



Dear Readers,

It's that time of the year again. Practices are going on almost 24/7. Dancers are blistering their feet, singers are sickening their throats, the instrumentalists are bruising their fingers. Debaters sit crazed in dark corners of the school, forming constructive after constructive, and everyone else is either frantically studying for upcoming exams, or wandering cluelessly across campus (yes, we see you B2s, with your big blinking eyes, and your small statures that make us wonder, 'Were we ever that small?'). The gloom, the boom, the doom: Music & Dance, SAS, and Academic Rough-time? Woah. Whatever should we address? \*faints\*

Well, not much has changed since the last time we stood in this exact state - perched over a google doc, blinking cursor, weighing our thoughts against the expectations of us. Yes, that sounds hypocritical considering all we just said. After all, we're busier and more fatigued than ever, and the looming threat of continuous deadlines makes anxiety beat constantly through our bloodstream. Surely, much should have changed. But let us explain ourselves by going on a tangent: even right now, in this moment, don't you find yourself wondering whether you could be doing something more productive than reading this? Cue the dilemma catching hold of you now if it hadn't before (or maybe you're a junior and you're carefree and happy, in which case, flip right over to page 6 for the Junior Jamboree).

No, we're not just digging a grave for ourselves here and telling you to discard the NV. We just wanted to bring to your notice the unrelenting tendency, as one grows older, to bargain your time for money or accomplishment, like the hairy, sticky legs of a mosquito perched on your limbs, going in for the kill - not sucking, but injecting you with a soul-wringing competitiveness and perpetual restlessness. It's too much to bear; which is why we often find ourselves 'zoning out' and letting the proverbial puppeteer pull the strings for us as we silently nod our heads and place one step in front of another when tugged at. The sense of self - both perceived and understood - withers away to added dissatisfaction and dysfunctionality. Worst part is, other than in periodic spurts of self-awareness, most of us don't even realize it.

But fear not! Despite the Gen Z trend of excessive pessimism and romanticizing mental illness, we're not saying that life just constitutes a hazy discontentment. There are so many fun moments along the way, and so many things that each of us enjoy doing, that make up for a lot of these burdens. Behind all the pressing commitments, and raging pressures, there's still a you. Marc Wittman, in his book 'Felt Time', says it best: "If one has no time, one has also lost oneself." That's because time isn't something that happens to us. Consciousness, money, happiness, boredom - all affect our perception of time, and so in effect, we are our own time. So if you feel time slipping out of your hands, one way to tighten your grasp is to widen the range of your experiences. Novelty and enjoyment leave one feeling as if they've lived a longer life - and in the short-term, give your day some much-needed pause. Consider this: the two of us barely get any free time, what with working for this newsletter and being an SC. But the emotional value of our experiences keep us afloat - we don't have time, but we also do, and we spend it willingly on our baby (these pages). So find yourself (again)! Be it in the media you find yourself giggling over, the relationships you smile about at night, the passions you have cultivated or aspire to - and stay in touch with it. Even if just 'working', force yourself to be emotionally present. Don't give in to the burnout :)

(And we definitely don't have a personal agenda here, but we hope you can extend that solace to the duration in which you read this magazine.)

Sea waves,

Shubhika and Vidushi

### Contents:

2-3	'Badi Ma'am' the Sixth; Bulletin; Arangetram	8-9	Artsonist; Expect The Unexpected; Roses & Raspberries
4-5	Exposing a middle child's life for fun!; Bird Brain; Spotted; What's In What's Out	10-11	Omne Trium Perfectum; Unwoven; A Love Letter to Miyazaki
6-7	Junior Jamboree; Yellow Gumboots; Quiz	12	Aunt Agatha; End Credits

### 'Badi Ma'am' the Sixth

Having been a long-time student of hers, my relationship with Ms. Vibha Kapoor is a dear and cherished one. It all began with me sitting across from her in the classroom, a stubborn 11 year-old face-to-face with the fabled 'scary' French teacher, tensions high - a muleta-style showdown that quickly turned into me claiming her as my life-long mentor (my very own Don Corleone to be exact). It has been my greatest honor to have known Ms. Kapoor for so long, and to have seen her reach greater heights in real time (and to have the privilege to stomp into her office anytime and make demands). When I was approached with the task of conducting this interview, naturally I was more than enthusiastic.

Ms. Vibha Kapoor joined the school in 1997 as a teacher of French and quickly established her reputation as an excellent educator and administrator. Over her 25 years in school, she has served Welham in a plethora of different activities. Deemed to be dignified and poised by her colleagues as well as her students, all of us here on campus have fond memories of interacting with her, ones that we recall even years later somewhat affectionately. When I entered her office a few months ago to request this interview, she gave me the same welcoming smile that she had 5 years prior when I first approached her asking whether I could take French as my third language. Notwithstanding her grace, I would like to add that permission for both were equally tough to procure.



