

Notre Dame School
Vasai
Academic Report
April 2020-March 2021

Number of Sisters in the Community

Sr. Mary Jayanti	Local Superior
Sr. Mary Aneeta	Teacher
Sr. Mary Shylaja	Principal

Staff Information of Notre Dame School, Vasai

Sister Staff

Sr. Mary Jayanti
Sr. Mary Aneeta
Sr. Mary Shylaja

Primary and Middle School Staff

Mrs. Shalini RajkumarManbhat
Mrs. LivintaAllwyn Carvalho
Mrs. Sheetal William D'silva
Mrs. Monalisa Francis Lopes
Mrs. Cynthia Grammy Britto
Mrs. Sarena Joel Gonsalves
Mrs. Lydia Anil Loones
Mrs. RionaSnedend'silva
Mr. Terrance Marshal Rebello
Mrs. Leela Walter Gonsalves
Mrs. Sweedal Brian Carvalho
Ms. Olivia Alfred Dias
Mrs. Sharon Dias
Mrs. Sheetal D'souza
Mrs. Navilda Dias

Miss. Salome Gonsalves

Mrs. Princely Cusher

High School Staff

Mrs. Ashalla Patrick Bobo

Mrs. Ensweeta Eldrage Dabre

Mrs. Sweedal Ajit D'abreo

Mrs. Sophia Ronnie D'cunha

Mrs. Shelley Vinay Nunes

Mrs. Lorna Sanjay Pereira

Mrs. Minal Churchill Baptista

Mrs. Khushbu Rahul Jaiswal

Mrs. Preeti Colaco

Mr. Dixson Sanjiv Marti

Mrs. Vijaya Ruma

Mrs. Lourdes D'silva

Miss. Sarah Menezes

New Teachers

Mrs. Deepa Dias

Mrs. Rovina Gracias

Pre-Primary Staff

Mrs. Jenevia Floyed Sequeira

Mrs. Smita Sandeep Colaco

Mrs. Sharon Osden Pereira

Mrs. Candace Sequiera

Office Staff

Mrs. Neelam Suhas Alphonso

Mrs. Swidal Rodrigues

Mr. Santosh Pardhi

Non-teaching staff

Mrs. Cecilia Stany Ferreira

Mr. Dominic Simon Dabre

Mr. John Joseph Dabre

Mrs. Philomena Louis Dabre

Mr. Vinit ArunUmtal

Mrs. Leena Kalath

Security

Mr. Subhash R Barat

Mr. Harold George Almeida

April 15th: Online Classes

This year the entire world has been hit hard with the Covid-19 pandemic. All the sectors across the country, ranging from Travel to Economy and Education to Food, have been paralyzed and rendered to absolute standstill. The national lockdown was imposed during the last week of March due to which all the schools across the nation were shut. It was a big challenge to continue imparting education to the students so that their academic experience isn't hindered. Thanks to our Principal Sr. Shylaja, it was decided to start with the online classes for the Students of Notre Dame School. This involved several training sessions for teachers as well as students, since this was a first venture into digital education for everyone here. But thanks to the patience and hard work of all the concerned people (Principal, Computer Teacher, Extra marks Team and the entire Staff), we were able to successfully start and conduct online sessions with the students from mid-April. Conducting Online Sessions has definitely been a unique and enriching experience for the teachers and students alike. There are so many new aspects to learn and master. Developing innovative ways to teach the students with the help of Audio/Video/Graphic aids has added new layer skills to the art of teaching. Slowly but surely, we are all getting confident with these passing sessions. Students and their parents have been very understanding of the current scenario and have cooperated and adapted well to the technical demands involved in the Online classes. Also, all the Teaching staff has coordinated well with regards smooth scheduling of the classes. Considering the present scenario and the scale of the Covid-19 Pandemic, it seems that Online Teaching is the best and safest way forward in the field of Education and we at Notre Dame are well poised to utilize this opportunity and further strive to optimize the sessions for a lively, near-classroom-like experience with the students.

April 26th: Staff Meeting

A virtual staff meeting was held this evening. The agenda for the meeting was to discuss about the issues faced during online classes. A meticulous planning was made for the classes of each section.

May 6th to 23rd: Report on The Various Seminars Attended During The Lockdown

Date	Topic	Organized by
May 6, 2020	Fitness via Dance (guidance on Drama, Craft & puppetry)	Square Tales
May 7, 2020	Story Telling in Preschool with English Learning	Square Tales
May 8, 2020	Children with special needs (Autism, ADHD)	Square Tales
May 9, 2020	Meditation, Mindfulness and Child Psychology	Square Tales
May 10, 2020	Educational Games & Fun	Square Tales

	Learning in Preschool	
May 16, 2020	Class room Management – Dealing in Misbehaviour in Classroom	CBSE (Pune)
May 17, 2020	Stress Management Techniques	CBSE (Pune)
May 18, 2020	Technology for Teachers	Pushpanjali College
May 23, 2020	Using Stories to Enhance Kids Language skills	Square Tales

The speakers for all these different seminars were

1. Ms. Bela Kotwani
2. Ms. Arti Pandey
3. Ms. Hiran Bagadia
4. Ms. Sonia Relia
5. Ms. Rakhee Chhabria
6. Ms. Sahiti Reddy
7. Ms. Bhargava Ajit
8. Mr. Nitin Shrivastava
9. Dr. Chinu Agarwal
10. Dr. Seema Negi
11. Lt.Col.Sekar
12. Ms. Neetu Kapai
13. Mr. Anthony Dias
14. Ms. Alisha Andrades
15. Ms. Cynthia D'costa

Following is the summary of the various seminars

- 1 How to be a better story teller by making use of puppets, drama and dance. Use of Puppets can be more related to mental fitness, emotional development, and motor skills.
- 2 Teachers should keep themselves physically fit first. Through dance a child can also learn sequencing, coordination, gross motor & fine motor skills, flexibility is improved.
- 3 Drama helps child build emotions. Role play is very important key in drama.
- 4 To be a good storyteller communication with the child is very important. Kids listening skills are enhanced. The teacher should display the story with emotions. Make use of reasonable sources at home during the lockdown to narrate the story.
- 5 As a teacher be observant and be vigilant. Do not label the child. **LABEL JARS NOT PEOPLE.** Children always show signs if something are wrong with them. Take a note of the child's history and take remedial steps.
- 6 Cultivate mindfulness by cultivating curiosity (kids are always curious). We should take time to meditate in our daily life. Meditation is as natural as breathing.

- 7 In child psychology we should understand development. The journey of child is from dependence to independence to interdependence. The role of teacher is to felicitate this journey.
- 8 Teachers are warriors. They are learning all new tools of technology and we need to adapt the new form of online learning. Parents have become co-teachers.
- 9 Every action has a reason and as teachers we need to understand the reason, the problem. Bullying is the main killer amongst all the behavioural problems. Various behavioural problems, their reasons were discussed in the seminar.
- 10 Tips for handling bad behaviour and strategies for students to cope with stress and anxiety during lockdown were also discussed by the speakers.
- 11 Different stressors and their symptoms were for teachers were discussed. Coping with the stress and stress relief strategies were brought into light.
- 12 Technology for teachers during the lockdown was a very useful digital platform. Teachers learned to make digital worksheets, online tests, interactive videos, creating online story books, converting PPTs to videos. The teachers were assigned to complete the task given and on submitting a certificate was issued.

May 12th: Report of the WRCFE Blended Learning Model

- The virtual meeting began at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 12th May, 2020.
- The meeting was coordinated and animated by Bishop Elias.
- The resource person who addressed the meeting was Fr. Francis S.J
- The lockdown may end but the Corona may not end therefore we as educationist should engage the children in learning.
- The lockdown should not hinder the education of students. And even if lockdown will be lifted the schools may not open as for normal functioning. Therefore, we need to be prepared as of how we can continue with the teaching.
- The main focus of the meeting was to train the teachers and equip them for online teaching, blended learning and also home learning.
- There was also a thought to create a You tube link where whatever the teaching which is interesting and easy to understand for the children could be recorded and uploaded to the you tube. The children who have no access to virtual classroom can watch this and learn.
- The you tube videos can be of any board.
- The webinar focused on
 1. Online Learning- G-suite for education, Google Meet, Google classroom or any other Google platforms
 2. Home Learning- This is for the students who cannot attend virtual class. This can be done by home activities; you tube private Engagement, Education Apps or Govt resources like DD channel telecast on learning. The members of the meeting were informed about The MHRD Activity Calendar which has a well-planned syllabus for the home learning.

3. Online Training- The members felt the need to start the training of the teachers immediately as it takes time to equip and be prepared for the online platform when the schools reopen. It also stressed on conducting orientation for parents too. There is a need of resource persons who can help with content development for learning.

So finally, the group decided to conduct online teaching training for teachers from next week. The group will work out on how and who will participate in different training. There was a suggestion that the training could be conducted according to the diocese so that more teachers can participate in it. The training also will be recorded and the recorded link would be shared with all so that the training is not delayed. Therefore, the main focus and concern is to equip the teachers first. Further information will be sent to the diocese about the training.

