



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL ESPECTRO



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL

**Inspiring Spiritual
&
Academic Growth**

Half Yearly Newsletter
Volume 9 | Issue 02
Oct'23 - Mar'24

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BIENNIAL SPORTS MEET 2023

PDP-Personality Development Programme

Personality Development Programmes are periodically conducted for the students of the Primary Department. The topics are chosen with care to enable students to relate and prepare them to face life.

The first session on the topic of **Anger Management** was conducted for classes I-V on the 6th of October, 2023. A PowerPoint presentation based on the topic was shown. It was also an interactive session with the students speaking about their reactions to situations triggering their emotions and ways to deal. The second session was held on the 7th of February, 2024.

The topic was on **Improving Concentration**. A relevant PowerPoint presentation was shown to the students and the topic was discussed at length.



Sadaf Salim (Assistant Teacher)

Donation to 'Premasree'

The Interact Club of St. Francis Xavier School donated essential commodities on 18.10.23 to Premasree, a residential home for the visually impaired and blind children. Grocery items like rice, edible oil, atta, pulses, and sugar were purchased by the school and donated to the home.

Kshama Dam (Assistant Teacher)



Induction of New Members of Interact Club

Induction of the New Members of the Interact Club 23-24 took place on 17th October 2023 at the School premises. It was a moment of great achievement when the newly elected members were honoured by DICC - Apala Dutta, Mrs. Mandira Mukherjee - President of Aavyanna Club, Dr. Rita Chatterjee - Treasurer in the presence of Mr. Anil Srivastava - Principal Sir and Mrs. Mom Chattopadhyay, Headmistress Madam of our School.

Rameesha Dey Sarkar
(Assistant Teacher)





From the desk of Secretary and Administrator

Embracing Digital Payments: A New Era at St. Francis Xavier School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the proud Administrator of St. Francis Xavier School, I am thrilled to share exciting news with our school community. We are embarking on a transformative journey by adopting digital modes of payment for school fees. Our new policy, powered by the QS Parent App (available both on Android & iOS), aims to enhance convenience, accuracy, and transparency in fee transactions.

The Benefits of Digital Payments

1. Accuracy and Efficiency

Gone are the days of manual calculations and misplaced receipts. With digital payments, you can bid farewell to human errors. The QS Parent App ensures precise fee calculations, eliminating any discrepancies and disputes. Say goodbye to the anxiety of missing payments or incorrect amounts!

2. Digital Records

Every transaction leaves a digital footprint. Our system maintains comprehensive records of all fee payments. You can access your child's payment history anytime, anywhere. No more digging through old files or wondering about past payments – everything is neatly organized within the app.

3. Convenience

Life is busy, and we understand that. With digital payments, you can settle fees from the comfort of your home, during your lunch break, or while waiting for your child's cricket practice to end. The QS Parent App is available 24/7, allowing you to pay at your convenience.

4. Multiple Payment Modes

Choose what suits you best! Whether it's your credit card, debit card, NEFT transfer, UPI, or e-wallet, the QS Parent App accommodates various payment methods. Flexibility is key, and we've got you covered.

5. Financing Options

We recognize that financial planning varies for each family. The QS Parent App offers easy EMIs (Equated Monthly Instalments) for those who prefer spreading out payments. It's a win-win—manageable instalments without compromising your child's education.

Transitioning Gradually

To ease the transition, we've issued a limited number of fee books this year. These serve as a bridge between traditional methods and our digital future. However, starting from the next academic session, **no fee books will be issued**. Let's embrace this change together!

Need Assistance?

For those facing any difficulties, we've got your back. Visit our school's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/stfrancisxaverschool>, where we've posted helpful **video guides**. These step-by-step guides demonstrate how to navigate the QS Parent App, make payments, and access digital receipts. Additionally, our accounts office is always ready to provide personalized demos and address any queries.

A Call for Cooperation

Parents and guardians, your cooperation is crucial for a seamless transition. Let's embrace digital payments, simplify our lives, and ensure a brighter future for our children. Together, we can make St. Francis Xavier School a beacon of modern education.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

Warm regards,

Ajay Chopra,
Secretary & Administrator

From the desk of Principal (O)



Dear readers,

I am thrilled to share with you information about the latest developments at St. Francis Xavier School. Our school is committed to providing the best education to our students, and we continuously keep ourselves updated on the latest advancements in education. We

follow the guidelines set by the CISCE, New Delhi, and NCERT. Additionally, we have incorporated the following concepts into our curriculum as recommended by the NEP'2020:

- **Bagless days**
- **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)**
- **Holistic Progress Card**
- **Financial Literacy**
- **Experiential Learning**
- **Toy Based Pedagogy**

I would like to provide you with some insights into these concepts.

Bagless days are designated days where students can engage in experiential learning, hands-on activities, field trips, workshops, and community-based projects, fostering holistic development, creativity, and critical thinking.

Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) is aimed at building strong foundational skills in reading, writing, and mathematics during early schooling. We personalize learning and use diagnostic assessments and targeted interventions to enhance FLN, which prepares students for lifelong learning.

The Holistic Progress Card is a record of a child's learning and progress in all domains of learning achievement and development. It tracks students' progress in essential skills.

Financial literacy equips students with practical knowledge about money management, budgeting, savings, and investments. We have incorporated financial literacy into the curriculum, teaching students about

financial concepts and responsible behaviour. This prepares students for real-world financial decisions and economic independence.