When we finally sat down to talk, we spoke about her vision for the school. "My vision is divided into three spheres— Academics, Pastoral Care and Infrastructural Development," spoken with such clear conviction, I felt as if it were already a reality. "Over the years in academics, we see that the school has made a conscious shift towards self and student-directed activities that allows room for a more differentiated and evidence-based learning. I feel the notion of 'one learning fits all' is at best outdated and the root cause of student disengagement and poor learning outcomes. It has no place in the agenda for future education at Welham. Customized learning pathways rooted in a common foundation will be a key action area for us in times to come."

Pastoral Care includes systemic integration of SEL (Social Emotional Learning) in the school curriculum. "Every student who walks out of this school is an achiever. But that is not enough. They need to be good, balanced individuals with all core-competency values. Welhamites should be empathetic and kind before anything else." What was most heartening to hear was teachers' well-being also being put under pastoral guidance. "As the head of the school, I want to make sure that Welham not only guarantees professional development to its staff but also foresees their professional *well-being*."

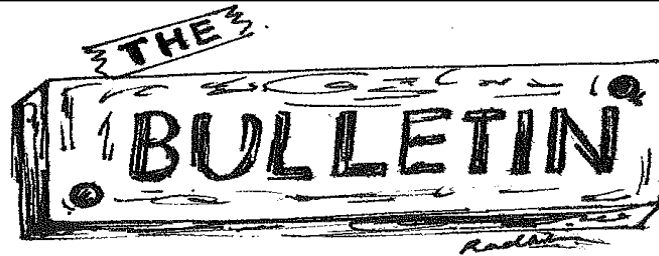
We have seen huge infrastructural changes these past years, but that is just the beginning, says our new principal. A new music block and multi sports complex are soon to come. Also, to the relief of all, one of the agendas is the upgradation of school computers. (God has finally listened to our cries!)

"I believe that Infusion of IT in both teaching and learning processes as well as introduction of robotics are in pace with changing global trends. As we ride the wave of the digital era, we also consider it our duty to equip our children with skills to cope in an interconnected world heavily dependent on media and technology and teach them to handle problems that arise from them."

My final question was about what she felt was the most important thing she wanted to accomplish during her tenure as Principal. She sat back, gears turning, and said carefully, "The metamorphosis of an impressionable 11 year old into a confident, compassionate, responsible young individual as she passes out of the portals of Welham is my greatest reward and my one true mission."

On that note, we concluded the interview, and I left her office (which, at the time, had still been the one for the Dean of Academics). A strange feeling struck me, something that felt like both nostalgia and rootedness. How could one interview affect a person so much? Many great heads have led this institution, each with unique contributions: and all their life's work, more so than the structures of cement above our heads, have built this school called Welham. I am no fortune teller, I don't know what the future has in store. But during that one hour of what felt more like private tête-à-tête than a formal meeting, I was convinced with every fiber of my being that every minute that ma'am spends in the Nasreen is spent dedicated to the school - and at the end of the day, that is the most valuable thing we could ever ask for.

Avika Mantri Class 11



1. **30<sup>th</sup> May-** Shreem Miglani participated in an all-India Hindi declamation hosted by Guru Nanak Public School. She won the first consolation prize.
2. **17<sup>TH</sup>- 19<sup>TH</sup> June-** 8 students participated in the LMCMUN hosted online by La Martiniere College, Kolkatta. Zenisha Arora got a special mention in her committee UNOCT.
3. **14<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> June -** Keya Aggarwal and Avika Mantri went on a cultural exchange programme to Downe House, Berkshire in the UK. Keya gave a kathak performance in front of their students and staff, and Avika participated in the inter-house cricket and tennis events, as well as their founders' event.
4. **7<sup>th</sup> July-** ICSE class 10<sup>th</sup> results came out, and Keya Aggarwal received the 3<sup>rd</sup> overall rank in India with a whopping 99.4% .
5. **19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> July-** Keya Aggarwal participated in the 'WAKO India children's cadets and junior national kick-boxing championship' and won 2 gold and 1 silver medals.
6. **22<sup>nd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> July-** Welham Girls' School hosted its first INTRAMUN open to all students from AIIs to SCs. Five committees were organised for this event- UNSC, UNHRC, Lok Sabha, Interpol, and IPC. Kudos to the History Department and the Secretary-General, Avani Jindal, for making this possible!
7. **23<sup>rd</sup> July-** Two students, Shreem Miglani and Pranya Dua, participated in the 'Shri Ram Centennial Pratiyogita' hosted at Shri Ram Centennial School, and secured the first position in the 'Vaad Vivvad Pratiyogita.'
8. **25<sup>th</sup> July-** 12 girls from Welham Girls' participated in the Under-17 CISCE basketball trials held at St. Joseph's Academy.
9. **26<sup>th</sup> July-** 12 girls from Welham Girls' participated in the Under-19 CISCE basketball trials held at St. Joseph's Academy. The team won against Hope Town.
10. **29<sup>th</sup> July-** 15 students participated in Badminton CISCE Trials hosted by St. George's School, Mussoorie. Across all categories, 5 girls qualified for Nationals.
11. **30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> July-** Three girls from our school – Himanshi Gupta, Myrah Sahni and Mahima Gill participated in the Gurugram Round of the Youth Policy Dialogue, an offline conference which was a hybrid of MUN, Debate and dialogue. The event was conducted in GD Goenka World School (Gurugram) in collaboration with IPN Concord Collective. Over 70 delegates from 6 schools participated, and all three welhamites were among the 15 qualifiers for the National Round. Himanshi also received a verbal mention award for her performance in committee.

