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## Cognitive Redemption through Rhetoric: Critical Thinking in the Classroom

- Subhalaxmi Bora, Science Educator

As we journey through the rapid transformations of the 21st century—marked by technological advancements and global shifts—one thing remains certain: the need for critical thinking is more important than ever. In the classroom, this becomes our key to navigating this changing world and preparing students for a future filled with complex challenges and opportunities.

So, what exactly is critical thinking? It's more than just a buzzword. It's the ability to think deeply, logically, and objectively, rather than making decisions based on surface-level emotions or impulsive reactions. Instead of simply accepting information at face value, critical thinking challenges us to dig deeper, question assumptions, and engage in reflective thought. When we make decisions, we base them on evidence, logic, and a clear understanding of the issues at hand.

Critical thinking is a process—one that we can develop and refine over time. It's about constantly improving how we think, reason, and solve problems.

Now, let's dive deeper into a powerful tool for developing critical thinking: Rhetoric, or the art of communication.

At its core, rhetoric is about persuasion—communicating effectively and compellingly. But it's more than just about convincing others; it's about understanding and mastering how to present ideas clearly, logically, and with credibility. Whether it's in a classroom discussion, a debate, or even in a written assignment, rhetoric helps us craft our thoughts in a way that persuades and engages.

To cultivate critical thinking through rhetoric, students need to strengthen their cognitive abilities. These include: attention, memory, pattern recognition, problem analysis, reading comprehension as well as speaking, writing, and listening skills.

One of the best ways to enhance critical thinking in students is by creating opportunities to practice structured debates or discussions. These activities encourage students to build and defend arguments, think on their feet, and consider multiple perspectives. Similarly, writing tasks that require students to craft persuasive essays or presentations help them practice using logic, emotion, and credibility to strengthen their arguments.

Incorporating these activities into regular classroom routines not only helps students refine their thinking skills but also prepares them to engage with the world in a more thoughtful and informed way.

As we continue to embrace the challenges of the 21st century, it's crucial for students to develop strong critical thinking skills. By fostering an environment where students can practice rhetoric and engage in meaningful discussions, we help them build the cognitive tools necessary to navigate a rapidly changing world. This is not just about preparing for exams or tests; it's about empowering students to make informed decisions, solve problems creatively, and communicate effectively in every aspect of their lives.





# ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

## EDUCATIONAL TOUR

On October 1, 2024, the students of Ahsan and Ankuran had an exciting and educational trip to the Guwahati Science Museum. They explored the solar system, laughed in the Magic Mirror Maze, and were fascinated by the aquarium and life-sized dinosaur models. Interactive exhibits on ecosystems, human anatomy, and photosynthesis deepened their understanding of science, while a section on refining processes highlighted the importance of energy. A special display on Mahatma Gandhi inspired them with his message of peace. The trip was a fun-filled learning experience, leaving students eager to share their discoveries.



## IH PPT COMPETITION

The Inter-House PowerPoint Presentation Competition at Vandya International School on 18th February 2025 encouraged creativity, public speaking, and teamwork among students from Grades 6 to 9. Each house selected a team of four students to present within 5–7 minutes, judged on content, design, creativity, and speech clarity. Sunbird House won, followed by Minivet and Barbet House, with the winning topic The Evolution of the Internet from Dial-Up to 5G praised for its research and innovation. The event successfully provided a platform for students to showcase their skills and build confidence, promoting collaborative learning.



## IH HANDWRITING COMPETITION

The Handwriting Competitions at Vandya International School encouraged students from Grades 1 to 9 to develop neatness, clarity, and presentation in their writing. The Hindi and English competitions saw enthusiastic participation from Grade 1 and 2 students, who showcased impressive penmanship and creativity.

For Grades 3 to 9, an Inter-House Assamese Handwriting Competition motivated students to refine their calligraphy skills. Held in their respective classrooms, the competition was a great success, with students demonstrating remarkable dedication and a passion for handwriting.





