shot themselves to avoid capture. It takes extreme courage and nerve to pull off something like this.

2. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay
Kamaladevi was the first woman to run for a legislative seat in India and interestingly, she was the first Indian woman to be arrested by the British regime. She played an extremely vital role as a social reformer, bringing back handicrafts, theatres and handlooms to help in the uplifting of the socio-economic standard of Indian women.

4. Senapati Bapat
As leader of the Mulshi Satyagraha, he got the title of Senapati. He got the honour of hoisting the Indian flag in Pune for the first time after independence. He had been jailed for public speaking as well as for vandalism, after which he turned himself in because as a satyagrahi, he was not supposed to follow the path of violence.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR HEROES – MARTYRS’ DAY

30 January marks the Martyrs ‘day, which is celebrated in India on a national level. The date was chosen as it marks the assassination of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi in 1948, by Nathuram Godse. On Martyr’s Day the president, the vice president, the prime minister, the defence minister, and the three Service Chiefs gather at the samadhi at Raj Ghat memorial and lay wreaths decorated with multi-colour flowers. A two-minute silence in memory of Indian martyrs is observed throughout the country at 11 AM. It is one of the most important occasions, honoring all the freedom fighters and the heroes of our nation.