



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It has been another fruitful session; 2017-18 for the Deens Academy. Every year we add new feathers to our cap. Keeping with the trend, teachers and students brought many laurels to the institution. I would like to take this opportunity to mention the exceptional performance by our students in Asset Talent Search, placing our school among the few top scoring schools. The teachers proved once again that they are unmatched when it comes to innovative teaching, winning the TAFIT awards. Let's end this year on a great note. Here's wishing all in the school a very happy annual break.

"Dear Past, thanks for all the lessons..... Dear Future, here I come."

-Ayesha Khan - 7A

## AN INTERVIEW WITH THE CCTV CO-ORDINATOR

Yet another member has been added to our family, here at Deens. All students and faculty of Deens would like to welcome Ms. Kirti C. our new CCTV Co-ordinator to our school. Surveillance is not a form of intrusion into our lives here at Deens but a mere way to keep an eye on our beloved school. So, let's welcome Ms. Kirti to Deens with open arms.



### An Interview with Kirti Ma'am

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of March, we had the pleasure of interviewing Kirti C. ma'am, the teacher monitoring of the CCTV cameras installed at our school. Ma'am has joined our school recently on the 8<sup>th</sup> of Jan and has been monitoring the cameras ever since. On speaking to her and on asking her a few question we learnt a lot about how our school is being monitored. Here are some of the really interesting answers we received.

1. What are the benefits of a having CCTV surveillance at the school and how is it beneficial to the students and the teachers.

Currently there are 183 cameras installed at Deens and this surveillance is very important and beneficial as you can see the whole school at one glance and when an emergency of any kind arises, immediate help and assistance can be provided to both the students and the teachers. These cameras also help us monitor the various visitors our school.



- 2 Would you prefer walking through the school and having face-to-face meetings with the students or is this CCTV system your preference?

I prefer the CCTV system as our school campus is very big and if I'm in one place and an emergency arises at another, I will have no idea and will not be able to provide any aid and assistance on time.

- 3 .Have you seen any drastic changes in the behaviour of the students since the time that you joined.

Yes, since the day that I have joined, all students are better behaved than earlier. This was because even though there were cameras earlier, it was common knowledge amongst the students that no one was monitoring them, so they wouldn't give a second thought about the cameras. But now since everyone knows that I'm monitoring these cameras, they think twice before creating any trouble.

- 4 .What is the funniest thing that you have caught students doing on the cameras?

The funniest thing that I have seen so far is Kideens' students dancing in their classrooms when no teacher is around. It's actually pretty adorable!

- 5 . If you were given an opportunity to have any other job at Deens, what would you want to do?

I wouldn't change my job as I rather enjoy monitoring all the CCTV cameras.

After hearing all this about CCTV cameras I'm pretty sure you're going to think twice before doing anything silly. Remember, Ma'am is always going to be watching you!

*Anindita, Anusree, Maithreyi, Nivedita, Aakriti*

## REFLECTIONS

### Grade 7 The Year I Will Never Forget:

Grade 7 was an amazing year. Mostly because of my friends. I was really excited to begin with the year when I got to know that I had all my friends in my class. Today I am going to share some of the few things I liked about this year.



1) 15<sup>th</sup> August. A day I will always remember; giving a speech in front of the entire school isn't easy. When thousand eyes look at you, you do feel scared. But after giving my speech, I felt proud. One reason was that Shanthi Ma'am was listening to it. I was really happy I got to speak in front of the school.

2) Food Fest. A yummy experience-I had a lot of fun preparing for our food fest. Our class was really happy that we could set up stalls by ourselves. We came up with a really exciting theme "Food from around the World". We had food from Mexico, Italy, Germany and India. We made posters, menu cards. Our fest was great and our class collected the most amount of money.

3)Cheshire home. A heart melting experience. -When we completed a chapter from our textbook 'Boodhi Kaki' some students were selected to go to a nearby Cheshire home. I was one of them. When we reached we got talk to them and know the difficulties they have to face. We learnt that there are people cruel enough to leave their parents who helped them grow up, abandoned. This experience will never be forgotten by me.

