

# NEWS & VIEWS

Est. 1964

*"Can you remember who you were, before the world told you who you should be?"*

*-Charles Bukowski*

Dear Reader,

By now, it is evident that the only way society can progress is through novel ideas and concepts. It is thus astounding that society still likes to be ensconced in the past for people find it comfortable. The major paradox in our world thus lies in this desire for progress without breaking free from the dregs of the past. What is even worse is that when one musters the courage to cross the conventional boundaries, one faces social alienation. This sad reality that can be found reflected in the print of 'abstract' literature and news. This is one of the biggest challenges of our generation for now we have reached a point in time when the only way forward will come with a fundamental change in society. It is our generation which will have to now find the balance between the objective and subjective; law and mercy as various pockets of the world are inhabited/populated with militants, survivors and their stories.

The advent of unprecedented problems like climate change, widespread xenophobia, Artificial Intelligence to name some, makes it imperative that we shred these prejudices, in order to work towards finding equally exceptional solutions to these problems. If these are not tackled effectively today, the world will be trapped in an endless cycle, with history repeating itself.

The realization of this need is what makes Welhamites stand out from the rest. Each girl is nurtured in an environment where she is taught to question and view things in an objective light instead of conforming to accepted norms/ the status quo. Within the 12 acre campus, Welhamites create their own world which is built on the pillars of compassion, equality, justice and optimism, making them driven individuals with strength of character and determination.

The News and Views aims to facilitate in this process and convey to its readers an unbiased view of the issues around the world, with each article carefully chosen for every Welhamite to relate to. The publication does not simply aim to underscore problems but seeks to critically analyze the nuances of a conflict. It provides a platform to all to express themselves freely and welcomes new ideas and opinions.

This issue strives to present a Welhamite in her entirety: her fragments of fun and frivolity that coexist with a consciousness of the world around her and the awareness of the role that she must play in the future.

Happy Reading and Happy Diwali!

Anmol and Sairaa



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## INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Our Principal, Mrs. Padmini Sambasivam has been invited to receive the International Leadership Excellence Award 2019, second Edition at Thailand.

The Leadership Excellence Award (LEA) aims to celebrate and recognize influential educational leaders across the world. It is to commemorate creative educators who ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. The award ceremony will take place on 2nd November, 2019. Out of the 127 nominations, 24 shortlisted leaders are receiving the award this year. The awards are an initiative of Meccademia Educational Group, the United Arab Emirates' leading educational service provider. We are extremely proud of you, Ma'am for taking Welham to greater heights!



## Crusader for Climate

*"Yes, we are failing, but there is still time to turn everything around — we can still fix this. I want you to panic.... I want you to act as if the house was on fire. Because it is."*

*-Greta Thunberg on climate change at the UN Climate Action Summit 2019*

We all talk about climate change and how there are only a few years to save the earth from mass extinction but how many of us actually take any action? After long discussions, we simply go back to our 'busy lives' and find different ways to be successful in the future. But we all forget that, at the current rate of pollution and degradation of the environment, there might not be a future. It is up to us, the youth



to ensure that there is a future. We are the ones who will have to bring the change because we are the ones who have to live on Earth for the longest period of time in the near future. Longer than those politicians whose main objective is working on their countries' economy; longer than those activists and influencers who have never paid heed to climate change and longer than those adults who simply choose to overlook the grave circumstances at this very moment.

The 'youth climate strike movement' owes its birth to the 16 year old Swedish climate activist, Greta Thunberg. She speaks of the miserable state of the earth today and about the ignorance shown towards it. In her book, 'No One is Too Small to Make a Difference', she says that she sees the world in either black or white and that there are 'no grey areas when it comes to survival'. She started the 'Skolstrejk för klimatet' (School strike for the climate) in August 2018, known as the Fridays For Future Movement wherein students demand for action to be taken for preventing further global warming and climate change during school hours. Following her footsteps, a lot of teenagers have taken up the responsibility of creating awareness about climate change in their own countries. Greta's message to the world is that "We need to get angry and understand what is at stake. And then we need to transform that anger into action and to stand together united and just never give up." It's important for us to remember that it is never too late to start, we are never too less to start and that we are never too young to start. The sooner we begin the better the future will be for our successors.

**-Anushka Khetawat**

**Class 10**



### From Mrs. Gautam's Mailbag

*Sabrina Sidhu was from the batch of 2011 and is currently a consultant at a market leading business advisory firm in Mumbai.*

Dear Ma'am,

Hope you are well.

I know I have not written to you recently and I have forgotten to send Teachers' Day messages a few times since 2012 (guilty!). However, every year as October approaches, I always find myself fondly reminiscing about school - the 'founder's smell' in the air, the sound of bajri under shuffling school shoes, the autumn sunshine and lemon tarts. I frequently think about the relationships I built with my teachers that did not end on passing out of school, they flourished as I found that I always had a corner in their memory as they did in mine. Especially with you, this bond was fuelled by the thoughtful emails and messages exchanged, the nostalgia the 'Artsies' and I share, your chance meetings with my brother at Welham-Dosco socials (!) and your rendezvous with my mother.