May 13th – June 3rd: Summer Vacation

The school means the virtual classes were stopped for a period of 20 days. The teachers and students had few relaxing days as summer holidays.

May 18th:Report on WRCFE

Meeting was led by Mr Francis Joseph and assisted by Mr Willie. They guided us through the meeting and explained to us the importance of G-suite on 18th May, 2020 via a webinar on Google meet. Miss Bani and Mr Vinod gave a guided tour of G-suite application. His eminence **Archbishop Elias Gonsalves, Bishop of Nagpur** was also present during this seminar and showed a complete support.

Bishop hails from Vasai, Chulna. G-suite is an initiative by Google available free of cost for all the school organizations. This is an initiative 8 years old. G-suite is nothing less than a virtual classroom. For individual or business use this forum costs ₹1500/per person/per month but it is completely free for verified schools.

Steps to get access to G-suite:

Create a school domain and link the domain to G-suite. Please note domain is not the same as a website. We already have a domain of our own at Notre Dame. Once the domain is linked, G-suite will take 14 business working days to verify the school. School affiliation or school accreditation certificate will be needed for this verification along with few other details. This will allow school to get its own personal virtual identity and then personal individual classrooms and ids can be created. Use of G-suite after verification was to be explained in the next seminar.

Resource person:

Francis Joseph
francis@SLNfoundation.com

Tools in G-suite (13 tools)

Google admin console
Google calendar
Google forms

Google docx
Google sheets
Google slides
Google drive
Google jamboard
Google g-mail
Google meet & chat
Google keep
Google class rooms

May 18th to 28th: Report on workshop on digital learning

“Technology will not replace great teachers but technology in the hands of great teachers can be transformational”. This course on digital learning was conducted by Pushpanjali college of education under the guidance of various mentors and the course director was Mrs Agnes D’costa. It was a very interesting and productive course which helped the teachers to make learning more interactive. The course covered various concepts such as:

1. Forms / Quiz creation via Google forms
2. Creation of Interactive videos
3. Creating various interactive assessments on H5P
4. Creating Digital posters and worksheets on Canvas
5. Creating flip books
6. Creating a video/ Vlog / youtube channel
7. Preparing a Powerpoint presentation and adding audio to the same
8. Learning to write in devanagiri script

This course not only facilitated learning but also will act as a tool which will enable learning outcomes in our class room. The course began on 18th May and ended for me on 28th May. A certificate of course completion was also provided by the institute which was a real motivation for us.

May 21st: Multiple Intelligence

Sr. Shylaja attended a webinar on Multiple Intelligence conducted by CBSE Pune. The application of theory of Multiple Intelligence in the classroom, educators take into consideration the different types of learners they might have in the classes re-force all types of intelligences in every student, and allow for an individual learning process that will ultimately enable each learner to utilize his/ her intelligence.

May 22nd: Book Distribution

Book Distribution for classes Sr.KG to IX was held from 22nd May 2020 -27th May 2020 in the premises of Notre Dame School. In this pandemic situation, the sale of the books was possible

due to the great efforts of our sister Mary Shylaja. Parents were informed well in advance by their respective class teachers through whatsapp group. A circular was also sent to the parents regarding the precautions taken while coming to collect their child's books. Time slot was allotted to each class for collection of books.

22nd May - 7:00 am – 9:00 am – Sr.KG, Classes I and II

25th May- 7:00 am – 9:00 am – Classes III and IV

26th May - 7:00 am – 9:00 am – Classes V and VI

27th May - 7:00 am – 9:00 am – ClassesVII, VIII and IX

The flow of distribution went smoothly with the class teachers of the respective classes giving the reports cards and Mr. Ajay (Book Distributor) and his team who were most cautious, kind and highly organized. Our parents also co-operated whole heartedly. They were indeed feeling at peace as they got the current year workbooks and notebooks in hand to get ready for the new academic year.

May 22nd to 27th: Report Card

Notre dame School, Vasai conducted their report card day for the year 2019-2020 from the 22nd to the 27th of May 2020. Due to COVID -19 pandemic lockdown in the state, it was a difficult task. The school received proper permissions from the concerned authorities and with utmost care and love following the social distancing guidelines the report cards were given to the parents class wise. A circular with regard to the class and the time frame for collecting the reports were mentioned and accordingly report cards were distributed along with the books for the next academic session. The entire process was conducted smoothly with the assistance of teachers, parents and the book vendor.

May 25th: Leading Transformation

A webinar on Leading Transformation was attended by Sr. Shylaja today. It was conducted by Mridula Mahajan organized by CBSE Pune. The takeaways of the meeting are, the objectives of the theme: Expectations, Excellent Listener and Data Catalyst.

- Inhale the future, exhale the past
- Healthy partnerships
- Family counseling
- Building a sense of belonging
- Significance of partnership

May 28th: Ethics and Integrity

The CBSE Pune had organized a webinar on Ethics and Integrity which was attended by Sr. Shylaja today. The highlights of the webinar are as follows:

- The characteristics the teachers need to possess to succeed

- Understanding of Integrity
- What does integrity entail
- 5 steps to Ethical Decision Making
- 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen Covey

May 28th: Staff Meeting

A virtual meeting was conducted this evening to plan the academic year 2020-21. The following points were discussed during the meeting.

- Timings for the classes and its duration
- Syllabus planning
- General instructions

May 28th: Staff Meeting

The NDS staff met through Microsoft Teams on 28th May, 2020 at 9 a.m. The meeting began with a moment of silence to invoke God's Blessings. The first point on the agenda was the planning of the online classes after the summer break. The administration and staff were prepared to re-open virtual classes through Microsoft Teams on the 3rd of June, 2020. It was decided to combine both the divisions of each year groups (e.g. 10 A+B, 9A+B.) to conduct the classes. Teachers teaching the various subjects would co-ordinate with their co-teacher so that each teacher gets an opportunity to teach her subject to the year group. Through this mutual understanding the syllabus would sail through smoothly. Each section decided on their time slot for teaching. High school would begin at 8 am and end at 10.30 am. Middle school would start at 11am and carry on till 1.30 pm. The primary section would show up at 3 pm and wind off at 5.30 pm. It was stated that the attendance for every lecture was compulsory. In case of absence a reason should be sent to the respective class teachers.

The second point on the agenda was a suggestion to have craft, music and physical education added to the timetable for virtual classes. The respective teachers agreed and accepted the suggestion. The meeting moved on to the third point on the agenda which was planning out the class time- table. The Principal, Sr. Shylaja asked the class teachers to prepare the timetable and send it to her for approval.

Finally the web meet was open for any queries or suggestions. Mrs. Shelley Nunes cleared the doubts of queries related to Teams. Sr. Shylaja offered to allow students or staff to use the network and devices in school if they had problems of network connectivity or devices. It was indeed a very good gesture on the part of the principal. The meeting came to a close on a positive note, 'To continue from where we had left'.

May 30th: DBE Principals' Meeting

The Diocesan Board of Education Principals' Meeting was held this morning for all the principals of Vasai. During the meeting the minutes of the Western Region meeting was presented by Fr. Thomas Lopes. The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss about online teaching, training of teachers, parents and students. The principals were informed about Google Suite and its advantages for the Educational Institutions and adopting the same for their schools.

May 30th: Online Seminar – Positive Behavior

“Enjoying success requires the ability to adapt. Only by being open to change will you have a true opportunity to get the most from your talent”. As part of initiatives taken by Notre Dame School, to keep the teachers updated towards, Mrs. Monalisa Lopes and Mrs. Minal Baptista got the opportunity to attend a seminar on ‘Positive Behavior’ support on 30th May 2020 organised by the publishers of Ratna Sagar. The workshop was organized to train teachers in dealing better with the challenges faced by students and to make the teaching – learning process more effective.

The resource person was Mrs. Mimansa Singh (Clinical Psychologist, Mental health care, USA). She familiarized participants with the concept of understanding the characteristics of a child, observing a student where exactly they need to work on positivity and building a relationship with the students during this lockdown. She emphasized that the teacher can facilitate learning and creating a lively, playful and experiential learning environment. The seminar was very informative and useful.

June 3rd : Online Session

Online session 1

An online Financial Market Management (FMM) awareness workshop was conducted by CBSE-NSE Academy on Monday, May 18, 2020 between 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. Mr. G C Sharma, the resource person from NSE academy discussed the significance of learning Financial Skills and the need for making our students financially smart. FMM will be introduced as an option under Skill Subject for class 9 and 10. The scheme of studies, curriculum and books for FMM were also discussed during the session. It was an informative and well-presented session.

Online session 2

An online session on Methodologies in English-Listening task was conducted by CBSE on Saturday, May 23, 2020 between 11 am-12 pm. Ms. Ruchi Sengar, CBSE Resource person conducted the workshop, engaging teachers in an interactive session aimed at using English readers of classes 9 and 10 to create Listening Tasks. The resource person emphasized that the tasks for listening are always spoken pieces. Teachers were further guided about the types of questions and carryout activities like dialogues, debates, announcements, advertisements, songs, poems etc for assessment of listening skills. The session ended with the members' positive affirmation of implementing the strategies for effective language learning.