4)Resonart.A fun-filled day: being in Resonart is fun and we have to put a good amount of hard work. I was in the Hindi Resonart with Sanvi from our class. We performed a street play on the difficulties the elderly have to face. I also helped with the other subjects. It's really fun to be with friends and help each other.

These were only a few instances. I really loved 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and wish to have such fun filled times in the coming years.

-Navya Singh 7B

## REFLECTIONS

### Grade 7 The Year That Was.....

It all started with this excited-nervous feeling of being in a new grade, just like all other academic sessions. When I reached school, I was glad to see some of my old classmates from last year, and my best friends after the long, two month summer vacation.



It was only a month since the pressure of a new class and studies began to rise when I was surprisingly relieved by watching the "SNIFF!" movie as a part of our school field trip. It was after this that I felt like going to the chemistry lab, knocking down some test tubes and flasks with chemicals in it, smelling their solution, and attaining super natural powers. Not only watching a movie was relaxing enough, but also petting the two dogs that were brought to school by the CUPA foundation, was probably the most satisfying thing that could ever happen in schools. All thanks to our very thoughtful teachers. Gradually, I got used to this environment and, well, at least tried to start liking a few subjects as we also had to focus on studies rather than such events. After our exams got over, a few of us were taken to the Cheshire Homes where I felt an emotional bonding towards the elderly and to serve them as a means of expressing gratitude towards them. Not very long after this, the whole of 7<sup>th</sup> grade was rejuvenated by a lifetime experience of visiting the Gurudwara of Ulsoor where we learned the true meaning of life, to serve others and care about them. Over there, we were given knowledge about the religion of Sikhism, and we also helped the staff in the preparation of the Langar. After so many outings, I thought that I was pretty much done with 7<sup>th</sup> grade and now it was only time to focus on SA2. But that wasn't it. We were all taken to a trek where we climbed Nandi 1 and enjoyed our time a lot with everybody.

The year is coming to an end now. I would never forget my experience of being in grade 7, as according to me, I think that Grade 7B, batch of 2017-18 was a supercalifragilisticexpialidocious year that just went by.

– Tanay 7B

### A DAY AT CHARLIES ANIMAL RESCUE CENTRE

Charlies Animal Rescue Centre – CARE established in January 2013 located at Yelahanka in Bangalore North aims at the rescue and rehabilitation of animals in need. This shelter is a home to animals of all kinds, which includes dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rabbits, pigs, ducks and a calf. These animals are permanent residents of CARE due to their varying needs and special conditions – blindness, differently abled, paraplegic, serious ailments, aged and who require constant care, medical attention and love. These animals will live at CARE for the rest of their lives.



I had the opportunity to volunteer my services at CARE for a few hours under guided supervision. I played with the dogs and cats. Gave the shelter animal a bath and groomed them. I also built small Hidey houses for the cats. At the end of my work, I felt a great sense of satisfaction helping the animals in need.

Social Work Report – Ashish Gowda, 7D



### Grade Seven, The Year That Was....

Grade 7B ; there are loads of adjectives that I could use to describe our class: fun, outspoken, insanely mischevious and decidedly crazy. Our class of 25 reminds me a lot of a pack of wolves. We're all different and amazing in our own ways but we're always standing united. This year, we've been through thick and thin together, all with one goal ahead of us: surviving the seventh grade.....



Like every pack, we've all had challenges thrown at us and we're all clawing to be at the top. Just that in our case, we don't literally kill to get there. But the best thing about us and what truly makes us a pack is that we would never betray each other. This year we've all faced our own hurdles and waged our own wars but as a class. We've been through a lot more. Be it getting tonnes and tonnes of homework for one weekend, visits to the headmistress's office, organizing 'Honest' assemblies, going through crazy exams, and even getting close to suspension for erasing the chalkboard! Aside from this, there's yet another thing our class is subjected to, visits from our neighbours: The Teachers' Staff Room. This year we've had the luck of being stuck literally right outside the staff room because of which we've lived under the constant fear that some teacher or the other is gonna stick her head in and yell at us for, and I quote, 'making so much noise'. I mean what do you expect, a class of 25 kids to keep quiet?

