



RhAPSody

Jaisalmer



Official newsletter of Army Public School, Jaisalmer

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

"Reach high, for stars lie hidden in you. Dream deep, for every dream precedes the goal."

-Dr. Rabindranath Tagore

The challenges the students confront today are enormous. As educators, the onus is on us not only to equip them with the skills to face those challenges but also to inculcate those habits which make them realize their goals and dreams. The real goal of education today is to equip a child with the life skills to meet the unforeseen challenges.

Believing that a hero lies in everyone of us, APS Jaisalmer has decided to bring Newsletter '**RhAPSody**'. This will provide an ample opportunity to the students to explore themselves and to uncover the hidden talent that lies among them.

To impart quality education, a strong association among different stakeholders is crucial and imperative and through '**RhAPSody**', APS Jaisalmer intends to do that. In this unprecedented and uncertain time, '**RhAPSody**' is meant to directly provide information to the parents and also to cultivate a connection between the classroom and home. It will give a glimpse to the parents about the happenings and accomplishments of the school.

On behalf of the management and the staff, I would like to thank the parents for supporting us and getting themselves involved in this difficult time. The way my young students have taken the virtual classes fills my heart with pride and satisfaction. I am looking forward to Covid-free days when face to face classes will be a reality again.

-- Himanshu Seth

A WORD FROM THE CHIEF EDITOR

We are nervous and excited about bringing '**RhAPSody**' to you. As we put together the inaugural issue, we just hope that it receives critical appreciation from all our readers and strikes the right chord with you.

Our students are incredibly talented. All they need is guidance and they will surprise everyone with the results. The newsletter will be their voice, their expression and hence - their '**RhAPSody**'.

Our true success would be when one of our students will replace me as the 'Chief Editor' of this newsletter, and we promise that day will arrive soon.

--Parul Sharma

BRIEF BY TECHNICAL EDITOR

The Principal gave me and my team of junior wizards guidelines for drafting this maiden newsletter of APS, Jaisalmer. What an exciting task it turned out to be! The fantastic four of my team started working connected online with each other through web. Initial stumbles, long hours on screen, repetitive efforts; all started showing efforts sooner than expected in the form of our '**RhAPSody**'.

My team is committed towards continuous improvements in our future endeavours based on feedback from the learned environment.

--Shagufta Khan



Student Editors :
Arnab, Anvi, Naitik & Angel

COORDINATING THE PRIMARY SCHOOL DURING THE PANDEMIC

The pandemic of COVID-19 came suddenly and threw an unexpected and uncertain challenge to educators like us. A school is a place where everything runs on a time-table and learning is structured. Teachers and students are used to a learning environment based on classroom interaction, complete with all the learning aids. Now with the pandemic, this was not possible and newer ways for teaching were to be explored.

Online teaching was the best option.

The initial challenge was to get acquainted with the online software as many of us were new to such teaching platform. Many training sessions were conducted to expose the teachers to the various features of the software and live demonstrations were carried out to give them a hands-on experience of online teaching.

Alongside came the challenge of putting together a suitable time-table, keeping in mind the screen exposure and fatigue of students and faculty. A class time-table with an early start and adequate duration with regular breaks was designed to ensure that quality teaching time was provided without hampering the academics.

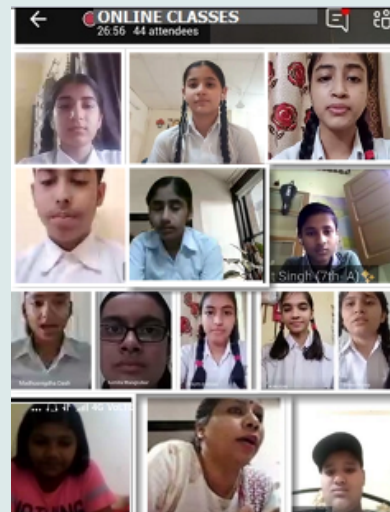
The attendance was a major issue in initial days. Parents' apprehensions were time and again addressed and they were constantly counselled by teachers to ensure that their wards participate in online classes.

With regular interactions, there was a gradual increase in the attendance, class participation and submission of homework.

Online teaching is here to stay and we as educators are learning newer ways to make this kind of teaching more interesting and effective.

As appropriately quoted by the great social philosopher Eric Hoffer, "In times of change, learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists."

–Himanshu Pant
(Academic Coordinator, Primary Section)



PARENTS' CORNER

Education during the pandemic

The pandemic has forced us to re-evaluate our lifestyles, especially in terms of the education of our children, and I feel online learning is a good option for most students and is a highly effective 'alternate' method of education.

Reflecting upon the change in the timetable from before and after the vacation, I am happy that in addition to core classes like Mathematics and Languages, subjects like Value Education and Art have also been included, as they form an integral part of the learning process.

Although online education is convenient in relation to study location and time, it still poses a problem in terms of access to resources, that are limited due to prevailing conditions, and should be given due consideration when project work is given.