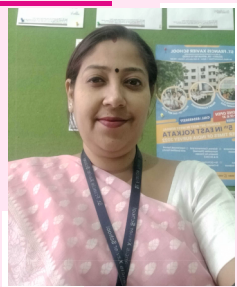
Experiential learning emphasizes "learning by doing" rather than passively absorbing information. Students engage in hands-on activities, experiments, projects, and real-world problem-solving, cultivating critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and adaptability. Integrating experiential learning enriches the educational experience and prepares students for practical challenges.

Toy-based pedagogy and Jadui Pitara are innovative concepts that introduce play-based learning teaching materials. Jadui Pitara is tailored for children aged 3 to 8 years and covers physical, socio-emotional, ethical, cognitive, language, literacy, aesthetic, and cultural aspects. The NCF emphasizes the importance of play in curriculum organization, pedagogy, and overall child experience.

We expect that our students, parents, and guardians will realize the importance of these concepts and extend their wholehearted cooperation by engaging in them with a positive attitude. By doing so, they will gain maximum benefits from these activities.

Anil Srivastava

Principal(O)



From the desk of Headmistress

Summer vacation is the perfect time to embrace creative learning through art and toys! Children can be kept engaged and busy through creativity. This summer dive into a world of creativity and learning through art and play!

Toy Transformations: Take ordinary toys and turn them into something new! Legos can become historical buildings, stuffed animals can be characters in a play, and action figures can be artists with paintbrushes made from pipe cleaners.

Nature's Art Studio: Head outdoors! Use leaves, flowers, pebbles, and twigs to create collages, mandalas, or miniature gardens on a tray. This fosters creativity and appreciation for nature.

Art Scavenger Hunt: Create a list of art materials or prompts (e.g., find something blue, something rough, something smooth) and send the children on a scavenger hunt around the house or park. Once they collect their items, they can create an art piece using their finds.

Storytelling with Action Figures: Use action figures or dolls or create puppets from socks to create stories and re-enact historical events. This encourages creative thinking, public speaking, and an understanding of cause and effect.

Dress-Up History: Research a historical figure or period and have them dress up and act out a scene. This brings history to life in a fun and interactive way.

Play-Doh Creation: Play-Doh is a fantastic tool for exploring science concepts! Use it to model molecules, create different types of landforms, or even demonstrate the different states of matter. Encourage children to sculpt animals, and objects they see around them, or even recreate famous landmarks they've learned about.

Embrace the mess! Art and play often involve some level of messiness. Provide children with a designated area to explore freely, knowing that cleaning up is part of the learning process. By incorporating hands-on learning with art and toys, you're creating a summer filled with fun, exploration, and a deeper understanding of the world around them. This sets the stage for a lifelong love of learning that goes far beyond the classroom.

Keep creating!

Mom Chattopadhyay
Headmistress

Durga Puja Special Assembly

To usher in the festive season, a special assembly

on Durga Puja was organized on the 19th of October 2023. The students of St. Francis Xavier School presented a wonderful cultural programme with a mesmerising dance performance.. Jinia Tarafdar of Class VB was dressed as Goddess Durga, Adrija Chatterjee of Class IIIA, Arna Tiwari of Class IC, Navya Saraf, Yusuf Belal, Tamankan Kundu, Jagrit Gupta, Aqsa Arif were some of the participants.

Sadaf Salim (Assistant Teacher)



Inter House Football Competition

The Inter House Football Competition was organized on 1st November 2023 at East Calcutta District Sports Club for Classes VI-XII. Students were divided into 3 groups, namely Group A, Group B, and Group C. The matches were conducted on 8-a side basis with 4 players in substitution. The winner of Group A (VI-VIII) and Group B (IX-X) was Tagore House, and Teresa House emerged as the winner of Group C (XI-XII).

Debojyoti Chakraborty (Assistant Teacher)

Inter School Fest and Competitions

Students of St. Francis Xavier School participated in various events at the Inter School Fest organized by Sunrise English Medium School on 12.10.23. It was a moment of pride when Sanjog Dutta of Class VIIIA stood First in the Creative Writing Competition and Mousumi Sen of Class XS stood Second in the rangoli-making competition.



FRANCOTSAV, 2023



St. Francis Xavier School organized its long-awaited and eagerly sought after school fest- Francotsav on the 10th of November, marking a joyous occasion for the entire school community.

Under the guidance of our Secretary and Administrator Sir, Principal Sir, and Headmistress Madam the festivities spanned the entire day, from morning to evening, ensuring that every member of the school community could partake in the celebration. The school ground was transformed into a lively carnival-like atmosphere, adorned with colourful decorations and resonating with cheerful laughter. Our Secretary and Administrator Sir, Mr. Ajay Chopra inaugurated the programme with the release of balloons which was followed by a warm welcome speech by Mr. Nikhil Biswas.

With the event declared open, students and parents visited different food and game stalls set up by the students and teachers. The youngsters were delighted to see a big bouncy castle and Trampoline put up for them exclusively. These were a major hit with the kids flocking around till the end of the day. Various food stalls were set up in the PT room offering various delectable food items that catered to diverse tastes. From traditional favorites to oriental delicacies, the food stalls became a gastronomic delight for all attendees.