### Arangetram

3 students of our school, Nikita Jain, Kartikee S. Mahadik and Ananya Makker recently completed their Arangetram, the debut on-stage performance that signifies their transition from students to professional Bharatanatyam dancers. They performed a full-length repertoire of a total of 3 hours, symbolising the journey of a dancer gradually gaining expertise in different aspects of the art form by increasing the complexity of the pieces as they progressed further. Mrs. C. K. Rajalakshmi, their Guru, has been devotedly training them for almost 7 years. The Chief Guest at the event, and the one to award the girls their certificate of completion, was Mr. Rajendra Gangani, one of the leading exponents of the Jaipur Gharana style of Kathak. We wish the three a hearty congratulations and good luck for their future endeavours!



### **Exposing a middle child's life for fun!**

In-between: the two words that best encapsulate a middle child's life. Being the middle child is always sitting on the fence. Nor are we old enough to be the responsible one, neither young enough to be pampered. While experiences may vary slightly from person to person, having been the middle child for 8 excruciatingly ignored years, you could call me a professional.

To start off, the reputation of being the aforesaid 'ignored' one (as admitted by my father himself). Why is it so, you ask? Well, it's common knowledge that the first child, for the first half of their lives, at least, has to succumb all autonomy in their life (and then spend the second half seeking therapy/utilizing their newfound freedom). They're meant to live out the parents' biggest aspirations (read: be experimented on) whilst trudging along the ledge in constant fear of becoming 'the disappointment'. Then we have the youngest, who of course, requires the parents utmost attention at all times, and whom parents tend to have a soft spot for, continually seeing them as their 'forever baby.'

And then... there's the middle child. Neither here nor there, stuck in the middle of all the chaos and entitlement. Somehow we become the automatic peacemaker of every situation (being both younger and older does offer a wider perspective) and also the automatic loser of all arguments. ("Respect her, she is older than you!" + "Be nice to him, he is younger than you!")

Then come the family introductions. "This is my oldest child; this is the youngest and this is—" It's okay mom, we know saying 'the middle one' is barely a character trait. Recognition is often reduced to an association to your sibling - everyone knows you exist but not really. Gossip aunties are by nature inclined to wield their authority to heighten this dilemma further: "Oh you are Khushiya's younger sister?" or "Oh you are his older sister?" – Yup, but I'm also just me!

The cause and effect of the above are as follows: Constantly trying to gain recognition (in retrospect, becoming an overachiever to seek validation can be a good coping mechanism), feeling underestimated by family. Eventually you start keeping your achievements, feelings and personal life to ourselves - a closed book collecting dust until someone decides to pick it up.

The good parts? We're the best at lying. Controversial, sure, but major life skill check! Not to mention, the 'best-of-both-worlds' advantage. Not being paid attention to can be a little heart-breaking at times, but trust me it has its own pros. We never get caught. Never. We could be gone from the house for three hours and nobody would have a clue.


Food for thought: Token middle child today, great spy tomorrow! (I probably should not be publishing this in a widely circulated school newsletter, right?)

Vidya Jhamb


Class 10


***We wish luck to all those participating in the interhouse competitions!( its over now, guys)***


# SPOTTED-


 SCs chucking chunnis in gutters.


 A foul-smelling, mysterious chicken foot proving the existence of witches in Welham.


 Monkeys promoting exhibitionist culture during assembly.


 Yatika needing stage cues to laugh at jokes.

 The chai tumbler missing from the teacher's table every evening.

 Shivani still saying 'bestie' ironically.

 Someone throwing *bhutta* at Yashashvini during Lok Sabha.