I started working last year and having to 'adult' has brought out the real value of the education we received at school - not what we learned from books, but the context it was taught to us in by you and so many stellar teachers at Welham. In my years post school, I have had the privilege of learning in various classrooms across the globe, but I am yet to find a sanctuary of self-expression and freedom that your classes acted as in our formative years.

Using the texts of Shaw and Yates, you gave us the gift of emotional intelligence, confidence, acceptance and resilience. Growing up in the presence of personalities who were not just teachers, friends and mentors but role models for liberal feminist values has moulded us into smart, conscionable young women, not afraid to be mavericks.

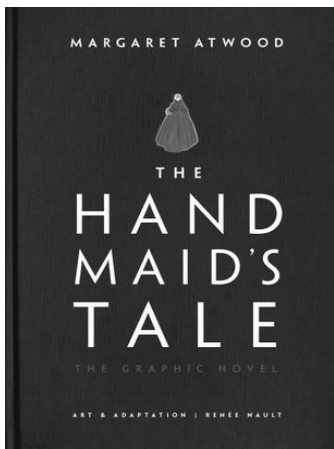
I know it is well past the 5<sup>th</sup> of September, but I didn't want to wait until next year to tell you and all my teachers what a pleasure it has been learning and growing with you.

Hope to see you soon, perhaps on Founder's next year.

Love,

Sabrina

### Book Review: The Handmaid's Tale



Atwood has truly outdone herself through this stark, stunning and touching novel which leaves one spellbound and hungry for more. The Handmaid's Tale is a first person narrative account of a woman called Offred who takes us into the intricacies and specifics of life in The Republic of Gilead, a theological military dictatorship established by 'The Son of Jacobs'. It talks of a society very unlike ours, with a scary possibility for the future, where all women rights have been curtailed and they are expected to perform barred social functions for mere survival.

The book is divided into two parts with the night alternating with other activities. Night is when Offred has the luxury of being alone, and the reader is immersed into the forbidden thoughts and desires of a woman who has lost her daughter and husband to a draconian regime, but still lives on in a household which regards her as nothing more than a 'two legged womb'. The other activities reveal the life of hand-

maids across the state as they go about their daily chores, constantly under scrutiny and fear, of being declared an 'unwoman'. The narrow descriptions force us to look at the wider picture and question our beliefs as modern feminists and the very nature of the life we presently live in. Atwood has aptly showcased, how even through the laws, the hangings, the public executions and the constant threat, what is truly human cannot be killed. We witness the recklessness, the lust, the love, the caution, and most importantly the pain, as we move with Offred while she treads on shattered glass in a place that never gives one a second chance.

Very few books leave such a profound impact on the readers, and this complex tale is a helpless call for change and compassion. Finally, the profound message that Offred finds inscribed on a cupboard door, probably a woman's final words is 'Nolite te bastardest carborundorum.'

**-Eshanya Agarwal  
Class 11**



### ADIFF: 'design intervention for global issues'

When you hear the term 'fashion', the first thing that comes to mind is images of 'zero-figure' models walking down the runway at some fashion show or an Instagram influencer and her millions of followers. But there's more to the realm of clothing and style than that. 25 year old Angela Luna was in her senior year at Parsons School of Design when she came across an image of a Syrian boy washed upon the shore. Deeply affected she visited refugee camps in Greece which motivated her to help those unfortunate souls displaced from their homes with inadequate shelter and insufficient food.

As the temperature began to drop, volunteers and social workers began to hand out jackets to the refugees. Since all the clothing they distributed was donated, most of the jackets were either spring or summer wear hence too thin to do them any good. Luna was determined to find a way to respond to this crisis. She created jackets that would fit the general needs of a refugee: these were waterproof, warm, allowed comfortable movement and fit-for-all sizes. They all came with some special features. Some could transform into tents; others into sleeping bags and backpacks. While visiting a refugee camp she heard of how while returning to the camp in the dark, a mother and her son were hit by a vehicle and lost their lives. She was deeply moved. This incident provoked Angela Luna to design the [in] visible jacket. One side of such a jacket had a reflective surface that makes it visible in emergencies whereas the other side provides camouflage. This jacket could also be converted into a tent. Luna has been breaking stereotypes, attempting to prove that the fashion industry is not all about consumerism. As soon as she graduated, she set up ADIFF, her very own company with the motto 'design intervention for global issues', thus making fashion a means to alleviate the misery caused by global crises around the world.