The teachers along with student volunteers also set up stalls featuring an assortment of engaging games which were designed to appeal to different age groups, providing entertainment for both students and parents. The enthusiastic participation from everyone added a competitive yet friendly spirit to the event, with exciting gifts to be won. The stalls resonated with delighted laughter with prizes being won by the participants.

Another major highlight of the day was the hourly lucky draw system, generating an extra layer of excitement. There were prizes like microwave oven, pen drive, OTG, non-stick kitchenware, and iron to be won. The grand prize, the One Plus GO Tab, served as a coveted reward for one fortunate participant. This added an element of anticipation and thrill, further enhancing the festive atmosphere.

The palpable joy and laughter resonated across the school grounds as students and parents actively engaged in the festivities. The fest proved to be a bonding experience, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie among the school community.

Undoubtedly, the well-organized nature of the event contributed to its overall success. The seamless coordination ensured that everyone could navigate the various activities and stalls with ease.

We convey our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated efforts of our Secretary and Administrator Sir, Principal Sir, Headmistress Madam, teachers, and the active participation of students and parents. The event surely rejuvenated the school spirit and provided a much-needed moment of joy and celebration. The fest, marked by good food, engaging games, and a lively atmosphere, will undoubtedly be etched in the memories of all those who attended, creating a cherished chapter in the history of our school.

Arkadev Pandey, Headboy

Guru Nanak Jayanti

The students of St. Francis Xavier School observed a special Assembly on the occasion of Guru Nanak Jayanti on the 28th of November 2023. Anuttama Sinha (IXS) delivered a speech befitting the occasion.

The creativity of students was also seen as they prepared charts on Guru Nanakji. Mr. Anil Srivastava, Principal (O) narrated a beautiful story about Guru Nanak Dev Ji to inspire and motivate the students.

Sarbani Biswas (Assistant Teacher)

Educational Excursion to Harinalaya (Mini Zoo)



In keeping with the ICSE curriculum St. Francis Xavier School organized an educational excursion for Classes I-V on the 21st of November and for Classes VI-VIII on the 28th of November, 2023 at Harinalaya (Mini Zoo), at New Town, Kolkata. The Mini Zoo has been functional since 2017 and covers a large area comprising a playground, cafeteria, animal section, and some shops. The animals kept there are mostly the rescued one and they are of rare species. The students observed various species and took notes on their habitat, food habits, and other features. The flora and fauna were equally interesting and diverse.

Some of the birds and animals present were macaw, black cockatoo, toucan, lory, common marmoset, baboon, zebra, giraffe, and hippopotamus to name a few.

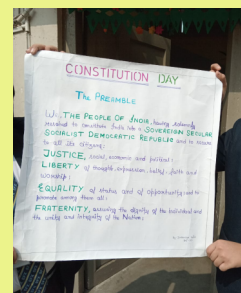
The excursion was a great learning experience for the students amidst a lot of fun.

Tanay Jaiswal, VIII B

Constitution Day

On 24th November 2023, the students of St. Francis Xavier School observed Constitution Day which marks the day when the final draft of the Constitution was adopted. Debarchana Dutta of IX S and Arkadev Pandey of Class XII S1 delivered speeches on the significance of this day and prepared charts to mark the occasion.

Sarbani Biswas (Assistant Teacher)



Human Rights Day

St. Francis Xavier School celebrated Human Rights Day on the 10th of December 2023, the day on which the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights empowers us all. The principles enshrined in the Declaration are as relevant today as they were in 1948. Students prepared charts displaying basic human rights like the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, and the right to work and education.

Mrs Sarbani Biswas (Assistant Teacher)



Inter-House Basketball Tournament

The Inter House Basketball tournament was held on 29th November, 2023 at the basketball court of the school. There were 3 groups for the event. The officials for the event were Mr. Suman Chakraborty, Mr. Debojyoti Chakraborty and Mr. Rahul C. Mojumder. The matches were conducted with a 5-a-side formation with a maximum 4 players as substitutes.

The result of the event is as follows:

CATEGORY	WINNER	RUNNER UP
Group A: Boys XI-XII	Teresa	Netaji
Group B: Boys (IX-X)	Tagore	Netaji
Group C: Girls (IX-XII)	Netaji	Teresa

Debojyoti Chakraborty (Assistant Teacher)



St. Francis Xavier Feast Day Special Assembly



On December 3rd, a special assembly was conducted in the school hall to commemorate the Feast Day of St. Francis Xavier. Students of Classes I to V displayed colourful charts on the life and teachings of this great saint.

Archisman Ghoshal (IXS) and Tanvi Prakash (VB) delivered inspiring speeches highlighting the life and teachings of St. Francis Xavier, emphasizing his dedication to spreading the message of compassion and service to others. These speeches provided valuable insights into the saint's remarkable contributions to society and his unwavering commitment to uplifting the lives of the less fortunate.

Following the speeches, students from classes VIII to X presented a captivating skit that depicted key moments from the life of St. Francis Xavier. Through their theatrical performance, the students effectively conveyed the saint's enduring legacy and the significance of his teachings in today's world.

Joyita Acharya (Assistant Teacher)

Donation to Adyapeath

'Sahayog', the Interact Club of St Francis Xavier School, donated rice and dal to Dakshineswar Ramakrishna Sangha Adyapeath on the 3rd of January, 2024. The co-ordinating teachers got the opportunity to meet and receive the blessings of Brahmachari Mural Bhai, General Secretary and Trustee of Adyapeath Sangha, on the same day which was also his birthday.