## SOF EXAMINATION

Vandya International School successfully conducted three Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF) examinations for Classes I to IX in October and November 2024. The International English Olympiad (IEO) on October 8 assessed students' proficiency in grammar, vocabulary, and comprehension. The International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO) on October 22 challenged students with problem-solving tasks, while the National Science Olympiad (NSO) on November 12 tested their knowledge in Physics, Chemistry, and Biology.

The exams were conducted smoothly, and many students qualified for the next round, showcasing their excellence in academics. The school congratulates all participants and looks forward to their continued success.



## IH SCIENCE EXHIBITION

The Inter-House Science Exhibition Competition held on November 12, 2024, focused on "Sustainable Development." Students from Grades 3 to 9 presented innovative projects promoting environmental conservation.

Category 1 (Grades 3 to 5) showcased models on rainwater harvesting, water purification, sustainable cities, and water alarms. Category 2 (Grades 6 to 9) featured air purification systems, smart goggles for the visually impaired, wind energy models, and earthquake alarms. The exhibition was a great success, fostering creativity and scientific curiosity. Sunbird House won overall, followed by Barbet, Malkoha, and Minivet Houses.



## QUINTILLIAN DEBATES

The VIS Quintilian Debate 2025 was an exhilarating two-day event. The preliminary rounds featured eight teams competing in the WSDC format, engaging in thought-provoking debates on topics ranging from economics and philosophy to climate change and social media ethics. After rigorous rounds, the top four teams advanced to the semi-finals, where impromptu debates tested their ability to think on their feet. The finals saw exceptional performances, with the Kanakata Barua Memorial Award for the best team awarded to Shazaib Raif Hussain, Pragyan R K Deka, Harshiv Surana, and Nishan Das, while the Bani Kanta Kakati Memorial Award for runners-up went to Ayush Longkho, Moksh Sanjeevani Bora, Shayan Hussain, and Mahaniya Kalita. Shazaib Raif Hussain was also honored as the Most Promising Speaker.





## SHOW AND TELL

On the 11th and 12th of November 2024, students of Grade 1 and 2 enthusiastically participated in a fun-filled Show and Tell activity, where they confidently shared their favorite items, ranging from toys and books to artwork and souvenirs. This engaging session helped students build communication skills, express their creativity, and foster confidence while speaking in front of their peers. Teachers encouraged interactive discussions, making the experience both enjoyable and educational. The event was a great success, with students showcasing their individuality and actively listening to one another. Congratulations to all the participants and winners for their wonderful efforts!



## VISIT TO BANK

On 9th and 10th December, the children of Ankuran visited HDFC bank, Amingaon to learn about its operations. They were introduced to different sections of the bank, including the teller counters, and customer service area.

The staff explained the importance of saving money and demonstrated how deposits, and withdrawals work. The children asked insightful questions, making the visit interactive and enriching.

This educational trip provided the students with practical knowledge about banking and money management, making learning fun and meaningful.



## MATHS RELAY

The Maths Relay competition was an engaging and educational event that encouraged teamwork, problem-solving, and a love for mathematics among young learners. A total of 24 students, divided into four teams, participated in the relay, solving six math problems that included addition, subtraction, and multiplication. The event helped students enhance their arithmetic skills while promoting collaboration and strategic thinking.

The winning team included Vivan Bagla, Prisha Kalita, Raajvardhan Sharma, Leona Boro, Lavanya Pandia, and Prachi Kalita, who worked together efficiently to complete the challenge successfully.





## WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

On 9th October 2024, a special assembly was held to observe World Mental Health Day. Conducted by the school's counselling psychologist and special educator, it featured a student speech on mental well-being, a group song promoting hope, and a dance performance symbolizing resilience. The assembly emphasized the importance of mental health, encouraging students to seek help when needed and fostering a culture of care and support within the school community.



## HEALTH CHECKUP

A comprehensive health check-up was conducted in collaboration with medical professionals from the Project Child team, covering students from Nursery to Grade 9. The check-up included assessments in ENT, dental, vision, general health, and overall physical well-being, aiming to detect any potential health concerns early. Specialists examined students for ear, nose, and throat issues, dental hygiene and cavities, vision problems, and general fitness, ensuring timely guidance and recommendations for further care. This initiative reinforced the school's commitment to student health and well-being.