There's yet another thing our class is AMAZING at (though I don't suppose it's a good thing) : Complaining. We may not realise it, but as I was reflecting and thinking about our class, I realised that we always have something to complain about. Teachers, homework, computers, projectors, each other, You name it and we've most probably complained and whined about it! If you noticed, even earlier on I complained about teachers! And now, there's yet another thing I'm gonna complain about: This academic year ending. Like everyone else, I'm definitely waiting for summer but I genuinely gonna miss this crazily cool class of ours. I'm not saying our class is perfect, cause it's not. But quite frankly, I love it the way it is and do not want it to change one bit. We may be shuffled next year, we may not and if we aren't I am going to be completely fine if not overjoyed cause this year has definitely been one of my favourites!

Anandita Saha, 7B

### OUR SCHOOL FIELD TRIP TO THE NANDI HILLS

Students of classes of 7E, 7D and 7A went on a field trip where we trekked up the second tallest hill of the sisters of the Nandi hills called Makalidurga on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2018. We all started the journey at 6:00 AM. Once we reached the destination we met our guides who were from "India Hikes" and explained the different rules of climbing a mountain. As we started the ascent we first went through a bumpy road and then through the hill where we encountered thorns in a rough patch. We climbed up tall rocks and most of all enjoyed the experience.



We also met different kind of creatures like a stick insect, camouflaging lizard and different types of birds. We also got to learn some cool tricks like how to make a ranger role. Even when the climb was exhausting, the splendid view washed away our pain. After a long time which felt like ages we reached the top where we found out we were 4500 feet above sea level. We then ate our lunch and started the descent which was twice more difficult. It took time but we finally made it back to ground. We then went back home at 4:30 PM and told our relatives about our spectacular journey.

Arjun Syam-7D

## DEENS HALL OF FAME - TAFIT AWARD WINNERS

### An Interview with Naomi Ma'am:

This interview was recorded on the 7<sup>th</sup> of Feb, 2018, regarding the TAFIT Runner Up Award for history received by Naomi Nair.

**Suzanne:** Can you tell us a little more about the competition?

**Naomi Ma'am:** The Times Of India Award for Innovative Teaching was a competition hosted by the Times Foundation in collaboration with Christ University. It was open to both private and government schools. We had to submit the evidence in an innovative way.

There were about a 100 nominations out of which around 39 were short listed and there were 14 prizes. 7 winners and 7 runner-ups.



**Aditi:** How did you prepare for your lessons?

**Naomi Ma'am:** By curriculum, the next chapter was 'Media and Democracy', which was a very interesting chapter as there were plenty of real life scenarios and it was student centered and full of activities to help the students understand concepts. It also helped the students explore on their own.

**Suzanne:** What did you submit as your portfolio?

**Naomi Ma'am:** I had chosen activities like the newspaper making activity, and 'Let's Make Headlines' and News channel videos. I had also taken videos of me taking classes and students' feedbacks. I combined it all in one video and that was my final work which I submitted.

**Aditi:** Were you nervous before the results?

**Naomi Ma'am:** YES. In fact I was very nervous all through the competition, right from 9:30 to 2:30. But there were other teachers who helped me calm down a bit.

**Suzanne:** Was the competition tough?

**Naomi Ma'am:** Actually, it wasn't that tough. But that didn't stop it from being intense. Even though it was huge challenge, it was quite fun getting the portfolio ready.

**Aditi:** How did you feel after winning the prize?

**Naomi Ma'am:** Oh, I felt on top of the world. I felt so excited, I started sharing pictures of the award before I knew it. I was really really happy because it was a high level award in my early career.

**Suzanne:** Overall, how was your experience?

**Naomi Ma'am:** It was a wonderful experience as it was the first time being nominated for an award like this. It was very challenging but it also helped me explore teaching in a new manner.