Kshama Dam (Assistant Teacher)



BIENNIAL SPORTS MEET 2023

The 20th Biennial Sports Meet was held on 23rd December 2023 at FE Park, Salt Lake under the supervision of our Secretary and Administrator Sir, Mr. Ajay Chopra, Principal(O) Sir, Mr Anil Srivastava and our Headmistress Madam, Mrs. Mom Chattopadhyay. The Chief Guest for the event was Mrs. Jyotirmoyee Sikdar, Padmashree and Arjuna Awardee. Noteworthy Guests of Honour included Mrs. Minu Das Chakraborty and Mrs. Tulsi Sinha Roy. The Managing Committee, members Mr. Pulak Mondal, Mr. Rohit Handa, Mr. Pankaj Kumar Jhunjunwala, and Mr. Lalit Mohan Khanna also graced the occasion.

The opening ceremony witnessed the Jog Past of the students of Classes I-V and the March Past of the students of Classes VI-XII. The members of the Kolkata Police Pipe Band performed in the March Past, adding glitz to the event.

A welcome address by the Emcee was followed by the felicitation of the guests. The School Flag was hoisted by our Secretary & Administrator Sir along with the eminent dignitaries. It was followed by the Torch Relay. The Chief Guest, Mrs. Jyotirmoyee Sikdar delivered a motivational speech, highlighting the challenges thrown by life, to encourage the students. The council members took the Oath pledging to uphold the spirit of true sportsmanship. Thereafter, the highly esteemed Chief Guest declared the Sports Meet open with the release of balloons by the Secretary & Administrator Sir, Principal(O) Sir, and Headmistress Madam.

The whole day's events consisted of different races of the Primary Section like Ready for Market, Dress up for Party, Lock and Key Race, Obstacle Race, Frog Race, Boat Race, and many more. There was a splendid display of Sunflower and Umbrella drills by the tiny tots of the Primary section and a Karate display by the students of Classes I-VIII. The athletic events like the Flat Race, Hurdles, Relay Race, and Tug of War had the audience sitting on the edges. The atmosphere was fraught with tension as the time neared for the announcement of the results.

The Best March Past trophy was awarded to Netaji House and the Champion's trophy went to Tagore House. Netaji House secured the Runner-Up position.

The Best Athlete result is as follows:

GROUP	BOYS	GIRLS
A- XI & XII	ADIYAN WAQAR	ARYA NETERWALA
B-IX & X	ROHIT GUPTA	SARASWATA BANDOPADHYAY
C-VI-VIII	RAZA ALI	ADRIJA DAS

The sports meet ended with the Retreating March Past and the Prize Distribution Ceremony.

Nikhil Ray (Class XI1)



National Bird Day



A special assembly was conducted on the 5th of January on the occasion of National Bird Day. Children of Classes I-XII prepared charts and delivered speeches to raise awareness regarding the importance of these species to our ecosystem and consequently the need for their conservation. The theme this year was 'Right to flight'. To ensure a safe environment for the feathered species, innovative bird feeders and shelters were made by the students and hung on the trees of the neighbourhood.

Ashima Chattopadhyay (Assistant Teacher)

Special Assembly on Swami Vivekananda Jayanti



St. Francis Xavier School organized a special assembly on 11th January 2024 to mark the auspicious occasion of Swami Vivekananda's Birthday. Mr. Rahul Mojumder, who was the EMCEE, delivered the introductory speech with a small prayer by Swami Vivekananda. Shivansh Rakshit of Class IIA dressed up as Swamiji and Avishi Das of the same class recited a poem titled - 'Aalor Dishari Swami Vivekananda' by the renowned poet Bhawaniprasad Mojumdar. Divyanshi Mohanty of Class IIA delivered an inspirational speech on Swamiji and his preachings. Students also displayed beautiful charts on Swami Vivekananda. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by our Headmistress Madam, Mrs. Mom Chattopadhyay, followed by the school song.

Sanchaita Saha (Assistant Teacher)

Inter House Cricket Tournament

The Inter House Cricket Tournament was organised on 27th January 2024 at CKCL Ground for classes VIII-XII. The students were divided into 2 group: Group A (XI-XII) and Group B (VIII-X).

The playing team consisted of 8 players with 4 players in substitution. A selection for the players from each house was earlier conducted on 17th January within the school premises.

Mr. Suman Chakraborty and Mr. Debojyoti Chakraborty acted as the umpires for the matches, and Mr. Rahul C Mojumder was the official scorer.

The winner of both Group A (XI-XII) and Group B (VIII-XII) was Netaji House, while Tagore House emerged as the Runner Up in both the groups. Aryan Jaiswal from class IX C secured the trophy for the Best Player of the Tournament.

Debojyoti Chakraborty (Assistant Teacher)



Republic Day and Netaji Jayanti Celebration



A special assembly was conducted on 25th January to celebrate Republic Day and the birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to foster a spirit of patriotism and honour the legacy of one of India's most prominent freedom fighters.

The assembly began with a warm welcome being extended to all attendees. The significance of the day was highlighted by Parna Saha of class IX S, the Emcee of the programme.

A student of class IX S, Archisman Ghosal delivered a speech focusing on the significance of Republic Day, highlighting the principles of democracy, justice, liberty, and equality enshrined in the Indian Constitution. A tribute was also paid to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his birth anniversary. His courage, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the cause of independence were emphasised in the speech.