Online session 3

An online awareness programme on COVID-19 was conducted by CBSE on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 between 1:45pm – 5pm. Dr Rakesh Garg, Dr Piyush Ranjan, Ms Smita Das, Dr Ankita Singh, COVID experts from AIIMS were the resource persons for the day. The Experts gave an overview of Corona Virus, its spread and the measures to be adopted for its prevention. The experts further discussed the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) that must be implemented in the schools like maintaining social distance, hand hygiene wearing masks, minimizing sharing of items and staying positive. The teachers were guided about self-preparedness for creating awareness among the students. The experts addressed the queries of the members regarding the SOPs for school. Ms. Moushumi Sarkar, Deputy Secretary CBSE, thanked the resource persons for their valuable inputs and guidance.

June 5th: Webinar Report

Ratna Sagar Pvt. Ltd. had arranged webinar for physical teacher for physical Activity and Immunity. Resource person Dr.Piyush Jain , secretary of physical Education Foundation of India and he spoke about how to improve immunity. Second resource person Dr. Jogeshwar Goswmi has an all-rounder personality as he is a Sport person,Teacher,Trainer,musician, author of Ratna Sagar book. He spoke about various physical activity exercises like running,walking,pushing,and climbing. After that he explained 6 ways of how to improve immunity.

1. Sensible diet
2. Adequate sleep
3. Healthy cooking and eating
4. Regular Physical Activity
5. Improve mobility
6. Regular breathing exercises.

After that he showed a two-minute video of breathing exercise of Baba Ramdev. Further he says that there is no specific time to do exercise and it can be done at any time. Only condition is to do it during empty stomach and exercise should be done daily atleast half an hour. After that he explained benefits of exercises. Vote of thanks was proposed by Shreya Lalwani.Overall, the session was very wonderful.

June 15th: Khelo India

A webinar was organized by the team of Fit India Movement on introduction of Khelo India to all the school. The objective of the webinar was to guide the schools on how to register their schools in Khelo India Website and its advantages. The Khelo India Fitness Assessment of School Going children were explained by Sujit Panig. The Relevance of Fitness in Sports and Early Talent

Identification was directed to all the principals. Many important things were informed about Khelo India.

June 19th: Modern Teaching and Learning

A webinar on Modern teaching and learning was attended by Sr. Shylaja on 19th June 2020 conducted by Dr. Gurion Ang. The Webinar was focused on think out of the classroom, assessment to be authentic, evidence-based learning outcome. A discussion on Modern Learners was held on how the new generation learners react to the situations today. A few guidelines were given to the teachers as to how the teachers need to be in the classrooms.

June 20th: Staff Meeting

A section-wise staff meeting was held today to evaluate the online classes. During the meeting the need to instill the online etiquettes in the students was discussed.

June 21st: Yoga Day

Yoga is an invaluable gift of ancient Indian tradition. It embodies unity of body and mind, thought and action, harmony between man and nature and holistic approach to health and wellbeing. Hence, the yoga day i.e 21st June 2020 was celebrated on Notre Dame School through online session due to the pandemic. PET teachers send videos of various yoga asanas online. They made sure that students practice yoga in their daily chores. They were made aware of the importance of yoga in our day-to-day life. Students practiced yoga and send the pictures online making it a memorable one.

June 22nd: DBE Meeting

The principals of Diocesan Board of Education were called for a virtual meeting today. Fr. Tony S.J was invited as the resource person for the meeting where father enlightened the participants about the Challenges during COVID-19 faced by Parents, students and teachers.

Notre Dame School was asked to present G-suite software as to how to go about creating the data in the software and was asked to help out any school in need. Mrs. Shelley explained the entire process and procedure of the software usage and registration.

June 22nd to 23rd: Khelo India Fitness Accessory

Mr. Sujit Panigrahi introduced the Khelo India Fitness Accessory app. and importance of this app. Further they said that every child has to play 60 minutes in a day. After that explained about on How to download app, how to register school and how to conduct fitness test?

There are 2 age groups

1. 5 to 8 - Std. 1 to 3
2. 9 to 18 - Std. 4 to 12

Ms. Shivani Pareek explained how to conduct test for age group 5 to 8.

There are three tests

1. BMI - Body Mass Index
2. Flamingo Test - Static Balance Test
3. Plate Tapping - Coordination test.

Revision of the previous day session

After that age group 2 (Std. 4 to 12) 6 test introduce & explain.

1. BMI- Body Mass Index
2. Sit & reach test. - to measure lower back flexibility.
3. 50 m dash - to measure Speed.
4. 600m run and walk - for cardiovascular endurance.
5. Pushups for boys & modified pushups for girls. - to measure muscular strength
6. 30 sec. Partial curl ups to measure abdominal and hip strength.

Then Shilpi Chug and Shivani Pareekh- master trainer explained how to generate fitness assessment report.

June 23rd: Principals' Meeting- Visitation

Sr. Chetana, the provincial superior of the Visitation Province organized a meeting for all the Principals of the Visitation Province. A set of questions were sent to each principal for the meeting and the discussion. The meeting mainly focused on functioning of Schools during COVID-19- Rethinking Education Ministry. Every sister was given sufficient time to express her concerns about the school with the following questions.

1. What are the major challenges that you face in your institution during this pandemic period?
2. List the areas that make you confident about reopening the school post COVID-19?
3. Relevant points / concerns on reopening of school
4. Online Classes

The meeting was a fruitful one for all.

June 23rd: Demo on ERP

A demo of ERP software was conducted for all the teachers. The demo consisted of how to enter the attendance of the students, giving homework and assignments to the students.

June 24th: Meeting at Mr. Narang's Office

A meeting was held at Mr. Narang's office the architect with Mr. Ajay Corriea. It was to discuss about the permission needed to construct the third floor of the existing building as well as the new wing for Senior Secondary School.

June 26th: Building Inspection

Mr. Shabeer and Mr. Gaurav visited the school today to inspect the building. They mainly came to check on the placement of the lift in the school as well as if the school has occupied any space other than the permission given at the time of construction of the building.

June 30th: Staff Meeting

A staff meeting was conducted this evening to discuss about the fee collections of the students and the payment of salary.

July 1st: Admission of Class I

The parents of Class I parents were called to school today to complete the admission procedure for the academic year 2020-21. The parents were sent the copy of the admission forms to be filled in and brought to the school with the required documents so that there is no crowd in the school. The parents were given the allotted time to maintain social distancing.

July 3rd : Report on Blended Learning

As the lockdown continues, teaching and learning climbs up the rungs of the ladder and goes digital. Various educational teams are upgrading the skills of the teachers as they begin teaching online.

RatnaSagar team had invited teachers to a webinar on the 3rd of July, 2020 of which I was one of the participants. What is blended learning and teaching was the topic of the session. Blended learning caters to needs of different learners with an objective which has a more dynamic content and is also flexible. To follow this method the teacher needs to create an interactive through the use of teaching aids, white board, flash cards, videos and other resources that are available. Teaching time on screen should be around 15 minutes. There should be atleast 5 questions asked during the session. The session should begin with warm-up, through song video or the like. They also highlighted on how teaching could be carried offline after the lockdown.

Make your classroom an attractive place with display boards and charts for performances and rules. Give rewards for excellent performances in class. That helps to motivate children to take interest in their work. The lesson plan should be well planned by the teachers. Activities help children to learn better. Having clubs for different subjects teaches students to learn through experimenting.

A proper balance of activities, lecturing and assessment gives a good blend to the teaching learning process.

July 5th : Happy Classroom Strategies

CBSE had conducted a seminar on the 5th of July 2020. Topic of the seminar was “Happy Classroom strategies for the happy classroom” and the host of the seminar was Mrs. Gurjeet Kaur. We were asked to think on how to keep a happy environment in the class she spoke on ‘3W+H’ on happy classroom. It was

1. What is a happy classroom?
2. Who should work on it?
3. Why do you think it is necessary for you to have a happy classroom?
4. How should we do it?

It is we teachers our duty to work on it along with the parents. It should go hand in hand only then we can keep the children happy. We have to know the child’s weakness and help him/her to overcome it. Then she spoke on the definition of happiness. Happy person are

1. Satisfied and content
2. Live with thought and purpose
3. Encompass living a meaningful life, utilizing their gifts and time.

July 7th:Classroom Management Style

CBSE had conducted a webinar on the 7th of July, 2020. The topic was about Classroom Management Style. The teachers were asked to reflect on why is there indiscipline in the class. The first point discussed was that the teacher is unprepared for her teaching. A lesson if planned well with the involvement of students is an interactive lesson with no disciplinary issues. Mrs Priyadarshani, the resource person stated that punishment does not solve this issue. We were asked to advice the child about his behaviour towards other fellow mates and teachers. The teachers were asked to speak to the offender strictly yet gently to make him or her understand his or her mistake. Furthermore, the teachers were asked to keep a check on the students' behaviour during break -time. Drinking of water regularly during class hours and moving from place to place in class should be taken care of. The teachers were asked not to impose rules but to correct improper behaviour gently and try to nip it in the bud.

It was a very informative webinar which I felt that every teacher should put into practice. Motivate the child rather than punish the child.