 Babita didi snatching laptops at night.

 Ms. Bhatia making 'radical' Tahira stand in every class.

 Bully PreSCs and Oriole A2s throwing chairs at each other.

 Bright red pipes all over campus.



Vidushi: I studied the UK and Britain amendment procedures.  
*None of the SCs take up Geography, for context.*



Vidushi: Haan NV ke alava humare life mein zindagi hi kya hai?  
*...iske matlab mein meaning kya hai?*



Ruhani: Guess what, my coffee lip balm has coffee beans in it!  
*Alarming realization of the day.*



Shubhika: You are not playing tabla, you are dancing with your fingers.  
*Why is the entire editorial board on this section?*



Stuti: What does NV stand for?  
*Really?!*



Tahira: Debating Society exists, but we don't have a Debate *Club*!  
*... perhaps you should start one.*



Tvisha: If you remind any of the teachers about prep, I will kill you Afghani style.  
*Dhishoom!*



Tanya: Is the umbrella waterproof?  
*Foolproof observation.*










Sanjhali: Do you want to participate in the Incredible India quiz?  
Shalini: Oh what's it about?  
*Incredible question.*



**BIRD  
BRAIN**

## WHAT'S IN

-  Floaters
-  WGS\_Mgmt
-  Assembly Plays (during test weeks?!)
-  Fumigation
-  Illegal Laptops
-  Interhouse Practices
-  News and Views

## WHAT'S OUT

-  Black Shoes
-  WGS\_Wifi
-  Short Assemblies
-  Odomos Patches
-  Illegal MP3s
-  Every other activity
-  Techkey

# JUNIOR Lambolee

## I wore my grandmother's dentures!

At a very young age, my parents noticed my teeth were highly unshapely. In a panic, my parents took me to the doctor and he said I had a number of complications with my teeth, half of which I honestly still don't understand. My dentist said I would have to get a bunch of my teeth extracted, which meant, in order to eat, I needed dentures.

On an early school morning, I went into the bathroom and somehow, even after finishing my morning ablutions, I was really drowsy. My grandmother and I kept our dentures in separate cases (early onset old age?), but they did have the same color. I blindly reached out, and put one on without thinking much. A little while later I came back to the dining room to eat breakfast and saw... my dentures kept soundly on the table. Wait - but that would mean... I was wearing my grandmother's dentures!? When the realization hit me, it was a catastrophe. I immediately took out the dentures and threw them on the floor. I ran to the sink and washed out my mouth a few hundred times - and in the process, stepped on and broke my grandmother's dentures as well. Murphy's law really is true, huh?

Tiara Singh  
Class 8

## Meme Culture

Why are we here? Humanity has been trying to answer this question ever since it became conscious of its own existence. The prevalent answer is God, or evolution: but it has been answered conveniently, by the very pioneers of meme culture, Gen Z.

One of the many definitions of the word 'meme' is: 'a unit of cultural information spread by replication.' This term was coined in 1976 by the British evolutionary biologist, Richard Dawkins, who likened the progression of memes, and the way they change and adapt to shifting cultural realities and sensibilities, to natural selection in DNA. And as far as mediums of cultural transmission go, memes have definitely come out on top as the fittest. From satirical comedy, to being used to explain rhetorical concepts, and even in intra-school MUNs - memes have become a part of everyday life.

But why? Why did memes come to wield so much power in the cultural stratosphere? Many believe it is the increasing laid-backness of Gen Z teens, or just a maladaptive coping mechanism that fails to address the real issues. And while that may be true, those assumptions also fail to understand the real issue: detachment. As a generation that has grown up online (thankfully less so than Gen Alpha, for whom all I can say is 'oopsie!'), we find it increasingly cumbersome and downright impossible to share our feelings and relate them to real life situations. It's so much easier to pick up our phones and laugh at anonymously-made text heavy memes that somehow describe how we feel exactly. Memes, especially in the past few years, have been considered synonymous to dark humor more than once. And yes, Gen Z can laugh off extremely horrifying or traumatizing real-world going-ons like no other, because we realize in the end, there's truly no other alternative. Gloomy, isn't it?

But seriously, why are we even here? Just to suffer?

Aanya Gupta  
Class 8

## YELLOW GUMBOOTS

-Tisha Verma





## How To Be The Perfect Army Wife 101

*Note: This article was written to constructively highlight a persistent issue and is not meant to offend.*

Do you know what the real dream is? Devoting your whole life to your 'knight in shining armor'. Spending your free time working to further his career. Having your personal aspirations ignored in his favor. And worst of all, doing all of this not of choice or at will, but out of expected obligation. If you think that's hogwash, try being an 'army wife'.