-Simarna Paintal

Class 10



Sairaa: (With full gusto) I will self- defend her!  
*Kudos to the conductors of the Safe Campus Workshop!*



Ira: Look at that Wild Boar who looks like a pig!  
*Sometimes, try looking at sense as well!*



Kaavya: (trying to explain how bread is made) When the loaf becomes itself.  
*Major existentialist crisis.*



Nandini: Vikram is the guy sitting in the satellite.  
*Dumb is the person sitting in your brain.*



# BIRD BRAIN



## Bidding farewell to a Pillar of Welham

Mrs. Mamta Gautam has been teaching Welhamites for the last 17 years. She took over as the Head of the English Department alongside being the Senior Oriole Housemistress in 2017. She was the House Mistress of Junior Flycatchers in 2013. She is one of the most loved teachers in school and is the voice of reason and rationale on campus. Her strength and compassion have inspired generations of Welhamites from the past to the present. Fondly known as MGM, her humor and wit make her classes the most awaited by all her students, who can talk to her about anything under the sun— from hardships in life to trotting pigs. All students who have been nurtured and taught by her, have had the privilege of making memories they will cherish forever. You will be dearly missed, Ma'am!



### WHAT DOES MRS GAUTAM MEAN TO YOU?

**Mrs. Sambasivam:** *Honest and easy to live with.*

**Mrs. Rajshree Ojha:** *Friend, Philosopher, Guide.*

**Aalekh Dhaliwal:** *Words could never encompass her worth for me. She is absolutely phenomenal for so many of us, the only one we didn't feel the need to be "politically correct" with. When I think of Welham, it's never without her. I am grateful to her for her time and everything that she has done for me.*

**Rajilashmi Das:** *A spirited woman who I knew I could count on at any hour of the day.*

**Manaal Mirza:** *A source of comfort and joy. She is one of the kindest people I know.*

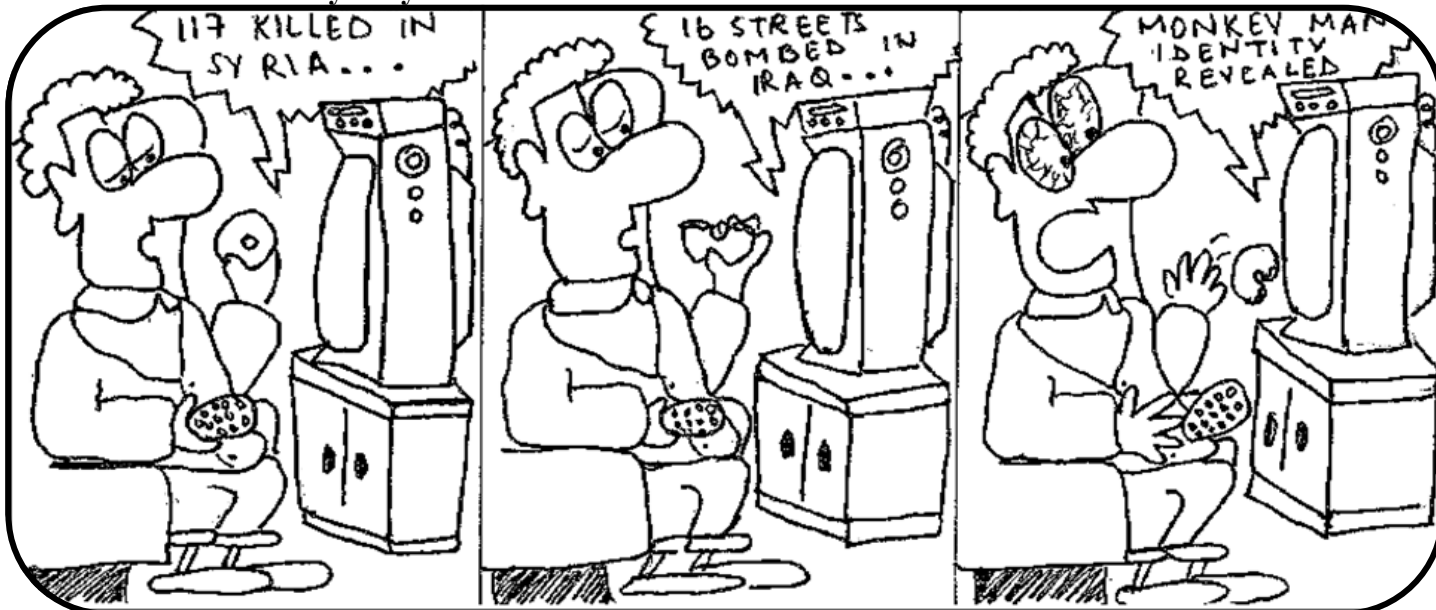
**Tanvi Trehan:** *Closest thing to a mother in school.*

**Mrs Nalanda Pandey:** *Knowledgeable, friendly, affectionate. She reminds me of a coconut—hard on the outside but extremely soft hearted within. Of course, she is very beautiful as well.*

**Mrs Anuradha Bawa:** *She means the world to me. She is my soul sister.*

**Anmol Kejriwal:** *The kind of woman the world needs more of. She has been a bearer of my secrets, inspiration, strength, love and comfort.*

### Paradoxical Normalcy -Jaya Vats





## The Culture of Slam Poetry

*"If I wear red cherry blossom lipstick and smile at you, do not take it otherwise. Trust me it's courtesy not curiosity."*  
-Vinatoli Yeptho



Slam poetry opposes all the prevalent formal "rules" of writing poetry to express oneself. This explains why this concept has become an influential tool for voicing feelings as it utilizes ordinary language to articulate profound ideas and emotions. Slam poetry allows individuals to reveal exactly what is going on in their heads. While performing one effectively communicates these emotions to the audience. Emotions are the driving force that, when suitably expressed, turns the inked words on a white page into impressionable and unforgettable acts.