July 7th : Report on Effective communication skills

Almost 60 teachers around the country had joined the seminar. Everyone was given a chance to introduce themselves. The speaker of the session focussed on how one could be a good listener-

one should listen to understand and not to reply. She then, spoke about our subconscious mind- how we answer without understanding. Then we had an online activity, on which colour do we associate ourselves with- our personality. Lastly, she spoke about the ways of communicating effectively with children. The session was extremely delightful. It ended in an hour.

July 7th : Report on Experiential Learning

As virtual classes continued teachers updated themselves through online webinars. Dikshahad invited the teachers for a webinar on experiential learning.

The teachers were advised to use this method as a child learns and understands better when he or she uses his or her five senses- sight, sound, taste, smell and touch. They were taught through a video how to create a multi-sensory classroom experience. The teacher is just a facilitator while the students learnt under the guidelines given and through experience and researches.

Through a game, groups were formed. Through group discussions, researches, interviews and reflection the child learnt the concept that was taught by the teacher. In experiential learning every child gets an opportunity to speak and do things by themselves. It builds up one's self-confidence and interest in learning through experimenting. It needed space, time and a well-planned lesson plan to teach on this basis.

The teachers carried home the message that learning is not only from books but by experimenting and from thinking out of the box. The teachers were now ready to fine tune their teaching methods.

July 7th : Literature in classroom English (Poetry, Prose, Story, Drama, Novel)

A few English teachers had the opportunity to attend an Online Seminar - Literature in classroom English). The teachers found it was a very enriching experience for them. Briefly to describe the topics discussed in the seminar were

- Meaning of literature.
- Linguistic development.
- Critical thinking.
- Pre- reading and post-reading activities.
- Cognitive processes.
- Elements of a short story.
- Textual intervention.
- Teaching stories through Graphic organizers.
- Types of Graphic Organizers.
- Teaching poetry.

July 8th : Report on Assessment in English

The revised pattern for class X was discussed in detail. The speaker conducted online games and quizzes for teachers, for better understanding of the assessment pattern. Ways of conducting

assessment online via Google forms, docs, and kahoot were discussed. The session was extremely informative.

July 9th : Report on Pre - school teacher other than manual

On 9th July 2020 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm an excellent online training session was organized by CBSE on the topic Pre - school teacher other than manual. We were first asked to reflect on why preparation is must for a good presentation. Topics such as child development, basic skills, teaching and assessments were well explained by the resource person Dr. Pushparaj P. The child is a slow learner at school, not because he or she is not interested but it is an inborn characteristic. A frequent meeting between the teacher and the parents can help the child grow in a pleasant atmosphere was highlighted. At the end participants were free to put down their queries. This session expanded my understanding of mindfulness and I also learnt the various techniques that can be used and taught to develop the students.

July 10th: Vasai Virar Sahodaya School Complex Meeting

The VVSSC had called for the meeting today. The agenda of the meeting was to hand over the responsibilities of the committee members specially the secretary, joint secretary and the treasurer. During the meeting the possibilities of conducting various competitions for the students of our Sahodaya was discussed.

July 10th : Application of life skills in day to day life

The training for the session started sharp at 11am. Dr.V. Bindhu spoke about how we should behave and react to the challenges of life.Using a powerpoint presentation, she explained how life skills help us to meet the challenges in life.It equips our children to help them do well in life. Life skills are of three types - Thinking skills, social skills and Emotional skills.All these skills are interrelated and reinforce each other. Together they are responsible for our psychosocial competence, build our self-esteem and self-efficiency and nurture holistic development.

She also spoke about the importance of life skills and about coping up with stress. These are skills we can take wherever we go in life, no matter what we do.A video based on 21st century life skills was shown. She further said that we are living in a world with a lot of uncertainties; so we need to adapt to a new situation, be flexible and ready for a change, equip ourselves and have a purpose in life.We have to imbibe life skills in our life and instill that in our children in our classes through our teaching.Towards the end of the seminar the platform was open for queries and doubts.Attendees had to fill in an online form for the attendance to be marked.

July 10th : Report on Pre - school teacher Training(Manual) webinar by CBSE

The Pre School Training Webinar was attended on 9th July 2020 11am to 12.30 pm. The resource person Dr.Pushparaj Kasaragod was a knowledgeable person in this session .He briefed minute details of this session very easily through his PPT slides.

Topics covered were:

1. Meaning of preprimary[preparatory school]
2. Child development (physical development,behaviour formation,language development,Social development)
3. 23 basic skills (visual discrimination,body image,finemotor, coordination,articulation of sounds,memorizing sentences etc)
4. Teaching (pedagogy- story telling, meditation, focusing on the 9 areas of multiple intelligence and observation.
5. Assessment (observing pre and post acquired skills and not acquired skills.

This session was informative and knowledgeable. A quick concluding was done by Mr.Manish Tyagi due to time constraints All the participants including me were enthusiastic everyone were eager to hear more from Dr Pushparajan Kasaragod and with request he did share his email id to hear more from him.(Pushparajanlp@gmail.com) .It was awonderful session.

July 11th : Report on Spin A Tale

In-service training through webinars online geared and upgraded the teachers' skills as the lockdown continued.

RatnaSagar team focused on the use of the story telling method in teaching various concepts. The teachers should plan out a story that could help teaching the child of her own or one learnt by the child and use it appropriately in her lesson. The example of the thirsty crow was given during the seminar. It could be used in the lower classes to show how clever the crow was or any other concept that the teacher would like to emphasize on and it could be used in the higher classes to bring out the concept of how the water level came up with the use of pebbles. To make her lesson more interesting the teacher should enjoy the story herself and then use the other techniques like voice modulation, props, sounds, action, involve students' participation and speak only in the language that is to be taught through. Translation of the word should be avoided. So, the same story that was taught in the kindergarten could be used in the higher classes too but to teach a different concept. A book titled 'Everything I learnt, I learnt in the kindergarten' was suggested as a reference book for the teachers.

The message through this seminar was clear and loud 'Be a storyteller to interact with your students to teach them the concepts hidden in the story.'

July 12th:St.Julie's Feast

"Look to God as the Sunflower looks to the Sun for Life"

Notre Dame School Vasai celebrated feast of St. Julie Billiart, foundress of the institution on 13th July 2020, Monday. A meaningful virtual assembly was edited and presented by students of class X. The assembly was themed as St. Julie- the Smiling Saint of Our Times. The assembly started with a picturised narration on the life of St. Julie.

The values of St. Julie were creatively presented by the students. Spirituality, gratefulness, faith, admiration, patience, love, forgiveness and simplicity were some of the qualities highlighted by the students. The principal Sr. Shylaja gave the message of radiating joyful simplicity in student's words and actions. The programme ended with the school song.

July 14th : Report on Bridging the gap in a virtual class

Perfection is not the point at the start but reaching the goal is. Keeping this in mind teachers moved on to a new platform to practice their skills as the pandemic kept everyone indoor. Picking up confidence the teachers went digital. Training through various educational teams upgraded them and slowly the imperfect started becoming perfect. CBSE team conducted by Mrs Namita Agarwal invited teachers to a webinar on 'Bridging the gap in a virtual class' on 14th July, 2020.

The art of narrowing the gap was reflected upon. In a virtual class we still have students with us responding to our teaching and questioning. So the point highlighted at this meet was how to create an interactive class and a stress free session. Begin the class and end the session with a prayer. Set of rules made by the students, and teachers on how to maintain discipline online. In this new normal, try to keep the personal touch by talking to your students, sharing your camera, using resources that are available, making the lesson an interactive one. Preparing the child before the lesson by intimating them on what they will need for the upcoming lesson. The teacher could also ask the children to share their camera when answering. Giving the children some activity which can be displayed on the slides or screen motivates the child to work at home. The teacher could try new skills and share with their colleagues so that they can narrow the gap in virtual classes.

The session was brought to a close with an inspiration video about the eagle and ended with the quote 'Change is the only constant'.

The message that each participant carried from this session is that 'Change is needed to take on a new journey.'

July 14th : Report on Integration of arts in Social Science

An online session on Integration of arts in Social Science was conducted by CBSE on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 between 4pm-5pm. Ms. Khyati Dwarkadas, HOD Social Science, Gopi Birla Memorial School, was the CBSE resource person for the day. The resource person emphasized that art integrated learning is a strong contender for experiential learning, making the teaching learning process joyful. She strongly believed in the holistic development of the students and

prepares them for life. Teachers were further guided about the implementation of art integrated activities like Role play, Virtual museums, video/ film making etc. The session ended with the members positive affirmation of implementing the strategies for effective art integrated learning.

July 14th : Report on 'Classrooms-Exploring Happiness'

'Classrooms-Exploring Happiness' was held at 9:00 am. on Google Meet. This seminar was conducted by a resource person Ms. LathaS began the seminar by asking the attendees to think about what a 'State of mind' is. The emotion Gauge was explained effectively making the attendees understand the Activation and deactivation process of mind.

The next topic of discussion was 'Reasons for unhappy teachers'. Each attendee had been asked to give their own reasons for unhappy teachers. Ms.Lathahad displayed some reasons for being unhappy teachers.The ways to overcome these problems of unhappiness were shared. A video clip was played on the screen for meditation it helped in understanding the benefits of Mindful Meditation.