## STUDENT EXCHANGE

Our school welcomed Losel Gyatsho Academy for an enriching exchange program. Arriving at 9:45 AM, the visiting students were warmly greeted by our faculty and students.

The cultural program showcased the rich heritage of our state. Students captivated the audience with a Sattriya dance, folk songs, and the Bihu dance, concluding with the state anthem.

Losel Gyatsho Academy presented an exquisite audio-visual showcase of their institution, followed by colourful folk dances and songs that beautifully illustrated their traditions. This exchange served as an invaluable platform for cultural appreciation and friendship, providing students with a memorable learning experience.





## CLASS PICNIC

The students of Ahaan and Ankuran enjoyed a memorable picnic filled with fun, laughter, and bonding. The Ahaan children had their picnic within the school campus, engaging in exciting games and a lively jam session while sharing snacks and strengthening friendships. Meanwhile, the students of Ankuran visited Atal Udyan at Adaban Tinali, where they explored the serene greenery on a nature walk, played team games, and enjoyed cheerful singing and conversations. The visit also reinforced the importance of environmental preservation, inspiring students to maintain cleanliness and care for nature. As the day came to an end, both groups returned with cherished memories, a renewed sense of camaraderie, and a deep appreciation for the joy of togetherness.



## JOY OF GIVING

The social service club of our school organized the "Joy of Giving" initiative, fostering a spirit of kindness and social responsibility. Led by Mrs. Deepamoni Devi, students visited Pramod Talukdar Memorial Old Age Home, bringing essential food and personal care items. More than just a donation drive, the visit was about building connections and spreading joy. Students spent quality time with the residents, engaging in conversations, playing games, dancing, and sharing stories. The experience left a profound impact on the young participants, inspiring them to pledge continued efforts in making a difference. With sustained commitment, this initiative can grow into a meaningful movement, fostering unity, empathy, and lasting positive change in society.



## MACMILLAN BUDDING SCIENTIST EXHIBITION

Three talented students from Grade 8—Pragyan Rk Deka, Ishan Parash, and Nishant Das proudly represented our school as finalists in the Macmillan Budding Scientist 2024 exhibition, organized in association with IIT and powered by Springer Nature. Selected from over 280 entries across 250 schools in the East Zone, their smart home solution stood out for its innovation and practicality. Featuring an automatic gate system, anti-theft sensors, a water tank alarm, an automatic ringing bell, and a fire detection system, their project impressed judges with its forward-thinking approach to home automation and security. Their confident presentation and dedication earned high praise, reinforcing the importance of nurturing scientific curiosity and innovation among students. We are incredibly proud of their achievement and look forward to more!





# CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



## DANDIYA CELEBRATION

The vibrant Dandiya celebration on 9th October 2024 saw enthusiastic participation from students of Ahaan, Ankuran, and Bodh. The event began with a powerful Mahishasura Mardini performance, depicting the epic battle between Goddess Durga and Mahishasura. This was followed by the energetic Dhunuchi Dance, where dancers skillfully balanced incense-filled earthen pots to the rhythmic beats of the dhol.

The celebration continued with a colorful Garba performance, where students dressed in traditional attire danced in sync with lively tunes. The event concluded with an electrifying Dandiya jam session, filling the atmosphere with joy, energy, and festive spirit.



## IH DANCE COMPETITION

The much-anticipated Inter-House Dance Competition was a vibrant showcase of talent, creativity, and teamwork among students. In the solo performances, Karishmita Mitra (Malkoha) secured first position in the junior category, followed by Nirvi Krishna Goswami (Sunbird) in second and Marylind Kashyap (Minivet) in third. In the senior category, Anushka Anshu Nath (Barbet) claimed first place, with Aarhi Kalita (Minivet) second and Simren Saxena (Malkoha) third. Minivet House won the group performance, followed by Malkoha in second and Sunbird in third. The event successfully fostered a spirit of healthy competition, discipline, and artistic expression among students.



## CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

The Children's Day celebration at our school was a joyful and memorable event filled with excitement and entertainment. The highlight of the day was the presence of renowned singer Abhisruti Bezbaruah, whose soulful performance captivated the audience. The celebrations included a variety of performances by teachers, who showcased their talents through energetic dance performances, soulful songs, and an engaging skit, much to the delight of the students. The event created an atmosphere of joy and appreciation, making it a special and unforgettable day for all students.





## RSL EXAM

Our school has achieved a significant milestone by becoming a registered Examination Centre for Rock School Limited (RSL), an internationally recognized awarding board based in London, UK, with an OFQUAL-certified curriculum. The first RSL India Awards Graded Music Examination NE B 2024 was conducted on 16th and 18th November 2024, with Mr. David Hawthorne from the UK as the examiner. A total of 38 candidates participated, including 24 students from Vandya International School. The results were outstanding, with 7 Distinctions, 22 Merits, and 6 Passes. Ayush Lonkho from Grade 8 was the Centre Topper. These milestones mark a new era of excellence in cultural and music education at VIS, providing an invaluable exposure to our students, enhancing their skills, and opening new avenues for their artistic growth.



## IH SINGING COMPETITION

The Inter House Singing Competition was held in two categories: Group A (Grades III to V) and Group B (Grades VI to IX), with Individual and House categories. In the Individual Category, Nirvi Krishna Goswami of Grade V, Shanaya Dutta of Grade III, and Anika Pathak of Grade III secured the top three positions in Group A, while Ishan Parash of Grade VIII, Puja Pabana Sarma of Grade IX, and Moksh Sanjeevani Bora of Grade VII ranked first, second, and third in Group B.

In the House Category, Sunbird House claimed first place, followed by Barbet and Malkoha Houses. The participants delivered outstanding performances, making the event a grand success.



## BHOGALI BIHU CELEBRATION

Bhogali Bihu was celebrated with a special assembly, embracing Assam's rich cultural heritage. The event began with the prayer "Nisino Tomak Kot Aasa Prabhu", followed by a lively Bihu Naam performance. Students of Ankuran recited "Magh Bihu Aahise", while Aahaan students presented a graceful Bihu dance and an enactment highlighting the festival's significance. The burning of Meji was a key highlight, symbolizing warmth and community spirit. The Principal extended her heartfelt wishes, emphasizing the importance of tradition. The event concluded with the State Anthem, followed by a traditional Assamese breakfast of Doi, Sira, Gur, Laru, and Pitha, and an ethnic Assamese lunch, making the celebration a memorable and immersive experience for all.





## AXOM DIVAS CELEBRATION

The children of Ahaan enthusiastically celebrated Asom Divas, a day dedicated to paying tribute to the founder of the Ahom dynasty, Sukapha, and his contributions to the state of Assam. The event was marked by a vibrant display of cultural performances, including songs, speeches, and dances, all designed to honour and celebrate Assam's rich heritage. Students showcased their talent through traditional Bihu dance and melodious folk songs, filling the atmosphere with pride and festivity.

The event concluded with a heartfelt tribute to the state's traditions, leaving everyone with a sense of pride and appreciation for their cultural roots.



## SATTRIYA EXAM CENTRE

Our school has become a registered sattriya exam centre. A total of seven students from Vandya International School appeared for the Sattriya Exam on January 9, 2025. This prestigious examination was overseen by Dimpri Baishya, an esteemed examiner known for her expertise in Sattriya, one of India's classical dance forms.

The students underwent rigorous assessment, demonstrating their skill, discipline, and dedication to this revered art form. Their participation reflects the school's commitment to nurturing traditional dance and cultural heritage. By embracing Sattriya, they not only honed their artistic abilities but also contributed to preserving Assam's rich legacy.



## REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION

The Republic Day celebration was a vibrant tribute to the nation, bringing together students from Ankuran, Aahaan, and Grades 3-9, along with teachers and staff. The event began with an introduction in Hindi, followed by an English speech highlighting the values of democracy and unity. A Hindi poem expressed deep patriotism, while a graceful dance by Ankuran students captivated the audience. An English poem reinforced the significance of national pride, followed by a patriotic song that filled the atmosphere with enthusiasm.

