

LA GAZETTE

Newsletter of the French International School in Mumbai





STAY HOME

The sixth graders had a one-of-a-kind project to undertake during their art class.

They had 5 minutes to search their whole apartment for objects that speak to them in relation to the following message: Stay home!

THE BLUE PLANET

The Junior Kindergarteners have discovered wonderful ocean creatures through a project led by their French teacher Karine and their English teacher Vidhi.

Apart from pursuing the Rainbow Fish and her adventures, they also ventured into the vast oceanic realm, reiterating what they learnt through their remarkable works of art, using recycled materials, newspapers, magazines, to skillfully depict the sea creatures out there. créatures marines.



The Rainbow Fish - Book by Marcus Pfister

MIRO, VASARELY, MATISSE

Each week, the 1st and 2nd graders study a new artist.

Joan Miro, surrealist artist.

After having observed a few of his pieces, the students created their own art in the manner of Miro by throwing the dice and drawing the proposed geometric shapes corresponding to their throws.



Henri Matisse, French illustrator and sculptor. He is one of the leaders of Fauvism but is also well known for his découpages.

The students chose two background colours in the manner of his painting 'Polynesia the Sea' of 1946. They then created or printed shapes and forms, cut them out and glued them on their desired background.



Victor Vasarely, the creator of Op-Art, a style that plays on optical illusions.

The children chose an animal. They then coloured every second stripe in the background without touching the animal. The colouring of the animal was done opposite to the background.



FOCUS ON OUR PARENTS

Neel Adhikari

A versatile musician, Neel can walk into any musical situation and find uniqueness. Essentially a composer, producer, singer and songwriter, he swings between web series, films, live performances, commissioned albums, radio, TV, jingles and his own music.

Trained in Indian classical vocals and in audio production, his musical roots lie in melodic music.



As this edition's chosen parent, Neel has agreed to share a snippet of his unique profession and his daily life through a series of questions he kindly took the time to answer...

Neel with his partner Audrey and their son Luca

What does a composer do on a daily basis? How does his or her day start and end?

I wake up at no fixed time, as this depends on how long my night has been. Composing at night is normal for many artists because it offers a certain kind of solitude. As a composer, I need to observe life and the nighttime is a good ally to help me decode the day I have just been through. My working day starts with coffee and breakfast like most. But sometimes, if I'm excited about a song I'm writing, I like to sing it as soon as I get up, to take advantage of that unique morning voice.

The day usually ends with a movie. I love watching art house films because they showcase visual compositions in various styles.

What made you choose this particular job?

My opinion is that our brains are too inferior to choose what lies ahead in life for us. I had an inclination towards music and life guided me to what I do today. Earlier on, I wanted to be a cartoonist. I preferred Western music to Indian music. My aspirations were never economically viable when I was growing up. But I took the risk, gave up my day job and dived into the unknown.

I had worked as a salesman for the Times of India newspaper for three years during my early twenties. I would often go for band practice and lie to my superior. The lying felt wrong. So after my stint in sales, I gave up the job and ventured into the music industry full time. I started learning to use music production softwares, to earn money by creating music for commercials. Although I kept writing songs, a source of great pleasure for me. I love what I do.

How do you balance your family and professional life?

I definitely get more family time than a regular 9 to 5 employee. My clients, usually directors and producers, come over to my home studio to work with me. Sometimes, even Luca sits with us while we discuss work, he is loved by all my colleagues. He is a very sensitive, articulate and happy child who is always in search of the brighter side to life. His curiosity forces me to assess normal, everyday things we take for granted and answer his questions with as much detail as possible. His first love is laughter.

Any song that I ever compose or even half-write, I have to show it to Audrey. I respect her sense of aesthetics and her vast knowledge of films and music. In Audrey, I have a barometer for my songwriting skills. She helps me gauge my progression.

Any advice to you wish to share?

Composure while composing
Brush your teeth at least twice a day



PARENTS' PERSPECTIVE ON COVID-19

We are living through history right now. Being quarantined at home is new to all of us. The 4th and 5th Graders were asked to become kid reporters and interview their parents as a part of their Covid-19 activity.

[Press here to view the interviews!](#)



OTHER PERSPECTIVES

The elementary students were not the only interviewers during this period of confinement. Philomène and Pauline took this project a step further by interviewing an individual each outside their social circle. Let's see what they had to say:

Rita

Rita, supervisor at LFIM.