While spouses of military officials in general are treated as subordinate extensions of their husbands, those in the army seem especially to be subjected to this treatment - which is outdated, at best. As soon as they are married, they basically lose their identity and are seen as a reflection of their husbands' moral values and ethic, bound by unspoken custom to the norms of an institution they didn't sign up for. They get books about adjusting to the 'army way of life' before marriage: the contents of which aren't, say, reasonable advice about being married to someone with a dangerous and taxing occupation, but instead covertly patriarchal rules and regulations that they must follow to be the 'perfect army wife'. They are expected to plan tea parties for their husbands' colleagues and their families, expected to produce food endlessly for 'bachelors', expected to socialize in spousal professional circles, while the army men aren't much expected to prioritize their wife over anything else. And yeah, these are pretty common though prejudiced, views on marital roles across the country. But this is not just a matter of societal norms. This is organizational.

The Army Wives Welfare Organization, or AWWA, is an NGO that was founded in 1966, to support all 'dependents' - wives and children - of people working in the army. In layman's terms, it is an organization that is meant to keep women 'busy' while their husbands go for work. It started off as a good initiative where war widows were facilitated and made independent, but like most things in life, the bigger it became, the easier it was for faults to hide - nor has it seemed to change much with the times. First of all, the activities they conduct are decidedly less about family welfare and more about pageantry, with fashion shows taking place on a regular basis. Second of all, though supposedly completely voluntary on paper, in practice, taking part in the organization's activities is presented as mandatory to all wives, and non-compliance results in negative effects on the husband's career, as Vidhya Karajagi, an army major's wife noted.

And no, we don't claim it's all bad - conducting fashion shows, spending time taking care of your spouse, engaging in formal socialization aren't necessarily all bad things, and not everyone has bad experiences with these activities. The extent of the organization also differs across regions and supervisors. Many even genuinely build up a strong sense of community through it, and enjoy it, as user Devangini on blogging site Kaleidoscope recounted. However it is the lack of choice which makes the system problematic, accompanied by the assumption that women married to officers cannot lead a private existence with an identity independent of their husband. It doesn't take into account working women (admittedly rare, due to the constant relocating, but still rapidly increasing), nor does the social structure that inevitably permeates make space for female officers. Unfortunately, the blindly patriotic bubble-wrap around our defense forces tends to leave no space for criticism, even if justified, or unrelated to their undoubtedly brave and selfless needs. Three things can be true at once: marriage, misogyny and the military.

Shreya Singh  
Class 8



**Q.** Who won the Palme d'Or award at the Cannes Festival 2022?

**Q.** Who is the first tribal President of India? Bonus if you can tell us the date she was sworn in and what tribe she is from!

**Q.** Which book won the International Booker Prize for Translated Fiction this year?

**Q.** Who recently took over from Mukesh Ambani as the Chairman of Reliance Jio?

**Q.** In which city was Shinzo Abe, the former Japanese Prime Minister, recently assassinated?

If you know the answers, come to the editors-in-chief to get a special treat!

# ARTSONS

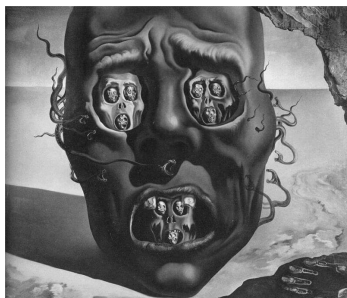
Art (like Instagram reels) is not always about creativity. Sometimes it becomes recesses of public opinion and propaganda - most times, actually, since all art emerges from the same cultural consciousness, which is hard to break away from. Leaders, Dictators and Kings have also often used art to garner public support, adulation and approval, especially in times of war. Consider "Der Bannertraeger" ("The Standard Bearer") by Hubert Lanzinger which depicts Hitler as a messianic figure gazing towards a better future for Germany, dressed as a medieval knight with the Nazi flag billowing behind him. Or Jacques-Louis David's "Bonaparte Crossing the Alps" showing a determined Napoleon leading his army of soldiers through the Alps (he actually followed the troops a few days after, that too on mule-back). Much has been glorified about 'the art of dying for one's motherland' on the battlefield, in both art and literature: as Horace says, "Dulce et decorum est/Pro patria mori," which translates to 'It is sweet and fitting to die for one's homeland.' However, poet and soldier Wilfred Owen shows us the emptiness of these lines, and makes us see war as it is - the epilogue of humanity.

The condemnation of war is also, for all purposes, a pocket of cultural consciousness, one that has produced many artworks. Marked by changing global tapestries, and personal experiences, these pieces are ones to remember.