Isha Bhattacharya a student of class VII B recited a wonderful poem that mesmerised the entire audience. The choir group of Classes VI-IX sang to the tune of Sare Jahan Se Accha and teachers and students could feel in their song the pride and passion for their motherland. Rajnandini Dey of class VI A recited **জেলখানার চিঠি - সুভাষচন্দ্রবসু**. It was a truly captivating performance, executed with finesse and profound emotion. Her eloquence and delivery were impeccable, leaving the audience spellbound and deeply moved. Arshika Saha Roy of class VII A also presented a wonderful dance performance on **Dhana Dhanye Pushpe Bhara**.

The assembly concluded with a beautiful speech delivered by Principal Sir encouraging students to retain the spirit of patriotism and national pride.

Adrija Das, VIII A



Annual Picnic

Students of St. Francis Xavier School enjoyed beyond their classrooms on a sunny winter day at Ibiza, which was the venue of the Annual Picnic this year. Students of Classes I-V enjoyed their day out on 19th January 2024 and Classes VI-XII too had a fantastic time on the 25th of January 2024. The bus ride was fun as the children sang in chorus to the songs being played and the entire journey was fun-filled. On reaching the venue children were served a hot and delicious breakfast. The students played a variety of games including cricket, badminton, hide and seek, and much more. They also enjoyed dancing to the tune of hit songs till they were called to enjoy a scrumptious lunch comprising fried rice, noodles, chili baby corn, and chili chicken to name a few items. After having their fill the children once again went back to enjoy the rest of their stay.

The excited young people were accompanied by their teachers and school support staff. It was a wonderful day for the children to strengthen their bonds with their peers. Everyone came back to the school rejuvenated.

Papia Ghosh Dutta (Assistant Teacher)

Staff Picnic



The School Management organized a picnic for the teaching and office staff on 2nd February 2024 at 'Kolaghat Sonar Bangla Resort'. It was indeed a pleasant break for all. The journey, which took nearly two hours, was an extremely pleasant one as the teachers were in a jubilant mood. Songs, snacks, and laughter set the mood for the day and a tasty breakfast was served on arrival. The teachers and staff had a relaxing time at the resort with games and music. The room allotted for freshening up was a luxurious one where the teachers could put up their feet for a while before the fun began. Games were played, prizes won and loads of photographs clicked. The lunch served was extremely delectable. The child in the teachers and the staff emerged as they enjoyed the ride on the swing-letting go of all worry and tension. The picnic aimed at building team spirit among the staff along with pleasure. The journey back was equally pleasant with a wistful tinge as the lovely day came to an end.

We are extremely thankful to our Secretary and Administrator Sir for giving the opportunity to unwind and relax.

Indrani Banerjee (Assistant Teacher)

Report on



Saraswati Puja



On 14th February 2024, Saraswati Puja was celebrated at St. Francis Xavier School. The deity was beautifully adorned in *daakersaaj*. The puja room was decorated by the support staff and teachers, with Miss Neha Roy, the art and craft teacher, leading the way. The decorations were impeccable, with colourful floral designs forming a canopy and the traditional *alpona* adorning the floor. The atmosphere was perfect with the sound of conchshells, smell of flowers mingling with the smell of incense, the 'hom' fire blazing, and coloured papers cut into the shapes of English and vernacular alphabets to pay tribute to the goddess of learning. It was delightful to see our teachers and students dressed in traditional Indian attire. The teachers and office staff had their responsibilities divided to ensure the smooth running of the puja.

The puja commenced at around 11:30 a.m., with teachers and students offering Pushpanjali to the Goddess. Our beloved Secretary and Administrator, Mr. Ajay Chopra, was also present, offering his respects to the Goddess. The attendees consisted of ex-students, students of primary and middle school, and Board examinees. Parents too accompanied their wards. The rituals of the puja took approximately forty-five minutes to complete. Afterward, prasad was distributed to everyone. All the staff members and students were treated to delicious Bengali delicacies such as *khichuri*, *labra*, *beguni*, *chutney*, *papad*, and *laddu*, which were offered as *bhog* to the Goddess. It was a wonderful day for both the students and the staff.

Amartya Pathak (Assistant Teacher)

Farewell to the Soaring Eagles



The hall of our esteemed school reverberated with poignant emotions on February 5th, 2024, as the students of class XI bade adieu to the graduating seniors. Aptly titled "Farewell to the Soaring Eagles," the event was a profound celebration of their journey and a heartfelt send-off into their promising future.