The celebration concluded with an Assamese poem, honoring the National Flag and instilling a sense of patriotism and unity among students.





# FOUNDER'S DAY

The 2nd Founder's Day commenced with great enthusiasm on 20th December, featuring an exhilarating Sports Day that brought together students, teachers, and parents in a spirited celebration of athleticism and teamwork. The chief guest for the event was Mr Nishant Prakash, Board of Governors, VIS. The event showcased a vibrant mix of performances and competitions, beginning with a graceful umbrella dance and a synchronized mass drill, demonstrating the students' coordination and discipline. A dynamic Taekwondo demonstration left the audience in awe, highlighting strength, agility, and self-defense skills.

The sporting events kept the energy soaring, with participants competing in relay races, 100-meter and 200-meter sprints, displaying remarkable speed and endurance. The tug-of-war between parents and teachers was a major highlight, drawing loud cheers and enthusiastic participation from both sides. Other thrilling races, including the three-legged race and sack race, added a fun and competitive spirit to the day, fostering teamwork and determination among students. The march past by different house teams exhibited discipline and unity, while the school band played energetic tunes to keep the excitement alive. The prize distribution ceremony was a proud moment for all participants as winners were honored for their outstanding performances, receiving medals and certificates as a token of appreciation. The event not only encouraged healthy competition but also reinforced values of sportsmanship, perseverance, and teamwork.



Following an exhilarating Sports Day, the 2nd Founders' Day celebrations continued with a mesmerizing Cultural Evening graced by Mrs Sangita Bhuyan Mehta. The event began with Mangala Charan, a traditional invocation dance, setting a graceful and spiritual tone for the evening. This was followed by a harmonious A cappella performance, where students impressed the audience with their vocal talent, and a soul-stirring orchestra, filling the venue with melodious symphonies. The creativity continued with Whimsical Seasons, a beautifully choreographed performance depicting nature's changing moods, and Hope: A Musical Voyage, a captivating blend of music and storytelling that conveyed messages of optimism and perseverance. The energy soared with Tinsel Tunes, a festive and lively composition that had the audience enthralled. The much-anticipated Ballet by Ahaan left everyone spellbound with its elegance, poise, and expressive storytelling through dance.

The evening reached a heartfelt conclusion with the School Song, sung in unison by students, teachers, and alumni, reflecting the unity and values of Vandya International School. The Cultural Evening was a perfect blend of tradition, creativity, and artistic excellence, leaving a lasting impression on all.



The second day of Vandya International School's 2nd Founders' Day celebrations on 21st December commenced with a vibrant Fete and Science Exhibition, graced by Chief Guest Prof. Davindra Jalhal, who commended the students for their innovation and enthusiasm. The Fete featured a variety of engaging stalls offering games, delectable treats, and handcrafted items, creating a lively and festive atmosphere.

The Science Exhibition, themed "Past, Present, and Future," highlighted historical breakthroughs, contemporary advancements, and futuristic innovations. Students showcased projects on sustainability, artificial intelligence, space exploration, and medical advancements, impressing visitors with their creativity and scientific insight. The event was a perfect blend of learning and enjoyment, fostering curiosity and collaboration as the Founders' Day celebrations continued.



Following the Fete and Science Exhibition, the celebrations continued with a One-Act Play, graced by Chief Guest Ms. Laxmi Agarwal, who praised the students' theatrical talent and dedication.

The Vandyans brought to life William Shakespeare's classic, *The Merchant of Venice* with remarkable performances. Each student seamlessly embodied their character, delivering dialogues with precision and depth. The iconic courtroom scene was particularly gripping, showcasing the students' confidence and expressive storytelling.

With period costumes, compelling stage presence, and well-rehearsed dialogue delivery, the play captivated the audience. The performance was a testament to the students' artistic flair and appreciation for classic literature, making it a memorable highlight of the celebrations.



Following the One-Act Play, the much-awaited Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony recognized students for their excellence in various fields. Chief Guest Ms. Laxmi Agarwal felicitated the achievers, applauding their dedication and hard work.