Vinatoli Yeptho, a 22 year old girl from North East India, confounded the audience in Kolkata with her slam poetry attacking sexism and racism faced by women across the country. The poem titled 'Five Rules for whomever it may concern' condemns the superficiality of gender objectification that women deal with on a day-to-day basis. Vinatoli's anger and passionate

delivery struck a chord with the audience compelling them to think about an issue they would otherwise not be much mindful about.

This is only one example of the hundreds who have taken to this form, also known as '*spoken word*'. A poet may put down his words on a piece of paper but these may never reach the target audience simply because they may not be "poetic enough". These restrictions rendered many individuals doubtful of their capabilities and hence, many things were left unsaid. Slam poetry undermines these barriers and hence is heartily welcome across the globe as a compelling means of communication.

More than just being an elementary right of every individual, freedom of expression cannot be done away with. So extraordinary, yet beautifully mundane platform to 'talk' and express ourselves is what our evolving world needs. This clearly indicates that one need not be good with *extravagant* words to communicate; and maybe, just maybe, poetry can be everyone's cup of tea.

**-Tanisha Gupta**  
**Class 12**

## Roses



A single fresh and dewy pink rose to each and every Welhamite for successfully braving the Founders' Frenzy.



A bouquet of freshly hand-picked roses to all guests on campus. We hope you have an amazing weekend!



Vases full of fragrant roses to all our teachers for always being there for us. And also as a request let us remain in your good books just for this weekend.



Baskets of bright yellow roses to all our readers. We wish you a Happy and Safe Diwali!



Baskets overflowing with freshly-scented, hand-picked white roses to Mrs. Mamta Gautam! You will be deeply missed! We wish you love and luck wherever you go!

## Raspberries



Cartons full of foul smelling, fungus-infested raspberries to the authorities for keeping the library out of bounds during exams.



Swimming pools full of maggot-infested raspberries to whoever thought that it is a good idea to keep three talks in ONE day.



A truckload of the most putrid raspberries fresh from the sewer to whoever made the IPSC Calendar. Thank you for scheduling most events in October.



Bushels of rancid, decomposing, vomit-inducing raspberries to the weather Gods for NEVER making it rain on predicted days. We need to sleep!



## Of Poets, Writers and Muses

*"Literature is strewn with the wreckage of those who have minded beyond reason the opinion of others."*

*-Virginia Woolf*

It is essentially believed that writers, poets, philosophers and critical thinkers are without doubt great analysts, nosy-parkers and observers who have an eye for intricate details. However, just like our experiences shape our lives, much of what we write, the way we act, our idiosyncrasies and viewpoints are shaped by the environment we exist in. An idea springs from our muses and that tiny germ of an idea has the ability to spark million others. Take the example of, R.M. Ballantyne's *'The Coral Island'* which inspired William Golding's novel *'Lord of the Flies'* in which Golding reversed the roles of Ballantyne's characters that led to an extremely grotesque and macabre end to the novel. Even Robert Louis Stevenson was inspired by Ballantyne's novel and thus, created *'Treasure Island.'* These are a just a few examples but there are plenty others which lie under the same umbrella.



It is a commonly held notion that classic over-thinkers are exceptional story weavers and writers. In a study, Prentky argued that cognition patterns associated with creativity bear certain biological properties related to a tendency for mental illness. Writers with depression or instances of drug overdose are inclined to think more creatively than their sane counterparts. Even though opioid addiction is dangerous, Samuel Taylor Coleridge is believed to have written his poem *'Kubla Khan'* under its influence. However, the amount of drugs which he used to enhance his creativity is seemingly unknown, but it definitely resulted in a masterpiece.

This can be cited as the *'Sylvia Plath Effect'* which states that poets are more susceptible to mental illnesses as opposed to creative writers. This widely held belief has been discussed at several platforms worldwide and has much evidence to support its claims. Virginia Woolf is believed to have been a victim of this effect and the similarities between her and Plath are striking yet inspiring. Both Plath and Woolf suffered from mental illnesses and eventually committed suicide. Whereas *'The Bell Jar'* served as a metaphor for Plath's inner feelings and covered themes of isolationism, Woolf's writings prove her distress and discord. Both these women, served as an inspiration for the other especially given Plath's view, *'Virginia Woolf helps. Her novels make mine possible.'* However Woolf, in *'A Room of One's Own'* argues that, *"Lock up your libraries if you like; but there is no gate, no lock, no bolt that you can set upon the freedom of my mind."*