The afternoon commenced with a welcome speech by emcees Harshwardhan Srivastav and Astha Singh of class XI, setting the tone for the somber and heart-touching occasion. The ceremonial lighting of the lamp and garlanding of our Founder Principal Madam's portrait served as a reminder of the institution's legacy and values. This was followed by a graceful opening dance by Ayshee Bhattacharjee of class XI, captivating the audience with her dignified presence. A heartfelt speech by Administrator Sir acknowledged the achievements of the graduating class and expressed his sincere well wishes for their future endeavors. Enlightened by poignant examples from the movie "12th Fail", the young adults were now fortified to confront life's myriad challenges. To alleviate the solemnity, a spirited "Batch Quiz" was conducted by Ayshee Bhattacharjee to test how well they knew each other, fostering laughter and nostalgia as they reminisced. The event reached its emotional zenith with the valedictory speeches by Head Boy Arkadev Pandey and Head Girl Nandita Dutta. Their eloquent words encapsulated the shared experiences, triumphs, and friendships that defined their school years. Their words resonated deeply with the audience, leaving a palpable sense of melancholy yet immense pride in their hearts. Students of class XI added their touch to the celebration with a soul-stirring chorus performance on songs like "Woh Din" and "Night Changes", followed by a dynamic group dance performed by boys and girls of Classes X and XI. The energy and enthusiasm on stage were palpable, creating a solemn yet uplifting atmosphere. The much-anticipated declaration of Mr. and Ms. Francis was a poignant highlight of the evening. After a thrilling secret voting process, Adiyen Waqar and Sumaiya Khannum were crowned, receiving resounding applause and cheers from their peers. Principal Sir graced the occasion with his final remarks, offering earnest words of wisdom and encouragement as the students embarked on their new chapters. The evening concluded with a symbolic cake cutting and a vote of thanks by the emcees.

The "Soaring Eagles" took flight that afternoon, equipped with knowledge, memories, and the promise of bright futures. Their journey may have commenced within the walls of our school, but it is destined to endure, leaving an indelible mark on the world. The programme was rightly concluded by the emcee when they said, "Don't cry because it's over, rather smile because it happened".

Nikhil Ray(XIS1)

Annual Exhibition 2024



"Everything is theoretically impossible until it is done"- with this motto St. Francis Xavier School organized the Annual Exhibition on 30th March, 2024.

It was a spectacular showcase of scientific experiments, captivating the minds of attendees with a diverse array of demonstrations. Featuring a wide range of interactive exhibits, the exhibition catered to visitors of all ages - from Primary to Senior Secondary.

The topic for the **Primary section** was 'One India - Incredible India', which showcased the development in the different sectors in India such as space, agriculture, defence, transportation, and sustainable development in various fields. It also included the cultural features of different states such as dance, festivities, and food. This exhibition aimed to enlighten the students and visitors on the contribution of the different states to make India an incredible nation. The teachers guided the students to prepare charts and models on the given topic. Charts and models on DRDO Akash, INS Vikramaditya, Mission Sakti, Tejas, Chandrayan, Mangalyaan, NAVIC, underwater metro in Kolkata, Bogibeel bridge, Pamban, Bridge, windmills, solar powerplants were a part of the display.

The physics department demonstrated working models like Temperature Detector, Dual Control Switch, Chandrayan 3, Satellite Communication System, Earthquake Alarm, Rain Detector, Smoke Absorber, Room Heater, Tesla Coil, and Newton's Cradle. There were hands-on activities that provided an immersive experience, allowing visitors to witness the concepts of Physics in action and gain insights into their practical applications. The exhibition ventured into the realm of modern physics, captivating the audience with charts on Light, Green Hydrogen, Nuclear Power Plant, Robotics, and the Scientific Resemblance of Ancient Monuments. These topics sparked curiosity and ignited discussions, as visitors explored the cutting-edge advancements and scientific marvels shaping our world today.

As a part of **Biology and Geography exhibits**, students of Class XI made working models of Acid Rain, Hemodialysis, Drip Irrigation, and Genetic Engineering. They also made a chart on Epigenetics and a model of different types of fungi. Students of Classes VI to IX made beautiful working and non-working models of heart, skin, Connecting Link(Archeopterix), kidney and many other informative models.

The students from the **History** Department prepared charts and models based on the idea of the Renaissance and Industrial Revolution. Charts and models related to the development of Science and Mathematics were also



on display -the Telescope, Printing Machine, Cotton Gin, Steam Engine, UNESCO Contributions to science, the Delhi Iron Pillar, the Atomic structure proposed by Kanad, Jantar Mantar, and many more.

The students showcased their **mathematical** acumen in various aspects. The idea of architecture, sculpture, painting, and metal casting were based on mathematical calculations and geometrical views.

For **Mathematics**, The students of Classes VI to XII made working models on linear programming problems, geoboard, height and distance, area and circumference of a circle, and bar graph on real-life situation data critical reasoning questions were quizzed, and case-based situations and real life problems- the new trend of CISCE were discussed through PPT presentations. Charts were made on Pythagoras theorem and its applications, algebraic formula, square root by spiral method, determination of pi by model, fraction and triangle properties were highlighted.

The Computer Laboratory was decked up beautifully by the students with dynamic charts on eras of computing, features of different programming, Robotics, etc. The students from Classes VI to IX and XI showcased elaborate models using Arduino, explaining the Internet Of Things.

The Chemistry department also showcased its achievements. The students of Classes VI to XII made working models on volcanoes, rainwater harvesting, pH tests, side effects of medicine, lava lamps, water marbling, chemical sunset, acid rain, and distillation of water for the **Chemistry Exhibition**. The students explored the colloidal nature of Sulphur and how the Redox reaction stems the application of Breath analyzer to enable the authorities to catch the wrongdoers.

The Exhibition was a grand success which is attributed to its ability to seamlessly blend education, entertainment, and innovation.

