

THE ORCHID SCHOOL

Baner, Pune

Dear Parents

Greetings from The Orchid School and wish you all a safe, happy and blissful Diwali!

We have stepped into Term II of the academic year 2021-2022, but not without having gone through a spectrum of activities and events!

The year began online...however, after almost eighteen months, children have once again stepped into the school premises for offline learning!! Classrooms and play areas are rejoicing with happy sounds of the students and the school has once again come alive!







This has been possible only through the relentless efforts of the organisation and your consistent faith, support and cooperation through the pandemic months.

It is now time for me to take a pause to thank you parents, all our students and the Orchid team for ensuring that come what may...the show will go on!

Multiple opportunities for learning were created to help students acquire skills and knowledge beyond mere textbooks. Enthusiasm, endeavours and energy were the guiding forces in enriching the school curriculum.

At this juncture, it is hence befitting to thank all the Secondary and Senior Secondary Domain teachers and our Domain Coordinators, Ms. Rajshree Kulkarni and Ms. Sarita Suryadevra for keeping the ethos of The Orchid School alive through the year as each of their efforts focused on student learning and welfare.



And all this was carried out in the midst of the uncertainties that the pandemic as well as changes in CBSE pattern brought forth.

A few things went well, while a few lessons for bettering our efforts were learnt!

All this would not have been possible without the constant guidance, inputs, hand-holding and nudging by our staunch mentoring team - our Director,

Dr. Lakshmi Kumar, Principal, Ms. Sangeeta Kapoor and Vice Principal, Ms. Atreyi Saha. Sincere gratitude to them for always being there for the domain.

Let me now share the overview of the different learnings that took place in the Secondary and Senior Secondary Domain during Term I of the academic year 2021-2022.



Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Students

Festive Greetings to all!

We have reached Mid Term and are taking a short break from the regular routine. Though the work and studies will continue it won't be so hectic.

Here's wishing that you get a good bonding time with family and friends. Soon after this break we all will begin our journey with more energy and enthusiasm.

This term was full of modifications and introduction to new realities. We all are aware that change is inevitable, it does cause disturbance for a while but later we realise it was for the best. We all have to go with the flow to make it appear seamless.

While we all will find ways to bond and celebrate, remember to respect our resources and take care of our environment. Let us still focus on celebrating our festivals in an eco-friendly manner. Let us say no to fire crackers, be conscious and judicious while consuming electric power. It would be good to practice earth hour every day. Let us look around us for people who need our care and company. Let's be responsible citizens.

The online mode was a great support for the learning to continue. This remote learning has provided heaps of opportunities of gaining knowledge at our convenience, but only if one could be self-aware and responsible. These approximate nineteen months of online functioning must have left some unidentified traces which need immediate attention and the ways of healing / filling the gaps.

Post Diwali vacation the major focus of the school would be to bring students back to socializing and bonding with peers. The learning process will be little extended and will require extra time and effort. The TOS Team is all geared up to bridge the gaps and I am sure you all parents will always be the partner in this journey.

Let's walk together towards a new beginning.

With best wishes and immense respect for all Sangeeta Kapoor





School Delegates, 2021-2022

During the COVID-19 pandemic it was observed that the roles of the leaders-both adult and students, have undergone a colossal shift. Roles of House Captains had become redundant largely because of the shifts in co-scholastic programs and inability to access students for house-based events.

Believing in transforming as per the need of the situation, after a deliberation among adult and student leaders, 2020-2021, it was decided to alter the structure and roles of the present School Leadership Council. Post deliberations the new model of TOS School Leadership Council 2021-2022 emerged that comprises of the School Captain (boy and Girl) and Interim School Captain (Boy and Girl).



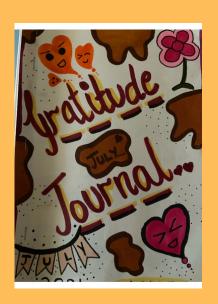


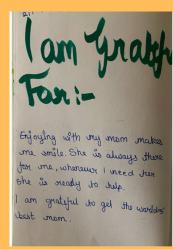
Theme of the Year, 2021-2022

The Orchid School decided to roll up its sleeves and help all its stakeholders to overcome the fears revolving around the pandemic.

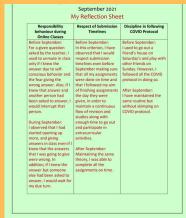
For that it came up with the theme of Self-care, Discipline, Compassion and Empathy...core values that will help us beat the pandemic. These values were embedded in the school curriculum. Activities revolving around them were conducted by each level during the CT time.