Prizes were awarded for inter-house activities conducted throughout the year, celebrating students' talents in sports, cultural events, and competitions. Academic excellence, 100% attendance, and house awards were also presented, acknowledging perseverance, discipline, and teamwork. The winning House Trophies added to the excitement, with cheers echoing through the auditorium. The two-day event concluded with a hearty dinner, where students, teachers, parents, and guests came together to celebrate the success of the Founders' Day festivities. The event ended on a high note, leaving everyone with cherished memories and a renewed sense of school spirit.





# SPORTS ACTIVITIES

## IH FOOTBALL COMPETITION

The Inter-House Football competition concluded with an exhilarating display of skill and sportsmanship, as teams battled fiercely for the top spot. After a series of intense and competitive matches, Minivet House emerged as the champion, showcasing exceptional teamwork and strategy, while Barbet House secured a commendable second place. Malkoha House claimed third place with a strong performance, followed closely by Sunbird House in fourth place. The tournament not only highlighted the students' passion for football but also reinforced the values of teamwork, perseverance, and fair play, making it a truly memorable event for all.



## IH SKATING COMPETITION

The Inter-House Skating Competition was held at the Skating Arena, bringing together talented participants who showcased remarkable skill, enthusiasm, and team spirit. Competitors from all houses took part in various race categories, including 100 meters, 300 meters, 400 meters, and 500 meters, demonstrating speed, balance, and determination. The atmosphere was electric, with students pushing their limits while the audience cheered them on with great excitement. The event highlighted not only athletic excellence but also resilience and sportsmanship, making it a thrilling and memorable competition.



## CRICKET DAY

The Cricket Day was a fun-filled event where Grade 1 and Grade 2 students enthusiastically participated in batting, bowling, fielding drills, and mini-matches, fostering teamwork and sportsmanship. The day began with an opening ceremony, followed by exciting activities that introduced young learners to the basics of cricket in an engaging and supportive environment. The highlight was the mini cricket matches, where students showcased their enthusiasm and growing skills. Beyond the game, the event encouraged friendships, confidence, and cooperation, making it a memorable and successful celebration of sports and teamwork.





# YOUNG ACHIEVERS



Nirvan Siotia of Grade II B secured the Silver Medal in the Sub-Junior Boys Under-18 kg weight category, while Dhaani Kumar of Grade IX earned the Bronze Medal in the Cadet Girls Individual Poomsae Category at the Bosco Olympic Games 2024. Their outstanding performances in the Taekwondo event, held on October 26, 2024, at Don Bosco School, Guwahati, showcased their remarkable skills and dedication.

Students shined at the 3rd All Assam Inter-School Taekwondo Competition, held from November 3 to 5, 2024, showcasing exceptional skill and determination. Jiaansh Sharma of Lower Kindergarten, the youngest competitor, secured Gold in the Below 5 years Boys Under-15 kg category. Pranavi Siotia of Upper Kindergarten won Gold in the Below 5 years Girls Under-14 kg category. Nirvaan Siotia of Grade II B earned Gold in the Below 8 years Boys Under-17 kg category, while Meshva Sharma of Grade I A claimed Bronze in the Below 8 years Girls Under-29 kg category.

Demonstrating exceptional teamwork and skill, the Assam Girls' Team emerged victorious at the 3rd East Zone Mini National Roll Ball Championship (Under 11), held on November 9 and 10, 2024, in Kolkata, West Bengal. Competing against top teams from the region, they showcased outstanding prowess to clinch the Gold Medal. Among the champions was Yashvi Kankaria of Grade II A, who played a vital role in the team's success. Her remarkable achievement is a testament to her dedication and passion for the sport. The Vandy community takes immense pride in her accomplishment.


With unwavering determination and skill, Jonak Jiwan Das of Grade II B secured the Silver Medal in the Sub-Junior Boys (Under 25 kg) category at the 3rd Inter-School Taekwondo Championship 2024. The prestigious event, organized by Sarala Birla Gyan Jyoti, Guwahati, was held on November 15 and 16, 2024, bringing together young martial artists from across the region. Jonak's remarkable performance reflects his dedication and passion for the sport, making the Vandy community immensely proud. Congratulations to Jonak on this commendable achievement!