## Guernica (1937) by Pablo Picasso

A painting that needs no introduction, Guernica is a large oil painting on canvas by Spanish artist Pablo Picasso. Regarded by many art critics as the most moving and powerful anti-war painting in history, it was created in the wake of a gruesome fascist bombing. An important aspect of Guernica is the density of human suffering depicted in the 11x26 feet mural. The woman holding a dead child screaming towards heaven, the dead soldier with disjointed parts, the terrorized horse and the burning woman, all nightmarishly bring human suffering to the centre-stage.

When a Gestapo officer had once barged his way into Picasso's apartment and pointed at the picture of the mural, he asked: 'Did you do that?' 'No,' the artist replied, 'you did.' This wit fizzles with anger run through to animate this bold piece.



## The Face of War(1940) by Salvador Dali

The Face of War is an oil on canvas painting produced by the famous surrealist painter Salvador Dali during World War II in 1940. The painting depicts a large, frightening face which metaphorically stands for the ugliness of the war. Displayed in the Museum of Boijmans van Beuningen in the Netherlands, this Face of War is scary, mournful and almost dead, bringing its viewers face-to-face with war personified.

## Bomb Hugger(2002) by Banksy

Bomb Hugger is one the most daring stencils by Banksy on the theme of war. It shows a ponytailed girl hugging a bomb as if she was hugging her favourite teddy bear. This disturbing juxtaposition of the innocent child and the threatening bomb strikes us as the tension of danger increases every moment. Here, Banksy seems to indicate that the world is trading bombs as if they are toys (in both number and attitude). The artwork holds a firm grip on those in power as it speaks to them directly, questioning the huge budgets and importance allocated to military warfare.



World leaders, before the emergence of each war, tend to pacify us by claiming that the struggle was inevitable. We see though, that all war is the same - the only thing that changes is the name. With so much more coming up to distract our attention, the ongoing war in Ukraine seems to have become a lazy, distant memory for most. This article is written to remind people that live genocide is still taking place, all over and that, in fact, the issue remains as pertinent as ever.

Avika Mantri  
Class 11



### Expect the Unexpected

*"Well, that's the thing about Murphy's Law: it's unpredictable!"*

- 'Milo Murphy's Law' (2016)

Have you ever had one of those days where it feels like your life is falling apart? Like all the careful, meticulous plans you had made don't prove to be as airtight as you thought they were? As if you're being bombarded with a terrible bout of disastrous, bad luck? Well, that's just Murphy's Law in play. Murphy's law (or 'Sod's law', as it's called in England) simply states, "Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong." Though more of a quote-turned maxim than a 'law', the idea holds true in that it truly encapsulates the pessimistic view humans see the world with.

This law is named after Captain Edward Murphy Jr., an American aerospace engineer in the Air Force. While working on a project to evaluate the effect of deceleration on humans, a technician installed the sensors incorrectly on the rocket sled resulting in a failed attempt. Since the sensors had only two possible ways of installation and were coincidentally all installed incorrectly, Mr. Murphy had made an angry statement about the technician- "If there are two ways to do something, and one of those ways will result in disaster, he'll do it that way." This was the birth of Murphy's Law. Following its inception, this law made its way from technical usage to pop culture as well, through mentions in plays (The Golden Fleecing, 1958), motion pictures (Interstellar, 2014), and even meme culture. Mr. Murphy, however, was not the first one to realize this supposed perversity of fate. In the eighteenth century, well-known Scottish poet, Robert Burns, wrote that 'the best laid scheme of mice and men oft go awry', and in the nineteenth century, Rudyard Kipling allegedly first observed that no matter how many times you drop a slice of bread with butter, it will always end up with the buttered side facing the ground. These are all manifestations of Murphy's law.

Although scientifically neither proved nor disproved, the law does seem to be supported by another accepted natural law: entropy. Also known as the second law of thermodynamics, entropy deals with energy changes from one form to another and says that in our universe, systems tend to end up in disorder and disarray. This is largely due to probability - like in Marvel's Avengers series, there are just more possible outcomes with bad circumstances than there are with good circumstances. For something to 'go perfectly', several different conditions need to be met exactly, and in a specific order, but all it takes to ruin it is for one thing to go wrong.

Truth is, though, there is no actual mysterious, sinister universal power that the law holds. It's us who give Murphy's law any relevance. We inherently expect things to work out in our favor, and when they do not, we look for reasons. When you're having a bowl of soup, you don't pay any mind to the many times you raise your spoon to your lips successfully, without spilling a drop. But as soon as you accidentally have some soup splash onto your clothes, you curse your luck angrily. Technically, the odds were in your favor - the food fell only one time out of many - but we don't see it that way, taking our good fortune for granted. This fatalistic streak in our nature is exactly what the law taps into. Well, cogent or not, this quasi-scientific epigram embraces our cynicism, and we are here for it.