The session ended at 10:00 am.

July 15th: Class X Results Announced

It was a day of great joy as the CBSE Board announced the Class X Board Exams Results 2019-20 this afternoon. The 79 students made Notre Dame School proud by securing 100% results and 98% as the highest scored by Sara Vartak. There are students who scored 100 in French and Science.

July 15th:Report PRE-SCHOOL Teacher other thanManual

On 9th July 2020 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm an excellent online training session was organized by CBSE on the topic PRE-SCHOOL teacher other than manual. We were first asked to reflect on why preparation is must for a good presentation. Topics such as child development, basic skills, teaching and assessments were well explained by the resource person Dr.Pushparaj P. The child is a slow learner at school, not because he or she is not interested but it is an inborn characteristic. A frequent meeting between the teacher and the parents can help the child grow in a pleasant atmosphere was highlighted. At the end participants were free to put down their queries. This session expanded the understanding of mindfulness and the various techniques that can be used and taught to develop the students.

July 15th:Application of life skills in day to day life

The training for the session started at 5 pm. Using a power point presentation and real-life experience she taught of the importance of life skills.Life skills are of three types: Thinking skills, social skills and Emotional skills. The seminar also highlighted that more than education, Life Skills are more important to help us deal with daily life challenges.

The resource person also shared the experiences that she had been through in her life. And also explained how Life Skills always proved to be an excellent teacher in coping up with stressful situation. Towards the end of the seminar the platform was open for queries and solving doubts. Attendees had to fill in an online form for the attendance to be marked.

July 16th & 17th: Teachers' Meeting

A staff meeting was conducted this afternoon mainly to discuss about the assessment pattern for the first unit test. The upcoming activities were also discussed.

July 22nd: Enhancing life skills – Rashmi Tyagi

“Success is a state of mind, but it needs yours”

Enhancing life skills and integrating life skills in the teaching-learning process was the main theme of this session which was conducted on 22nd July 2020 by Mrs Rashmi Tyagi. Ma'am stressed on the concept of “Critical thinking” and to inculcate the very habit of critical thinking in every situation amongst all children. Critical thinking is a process of conceptualizing, applying, analyzing and finally evaluating a given situation as per bloom's taxonomy. Ma'am gave us multiple examples and real-life examples demonstrating how a teacher can inculcate critical thinking in every child's life. The importance of Emotional quotient was stressed on throughout the session. Emotional quotient refers to an individual's ability to identify, evaluate, control and express one's emotions. Emotional intelligence is as important as intelligence quotient. Training the children to deal with every possible situation in order to help the child to adapt & learn is important. Various types of life skills that were stressed upon are as under

1. Self-awareness
2. Empathy
3. Critical thinking
4. Creative thinking
5. Decision making
6. Problem solving
7. Effective communication
8. Interpersonal relations
9. Coping with stress
10. Coping with emotions

Promoting & Nurturing Multiple intelligence and designing a lesson plan as per the needs of the different types of children who are varied learners. It was truly a very interesting and a very innovative seminar conducted with the help of a power point presentation and innumerable real examples and stories.

July 21st: Training for Teachers

Our teachers had their training on Assessment and how to set papers for exams.

July 21st: Webinar on Empowering the Team

An effective webinar was conducted by CBSE on Empowering the Team and the resource person was Mrs.Latha Jayaram. The webinar focused on

- Basics of team and its significance
- Different stages of Team building
- Tools and resources necessary to make confident decisions
- Benefits of Empowerment

July 22nd:Report on Innovative Pedagogy in English

“Language is the blood of the soul into which thoughts run and out of which they grow”.

A very enlightening seminar on Innovative pedagogy was conducted for us by Dr Mosam Sinha. A lot of innovative strategies to teach grammar were discussed in this seminar. Sir stressed on inductive as well as deductive techniques to teach grammar- Teaching in general and not with the use of rules. Grammar should be taught with the help of general situations and not with technical terms. Sir gave a very unconventional method of teaching English Grammar especially the tenses. A balanced combination of both inductive & deductive approach will help students understand the best.

July 23rd& 24th: Transfer Certificates Issued

The students of class X (2019-20) batch was issued their transfer certificates .The parents of the students were called to school for the collection of the same within the allotted time.

July 25th : Gender Sensitive School

The training for Gender Sensitive School started sharp at 11 am.The participants were sent link via mail through which they joined the seminar.The speaker very nicely explained that how our society is male dominated, and the birth of a girl child,in many places is still not celebrated.

She also said that gender biasness is a controversial topic in education because it relates to our moral and intellectual virtues.Sometimes we as teachers do treat boys and girls differently. We need to praise both girls and boys for their ability. We also need to challenge both boys as weak as girls.How can teachers help eliminate gender bias in their classrooms was explained very well through a PowerPoint presentation.The session ended with a short movie showing how a family plays an important role in upraising a girl child.

July 26th : Parents' Day

Sunday, the 26th of July 2020, was Parents Day. Due to the pandemic, celebrations stayed indoors. But the students of Notre Dame did not feel disheartened. They enjoyed at home preparing wonderful surprises for their parents. They showed their appreciation for their parents by designing beautiful cards. This loving gesture was much appreciated by all the parents. Parents' day celebration in the Pre-primary classes went virtual through a video created and edited by the teachers with the cooperation of the parents.

'Mummy and daddy we love you, however difficult the situation maybe we will always celebrate you'. This is what our students said through card making activity, this year.

God bless all our parents!

July 27th : Enhancing Life Skills: Coping with Stress

“Stress is our body’s way of responding to any kind of demand, threat or change”. An online training programme was organized by the CBSE Board (Centre of Excellence, Dehradun) on the topic Enhancing Life Skills:Coping with Stress by Mrs. Geeta Shukla for the teachers. The programme was scheduled on 9th July between 16 pm to 17 pm. Around 39 teachers all over India attended the online training programme. The speaker addressed the teachers about various stress related problems and techniques to successfully deal with them. Speaking on the occasion she spoke about stress and the most common factors causing increase in stress among students and teachers like workload and too many expectations from them, she also emphasized on anticipatory stress. She explained what stressors are, how one perceives stress and also spoke about the emotions dominating stress. The speaker explained to the teachers about the consequences of stress and its negative impact on one’s health. She told the teachers about coping with stress, suggesting some tools to manage stress. At the end of the training programme all the teachers thanked the learned resource person for her highly informative and engrossing online session.

July 28th: Teaching Strategies in Speaking English

CBSE had organized a webinar through the Google meet on the 28th of July, 2020. The resource person Mrs. Raji P. enlightened us on the topic of ‘Teaching Strategies of Speaking English’. She began with an opening question ‘Why should students acquire speaking skills in English?’ The participants gave various answers and this helped her to introduce her topic. She explained how the skill of speaking made the person confident, express his views intelligently and communicate efficiently. She highlighted the sub-skills required for speaking: fluency, vocabulary and language functions. She suggested the various strategies that could be used to build up good communication: story-telling, conversation, describing an object, interviews and oral questionings. She went on to point out how pronunciation and voice intonation were very

important in speaking. She explained on the use of stress on syllables. She gave a quiz to the participants. It was quite an interactive session.

Enriching your vocabulary to speak fluently and to communicate positively will surely build up your confidence in speaking English.

July 29th: First Unit Test

The students from class I-X began their first unit test. The unit test was conducted on Microsoft Teams and it was objective type. The students and teachers had enough practice on the Microsoft Forms before the unit tests began.

July 30th: School Inspection

The school had an inspection by an inspection committee from Palghar Education Office. The school had applied for the Permission/ Recognition of the School from State Board. The officers came in the afternoon to the school and verified all the school documents with the original ones. They also inspected the school and its infrastructure and the facilities available for the school. The committee was quite pleased with the school.

July 31st: Report on Happy Classroom

The speaker for the session was Mr. Gaurav Palia.

The session began with introducing few of the participants by the first letter of their name. Eg - Gaurav (G - Gratitude)

Few of the points discussed in the seminar are as follows

1. A teacher herself has to be happy before entering the class. Happiness should be explored by helping others.
2. How to turn the classroom into a happy & creative space-
 - A] Taking learning outside the classroom
 - B] Creating some art integrated learning activities
 - C] Spending time in getting to know the students
3. Pathway to happiness are Gratitude, Forgiveness, Optimism, Empathy, Respecting diversity.
4. Happiness depends on your genetics [40%], circumstances [10%]
Internal state of mind [40%]
5. The tested ways for happy classroom are
 - a. Incorporate mystery into your lessons.
 - b. Don't repeat classroom materials
 - c. Create classroom games
 - d. Give your students choices
 - e. Use technology
 - f. Don't take teaching so seriously
 - g. Make your lessons interactive

- h. Relate material to your students' lives
- i. Flip your lessons
- j. Think outside the box

July 31st:Report on Enhancing life skills – Empathy”

CBSE had contacted a seminar on ‘Enhancing life skills – Empathy’ dated 31st July 2020. The session was hosted by Tanushri Chakroborty. She spoke on Empathy and said the quotes. ‘I believe empathy is the most essential quality of civilization’ by Roger Ebert.