Here's a glimpse:







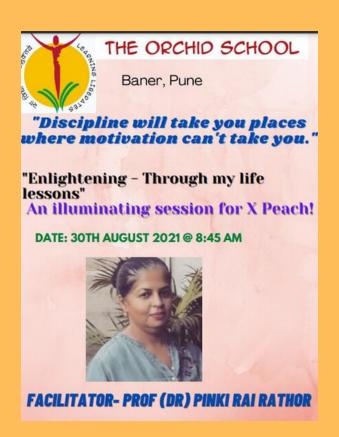




The Three Parenteer Program

The Orchid School has always believed in the potential of parents as rich resources for learning for our students. Their expertise in a variety of fields can take learning beyond textbooks and help students in acquiring essential skills that otherwise could be missed during the regular teaching-learning process.

Keeping that in mind, it started the Three Parenteer Program in the academic year 2021-2022 through which parents connected with the students as subject experts and added value to the curriculum.











Modular Courses



Various modular courses to help students acquire an insight into important 21st century skills were conducted. However, they were stopped from the month of September due to dwindling number of takers.



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Building Competencies for Future Series

CREATIVE CONFIDENCE-A MODULAR COURSE
Empathise, Define, Ideate, Test

Workshop Dates: 2nd, 4th, 9th, 11th and 13th August 2021
Time: 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Platform: MS Teams
Participating Levels: Classes VIII and IX

Facilitator:
Mr. Ninad Panse









Special Webinars

Under the programme 'Building Competencies for Future' The Orchid School planned a series of three one-hour sessions called 'Addressing Unconscious Biases'.

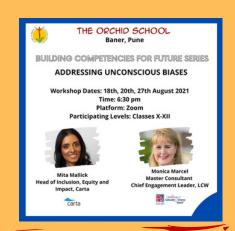
These interactive series of sessions dealt with the unconscious and underlying behaviour pattern that people tend to have which are unknowingly biased. It helped students to pick on patterns and tendencies which one sets to follow in especially work spaces and enabled them to think aloud on how to avoid such biases.

The core objectives of the sessions were:

- To address the biases which are layered in the unconscious minds
- To build and accept diversity in inclusion.
- To build Emotional Quotient.
- To build a truly global village where all beings are treated equally.

Dr. Shoumen Datta, a senior member of the Auto ID Labs and MIT Affiliate at the School of Engineering at MIT addressed the students of Classes X to XII. He had an interactive session with the students on future trends for Food, Energy, Water, Sanitation and Health (FEWSH). He busted a lot of myths and gave upfront answers on matters related to this topic. A class XII student went beyond the session to interact with him to understand concepts on which her Biology project was based.







Mentorship Program

The Orchid School launched its Mentorship Program for all its students in July 2021. Every child has been provided with a teacher mentor who connects with the mentee at least once in a month.

The core objectives of the Mentorship Program are:

- To reach out to the mentees and help them evolve holistically
- To encourage personal growth of the mentees
- To help promote feelings of awareness and discovery in the mentees

Teacher mentors became trusted advisors, supporting the students to feel secure and helped them over come apprehensions and inhibitions that might retard personal growth.





A Few Show Stopping Events

Providing opportunities for students to handle major school events has always been the focus at The Orchid School. This is done to help students challenge their abilities to plan, and execute events such as Youth Conference, TEDx and TED Ed Club by themselves. Students become members of important managing committees, hold meetings and make decisions regarding planning and execution of these events under the

guidance of the school leaders.





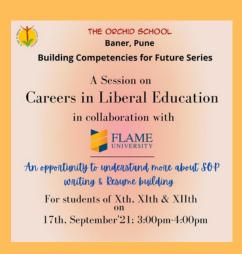




Career Series

The youngsters today are living in the world with multiple choices of careers. This can often be a source confusion that may be a hindrance in making appropriate career choices.

Understanding the value and requirement of timely career advice, The Orchid School arranged a plethora of career series throughout the term. Various experts and personnel were called in to address the students and answer their endless queries.