Even though their lives ended on an unfortunate note, their works remain as testament to their powerful emotions which are cathartic even for the readers. An artistic creation, be it art or poetry, requires thorough introspection and is a projection of an individual's character as a whole. After all, the power of literature lies in its ability to share the intense emotions with readers through words and characters. As Sylvia Plath once said, *"let me live, love, and say it well in good sentences."*

**-Sairaa Bains**  
**Class 12**

# JUNIOR

## Ouija Dilemma

There are some games that we play to trick the other players but there are a few games that trick us instead. One such 'game' was introduced in 1890 in the United States owing to the growing interest in spirits in



American culture. This game was called 'Ouija'. It was believed to be a magical device i.e. a talking board that answered questions about the past, present and future with marvelous accuracy. It consists of a flat board with the letters of alphabets arrayed in two semi-circles above the numbers 0 and 9, the words 'yes' and 'no' in the uppermost corners, goodbye at the bottom accompanied by a planchette which was a teardrop shaped device that was used to manoeuvre about the board. The idea was that two or more people

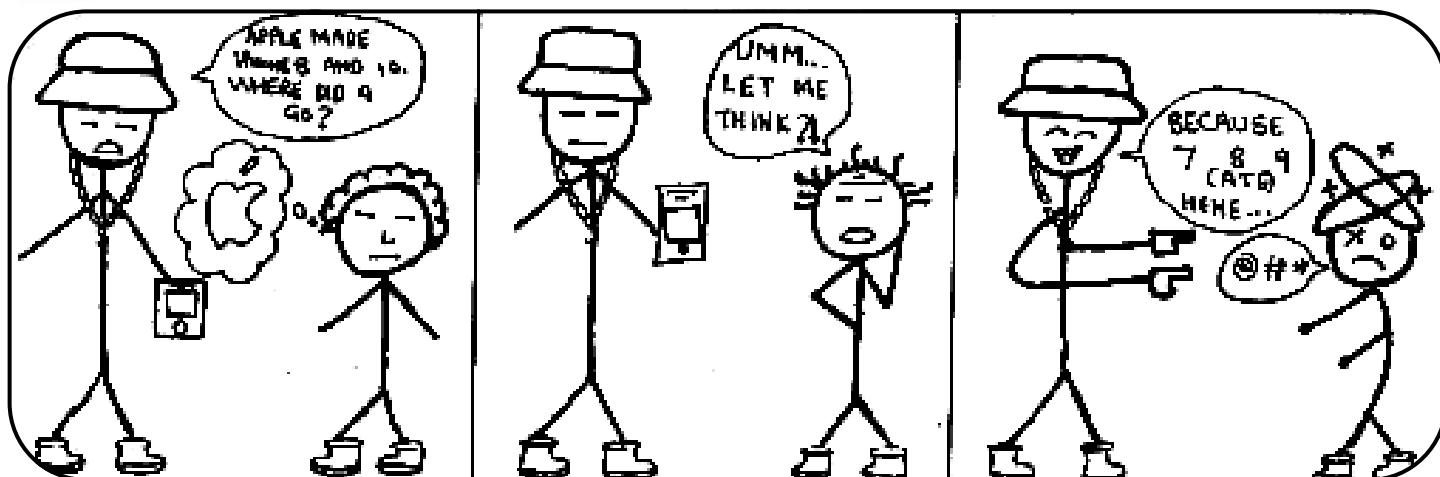
would sit around the board, place fingers on the planchette, pose a question and watch the planchette move from letter to letter, spelling out the answers. The name 'Ouija' was given to it because, according to one legend, when the famous author Helen Peters asked the board what she should call it, the answer was 'Ouija' which meant good luck. Ouija soon became a tool of the devil, horror writers and movie makers and hence was featured in movies such as Harry Potter and Snow White.

After being tricked for so many years, today, scientists have found out how the Ideomotor response is responsible for this. The Ideomotor response refers to the process in which a thought brings about a seemingly reflexive or automatic muscular reaction, usually to a small degree and without the subject's awareness. So, the movement of the planchette is caused due to these small movements which become exaggerated when more players concentrate on the same board and all are equally tensed and thus we end up seeing what we expect to see. But even with all the logic that operates behind the scenes, skeptics still continue to argue with ghost-enthusiasts about the accuracy of this mysterious instrument and even its significance in the 'spirit world'.

-Avika Lohia

Class 8

## YELLOW GUMBOOTS





### The Limitation

People say that

The sky is the limit

But what if,

My dreams go beyond?

Will people hate me?

Because I dared to,

Prove them wrong.

Because why should

The sky be the limit,

When the universe is my capability?



-Shivika Anand  
Class 7

### Five Seconds

Five seconds does seem like a very short period of time. You can hold your breath for five seconds and not even realize it. But, what if the Earth lost its oxygen for this 'short' period of five seconds? Would we even feel or realize it?