Vandya International School triumphed at the Rising Champions Cup 2025, held at SBOA Public School, Guwahati, winning the Best School Trophy with an outstanding chess performance. The team, comprising Nirvan Siotia, Riyansh Jain, Ayansh Jain, Saurya Veer Hadalka, Reyansh Agarwala, Shivay Poddar, Sivam Roy Choudhury of Grade 2, and Maurya Chachan of Grade 3, showcased exceptional skill. A special mention to Divisha Jain of Grade 2 for securing 5th place in the Girls' Category. Congratulations to all for making the Vandy community proud!

Ayansh Jain of Grade II A delivered an impressive performance at the Guwahati Chess Classics 2024, securing the Second Runner-Up Trophy in the Under-9 and Open Category. The tournament, organized by Northeast Chess India at Prabhuji, Jayanagar, witnessed intense competition, and Ayansh's strategic brilliance earned him a well-deserved place on the podium.



The Vandy community is immensely proud of his achievement—congratulations, Ayansh! Keep up the great work!






Simran Saxena of Grade IX proudly represented Assam at the 2nd Junior East Zone National Roll Ball Championship, held from November 30 to December 1, 2024, at Dispur Skating Rink, Guwahati. Displaying exceptional skill and determination, Simran contributed to the Assam Team's victory, securing the championship title.

Heartiest congratulations to Simran and the Assam Team for their brilliant performance!





Parshv Agarwala secured second place in the Girls' Floor Event, while Dheer Parasramka finished third in the Boys' Floor Event at the Inter-School Gymnastics Championship 2024. The event, organized by the Sports Authority of Assam, was held at Bhoreshwari Phukanani Indoor Stadium on December 15.

Their dedication and talent shone through, bringing pride to the Vandya community with their remarkable performances.




Vandya International School achieved remarkable success at the 6th Annual National Martial Arts Games 2024, held at Shilpgram, NEZCC, Guwahati, from December 27 to 29, 2024. Nirvan Siotia of Grade 2B secured the Gold Medal in the Under-18 kg Below 8 Years Sub-Junior Boys category and was also honored as the Best Fighter in his age group. Pranavi Siotia of Upper KG added to the school's glory by winning the Gold Medal in the Under-15 kg Below 5 Years Girls category.




Prisha Agarwalla (Grade 2A) and Kaashvi Bagaria (Grade 1A) showcased their exceptional talent at the National Level Group Folk Dance Competition, securing second place at the event held on December 28, 2024, at Satya Nath Hall, Dighali Pukhuri, East Guwahati. Their mesmerizing performance and graceful expressions captivated the audience and judges alike, earning them this prestigious recognition.

Such accomplishments continue to inspire young artists, reinforcing the school's commitment to nurturing creativity and talent.




Yashvi Kankaria of Grade II has etched her name in the Assam Book of Records with a unique Bharatanatyam performance on inline skates. At just 8 years old, she set a state record by performing for 2 minutes and 48 seconds, blending grace with athleticism in a remarkable feat.

Her dedication, creativity, and perseverance exemplify the spirit of excellence nurtured at Vandya International School. This outstanding accomplishment is a testament to her passion and discipline in both dance and sports.




Jonak Jiwan Das of Grade 2B showcased outstanding skill and determination at the KBI Open International Karate Championship 2025, held on January 4th and 5th in Karnataka. Competing against young athletes from across the country, he secured two gold medals in Kata and Kumite, demonstrating exceptional technique and discipline.


His remarkable achievement highlights his dedication and passion for martial arts, bringing immense pride to the school.








Our students demonstrated exceptional skill at the Rising Champions Cup 2025, held at SBOA Public School, Guwahati, securing the Best School Trophy in chess. The team included Nirvan Siotia of Grade 2, Riyanish Jain of Grade 2, Ayansh Jain of Grade 2, Saurya Veer Harlalka of Grade 2, Reyansh Agarwala of Grade 2, Shivay Poddar of Grade 2, Sivam Roy Choudhury of Grade 2, and Maurya Chachan of Grade 3. A special mention goes to Divisha Jain of Grade 2B for securing 5th position in the Girls' Category. Their dedication and critical thinking on the chessboard continue to inspire the Vandya community.



