



CHRONICLE: THE MODERN SCHOOL WEEKLY **MODERN SCHOOL BARAKHAMBHA ROAD**

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As the outbreak of COVID-19 continues to impact the lives of billions of people, Modern School has set up an example of courage and strength in this crucial time. Apart from online classes, the faculty members and students are keeping themselves updated and honing their skills through plethora of activities.



ARTWORK PRESENTED BY DAKSH TARNEJA (S2D).

IRDSE WEBINAR: TEACHERS’ VOICES ON IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON ONLINE SCHOOL EDUCATION IN DELHI

The Institute of Research and Development in School Education (IRDSE) organised a webinar titled “Teachers’ Voices on Impact of COVID 19 on Online School Education in Delhi” on 18th June 2020 from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm, under the guidance of Prof Marie Lall, Director (Research), IRDSE. The event was hosted by the Centre for Excellence, IRDSE, on the Zoom Android Application.

The webinar was attended by 200 academicians from all over the country, including Modern School teachers. It began with a welcome note by Prof Marie Lall. The moderator

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for the event was Dr Kusha Anand who introduced the keynote speakers Dr Anviti Singh and Dr Samta Jain.

Dr Singh discussed the three ‘gaps’ in online teaching-learning process: the access gap, the usage gap and the skill gap. The access gap is owing to the varying socio-economic status of the school and household income. The usage gap arises due to the lack of opportunities to use technology actively for both teachers and students. The socio-psychological



preparedness of the teachers also plays an important role. There exists a skill gap and the government needs to provide pedagogical digital preparedness to upskill the teachers.

Dr Samta Jain talked about her observations related to the online teaching skills and learning material appropriate for online education. Prima facie, the private school teachers have more training and access to online teaching, but lack of internet facility affects them badly. Dr Singh of Centre of Excellence suggested the concept of 'Community Schooling' for training of teachers for online teaching. Dr Monika Bisht of IRDSE provided insight on the impact of COVID-19 on higher education in India.

The participants posted their questions in the 'Chat' section during the presentation. Approximately forty questions were posted by the attendees. These included problems related to online teaching, such as assessment for learning, lack of visual and verbal connection with the learners, internet connectivity, online teaching material, practical work in sciences, migration of parents to native places and so on. These were answered satisfactorily by Dr Marie Lall, Dr Feroz Khan (IRDSE member), Dr Monica Bisht (IRDSE member), Dr Anviti Singh and Dr Samta Jain.

During the question-answer session, Dr Lall emphasized on giving training to the teachers for imparting knowledge and skills to the learners using computer network. As stated by her, online classes can't and shouldn't replace face to face teaching. It should only be used as a functional back-up during calamities like flood, earthquake and pollution. The pedagogy used should not be merely transferring the content to the students, instead, different ways of teaching should be adopted by the teachers. A discussion was held on restricting the screen exposure hours and ways of resolving mental health concerns of the learners. The webinar was a highly fruitful and enriching experience.

ASTRONOMY CLUB ONLINE SESSION

On 18th June 2020, the Astronomy Club of Modern School conducted an online session of Module 1 on the topic "Exploring the Universe", on the Microsoft Teams platform. The session began with a recapitulation of the modules held during the academic year 2019-20. The session was conducted by Mr Yogesh Kumar Joshi from SPACE (Space Technology and Education Private Limited) who discussed about the annular Solar Eclipse occurring on 21st June 2020. He also provided an insight into some interesting celestial phenomena like blue moon, pink moon and the strawberry moon. His power point presentation included the properties of various celestial bodies, the Goldilocks' zone and space missions like Apollo, Voyager 1 and Voyager 2. Keeping in tune with the current scenario, the importance of ozone layer in the atmosphere and its healing during the lockdown was explained to the students.

Another online session for students of Module 2 was held on 19th June 2020 on the topic "Stars and their Life Cycle". Experiences were shared by Bhavya Khanchandani (S3H), Tanishtha Manchanda (S3B) and Ayushman Gupta (S3D), who fondly recalled the hydraulic rocket launch and the overnight trip to Sariska.

Mr Yogesh started the session with a detailed discussion on the life cycle of a star.



The students curiously asked about the largest known star of the universe-UY Scuti. He gave an account of the famous red giant stars including Betelgeuse, Arcutrus and Anatre. The students were encouraged to locate and view the red giant Arcturus, usually visible in the northern hemisphere around 9 pm near the zenith. It was a great learning experience for the students.



A SCREENSHOT FROM THE ONLINE ASTRONOMY CLUB SESSION

TEACHERS' WORKSHOP ON CONDUCTING ONLINE EXAMINATION

Modern School Barakhamba Road has been regularly conducting online classes for the students during the nationwide lockdown period post COVID pandemic outbreak. In order to ensure a smooth and effective conducting of online examination, a workshop was organised on 20th June 2020 from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm for all the teachers. Modern School faculty member, Ms Anjali Chhabra conducted this workshop and explained the teachers about Microsoft Forms and its usage in preparing and uploading the question papers. She also explained how to conduct the online exam using the Microsoft Teams platform. Individual queries of teachers were handled simultaneously.

INTER SCHOOL ONLINE STILL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

The inter school online still photography competition titled 'Zooming Out COVID' was organised by Welham Boys' School Dehradun in May 2020. The competition aimed at offering young photographers of Classes 7 to 12, an opportunity to be creative while at home, and subsequently inspire others. It was based on different themes including Lockdown Expression, Nature I Love and The Art of Selfie.

Sanya Tawakley (S7I) won the First prize in Category 2 (Class 10-12) in the event, beating entries from 48 schools within and outside India.



A PHOTOGRAPH CLICKED BY SANYA TAWAKLEY



Modernites continue to work hard in their academic pursuits in the lockdown period. They also keep their positivity, hopes and spirits high, through creative marvels, an example of which is presented below.

'IN THE DARK FOREST'
BY SWADHA RAWAT (S6I)

Floating, wondering,
whispering, calling,
Can you see them?

Lighting up the path,
Bathing it in blue luminance
The Will o' the Wisps calling out
in the Dark Forest
Through the gloom and the cold
Can you see them?

Glimmering with the radiance
of the stars in the sky
Galloping and whinnying in the glade
A horn of magic
of silver and gold upon their heads
The Unicorns are prancing
in the Dark Forest.
Can you see them?

Igniting the trees in fiery flame
Hot as the licks of fire they slumber in
Guarding the precious glow
of treasure unseen,
Slumbering Dragons sending flares
in the Dark Forest.
Can you see them?

Raising the hair
at the back of your neck
echo their eerie howls
Guardians of the dark and deep Woods
The Werewolves prowl,
deep in the Dark Forest.
Can you see them?

With the beauty of an Enchantress
The Mermaids,
the Sirens of the Lake beckon you
in the Dark Forest.
Can you see them?

Roosted in rocky cliff
by the fringes of the Woods
Ruling with Talon and Beak
Protecting a nest of spoils untold
The Griffin watches
with golden eyes
as you enter
in the Dark Forest.
Can you see them?

Living in the trees and streams
and gales that blow
Fleeing through the trees
on willowy feet
With timeless features and hearts
nestled in Nature
The Nymphs stare from the trees
in the Dark Forest.
Can you see them?

With the souls of fallen angels,
They call you, And sing to you
And beckon you, And watch you,
And await you,
In the Dark Forest.
For they are waiting
for a scent of mortal
Waiting to be awake again,
In the Dark forest.