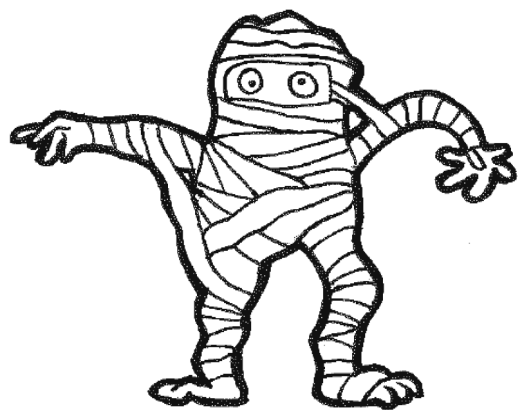
The answer is affirmative. The concrete buildings will collapse in front of our eyes because oxygen acts as a binding agent for concrete. If you were out and relaxing on the beach you can expect to be red as a tomato. This would be hundred times worse than the worst case of sunburn you can imagine. This would be so because the ozone layer made up of oxygen prevents the harmful sun radiations from entering the earth's atmosphere. Your inner ear drum will also burst as 21% of its air pressure will be lost, causing deafness.

Moreover, the Earth's crust will collapse as 45% of it is Oxygen. Now you can heave a sigh of relief and be grateful that you are not covered in debris because something like this is probably never going to occur. But now, five seconds don't seem as insignificant, do they?

-Tvisha Mahajan  
Class 7

### The Walking Dead

Cotard's Syndrome or 'The Walking Corpse' Syndrome is a rare syndrome characterized by the presence of nihilistic delusions. In this rare and eerie mental disorder, the patients believe the mindset that they are already dead, have ceased to exist, are even putrefying, or have lost all their blood or internal organs. Denial of self-existence in these affected 'corpses' results in depression, anxiety, suicidal attempts and even self-loathing activities like starvation for they 'are already dead' and hence do not require food to sustain their non-existent being'. Patients have reported horrifying experiences that include acute anxiety due to failure of the patient's apparently required burial, acclamations of having no heartbeat and internal organs, and even complaints of feeling completely 'dead' and reporting smell of rotten flesh, among many other quixotic narratives. In 2005, Iranian doctors describes what may have been the most unusual case ever recorded. A thirty two year old man arrived at their



hospital claiming that not only was he dead but had also been turned into a *dog*. He said that his wife had suffered the same unbelievable fate. Not only that, but he also believed that his two daughters had passed away and had been turned into *sheep*. He furthered his scarcely credible story with the reason that his relatives had tried to poison him but *nothing could hurt him* because 'God' protected him even in death. He was later diagnosed with Cotard's Syndrome and treated with electroconvulsive therapy. Despite psychological experiments and debatable conclusions, we may never know whether it was just a scientifically explained case of this peculiar syndrome, or a question of people stuck between parallel realities.

-Yatika Singh  
Class 8

## A Tragic Presidency

The forty fifth President of the United States of America has been a political disrupter, an abuser of a system in crisis, compelling reason to listen and not shout. That's a brief introduction to Donald. J. Trump. Here are some highlights from a simple google search of current news stories pertaining to the American President:



- With regard to the women's vote he stated, "You remember last election, Donald Trump will never ever get the women, then we got this tremendous number of women." Yes, we all know that there were a lot of women, heading to the courts.
- He appears to have invented a phone call in which the Boy Scouts thank the President for a speech he made to the Boy Scouts National Jamboree, describing it as the "greatest speech that was ever made to them".
- He is currently in the middle of an impeachment inquiry which he seems to be handling gracefully. Since the process began, he has welcomed two countries to meddle in U.S elections, demanded that there be alligators and snakes around the Mexico Wall, and has become the first POTUS to use highly inappropriate vocabulary on Twitter.

By the time that this is read by you, these little nuances will have long been buried in an avalanche of practically relentless news and outrage that surrounds the Trump administration. It persistently hammers the wedge into the abyss that is American politics, that has swallowed president after president before Donald Trump who wasn't able to get relevant things done while in office.

Despite being world's most powerful entity, Trump is like a cartoon, a Simpson's character made worse by the fact that he's actually been one. Come to think of it, he would still be so if only the citizens of the "most democratic nation" in the world broke out of their slumber to realise a "Greater America".

Donald Trump's time in office, to say the least has been reckless and unpredictable. So how did this man land in the White House? Trump is a hopeless attempt at sustenance by a segment of the American people that is anguished by the status quo. These are people so sidelined from the rich, worldly seaboard areas that they call it: fly-over states, when referring to states one flies over on the way from one seacoast to another. (The casual contempt with which Americans regard each other is simply astounding).

I now return to the impeachment inquiry that has been discussed on several platforms. The basis of this inquiry is Donald Trump's phone call with the president of Ukraine, the details of which were disclosed by a whistle blower and seemed to suggest an abhorrent "misuse of power". The call transcript hinted at Trump withholding millions of dollars meant as aid to Ukraine unless Zelensky agreed to investigate into the imminent political rival Joe Biden's son, Hunter Biden. This is shocking as Trump barely just crawled out of the Mueller report! After another whistleblower came forward, the President invited China to get involved in American politics and the White House refused to co-operate in an "illegitimate inquiry" and blocked testimony from a key diplomat. Very recently Trump took the decision of withdrawing U.S troops from Syria, an unexpected and irrational action that will have disastrous consequences, especially on U.S—Turkey relations. This has served as a brilliant distraction from Trump's current situation which reminds me of the wise words of Franklin D. Roosevelt, "In politics, nothing happens by accident. If it happens, you can bet it was planned that way."