During our remote interview, Rita told me that food and water were insufficient in her neighbourhood. In addition, doctors are not available for any kind of treatment which can be very worrying in case of extreme emergencies. There is a shortage of medicines in the pharmacies. The price of some food items is rising in the market, so the poor people living on the streets cannot afford to buy food because of their situation.



It is difficult to prepare meals because markets and supermarkets have no choice, they find it difficult to replenish their stock. Therefore, the lack of meat or fish forces us to prepare mostly vegetarian meals.

As outings are only allowed for an hour or two a day, this leaves us with very limited time to go shopping.

There is also a shortage of masks, forcing us to use handkerchiefs or scarfs to cover our noses and mouths, and when we go out, we have to wash our clothes upon returning to avoid spreading the virus at home.

- Pauline

Alifsha

Based on an idea from my History and Geography teacher, I decided to interview my driver's 13-year-old daughter, Alifsha, and tell you what she is going through during this Covid-19 crisis.

Originally from Maharashtra, she lives with her parents and her 3 to 4 year old sister. Alifsha is a young girl who gets up very early every day and goes to bed quite late in order to have the opportunity to learn and go to school, which her parents find very hard to pay for. When the coronavirus crisis arrived, like many of us, she had to stay home.

However, what differentiates her from the rest of us is that she lives in one room, without privacy, almost without daylight, in a city slum without birds to brighten her days. Nor does she benefit



from video conference lessons like the little French children, and her only way to learn is by herself, on her father's mobile phone. She tells me that she can no longer go out, she can no longer do what she wants, she can no longer breathe the "fresh" air of the megalopolis where she lives. To keep herself busy, she tries to do her homework on the floor, not having enough space or money to buy a table. She also helps her mother with her sewing to try to earn a little money. She cooks for her family, she plays with her little sister, tries to teach her how to write.

But what she likes to do most of all is to draw and learn. So here you go, a couple of her drawings she had sent me.

She pictured herself on it. It was done in pencil, I'm not even sure she could use anything else.

- Philomène

COVID19 RELIEF CAMPAIGN YOUNG HEROES

The Covid-19 crisis needs Young Heroes to come to the rescue and help people in need!

Some families don't have food or an income and we need you to change that by fundraising for them and sending out a message of hope and courage. Fortunately our Young Heroes are here to save the day!

How to become a Young Hero?

Come up with a creative way to express yourself and fund-raise.

For example, a hand drawn card that expresses solidarity or a video of your aspirations and wishing the same for other children in India...

How to help out a Young Hero?

Dear parents, please share their creativity on social media or WhatsApp and ask people to join you in donating.

Do not forget to add the donation form when sharing

If you wish, feel free to tag 'Action Against Hunger' on **Facebook** or **Instagram**.

[Press here to access the donation form](#)

All the money raised will go towards providing food baskets and hygiene kits to those families in need. Our Young Heroes will be proud to have contributed to our fight against hunger.



EARTH DAY CHALLENGE

22nd April 2020 marked the 50th anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. The 3rd, 4th and 5th Graders had to design and create a “Trash monster” after reading a short story on “The Rubbish Monster”.



The challenge was to use only recycled objects, to sensitize the students towards their role in taking care of the environment.





EASTER TIME!

The egg, an ancient symbol of new life, has been associated with festivals celebrating spring, Easter Sunday in this case. The kindergarteners decided to join in the festivities through a crafty activity, one that can be implemented at home. As a base, they were given the choice of either a real egg or one outlined on paper, with no other restrictions imposed.





THE CONFINED TEACHER

Like everyone else during this lockdown period, the 4th and 5th graders' teacher found herself confined! From this new and unprecedented situation was born a Youtube channel entitled "The Confined Teacher".

Even if they are not in a 'real' classroom, the teacher is there every morning to give her instructions and advice to all her students! On 'French' days, Anne-Lise sends a link to the channel where she explains the work to be carried out during the day. The children also have access to the corrections of the filmed exercises and to educational clips, allowing them to work at their own pace, as close as possible to class work.

But "The Confined Teacher" also belongs to the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders! Artists, poets, inventors, journalists, you can see all their performances on this channel, so don't hesitate, subscribe!