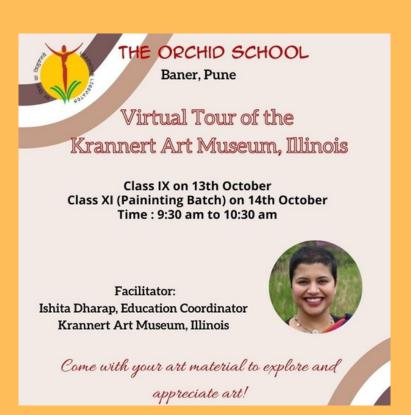






Virtual Field Visits

- Class IX students were taken on a virtual field visit to an adoption centre in Pune, namely Bharatiya Samaj Seva Kendra (BSSK).
- Art isn't a way of life, it is life itself! Keeping that in mind, The Orchid School brought an extraordinary opportunity for its Class IX and XI students to explore and appreciate art along with an art expert from Krannert Art Museum, Illinois, Ishita Dharap.





Emotional Wellbeing

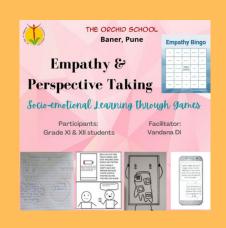
A sound mind helps the body remain healthy. It is undeniable that the emotional health of students and adults has become of pivotal importance, especially during these trying times.

Understanding this, the school's Wellness Team came up with regular activities and posts revolving around the socio-emotional wellbeing of students and teachers.

Students also participated in an insightful and relevant workshop by Act Smart on the occasion of World Mental Health Day.







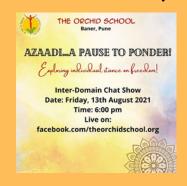


Live Events

This year too the students of the SSS Domain got an opportunity to participate in Facebook Live Events.

- A pair of parent and student from each domain engaged in conversations to express their individual stance on freedom on India's 75th Independence day during the live event Azaadi...a Pause to Ponder!. The five pillars stated by the PM - Freedom Struggle, Ideas at 75, Achievements at 75, Actions at 75 and Resolve at 75 were explored in the form of an Inter-domain Chat Show.
- In the second year of the initiative Nine Days Nine Stories during Navratri, to appreciate and acknowledge women empowerment and celebrate Shakti/Durga in our day to day lives, students shared stories of women who are fighting for the human rights of Afghan women and their contribution in empowering Afghan women under the theme#CelebrateIndomitableSpiritofAfghanWomen









Special Achievements and Participation

- Jui Keskar, X Saffron won two International awards (Grand Award - 3rd place - Biomedical Engineering and Special Award - Science Seed Award) at Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), USA. ISEF is world's largest science fair for students.
- Shreya Patil of Class XII A was the runner up at International Inter-School Debate Competition hosted by Alliance University, Bangalore.
- Kiara Welde, Aranya Misra, Aarini Pattathil and Arva Jagtap of Class IX were winners in Event Product Melodrama at Tiranga Competition 2021 organised by Ryan International School.
- TOS won both the places in Shark Tank Competition organised under Tiranga by Ryan International School.Ayan Khan (X), Siddhant Gupta (IX) and Aarushi Bhargava (XI) were the winners while Sadhika Kumar, Harshitha Chellapilla, Olivia Zalkikar and Aryaman Garg of XII were Runners' Up.



Special Achievements and Participation

- Arva Jagtap of IX Plum was the winner in TED Titans 2021 Competition organised by G.K. Gurukul while Aryaman Karoliwal of XI A was the Runners' Up.
- A team of two teachers (Bhagyashree Kadam and Purva Gangrade) and six students, Anushka Basu (VIII), Meet Deore (VIII), Avaneesh Nisal (IX), Arav Shah (IX), Sameer Datar (IX) and Aranya Misra (IX) have participated in a program for schools by La Foundation Dassault Systemes, India in collaboration with Atal Innovation Mission - NITI Aayog, Government of India along with 51 schools nationwide.

The program will continue till March and students will explore, ideate and market their products and will get trained to become future entrepreneurs. he students have taken up the challenge of improvising the existing product by adding more features and functionalities and introducing the concept of bio-mimicry in their product.



Closure of Term I

Term I closed on a happy note with celebration, laughter and joy in the air. Children celebrated Diwali along with friends and teachers. They enjoyed participating in activities like lantern making, diya painting, fashion parade and dancing on the beats of foot-tapping music.













Season's Greetings!

These were a few highlighting activities and events in the Secondary and Senior Secondary Domain at The Orchid School.

Before parting, here's wishing all of you a very happy Diwali and a prosperous New Year.

May your homes be vibrant with good vibes, health and happiness as we celebrate this Diwali.

Take care! Stay safe!!

Warm Regards
Ashwini di
Secondary and Senior Secondary Unit Head
ashwinishah@theorchidschool.org