The chances of Donald Trump getting impeached are highly negative unless the Republican dominated Senate decides that another candidate has a greater hold over the Democrats in the 2020 elections. Still, let us not lose hope; perhaps Trump's presidency will be a wakeup call on both sides to finally bring some introspection, dignity and respectability to mainstream politics along with the awareness that if they continue treading down this path, next time they may just find Kanye West as the President.

Sadly, the odds of Trump nuking China are just about the same.

**-Taarika Mann**

**Class 11**

*(Picture Courtesy: [www.sivrilov.com](http://www.sivrilov.com))*



## Kashmir– India's Pandora's Box

As a student, I have no expertise in identifying the extent of right or wrong of the revocation of Article 370 in Kashmir. This article, does not provide an opinion or stance on the action, but simply aims to shed light on some of the problems that are being faced by the people, particularly, the students of the region.

The shutdown in J&K has been persisting for more than two months now, even though the government has gradually been lifting the restrictions that were imposed in August this year. However, the Kashmir Region is still one of the most heavily militarized areas in the world. Moreover, the Army can still arrest people without a warrant and detain them for an unspecified period of time. According to Kashmiris, they see 'more policemen than Kashmiris'. Section 144 of the CRPC has also been imposed in the region. These restrictions have invited heavy criticism from the media and international community alike. As the number of protests swells up with every passing day and the Police suppression, naturally, increases in proportion, there is one group that is caught in the crossfire: the youth.

Various reports from varied agencies such as Al Jazeera, CNN, Economic Times and The Hindu speak about schools in Kashmir, which had been closed due to the declaration of the revocation there reopened after almost a month with slim numbers of attendance, that has increased slightly over the past one month. This is due to the "overwhelming number of forces" in the region that creates tension in the atmosphere.

However, the leaders seem to have failed to recognize that this is a Pandora's Box. The inconsistent education that this has resulted in will be a keystone for the future. It is essential that a rational and progressive mindset is fostered in the future generation or the negative impact will consequently affect generations to come by starting an endless cycle of conflict and violence, as opposed to development, which in terms of economy and mindset can be brought about with the help of proper education and employment opportunities.

It is, thus, imperative that politicians started looking beyond securing their immediate objectives and shifted their focus on inculcating changes in the fundamental mindset of the people so that the Kashmiris no longer have to be coerced into being a part of the nation but are willing to do so themselves.

It is tragic that the land that Firdaus once called 'Heaven on Earth' is now a little more than a region writhing in terror, poverty, and an endless cycle of conflict.

-Anmol Kejriwal  
Class 12

### WHAT'S IN

### WHAT'S OUT



- 🚫 Impeachment
- 🚫 Movies from the 2000s
- 🚫 Babri Masjid Case
- 🚫 Chocolate Donuts
- 🚫 Human Blazers
- 🚫 Hasan Minhaj
- 🚫 Green Cards
- 🚫 TSA/ ELAT
- 🚫 Custard Jelly

- 🚫 Hopefully Trump
- 🚫 Current Movies in the Halls
- 🚫 Sabrimala
- 🚫 Mayo Sandwiches
- 🚫 Carpet Blazers
- 🚫 Kanan Gill (Finally!)
- 🚫 Normal Punishments
- 🚫 SAT
- 🚫 Biscuit Pudding

- 🔫 VERY energetic Vishraam– Saavdhan during Assembly.
- 🔫 Enthusiastic renditions of 'left– right– left' on the BBC every night.
- 🔫 A certain SC sitting with ten annuals. We wonder why.
- 🔫 Welhamites walking back from the hatch with empty plates where their toasts should have been.



# THE BULLETIN



Senior music students attended a music workshop held at National Centre for performing Arts in Mumbai. They attended various performances by renowned artists.



Ashaani Taneja's book, 'Bad Blood *Frenemies*' was launched at the Dehradun Literary Festival, held at the Doon International School, on 12th October, 2019. Kudos!



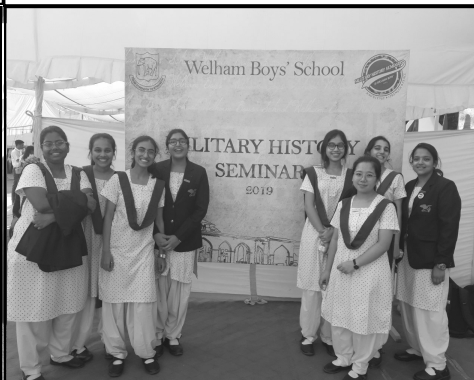
The Kathak dancers put up a beautiful Kathak performance on 7th September at Cheshire Home for the specially-abled residents.