**By Shubhankar Bhattacharjee,
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TRAVELOGUE

Dhanushkodi: The Ghost Town at India's Edge



History of Dhanushkodi:

Dhanushkodi, also known as the "Land's End," lies on the Pamban Island in South India. It connects to mainland Tamil Nadu via the iconic Pamban Bridge. Historically, Dhanushkodi holds significance as the place where Lord Rama instructed Hanuman to build the "Ram Setu" bridge to Sri Lanka. Once a thriving trade hub, it stood 24 kilometers north of Sri Lanka. However, in 1964, a powerful cyclone struck Rameswaram and Pamban Island, forcing the residents of Dhanushkodi to abandon their homes. The town was left uninhabited, and today, it stands as a haunting ghost town. The remnants of its past glory include temples, houses, a lighthouse, a school, a hospital, and even a railway station with tracks extending to the southernmost point of India. The only inhabitants are local fisherfolk. They live harsh lives in makeshift thatched huts with no electricity or running water.

Last summer we had the opportunity of visiting this magnificent place.

Crossing Pamban Bridge:

The train journey from Mahabalipuram to Rameshwaram was an amazing one as we crossed the Pamban bridge with our heart in our mouth. Though one could drive there but nothing could come up to the experience of crossing the bridge. You should experience it by train, in at least one direction, as the railway line lies spectacularly close to the sea. We stood by the door as the train inched across the bridge, trying to capture every moment on camera. At one point I was truly frightened of falling off the train!

The same day we planned to visit Dhanushkodi but the locals at our resort convinced us that we should visit the next day with some time in hand. The essence of the old town else would not be felt.

Driving through the Rameswaram – Dhanushkodi Road:

The next day we hired a car and took the scenic road that leads to Dhanushkodi. The landscape was both severe and serene, offering glimpses of the vast ocean.

The new road has made Dhanushkodi much more accessible. Before it was constructed, the only way to reach the town was to take a private minibus or jeep across the sand or walk along the seashore. It was totally cut off from civilization. Now, one can drive there directly in a private vehicle.

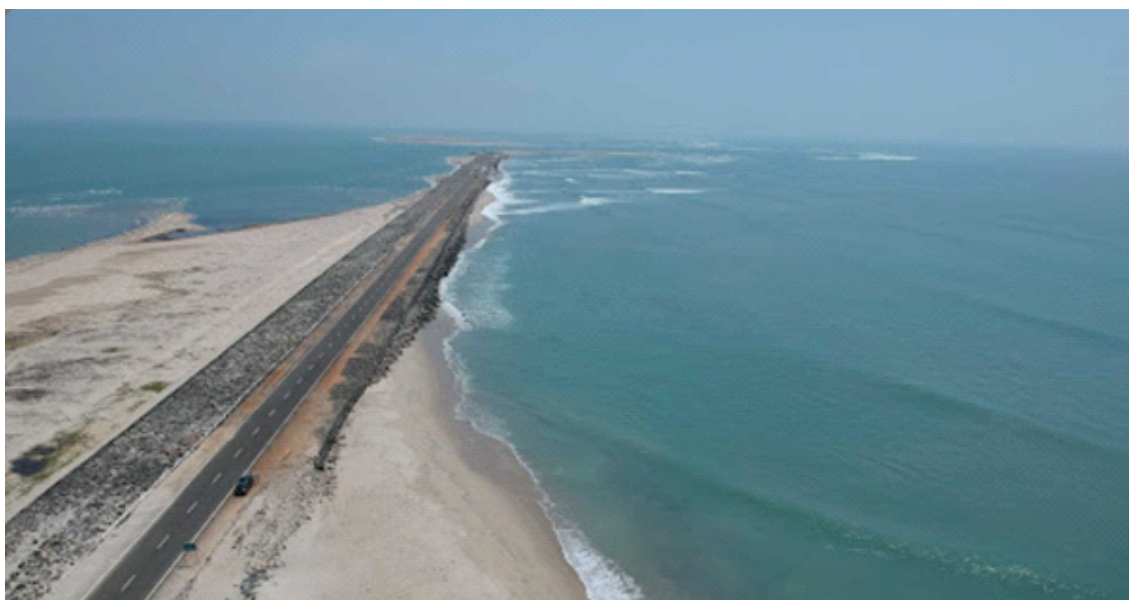
The road is an extension of National Highway 87, which runs from the mainland to Pamban Island and Rameshwaram. Previously, it ended at Mukuntharayar Chathiram but now continues 5 kilometers from Mukuntharayar Chathiram to Dhanushkodi, and a further 4.5 kilometers from Dhanushkodi to Arichal Munai (Erosion Point). The final stretch is strictly controlled by India's Border Security Force. Entry is only permitted from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Travel time from Rameshwaram to Dhanushkodi took us about 30-45 minutes by car. There are various travel options available depending on your budget.

The cheapest option is to take the state government bus from the bus stop near Agni Theertham in Rameshwaram. The frequency of buses is approximately every 30 minutes and the last bus returns just before 6 p.m. However, the drawback is that you won't be able to stop at other tourist spots, such as temples, along the way. Taking an auto rickshaw is an alternative option.

Exploring the Ghost Town of Dhanushkodi:

As we reached our destination we felt that we had reached the end of the earth. Once a flourishing trade hub, Dhanushkodi is now an eerie ghost town. All that exists of it are the fragmented and windswept remains of a few buildings, stark and seemingly out of place in the severe yet serene landscape. The best-preserved ones are the church, post office, and railway station. Railway tracks are also buried under the sand. The remnants of the church and the town created an eerie feeling and we were as if transported back to the past. The feeling could not be described in words. While the stone remnants of Dhanushkodi are the main attraction, the best thing to do is simply soak up the soul-stirring and sometimes haunting atmosphere. After spending a considerable amount of time exploring the town, we finally drove towards the beach.