Simran Saxena of Grade IX made a remarkable impact at the 16th Junior National Roll Ball Championship in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, representing Assam and securing the Gold Medal. Competing at a national level, her dedication and skill contributed to her team's success, bringing immense pride to Vandya International School.

Her achievement stands as an inspiration, showcasing perseverance and excellence in the sport!



Ojasvi Jain of Grade 3 secured second place in the Classical Dance category at Nritya Manjary 2024-2025, held on December 28, 2024, in Guwahati. Her graceful performance and dedication to the art form earned her this prestigious recognition.

Her achievement reflects the vibrant cultural spirit at Vandya International School, bringing immense pride to the institution.





# STUDENTS' SECTION

## The Milkmaid

A milkmaid was on her way to the market to sell some milk from her cow. As she carried the large jar of milk on top of her head, she began to dream of all the things she could do after selling the milk. "With that money, I'll buy a hundred chicks to rear in my backyard. When they are fully grown, I can sell them at a good price at the market." As she walked on, she continued dreaming. "Then I'll buy two young goats and rear them on the grass close by. When they are fully grown, I can sell them at an even better price."

Still dreaming, she said to herself, "Soon, I'll be able to buy another cow, and I will have more milk to sell. Then I shall have even more money." With these happy thoughts, she began to skip and jump. Suddenly she tripped and fell. The jar broke, and all the milk spilled onto the ground. No more dreaming now, she sat down and cried.

Samayra Deka Kalita, Grade 2B

## Walking in Someone Else's Shoes

Have you ever paused to take a stride,  
Not in your own, but the steps others hide?  
To feel their struggles, joys, or fears,  
To see the world through their eyes and tears?

The shoes may pinch, the path might twist,  
A journey unseen on life's long list.  
The weight they bear, the dreams they chase,  
Are etched in every line and lace.

A soldier marches with courage bold,  
A farmer toils where the earth turns gold.  
A teacher inspires with quiet grace,  
Each life a story, each step a trace.

Walking in their shoes, the lessons unfold,  
Empathy blooms, more precious than gold.  
For when we step where others tread,  
We mend the gaps where kindness has fled.

So pause a while, and walk their way,  
Feel their night, and know their day.  
In every step, a bond renews,  
When we dare to walk in someone else's shoes.

Alaina Thomas, Grade 6

## The Tree

The tree is my mate.  
It gives me shade,  
It gives me shelter,  
Under this, so many of us played.  
Its branches dance in joy.  
And reflect happiness, as equal as a toy.  
It blocks the light of the sun,  
We play hide and seek around it.

Oh! What fun!!

Prisha Agarwal, Grade 2B

## My Two Dogs

Goody and Nicy are their names,  
Black and golden are their colors.  
They are my two dogs,  
One is calm, the other mature.

They are five,  
I am eleven.  
We are good friends even,  
Playing with them  
Feels like I'm in heaven.

Drihita Benerjee, Grade 5



# CREATIVE CORNER



Suraj Pratim Sonowal, Grade 8



Puja Pabana Sarma, Grade 9



Dhairya Jhabak, Grade 2



Namasshya Parashar, Grade 7



# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Readers,

As this session comes to an end, we proudly celebrate the successful completion of the 7th edition of our publication. It has been a truly remarkable year, filled with exciting activities, events, and memorable experiences that brought us all together.

From engaging competitions to insightful discussions, creative showcases to inspiring achievements, this edition reflects the spirit, dedication, and enthusiasm of everyone involved. Each page tells a story of growth, learning, and shared moments that made this journey special.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our contributors, editorial team, and, most importantly, our readers for their unwavering support and participation. Your encouragement motivates us to keep improving and bringing forth content that informs, entertains, and inspires.

As we wrap up this edition, we look forward to another year of innovation, collaboration, and excellence. Thank you for being a part of this journey. Here's to new beginnings and even greater milestones ahead!

Warm regards,  
Niharika Chakravarti  
Editor, Vandy Insights

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