Kaavya Lal and Ananya Khanna attended the International Round Square Conference held at Emerald Heights International School, Indore from 3rd to 7th October, 2019..



Welhamites won the 2nd position at the U-17 IPSC Hockey Tournament held at Rajkumar College, Indore from 1st to 5th October, 2019.



Students of Class 11 attended the Military History Seminar held at Welham Boys' School on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.



Students of French participated in the Mayo College International French Fest, 'Le Concours De La Francophonie', 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. They won various accolades including the 1<sup>st</sup> Position in Film Making and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Spellbee.



The Table Tennis Players attended the IPSC Table Tennis Tournament from 6th to 9th October, 2019 where they came home with multiple trophies. Four students got selected for the SGFI Nationals.



An article written by our very own Mrs. Dutta was published in the Indian Express. It is titled, '*How do students get to know the punky Gandhi? A teacher devises a study plan.*'



*This poem won the first prize in the Wynberg Allen Poetry Writing Competition, held earlier this year.*

### **I Went Back to The Valley**

I went back to the valley today. Our valley...  
 I recall taking my first steps here, with you clutching my hand.  
 I remember sitting here and crying a river when maa and baba left us.  
 I remember sitting here with the broken pieces of my heart,  
 which you gathered very carefully and pieced back together.  
 As I sit here, I feel a sense of melancholic nostalgia take over me.  
 memories blind me and I gladly fall into the portal of time.  
 The delicate daisies, which you once braided into my hair.  
 The soft strums of your guitar – my heart still sways to the rhythm.  
 The silhouette of the trees- slowly, you're becoming one too...  
 The wind was down to a hushed whisper- so similar to your voice.  
 Now that you aren't here, this valley has become what you were to me: a brother, a best friend, a parent.  
 Days where I am too broken to hold myself, the grass cushions my fall.  
 When my eyes run out of tears, but still hurt the same,  
 the sky thunders and pours down on me, as if it were sympathizing with me.  
 oh, the sky!  
 You told me once, I could confide in it, for it was unshakable.  
 Ever so often, I find myself talking to the sky. and ever so slightly, you respond...  
 I feel your presence in the breeze that gently caresses my cheek.  
 Today, as I sit here and pour my heart out to the sky again, the hues are majestic...  
 yellow, red, orange – your colours.  
 I feel the power radiating into me.  
 It seems as though you were telling me to stay strong,  
 and I will be, for you.  
 As I gaze up and smile at the gorgeous sky,  
 I see the beauty of it all.  
 Though its beauty could never compare to you.

**-Tara Govil  
Class 10**

### **Let's See Them Aliens**

Ever hosted a party where you invited the entire town and everyone promised to show up, then you had enough sodas and nachos for 500, but only about 20 people kept their word? This is the case with the 'Storm Area 51'.

'Area 51' is the common name given to a highly classified Air Force Facility located within the Nevada Test and Training Range. The facility is officially called Homey Airport or Groom Lake. The intense secrecy surrounding the base has often made it a centre for conspiracy theories and UFO folklore. This year on Facebook, people decided they had had enough and so began the planning of the big invasion of the United States Government's top secret facility.

3.5 million people signed up online for the event on the decided date, only two YouTubers made the full journey, and they too were arrested on arrival for trespassing. The event an attempt to uncover military secrets, to music and EDM filled DJ weekend in the town of Robbins. This event actually managed to serve as an inspiration for Lil Nas X's remixed version of 'Old Town Road'.

Let's just say no one really "Saw Them Aliens".

**-Vedika Arora  
Class 11**





**Q:. Why do people who are not marching have to go to the field?**

*Dear sleep-deprived and indignant Welhamite,  
It seems like you have not been a part of this school long enough to wrap your head around the concept of the autonomous and obscure nature of the administrative processes of school. As puzzled as I am by this action, I find myself trudging to field quite amicably, carried forth by the sea of Welhamites sharing my fate. I must ask you a question now. When will you realize that getting a breath of fresh air may perhaps not be a bad idea after all? As far as I'm aware, no harm has ever come to anyone just because of some physical activity. In fact, I believe there is plenty of evidence to the contrary. I suggest that you, quite literally, pull your socks up and cease wallowing in the pits of laziness and apathy.*

*Love,  
Aunt Agatha*

**Q: Why does our campus need to get fumigated?**

*Dear severely-oblivious Welhamite,  
I wonder how obtuse you must be to still be ignorant of the widespread bout of fever that took Dalanwala by storm and has only just calmed down. The school realized, as any sentient being would, that perhaps taking measures to reduce the risks would be a wise decision. As result, the mali-jis have been relentlessly fumigating the odd nooks and crannies of school, and you would do better to be thankful than scornful.*

*Though I agree that perhaps smoking the entire school during assembly is not exactly the most partisan winning move, we can conclude that for the greater good, sacrifices must be made. I suggest you pull you thinking cap out of your cluttered hollow space and put it on, which will hopefully prevent any further imbecilities.*

*Love,  
Aunt Agatha*

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*A very special thanks to  
Mrs Mamta Gautam*