[Press here to access their YouTube channel](#)



GETTY MUSEUM CHALLENGE

Since visiting an art gallery is out of the question, the folks over at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles have come up with a creative way to keep art lovers occupied — by challenging them to recreate famous artwork at home with everyday objects. As you can see, our 4th and 5th graders took up the challenge and came out strong!



FEEDBACK ON THE ONLINE CLASSES

Comments from the students and teachers of Secondary School

Myeisha

"The classes are fabulous and very easy to access. There were a few moments when I had some difficulties, but thanks to Vasant I was able to join the class. I appreciate these lessons very much."



Philomène

"My mommy cannot blame me anymore for my excess screen time during the day. Ipads are very handy for video lessons!"



Rémy *Maths teacher*

"It's going well but there are no advantages over traditional classes, except that I don't have to wear a tie."



Eugénie

"The online classes are very good. The homework is sufficient. I would like to suggest that we have more History classes for us sixth graders."



Carolyn *English teacher*

"I am happy that the kids are able to have a shared class time with their friends. I think that is the most vital part of the on-line teaching experience. I appreciate the dedication and timeliness of the students."



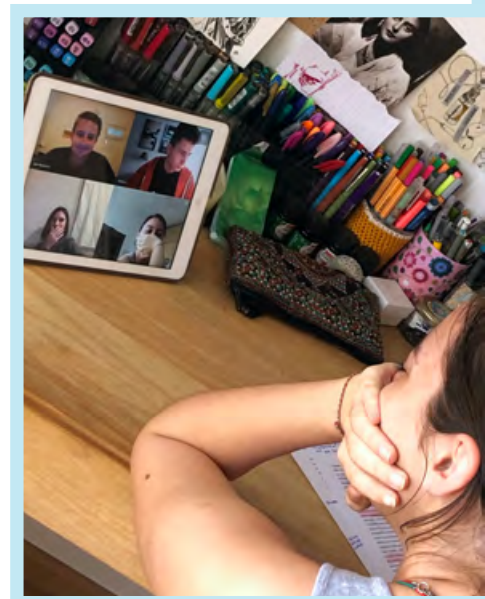
Maximilien

"The online classes are functioning very well, apart from occasional connection problems. The amount of homework and the transition to video lessons are just as enjoyable as learning at school. We are given enough time for homework."



Marion *Human Sciences teacher*

"A difficult start, but once the train was on track, everything went well. The students played their part well. However, it is difficult to monitor the students, especially during the assessments. There should be more rigour and more leeway for the teachers."



DO-IT-YOURSELF HANDPRINT ART



Did you know that creativity is a skill that should be developed like any muscle? This creative drawing concept is simple: trace your hand on a paper and let your imagination run wild. Convert your hands into a bird, a dog, a crab or an insect... This transformation exercise is magical and fun at any age. You should try it!



LA MEILLEURE PARTIE DE MOI

Cultivating a positive classroom community is an important part of school life. One of the ways to help build our students up is to help them see themselves (and their classmates) in a positive light. As part of their writing activity, the 3rd Grade had to select a body part that they wanted to write about. A part they were thankful to have and loved. The aim was to encourage a positive self-image.



[Press here to discover their work](#)



ONLINE CLASSES FOR TODDLERS

Our younglings quickly got adapted to meeting their classmates and teachers on screen, always having something exciting to show or talk about.

During their short but action packed video conferences, their teachers Anshu Anand and Audrey Miras teach them concepts like empty and full, more and less, and so on, with the help of fruits, vegetables, number flash cards... This helps build their vocabulary, form sentences and learn new things. They also sing nursery rhymes, recite the days of the week or the months to a year, subjects taught during a normal, full fledged class.

Video recordings of a particular topic are provided to the parents and students in advance, for them to become familiar with the topic and language before the lesson. These recordings can also be shown to the child at a time when he or she is more receptive to learning.



Links to worksheets, songs and art and craft activities are sent to the parents to reinforce the lessons taught. Distant learning involves the parents and the home space, not just restricting the child's learning exposure to a computer screen. During those six weeks of confinement, the parents did a fantastic job. Thanks to them, their children were punctual and responsive, looking forward to the start of the class. Their progress has been excellent. We've got an exciting new generation to watch out for!