Chitrangada Tiwari  
Class 11

## Roses



A bouquet of freshly hand-picked roses to Ananya, Nikita and Kartikee for giving us the performance of a lifetime. Murumandi!



Bathtubs full of exotic blue and yellow roses to Mrs. Rajalakshmi for turning out talented and dedicated dancers year after year. We will miss you ma'am!



A single fresh and dewy white rose to Paridhi and Riya for complying with our ungodly deadlines (best technical editors, fr) <3



Plates full of fragrant roses to all the new additions to our beloved faculty!



Gardens full of beautiful, vibrant roses to all the new Welhamites. Don't worry, you'll get used to it soon enough.)

## Raspberries



Cartons full of foul-smelling, fungus-infested raspberries to the administrative authorities for reviving 'good-and-bad' marks.



Truckloads full of rotten raspberries to Dr. Neera Kapoor for keeping everyone in school under the delusion that they were a part of the SAS team.



Swimming pools full of maggot infested raspberries to the AIs for hogging WGS\_Students.



Baskets and baskets filled with squishy, decaying raspberries to the subway for not flooding and letting us use the gate.



Hospitals full of gooey moth-eaten raspberries to everyone responsible for delaying social service (we're looking at you, juniors).

## Omne Trium Perfectum: the theory of three

The number three is one of perfection, balance and resolution. It is deeply embedded in our society and as we look around our world, it's hard to argue against this theory of three- its presence cuts across time, religion, traditions, and philosophies. In the 4th century, Aristotle gave this theory of three a name- 'Omne Trium Perfectum', loosely translating to 'Everything that comes in threes is perfect.'

Let me explain.

Humans are a curious species. And as far as we have come in our evolution, we still struggle to accept the things that are beyond our control, like chaos and change. It is this tendency of not being able to let go of control, that has led us to continuously search for meaningful patterns in meaningless norms, and ultimately, to see the world in threes. Our brains are pattern-seeking machines which constantly pick up on the patterns surrounding us. Everywhere we look our eyes and mind and senses seek them out. When we see something once, we don't think much of it. Twice, we simply dismiss it as a coincidence. But the third time it becomes a pattern. Therefore, the number three, more than any other number, holds an important and permanent place in the material world, as well as in our minds.

Think about it, if your goal is to close off a shape, all you need are three lines, a triangle. That's the minimum. You can always add more, but this is the point at which everything comes full circle, when everything before was incomplete, and everything that follows, simply an addition. Observe any object in front of you, and you see its three dimensions- length, width, and height. Even our measure of time is in threes - past, present, and future. Beginning, middle, and end. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Market research has proven that humans tend to favour the number three as well, which is why most companies advertise in threes (think: Apple's 'thinner, lighter, faster'). Speechwriters tend to illustrate ideas with sprinkled triads here and there to persuade audiences - "Friends, Romans, Countrymen" or "Blood, Sweat and Tears." Even mean girls come in trios!

This fascination with three spans across generations. The genie always grants three wishes. There are three blind mice, and three little pigs. In religion, we have Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; Zeus, Poseidon, Hades. Despite speaking different languages, and having different beliefs and cultures, all of humanity is subject to the same phenomena, and despite my best efforts, I may never exhaust all the beauty, mystery, and harmony of the number three.

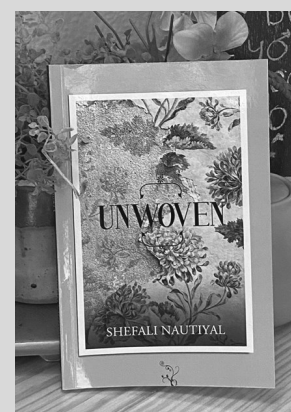
So, before saying goodbye, I would just like to leave you with this thought, 'Omne Trium Perfectum - everything that comes in threes is perfect.'

Aarisha Jain

Class 10

## Unwoven

Ms. Shefali Thapliyal, our school secretary, published her first book 'Unwoven' in June. As described by the author herself, "It is an anthology of poems inspired by life and the relationships we forge. These are meticulously weaved together to find a common harmony to make sense - and even nonsense - of it all." The book will hopefully be available in the school library soon, meanwhile you could grab your copy from Amazon! We heartily congratulate her and wish her best of luck for her future endeavours. Her second book 'Gathering Dreams at Dusk', is a Verse-novel and is expected to be released within the next few months as well.



## A Love Letter to Miyazaki: the Beauty and Burden of Creation

Animation. The word has two meanings, one derived from the other: the first being 'a bestowing of life', such as when gods took molds of clay and breathed souls into them, creating the first of many creatures on our Earth. The other is the art of the moving painting. Truly, though, these ideas are one and the same, for the artist's power is inherently creative, and it ascends them to the role of Maker.