She further said it is the ability of one person to step into the shoes of another person aiming to understand their feelings and perspective. It refers to the ability to relate with another person’s pain vicariously as if one has experienced that pain himself. Empathy was first used in 1909. It is having the capacity to imagine the feelings that one does not have an equal footing. Whereas sympathy is existing for several hundred years. It is having the capacity of sharing the feelings of others at superior position. We need empathy for building trust and respect, and one can apply empathy by understanding another’s experiences from their personal perspective. And benefits of empathy are it nurtures good parenting, improves work place culture, resolve conflict.

August 5th : French Webinar

Once again, the French teachers were invited to attend an online French workshop, on the 5th of August, 2020 which was the continuation of the first part of the webinar. The resource person was Mrs. MahithaRanjit, the author of the French book series ‘Apprenons le français’.

It was indeed a very informative workshop. She dealt with the understanding and teaching of the books recommended for classes 8 to 10. She explained the conjugation of verbs in its different forms. She highlighted on the common errors made by children and gave a very good explanation on how to avoid it. She requested the educators to have a clear knowledge of the topic that they were dealing with. It was an interactive session as she had set up exercises for the participants during the workshop. She ended the session with a brief explanation of the format of the board paper. This workshop encouraged the educators to teach the language through activities to build up interest in the children.

August 5th:French Workshop

A brilliant French workshop on the nuances of French language was conducted by Ms Mahita Ranjit, the author of “Apprenons le français”. This was conducted on 5th of August 2020. It was the 2nd workshop for the teachers teaching level 3 & 4. Various effective points covered are as under:

1. Effective teaching methodologies
2. Active learning tools and techniques to remember all minute rules while teaching Grammar

3. How to make learning of this language more interesting and grasping
4. Techniques to improve interpersonal classroom communication using French
5. Focus on Phonics and Pronunciation
6. Effective techniques to help children improve writing skills, vocabulary and spellings
7. An asset of online resources, games, interactive websites, stories including audio etc

“Une nouvelle langue est une nouvelle vie” A new language is a new life and certainly gives a different vision We have a truly enlightening session with the French master.

August 8th:Report On the Inauguration Ceremony of Rashtriya Swachata Kendra

The inaugural ceremony began at 4:45 pm. The Prime Minister of our country, Narendra Modi, entered the two halls with different zones. In the zones, everything was related to the life of Mahatma Gandhi- and how cleanliness and sanitation was given importance in their lives. After the tour of the zones, the prime minister addressed the students. Several students from various states over the country had gathered. The main aim was to construct an ideal village, an ideal country. Students shared their views with the P.M. The P.M spoke about the aim of Rashtriya Swachata Kendra, which is ensuring that the citizens continue to live in a clean and hygienic country. Also, the PM spoke the people who played a key role in improving our sanitation facilities, like various campaigns- Swach Bharat Abhiyan, roles that women have played, and all the volunteers and social workers who worked towards their respective village sanitation facilities. Overall, the situation of our country has been improved over the years- with arrangements of washrooms in villages, specially. Children were told about separation of wet and dry waste. Little things were focused on, since children are the future of our country- making India free from plastic, using eco-friendly methods.

The PM gave a boost to the students, he considers them as an asset of our country. Students were asked to guide others about the same, especially elders. The PM spoke about our leaders, who contributed towards making India clean, and ended his speech with a vision to see an ideal India, in the years to come.

The ceremony ended at 6:00 pm

August 13th:GandagiMukth Bharat Campaign

As invited by the CBSE to carry out the programmes related to GandagiMuktBharat Campaign, Notre Dame School, Tarkhad, Vasai (west) held an online essay and painting competition. The students of class 9 and 10 took part in the essay competition titled 'GandagiMukth Mera Gao'. They expressed their views beautifully on the topic and gave a clear picture of how villages have developed into clean and healthy environment. They were free to express in any language of their choice. The selection was done by the teachers and one has been uploaded on the site given (one essay from classes 9 and 10)

Simultaneously the painting competition was held for classes 6 to 8 on the above theme. Students eagerly expressed themselves in painting the scene of a dirt-free village. The selection was done by the art teacher and has been uploaded on the site given by the organisation (one painting from classes 6 to 8).

These competitions made children aware of how cleanliness of their surroundings can beautify not only the environment but also can influence the way of expressing themselves positively in writing and painting too.

August 14th: Report of the Patriotic Song Competition

A singing competition of Patriotic Songs was held on the 14th of August, 2020. Students from classes 5, 6 and 7 participated in this competition. Each student sent in their videos to the music Sir Mr. Terrance. The videos were then viewed and judged by Sir Dixson and Sir Terrance. 39 students took part in this competition. All of them were very good. This gave the judges a tough time. The participants were very enthusiastic and their voices were also so melodious. The winners from each year group were finally selected and announced.

Class 5 winners were:

1. Elvira D'souza
2. Levin Carvalho
3. Jace Machado and Shravya Pillai

Class 6 winners were:

1. Pavithra Narayanan
2. Eva Dalmet
3. Amodini Arul and Asher Dabre

Class 7 winners were:

1. Ananya Parvathi
2. Laris Pereira
3. Abhinav Nambiar a
4. Anvi Jadhav

The nightingales of Notre Dame beat the odds and sang melodiously making the virtual offline singing competition a success.

August 15th: Independence Day

It was a red lettered day in the history of India when the country got her freedom on August 15, 1947. Our school, Notre Dame School, Vasai also celebrated this event with great enthusiasm.

Due to the outbreak of COVID -19, it was not possible to have a mass gathering. Hence very few members of the staff attended it.

The ceremony started in the morning at 8 a.m. Our PT teacher Mrs. Vijaya welcomed our Manager & Chief Guest Sr. Jayanti alongwith Principal, Sr. Shylaja and Sr. Aneeta. The school Manager Sr. Jayanti hoisted the National flag. Staff members saluted the flag and sang National Anthem. The pledge was taken and ended with the Flag song. Due to the pandemic we had to keep the ceremony very short. The Independence Day has a great importance in every citizen's life. This day reminds us every year that freedom is a gift and it should be appreciated.

Jai hind Jai Maharashtra!

The entire student body witnessed a special Virtual Assembly of Independence Day conducted by Class IX students.

August 29th: PTA core committee Meeting

A virtual meeting of PTA core committee began with prayer by Sr. Shylaja. Most of the members were present for the meeting. The members were updated on online classes, the activities of the school which are taking place virtually. The members discussed about the coming Teachers' Day Celebration. The management informed the members about the permission received for the construction of school building. All the members appreciated much about the efforts of the management and teachers have put in for the success of online classes.

September 1st: Staff Meeting

As the month of September has arrived it's time for the school to get ready for the first semester Exams. A meeting was conducted this evening to discuss about the semester exams. During the meeting the exam would be conducted for 40 marks including both Objective and subjective type questions because of online exams. The dates, timetable and syllabus would be given to the students as early as possible.

September 3rd: Trip to Palghar

Sr.Shylaja went to Palghar along with Mr.Hyson, our parent to the Education Office. Since the school has applied for the Permission from the State, they went to check the status of the application.

September 5th: Teachers' Day

This year 2020 saw the Teachers' Day Assembly through a virtual stage. A team of teachers coordinated to set it up. The students were so eager to showcase their talents through videos they were asked to prepare by the team. They were so prompt in their submission too. The teachers had chalked out the flow of the programme and prepared the script for the same. A virtual invite was sent to the teachers for this programme.

The videos were then compiled into one and put up on the Microsoft classrooms on Saturday the 5th of September, 2020 at 8.30 am. The programme began with an introduction which was followed by a prayer that ended with a blessing song. Then the floor was open for entertainment and appreciation. The tiny tots spilled out words of appreciation to the teachers of Notre Dame. The dancing feet went tapping with great coordination. Then the teachers were taken into fairy land which was well planned and designed by the team. The teachers' eyes popped out to see this fantasy. Still in that trance they enjoyed the instrumental and singing by the boys of class IX and X. Then flow out of tributes and words of appreciation from the management, the PTA members and a word of appreciation from the staff to the students.

Virtual or in a school building Notredamites never stop the show must go on!!!! They also made beautiful cards that were uploaded on Whatsapp groups. God bless our students for their love and appreciation for their teachers.

September 7th: Meeting with Contractor, Mr. Libio

The sisters after discussing with Mr.Hyson about the various contractors, with the consent of Sr.Chetana , the provincial superior decided to appoint Mr. Libio as the contractor for the third floor construction of the school. Mr. Libio was called for a meeting this morning to the convent along with Mr. Hyson and the sisters expressed their concerns and expectations to the contractor. An agreement was made and signed by the Contractor and Sr. Jayanti , the secretary of The Vasai Notre Dame Sisters Society.

September 8th: Blessing of the School Building

Fr. Prashant Saldanha was invited to bless the third floor of the school building before the construction. Mr. Libio, Mr.Hyson. Mr.Daniel and office and Maintenance staff was present for the blessing along with sisters.

September 8th - Birthday of Mother Mary

We had a special Holy Mass in our convent and our neighbors also joined us for the first time.

We had the Initial blessings for the Construction- extension of few classrooms on the Third floor of our school building.