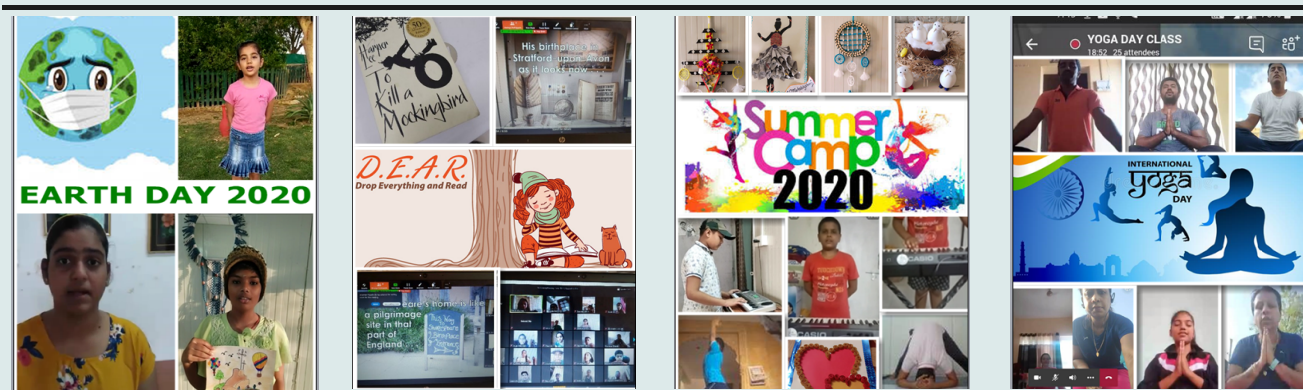
I do realise that online learning provides an opportunity for students, parents and teachers alike, to learn new technology and practice the use of software and internet. However, tech support for trouble shooting common problems seems limited and needs to be addressed. In addition to these aspects, some of the other factors that make online education less appealing is the local network and connectivity issue; the screen time that the children face; and also a lack of social interaction associated with classroom learning.

An alternative method can be to replace a few classes with worksheets or reduce the number of days when the classes are held. The teachers have been a significant help in this phase of transition to home-based learning, and I understand that there are advantages and disadvantages to every learning environment.

However, analysing the pros and cons would definitely contribute to making informed decisions and accomplishing goals that would help further a child's motivation to learn.

-- Smita Siddique is a wildlife ecologist who studied acoustic communication in wild Asian elephants, and is a parent of one of our students.

The lockdown has not in the least dampened our spirits as the students of Classes IX and X gathered (virtually) on the online portal Microsoft Teams along with their teachers to perform various breathing exercises and different **asanas** on the International '**Yoga Day**' on June 21. All the yoga the students learnt during the summer camp came handy on this day.



In line with the changed scenario all over the world, Mrs Jadhav spoke on **“Paradigm Shift and Challenges in Teaching, Learning during the Post Pandemic Period”**. She also spoke on Digital Literacy and Knowledge Upgradation for teachers who will now have to use innovative concepts like “Flipped Classroom”, “Hybrid Learning” and “Digital Working Ethics” while at the same time maintaining security from the dark web and phishing.

Online Classes - The Students' Experience

Excited with the new device!



**-Shreya Mishra
IX B**

To be honest, I had never thought that I would study virtually in 2020 only. Virtual classrooms seemed like an option set in future. But COVID-19 had different plans for everyone and made me sit at home.

I was super excited for my first-ever virtual class and kept imagining how it would turn out to be. On the day of my class, no alarm clock was needed to wake me up. I woke up really early on my own. My first class was held in the 'Zoom Meeting' App. I just needed to enter the password to enter the classroom!

At first, I was uncomfortable with some technical glitches, but on my first day itself, I tried using all the options on the app. In fact, I kept turning my video on and off, checking if I am audible and used the 'chat' option the most!

All the real things I was using a month ago, were all converted into virtual: blackboard, chalk, teacher's pen to check our assignment, and for the first week, even books.

I was little nervous because I was going to meet my new teachers for this new academic session not physically but virtually. On the other hand, I was also excited to meet my friends again. I kept swiping the screen, looking at everyone's gleaming faces. And just like that, the first day was over!

Why self-studying is important!



**-Gungun Gola
X**

My first-ever experience of online classes is going great. Online classes are a convenience for me, allowing me to study at home with scheduled timetable and perfect timings just like school.

Online classes somehow changed my thinking and made me realise the importance of self-studying.

In the current pandemic situation, online classes are the best thing to have happened to students like us. These classes are just like a virtual classroom where you can see and interact with all your classmates and the teacher. Based on my experience, these classes are very helpful if taken seriously.

But there are pros and cons for everything. As I said, these classes help you learn, but there is no guarantee that there will be no technical problems. After all, our phone is just a machine.

And when there is a test conducted by your teacher, there is a full chance for students to cheat without anyone noticing, which is totally not fair to anyone.

However, with no end in sight to this pandemic, online classes are our only solution.

I will never hate school again!



**-Vansh Baliyan
IX B**

I thought going to school was boring. Everyday, you had to sacrifice your sleep for the sake of learning. Everyday you had to repeat the same procedure to reach school. But we get to know the value of something only after it is gone. After the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, nothing has been the same...not even going to school.

Back then, when I had to attend school, I always thought that virtual learning would be so much fun. I thought it would be a real bliss to sit at home and study without getting out of my comfort zone. But sometimes things are really different from what they appear. Now, as soon as we are up and ready, we take the mobile phones or laptops and carry out our learning process while sitting in a corner till noon. And now I realise, it is no fun!

My experience in online classes has proved to be completely different from my expectations. It is just not the same as going to a real school. That's because the schools tend to teach us a lot of things other than what is in the books. Online classes do offer us knowledge, but in school, we experience different aspects of life, like success, failure, friendship, passion, determination, etc., which we can never feel while sitting at home, no matter how comfortable it is.

I am longing to go back to my pre-Covid "boring" life again.

FAREWELL

Goodbye... till we meet again

The school bade good bye to quite a few of our teachers as they now move to other cities...

With a heavy heart, we wished our best to Mrs Priyanka Tyagi, Mrs Kritika Kunwar, Mrs Garima Pandey, Mrs Shweta Tripathi and Mrs Anupriya Bhadu as they leave APS Jaisalmer for other locations.

The school and the students will always remember each one of them very fondly.

EDITORIAL TEAM

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