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# LA GAZETTE

The magazine of The Lycée Français International de Mumbai



LYCÉE FRANÇAIS  
INTERNATIONAL  
DE MUMBAI



ÉTABLISSEMENT  
COOPÉRATIF

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l'enseignement français  
à l'étranger

Happy New Year  
2023 !



**LIFE AT  
LFIM**

# HALLOWEEN

School resumed after the Diwali break in November and spooky spirits roamed the grounds. Iron man, witches, fairies, pirates, pumpkins and Samurai warriors! They were a special sight to behold.

Are you brave enough to look?

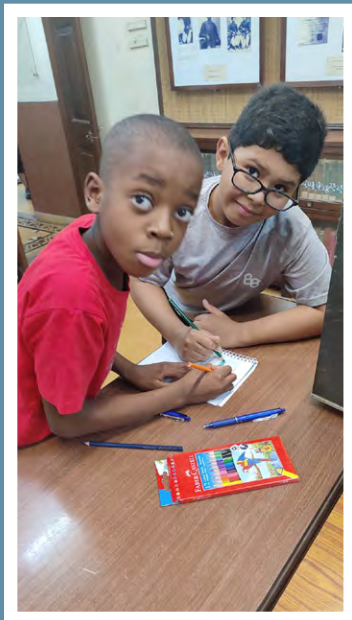
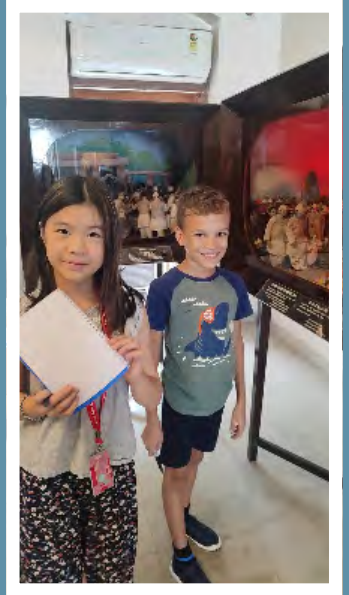




# TRIP TO MANI BHAVAN

The students of CE2, CM1 and CM2 visited Mani Bhavan, the former residence of Mahatma Gandhi in Mumbai between 1917-1934. Led by their teachers Anne-Lise and Sayali as part of their chapter on Gandhi, the students were kindly accompanied by two of our own parents, Marion and Gaby. Not a sound was heard as the group explored the museum and historical building, carefully observing the various objects and artefacts in the many rooms.

Mani Bhavan is known as the nerve centre for Gandhiji's activities in the city during the Independence Movement.



# WEEK OF THE FRENCH SCHOOLS OF THE WORLD

Each year, all French schools worldwide participate in the 'Week of French Schools of the World', where a shared theme is celebrated by all members of the establishments. This year, the theme was Equality between Boys and Girls.

To bring our students together, a poster competition was organized by the school and the best posters would receive trophies. After weeks of creating, the posters were displayed between 28 November and 3 December on the stairwell. Posters were designed by students who either worked in groups (Secondary) or as an entire class (Kindergarten and Elementary).

Finally, time to vote! Members of the staff, elected parents of the School Council, the Management Committee and the Director voted for their favorite posters. After tallying the votes, the winners were awarded their prizes in front of the school.

Bravo to all! However, the theme must not be limited only to the competition. Equality between boys and girls remains vital in day-to-day life.





# A LOVE STORY

My link with LFIM is as strong professionally as privately. Indeed, LFIM gave me the opportunity to enter the world of teaching, and LFIM also allowed me to meet my beloved. It was one day in February 2020, during a flight from Mumbai to Chennai, I was accompanying the students on a school trip and she was a hostess on that flight. The rest was like in the Bollywood movies, or almost.

We will get married at the end of the month!

Thank you LFIM.

- Sabir

*Professor at LFIM since 2018  
Secondary*



# PIZZA

As part of their English class, the children of Petite Section 1 had a fascinating cooking lesson interspersed with Mathematics.

Wearing their chef's whites, each step of creating a pizza was carefully depicted by Anshu and Yamu, who then helped the children recreate their version. The name of each ingredient was repeated out loud, allowing a harmony of chants: BUTTER! CHEESE! TOMATOES!

After the pizzas were crafted, the group headed off to the ovens and waited patiently until the timer buzzed. The importance of the activity was not lost on our mini-chefs. After the pizzas were baked and ready, they were cut into...shapes! The children repeated the name of each shape before gobbling the slice in an instant.



# FOCUS ON OUR PARENTS

I'm from Belgium and arrived in Mumbai in 2020 during the height of Covid-19. From a young age, travel has always been around and ever since, it had a major impact on my life and the way it has been evolving. After working for a decade in the aviation industry, my wife and I made the decision in 2010 to move abroad and follow her career path. We haven't had a single regret ever since.

After a few stints in London, Kinshasa and Johannesburg, we truly enjoy the safe and easy way of living in India. Our kids Maddox and Maxime really flourish over here and the French school has certainly helped them along the way. What I enjoy most about it is the fact that the school is still relatively small, allowing for both the parents and teachers to interact but also to spot any issues there might be and react to it in the best possible way. This allows for the kids to be guided in a way which seems impossible in many other destinations around the globe.

When the kids are at school I focus on my current job being a travel writer and photographer. As mentioned before, travel has always been around in my life and it became a passion from an early age. Due to my past career and current situation we are fortunate enough to see large parts of this beautiful planet and there's nothing more I like to do than share all the different experiences with, and as a family. It's sometimes hard to explain to the kids that travel isn't free, nor always easy, but then again it's a great motivation for them to work hard at school to continue travelling once they become independent.