Rev.Fr. Prasant was gracious enough to do it.

September 8th : Report for the English Elocution Competition Classes 8 and 9

An English Elocution competition was held for classes 8 and 9 on the 8th of September, 2020. It was an offline competition. The judges for this competition were: Ms Sarah Menezes (Notre Dame School) and Mrs Maclina Carvalho (St. Augustine's School) for class 8 and Sr. Aneeta and Mrs Ranjeeta Gomes (St. Augustine's School) for class 9.

The students were asked to upload their videos on Microsoft Teams. The respective English teachers viewed them and shortlisted the participants for the competition. The participants sent in their videos after a remake which was then merged into one video and sent to the respective judges. A set of 10 students were selected for each year group.

The winners were then declared and a feedback was given by the judges. It was very encouraging to hear the comments from each judge. A competition like this that did not have a personal touch was indeed made personal through the feedback. So virtual or not the students of Notre Dame never give up.

September 10th : Report on Poetry Recitation Competition class V

Poetry Recitation Competition for Class 5A and 5B students was held offline on 10 September, 2020. This competition was conducted by Mrs. Deepa and Mrs. Rovina. Prior instructions were given to students regarding the competition. Students uploaded their videos on Microsoft Teams in an assignment created in General. Students recorded their videos in a proper school uniform. There were total 32 participants' videos uploaded for the poetry recitation competition. Judge for the competition was Teacher Salome. Six participants were short listed. The participant's performances were marked on Diction- 10 marks, Pronunciation -10 marks, Expression- 10 marks, and Overall Effectiveness - 10 marks. Students performed it very well.

The winners of the competition are as follows:

Rank 1 – Janis Pereira 5B

Rank 2 – Ethan Dcunha 5B

Rank 3 – Bris Chaudhari 5A

Rank 3 – Shriya Palaskar 5B

September 12th : Report on PTA Meeting Class X

An online PTA meeting was held for the parents of class 10 on Saturday, 12th September 2020, at 5p.m. on Microsoft Teams platform. It was presided by our Principal Sr. Mary Shylaja. High school teachers, class X parents and students attended the meeting.

Sister Shylaja commenced the meeting with a prayer and thereafter welcomed the parents and thanked them for their wholehearted support for the online classes during the pandemic.

The assessment pattern for class 10 was discussed in detail with the parents and students by teacher Minal. Parents and students were briefed about online etiquette, study pattern and Art integrated Activities by teacher Ashalla. Parents' queries regarding periodic test board examination conducting of practicals and art integration activities were addressed by the principal and teachers. Sister Aneeta proposed the vote of thanks.

September 14th :Report on PTA Meeting Class IX

Taking into consideration the pandemic situation Notre Dame school organised an online PTA meeting for std 9 on 14 September, 2020 at 4:30 pm. All the sisters, teachers, parents and the students were present for the online meeting. The meeting started with a prayer by the principal Sr. Shylaja. Then the parents and the students were given the clear explanation of scholastic and co scholastic grading by teacher Ensweeta. The teacher also explained the art integrated projects and certain things which students need to do as instructed by the respective subject teacher. The general instructions to be followed during the online classes were explained to them by teacher Sophia. There was an open platform for queries from the parents and students. The parents asked questions regarding the school reopening, exam, grading of the students who are absent for exam etc. The principal Sr.Shylaja spoke about the online teaching and thanked parents for their support. Parents too appreciated the hard work done by the teachers. The meeting was concluded with a vote of thanks and a small prayer by Sr. Aneeta.

September 16th: First Semester Exam

The students from Classes I-X began their first semester exams today which are of both objective and subjective type. The exam is conducted on Microsoft Forms online.

October 2nd:Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti

“Peace is the most powerful weapon of mankind. It takes more courage to take a blow than to give one.” ~ *Mahatma Gandhi*.

Mahatma Gandhi or more lovingly known as Bapu by all Indians is internationally acknowledged for his doctrine of non-violence that led to India to its glorious freedom. 2 October every year is celebrated as Gandhi Jayanti the story of his life has impacted humanity to its core. To revere this day, the Class 8 Students of The Notre Dame School held an online Special Assembly to commemorate the Mahatma’s life and teachings on 2 October 2020.

The significance of the day was given through a Power Pointpresentation which emphasized on his life and teachings.A special prayer for peace was recited by a student. The spirit of Swatch Bharat was also ignited among the students.Theassembly concluded by singing the National anthem.The day ended with a thought in everybody’s mind that cleanliness is next to godliness and service to mankind is the first step towards reaching it.

October 22nd: Book Talk Competition For Classes VIII And IX

An offline Book Talk Competition was held for classes 8 and 9 on the 22nd of October, 2020. The students were asked to select any book that they had read and speak about it. They had to upload their videos on teams. Class 8 had eight participants while class 9 had eleven. The judges for the competition were Mrs Ashalla Bobo and Mrs Salome Falco for class 9 and Mrs SweedleCarvalho and Mrs Clementine Pereira for class 8.

Each participant had prepared themselves so well that the judges had a tough time to give the scores. The participants being avid readers could go on and on with their presentation. They also were very convincing on why the audience should read that particular book.

A well know quote goes like this- 'Today a reader, tomorrow a leader' and so we are sure that our participants will shine wherever they are planted.

October 24th:English Spelling Bee Competition For Class VIII And IX

An English Spelling Bee Competition was conducted for classes 8 and 9. Class 8 had their competition on 24th of October, 2020 while class 9 had it on 22nd October, 2020. The students were given a list of 100 words to prepare themselves for the competition. On the day of the competition all the students attempted the spelling quiz set on forms. After the end time the first 3 students who got 10/10 were asked to participate in the rapid-fire round. Each student turned on their camera for their turn to spell out words in a minute. The number of words spelt correctly was calculated and the results of the competition were declared.

The winners of class IX were:

First place - SteninPeechatt IXA

Second place - Shawn George IXB

Third place - Eureka Dabre IX B

The winners of class VIII were:

First place -Aldrich Dias VIII B

Second place - Jill D'abreo VIII B

Third place -Aarush Pillai VIII A

They all enjoyed the online competition. It encouraged them to pay attention to their spellings.

October 24th:English Spelling Bee Competition for Class VII

A French Spelling Bee Competition was conducted for class 7 on the 24th of October, 2020. The students were given a list of words on professions to prepare themselves for the competition. On the day of the competition all the students attempted the spelling quiz set on forms. After the end time the first 3 students who got 10/10 were asked to participate in the rapid-fire round. Each student turned on their camera for their turn to spell out words in a minute. The number of words spelt correctly was calculated and the results of the competition were declared.

The winners of class VII were:

First place -AnanyaParvathi VII B

Second place- Kiara Vartak VII A

Third place-PreetPatil VII B

They had all enjoyed this online competition. It encouraged them to pay attention to their spellings.

November 12th: Report of the Children's Day and Diwali Assembly

Notre Dame School, Vasai had an assembly for a duo celebration – Children's Day and Diwali, on the 12th of November, 2020. It was a virtual assembly on Microsoft Teams. A committee was set up for this assembly and they planned out the theme and finally set it up in a video format. The theme was - the children as the light of the world and Diwali the festival of lights. Every teacher was given a part in the Children's Day assembly and a few students took part for the Diwali celebration. There was a prayer service which began with a prayer song, a reading, petitions and a blessing prayer. Then there was a variety of entertainment. Each event was creatively displayed and introduced by the host with much enthusiasm. The Principal, Sr. Shylaja gave a message to the children and the sports captain proposed the vote of thanks. All the videos that were sent by the participants were then stitched together after editing and formatting. The invite and the link for the assembly were then shared with the other teachers, who displayed the assembly on screen at 9 am on the 12th of November, 2020. Corona virus had blown out the lights from our lives but the lights at Notre Dame continue to glow.

November 24th: Report on Instrumental Music Competition

On the 24th of November, 2020 the students of Notre Dame showcased their skill in playing various instruments for the Instrumental Music Competition 2020 -2021. The competition was an offline one, wherein, the students had to send in their videos to the music Sir Mr. Terrance Rebello. The competition was open to students from classes 1 to 10. They played various instruments like the keyboard, guitar, violin, harmonium, table, kongo and the drums. It was indeed a feast for the eye and music to the ear to watch how the class one students enthusiastically tuned in to show their art at playing an instrument. The students of the higher grade were indeed quite professional. The judges were Mr. Terrance Rebello the music teacher and Mr. Rostan Rodrigues the music master at St Augustine's High School. According to the judges' feedback it was indeed an outstanding performance. Online or offline music fills the air at Notre Dame with the band of musicians who eagerly wait to perform at any time of the year. May God bless their talents and lead them to greater heights.

November 27th to December 4th: Report on Virtual Interviews of JR.KG Admissions

The admissions interview is an important moment and parents always feel anxious about it. This anxiety is natural. Especially if a parent or child has their heart set on a particular school, the admission interview can be seen as a make-or-break moment. And hence keeping this point in mind and not disappointing our parents and little captains, especially now in this COVID19 pandemic, with social distancing measures put in place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, we the Notre Dame School management and staff conducted virtual interviews.