Dhanushkodi Beach:

We continued along the road to Arichal Munai (Erosion Point). It's a magical scene, with the straight strip of tarmac enclosed by the sea on both sides. A solitary pillar of Ashoka, the national emblem of India, stands at the endpoint where you can look out across Adam's Bridge. Standing at the southernmost tip of India and gazing across the waters toward Sri Lanka....it's a surreal experience. Don't be surprised if your cell phone automatically connects to Sri Lanka's network. Mine did!

It was extremely windy as we strolled along the pristine beach, where the Indian Ocean meets the Bay of Bengal. The turquoise waters on one side and the emerald on the other along with the sandy shores created a mesmerizing backdrop.

By noon we were ravenous and upon the insistence of our driver cum guide-Balaji- we indulged in fresh seafood at local eateries. Not being a fish lover, I was apprehensive initially but the coastal flavors were a delight to the palate.

Villoondi Theertham

While you're in the vicinity, consider visiting Villoondi Theertham. The name translates to "the place pierced by the arrow." Legend says that Lord Ram quenched the thirst of Sita by piercing a point in the sea from where sweet water splurged. Here, you'll find a Shiva lingam named Thryambakeshvarar. Devotees can access the well by crossing a 120-foot-long walking bridge that extends into the sea. The sacred water and the serene surroundings make it a peaceful spot for reflection and prayer.

Kothandaramaswamy temple, located off the highway about 10 minutes before Dhanushkodi, is of interest too. It's dedicated to Lord Ram and notably is the only building in the area to have survived the cyclone that destroyed the town.

Best Time to Visit Dhanushkodi

The ideal time to explore Dhanushkodi is from October to March, although the weather remains tropical. We visited in May but luckily experienced glorious weather. Remember that Dhanushkodi experiences extreme natural conditions.

Don't wait, pack your curiosity!

From the HOIs

FUN ZONE

JUMBLE
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DUELE
[] [] [] [] [] []

INJOT
[] [] [] [] [] []

CANYEG
[] [] [] [] [] []

SAYILE
[] [] [] [] [] []

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Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

[] - "[] [] [] [] [] []" [] [] [] [] [] []

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



o?
FIND
10
DIFFERENCES



SPANGRAM

FIND THE HIDDEN WORDS RELATED TO THE THEME. ALSO FIND THE SPECIAL WORD (SPANGRAM) THAT LINKS TWO OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE BOARD.

TODAY'S THEME

What's so funny?

0 of 8 theme words found.

E	L	T	I	T	G
K	W	R	E	T	U
H	C	A	F	F	S
R	I	U	H	U	L
O	L	C	O	A	H
A	R	A	I	U	G
O	T	R	L	T	C
O	H	E	R	O	H



What's so funny?

TODAY'S THEME

- CHORTLE
- GUFFAW
- TITTER
- CHUCKLE
- HOOT
- ROAR
- LAUGH

ANSWER: SPANGRAM



ANSWER: SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

G-EYE-JOE

ELUDE, JOINT, AGENCY, EASILY

Answers : JUMBLE

ANSWERS

IN CONVERSATION WITH MRS. GARGI BANERJEE



1. How long have you been associated with this institution?

I have been working in this esteemed institute for over 10 years now. I joined in October 2013.

2. Reflecting on your tenure at the school, what are some key highlights or accomplishments you're particularly proud of?

I am particularly proud of the Management-teacher relationship. What also impresses me is the work culture. Everyone is busy going about their work and that is what makes St. Francis Xavier School what it is today.

3. How have you evolved as a teacher over the past decade, and what lessons have you learned from your experiences at this school?

Undoubtedly, there has been a transformation in the Information, Communication, and Technology (ICT) landscape in this generation. Nowadays, students have more access to the internet and media. Those who are eager to learn are now more informed. I am impressed when students come up with new questions and problems. I appreciate their eagerness to learn, and I also seek their help to stay updated on new technology.

4. How have you maintained enthusiasm and passion for teaching throughout your time in this school?

It is my passion and love for teaching Bengali that has been my driving force and strength for all these years. Every day is a new day and I am ready for the challenge. I try new innovative methods of teaching which is what builds my enthusiasm.

5. What relationships or connections have you built with students, parents, and colleagues over the past ten years?

I have developed a good relationship with my students, parents, and colleagues over the last 10 years. Love, friendship, and cooperation are the values that bind me to my colleagues. Their ever-smiling faces give me the energy and strength to move forward.

6. How have you adapted to changes in education policies, technology, or teaching methods during your time at this school?

[smiles] I may be old school, but one evolves over time. Using smart boards & Smart TVs in the classroom has indeed been challenging but I have adapted to the changes in education policies and teaching methods quite efficiently.

7. Looking back, what do you believe has been your greatest achievement in the school over the past decade?

Our school hosted the ASISC Tennis tournaments (Regional and National). Being a part of this event has been a learning experience that I consider to be mammoth. I would always rate this as my greatest achievement whereby I was able to efficiently hold the event of such a great magnitude.

8. According to you what is unique about this institution that is hard to find in other institutions?

Active 'club presentation' is unique in this institution, which is hard to find in other institutions.