The animated film is different from the general motion picture, play, or even radio drama. In these mediums, there is always a mediator standing between the Maker and their Product: the role of the Actor, a simultaneous instrument and obstacle. The Maker always has to depend on the Actor to orchestrate their vision, and no matter how talented the Actor may be, they cannot reproduce the vision exactly as imagined (in fact, the more talented an Actor is, the more they may add to the role of their own volition). The writer and the artist are freed from the restrictions that the director as such faces, the Actor and the Maker being one in the same. So, as far as pictorial storytelling goes, animation is where the creator can truly be closest to the creation, the nearest imitation of the image in their heads.

Hayao Miyazaki, co-founder of Studio Ghibli, exhibits this beautifully. For context, Studio Ghibli is a well-known Japanese animation studio, acknowledged world-wide for its children's movies that play with fascination and fantasization to create an immersive experience for young minds - as well as older ones, who nostalgically keep coming back. Us, of course, being included in that latter demographic. There is a magical quality that wraps itself around Studio Ghibli movies; like a warm blanket, trapping you momentarily in a universe where everything, though fantastical, feels immensely real, even in 2D. Part of this is due to Miyazaki's close understanding of children of different ages - due to which he follows an unusual storytelling process. Rather than begin with a story and then putting it down on paper, he tends to begin with just vague character designs, and then build the story around them. For example, one of the studio's best acclaimed movies, 'My Neighbor Totoro', started off with just this frame:



From there, he invents backgrounds and purpose, and gets to know his characters as he is drawing them. He feels that this better enables him to make his characters feel real - without the 'mental set' of a plot coming in the way to dictate intentions and personalities. It also gives him more freedom with the worlds he places the story in. According to him, the best way to do children's fantasy is to 'discard logic'. The urge to have a coherent link between magical happenings is a misguided one that only appeases the adults the kids will be watching the film with. But they're not the target audience. "Easy-to-understand films are boring," he says. "Kids get it. They don't operate on logic."

At 24fps, the entire world is hand-drawn onto blank pages - people may not realize it, but every motion, each detail of everyday life, how one chews their food, how one taps their feet, how one sits bent over a laptop, typing this out: it all emerges from the animator's mind and expands from it. Much like what we are tasked to do as writers. It all ultimately boils down to the suspicion of displaying the meticulous, uninhibited self. And yet, even as the Maker sits in despair, he has been able to animate - and with the help of this publication (as well as many, *many* Studio Ghibli reruns), we have too. The burden becomes more comfortable to shoulder, and a dull spark presents itself as hope.

Shubhika & Vidushi

Class 12



### Q. Is fountain water nutritious?

*Dear inconsistently-circumspect Welhamite, Considering the abundance of monkeys attending to nature's call in the area, and the bajri soaking in the bacterial moisture of the fountain floor, drinking the fountain water is likely to delete your remaining five brain cells to a fantastic zero. Perhaps it is likely that the consistency of Vitamin D(irt) may be just enough to provide an excuse-chit to all the 7am risers. Advice: relish this beverage with school-favourite delicacies, such as soggy sandwiches along with dunked Chinese rolls, to compensate for the Thai Curry that will probably be cancelled by the influx of gastrointestinal problems. However, if you are resorting to fountain water because none of the sensory taps actually function, I can truly resonate with you.*

### Q. Can I call you aunty?

*Dear extremely-sanskari Welhamite, Firstly, I sincerely hope that this is not a desperate attempt at flattery on your part, although I cannot imagine what flattering me would get anybody, so I'm willing to pin this one down to your agyakari upbringing. In that case, I need to immediately know your board results and future plans in gory detail. Please also expect all your secrets posted on the family Whatsapp group along with the good morning messages. Last but not least, look forward to my meddling in every aspect of your life, and enticing your parents into comparing you to all of your more-accomplished cousins.*

*Signing Off,  
Sincerely,  
Aunt Agatha.*

## END CREDITS

\*inspired by Ponyo

### Teacher-in-charge:

Dr. Deepti Kumar

### Correspondents:

Vidya Jhamb

Aarisha Jain

Twisha Mahajan

Gauri Nanda

Ruhani Arora

Aanya Gupta

Shreya Singh

### Special Thanks:

Shalini Kottapalli

Navya Kohli

Keya Aggarwal

Ms. Sukanya

Ms. Mamta Govil

Sanjhali

### Editors-in-Chief:

Vidushi & Shubhika

### Artists:

Vidushi & Shubhika

### Senior Editors:

Avika Mantri

Yatika Singh

### Technical Editors:

Riya Jagwayan

Paridhi Saboo