The virtual interviews for the Junior KG admissions were conducted from 27th November 2020 to 4th December 2020. The following teachers and the management sisters conducted the virtual interviews: -

- 1) Mrs. Sharon Pereira & Sr.Mary Jayanti.
- 2) Mrs. Candace Sequeira & Mrs Jenevia Sequeira.
- 3) Mrs. Smita Colaco & Sr.Mary Aneeta.

Parents and their children were interviewed by asking some simple questions, showing objects and recognizing it by the children, questions on favorite hobbies etc. Through these interviews it was observed that parents and children were more comfortable than normal interviews. This virtual interview was really a learning experience for teachers as well as students.

November 30th : Junior Kg Story Telling Competition

As the lockdown continued Notre Dame School stayed connected with the students on Microsoft Teams. Activities moved on smoothly too. On the 30th of November 2020 the Junior KG students had an offline story telling competition. The participants were asked to upload their videos on Teams. To judge this competition our very own staff members were invited. Mrs. Rovina Gracias and Mrs. Cynthia Britto had a tough time selecting the winners. Our tiny tots narrated the story with such enthusiasm and expression as a result every child stole the judge's hearts. Some of them also used props. The winners were selected and notified on Teams during their class. COVID-19 masked our noses and mouths but it could not mask the talents of our budding Notredamites. May the talent of every child blossom as they grow.

Winners of Story Telling Competition – Jr.KG A

- 1st Micaela Andrades
- 2nd Hritvi Soni
- 3rd Olimpia Colaco And Azaiah Rodrigues

Winners of Story Telling Competition – Jr.KG B

- 1st Ariana D'cunha
- 2nd Creszel Athaide and Alyssa D'souza
- 3rd Shannon Pereira

December 5th to 12th:The Vasai Virar Sahodaya School Complex Competitions

The Vasai Virar Sahodaya School Complex had invited the CBSE schools to join in an inter-school competition for co- curricular activities 2020-2021. The students of Notre Dame bounced into action. They started building up their confidence, finding information, fine tuning themselves and were ready to put their best foot forward.

The host school had sent in the different activities that they had chalked out with details concerning dates, time, categories, the manner that they would conduct it during these pandemic times and all the other instructions for smooth sailing. A committee was set up at Notre Dame. The teachers in charge worked as a team to select their best participants. The activities were elocution, dance, singing and advertisement making. The singing and the advertisement competition were held on the 5th of December, 2020 while the elocution and the dance were held on the 12th of December, 2020. The students carefully followed the instructions given by the committee in charge. One student per category was selected.

The participants put on a good performance and showcased their talent through a small window on the Zoom platform. Although they missed the personal touch of their mentors, they stood firm in displaying the activity. Taking part was the point, not just vying for a prize but yet Notre Dameites added a feather to their cap with Kiara Vartak and Stenin Peechatt securing the first place in elocution and Ananya Parvathi the second place in singing. To crown it all Notre Dame students stood third, in all the 3 categories, for advertisement making- Om Mhatre, Nysa D'souza and Aadit Kawadia.

Covid-19 may have distanced us from one another but at Notre Dame it has bound us together, encouraging one another to do our best at all times.

December 23rd: Christmas Celebration

Notre Dameites celebrated Christmas virtually on 23rd December 2020. The Nativity in 2020 was most likely like no other year. The fantastic nativity was designed in a way that pupils could put together a performance that was filmed and shared online. The Christmas carols added to the soothing Christmas feeling. Christmas symbols added the meaning to the assembly and also our principal Sr. Shylaja's message for this Christmas. The assembly concluded with none other than Santa Claus who filled the air with joy and laughter.

December 23rd – Jan 4th : Christmas Holidays

The school remained closed for Christmas from 23rd to Jan 4th.

January 4th 2021 : Classes resume

After Christmas holidays, school reopened on 4th of January.

January 7th: English Singing Competition for Junior KG

A Singing Competition was held for Junior KG on the 7th January, 2021. It was an offline competition. The students were asked to prepare a video of a song of their choice and upload the same in the assignment on Microsoft Teams. The students were excited and presented a variety of songs, they also used props. Actions and melodious voice made the judges Mrs.

Navilda Dias and Mrs. Deepa Dias difficult to select the winners. The teachers then declared the winners on the online class and also forwarded on WhatsApp group.

All our young buddies made the competition a great success

Winners of Singing Competition for Jr.KG A

- 1st - Jaswil Wilfred Fargose & Brielle Pravin Pereira
- 2nd - Kate Eldrage Dabre & Olive Kunal Pimpley
- 3rd - Azaiah Alistair Rodrigues & Hritvi Rikin Soni

Winners of Singing Competition for Jr.KG B

- 1st - Ariana Meconroe D'cunha & Alyssa Sidney D'souza
- 2nd - Nathaniel Agnello Coutinho & Riana Rahul Marti
- 3rd - Noarah Wineeth Pereira

January 11th: Principal Day

“You Who deserves the grandest of Celebrations, we celebrate you, not because it's courteous but because we sincerely wish to see you smile on your Special day”

On January 11, 2021 we here at Notre Dame celebrated our “Guiding Star”. The Star which led us from darkness to light during this Pandemic and gave us wings to fly. Our most beloved Principal

Sister Mary Shylaja. It was a virtual assembly conducted by the students of class VI along with the participation of high's school & Primary as well as pre-primary students. Teachers also had a short celebration in the school for our beloved guiding star, keeping in mind the pandemic restrictions we limited teacher and student participation. Decorated the office and tried our very best to make sister's birthday super special.

January 11th: Report on activities for Sr.KG

As the saying goes “learning is the only thing the mind never exhausts, never leaves and never regrets”.

During the virtual year 2020-21 the students had activities like

- 1) story - telling competition on 15th January 2021
- 2) Favorite National leader (Speaking about it)
- 3) Handwriting competition on 5th Feb 2021

All the children participated with enthusiasm for the competitions. It was a difficult task for the judges to choose the winners.

Story telling competition and Handwriting competition judges selected 2 winners for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place each. Whereas for Fancy dress (National Leader) Sr. Shylaja (Principal) gave each child a participation certificate.

The following teachers judges the competitions

Story Telling Competition - Mrs. Shalini Manbhat & Mrs. Olivia Colaco

Handwriting Competition - Mrs. Roviana & Mrs. Navilda Dias

January 26th : Republic Day

The 72nd Republic Day was celebrated in Notre Dame School on 26th January 21. The chief guest Sr. Jayanti was escorted by teacher Lourdes and the school council members. Sr. Jayanti hoisted the flag and then the teachers sang the national anthem. The programme ended with the school song.

February 2nd – Notre Dame Day

This year we celebrated Notre Dame Day on 2nd February Virtually. The assembly was conducted at 9:00 am. in the morning for classes Jr.KG to X. The pre-primary and the primary students had prepared and planned the assembly. It started with a prayer song by the tiny tots of Jr.KG, followed by the intentions of class III. Students Miss Nea Vartak from class II A expressed her views as a student of Notre Dame. Class 4 students spelled out the values of Notre Dame Sisters through the acronym of NOTRE DAME. The assembly was well organized and we had no classes that day.

February 5th– Handwriting competition for Jr.KG

An English "Handwriting competition" was conducted online on the 5th February, 2020 for the children of junior KG class. Handwriting is an essential skill for children. The objective of this competition was to strengthen awareness of the importance of neat legible handwriting and enabling them to develop fine motor skills and confidence. The response of the students was very encouraging. Majority of students had put their best foot forward to enhance their writing skills. The competition brought out the talent and creativity of the students.

March 3rd to 18th– Report on Class I to VIII Final Exam

The exams for classes 1 to 8 were conducted on MS forms. They had to tick the correct answers for objective questions and for subjective questions; answers were written and submitted on MS Teams Assignment. For classes 9 and 10 offline exams were conducted following strict precautionary measures.

March 13th – Felicitation Ceremony for The CBSE Board Exam Toppers 2019-2020

A felicitation ceremony was held on 13th March by 2021, to honour the toppers of class 10 for the academic year 2019-2020. The programme started by welcoming the students and parents, followed by a prayer of gratitude and a blessing hymn. The school Principal Sr. Shylaja, Manager Sr. Jayanti and Sr. Aneeta congratulated and honoured the students for bringing laurels to Notre Dame school by awarding them Scholarship. Our class 10 topper Miss Sara Vartak expressed here deep sense of gratitude towards the principal, the management and dedication shown by the teachers in educating and moulding them. Speaking on the occasion, Sr. Shylaja blessed the students for their future plans, thanked the parents for their constant support and applauded the efforts of teachers. The programme culminated with the school song.

March 15th to 24th – Report on Class X Pre Board Exam

Notre Dame School successfully conducted two pre-board exams for class 10 in an off-line mode on 20th to 29th January 2021 and 15th to 24th March 2021 respectively, amidst the pandemic. A document of SOP's to be followed for the safe conduct of the pre board exam was sent to the parents, students and teachers by the school. Safety guidelines related to social distancing, wearing masks and hygiene in the exam hall were followed by students, teachers and the concerned staff.

The Academic was closed on March 26th with the release of the Report Cards to the Students of Class Jr.Kg to Class IX on School IVRM portal.

Thank you