As I'll be exploring Antarctica in a few weeks time for example, it's also a great source of inspiration for both the kids as I like to show them there's literally no limit in life if you put your mind to it, irrelevant of the dreams they might have. The only downside my job brings with it is the fact that I spend too much time on my social media (thank you Instagram and Facebook) and both kids will call me out on it!

Thanks to LFIM and the environment we're living in, it's great to see that our kids don't see any differences when it comes to beliefs, religion, languages, skin color. It allows them to see others for what they are and appreciate their true friendships and that's without a doubt the most valuable thing we can give them.

- Kristof, dad of Maxime and Maddox



# MS2 SPREADS SOME JOY

The joy of giving back is often better than receiving. And our children certainly made this a reality.

Moyenne Section 2, accompanied by their teachers Barbara and Enara, visited an Old Age Home situated in the Helpers of Mary Orphanage in Andheri. Handcrafted gifts were distributed and songs were sung with the seniors. The children also shared family collages depicting their favourite photographs of family life.

A beautiful and heartwarming way to bring in the holidays.



# THE ANNUAL BAKE SALE

The students of CE2, CM1 and CM2 planned their annual bake sale with a new recipient in mind. Led by their teachers Anne-Lise and Sayali, the students created cakes, cookies and delicious bakes for parents, staff and students of LFIM. The funds collected from the sale of these treats were used to purchase gifts for children under the care of Dr. Veronique Dinand.

We thank everyone for participating in the sale, and especially our children for creating such happy memories.





# BAGS FOR CHRISTMAS

Organised annually by the Kindergarten team, the Bags for Christmas initiative aims to collect gift bags for underprivileged children and spread hope before the holidays.

For many years, this initiative has benefitted the girls of the Asha Sadan - House of Hope orphanage. Asha Sadan houses children in the age group of 0-6 years, and girls from 14-20 years. Its main objective is to provide a secure and welcoming home for children and young girls. All of them come from varied backgrounds, but have one thing in common - most are severely underprivileged and all of them are in distress.

Thanks to the generosity of our families and the community, we collected 224 gift bags! Our little ones in MS and GS visited the orphanage and handed over the bags.



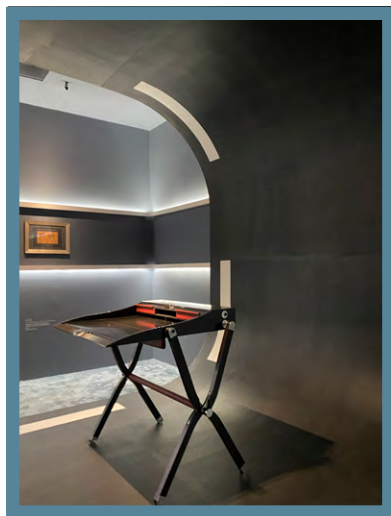


# THE CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

A wave of red takes over the school! The children of Kindergarten and Elementary were proud to present their Christmas performances in front of parents and guests.

The Kindergarteners sang iconic English and French songs and danced with their parents. The Elementary performed stunning renditions of carols.





# HERMÈS

Students of Lycée were invited to a private tour of luxury French fashion house Hermès' travelling exhibition 'In Motion'.

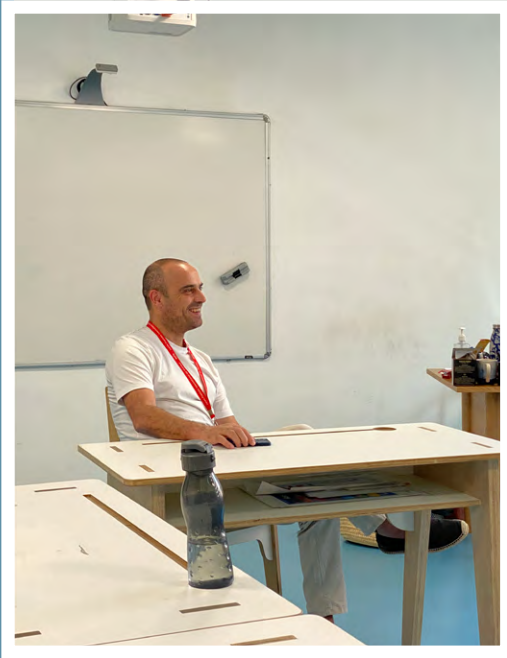
A stunning display of objects from the house, including items from the founding family's personal collection, allowed viewers to travel back in time and have a glimpse of Hermès: then and now. Technological aspects of the exhibition brought together Arts, History and Science under one roof.

We thank Hermès for welcoming us and look forward to our continued French association.

# A MORNING WITH JEROME

The students of 4e, 3e and 2nde were pleased to welcome French author Jérôme Loubry for a Q&A session at LFIM. Cake and chai (tea) were shared between students and Jérôme, who spoke about his latest book *The Refuges*, and the various insights into the life of an author.

A big thank you to our French professor Audrey, for organising the visit, and Jerome for spending time with us!



# BREAKFAST RADIO: THE TODDLERS

Special guests were invited for the upcoming edition of Breakfast Radio!

The Secondary students interviewed the children of Petite Section about Christmas and gathered their views on the holidays. The 6e joined in as well!

A truly heartwarming moment bringing our children together.

[Click here to listen to their podcast](#)



# DHARAVI

We went to Dharavi on December 9 as part of a project on plastics. Dharavi is one of the slums in Mumbai. It is considered the biggest slum in the world with more than one million inhabitants! We saw how the inhabitants recycle plastic to sell it.

Some people collect plastic around the city, others separate the different types of plastic. These plastics are finally shredded by a machine made inside the slum. The shredded pieces can then be used to make new objects.

The outing made us aware of how difficult life is for some people, as well as the efforts needed in recycling plastic.

- *Tabitha,*  
*Student of Terminale*





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