- Interview team-Shobhit Arya, Aditi A P, Suzanne Deepu George and Vaibhav Raj

### An Interview with Farah Ma'am:

Farah Ma'am a Math's Teacher at our school had won an award from Times of India Called the TAFIT Award (Times Award for Innovative Teaching) for Innovative Teaching in Math. An Interview Done with Farah Ma'am by the Students of 7D.



**Manjari-** Can you tell us something about your experience at Deens? And what do you love the most about our school?

**Farah Ma'am-** My experience at Deens has been very good and the fact which I love about Deens is that the studies here is not done for projecting it for others to see, but so that the children can benefit by the studies they are doing and that it can be of some help to their life.

**Tejas Murthy-** How did you prepare for the competition?

**Farah Ma'am-** First thing I did before preparing my presentation for the competition was the bases on which I would do my presentation. First off, the time used for my chapter- there should be a specific time given to the length and importance to the chapter and teach it so that the students understand the chapter and concepts and not rush through it. Second point-Why I was teaching the particular subjects, the chapter should not be taught just for the sake of marks but so that some of the concepts may help in life.

**Abhijit Nahlam-** Did you get any inputs from the previous contestants or winners?

**Farah Ma'am-** I had gotten inputs actually from two teachers Kavitha Ma'am and Nazia Ma'am. Kavitha Ma'am had shown me ways of teaching with innovative ideas to teach the children rather than teaching in the same way as before. Nazia Ma'am had given me advice on how to improve my lesson plans and how to make it in a way that it could be different from the usual lesson plans.

**Tejas Sharma-** How did you feel while walking onto the stage to collect your award? What would be your advice to the future contestants?

**Farah Ma'am-** I had felt nervous while walking onto the stage and when they called out my name I had not expected it. I would give advice to future contestants that they should take everything that could improve their presentation into consideration and that they should make their ideas accessible so that it can be used by teachers in both Rural and Urban Schools no matter what the resources.

Interview team: Manjari Pathak, Abhijit Nahlam, Tejas Sharma, Tejas Murthy  
Edited and Formatted By Tejas Murthy 7D

### An Interview with Vijayata Ma'am:

On the 14th of February, we students of Class 7A interviewed Vijayata ma'am, who recently won the TAFIT Award (Teachers Award for Innovative Teaching). Let's have a look at the interview-

**Ayesha:** So Ma'am, for how many years have you been teaching?

**Vijayata Ma'am:** It's been nine years now.

**Ayesha:** Is teaching a passion for you or a job?

**Vijayata Ma'am:** It is definitely a passion. I love my students as my own children and they reciprocate and love me too.

**Vijayata Ma'am:** One of the reasons I chose to teach Hindi is because it is my mother-tongue. It's also a challenge as being in South India makes teaching Hindi easier said than done, and I like taking up such challenges that test my determination and passion.



**Niyati:** Coming to the award you won, how do you feel after winning it?

**Vijayata Ma'am:** It was a wonderful experience. All the planning and execution and Shanti ma'am's inspiration and encouragement lead to my success.

**Priyamvada:** You must have gone through a lot of struggle before you won. For how long have you been preparing?

**Vijayata Ma'am:** I started preparations 1 and a half months before the programme. The planning was helpful and made it very easy for me. I enjoyed every moment of it, from receiving a letter to receiving the award.

**Priyamvada:** Are you planning to add anything to your way of teaching?

**Vijayata ma'am:** Oh, I don't think so. I like the way I teach and my students seem to understand what I explain.

**Anika:** Did you expect winning the award or did it come to you as a surprise?

**Vijayata Ma'am:** It was a big surprise. I was scared, and there were so many participants that were standing there made me nervous. I did not expect winning out of all the other contestants.

**Anika:** If you weren't teaching Hindi, which subject would you teach?

**Vijayata Ma'am:** I would love to teach life skills and moral values to my students.

**Krithika:** Have you taught at any other school? How was experience in Deens Academy?

**Vijayata ma'am:** I have only taught at Deens, because till now it gave me everything. I have experienced being a House Mistress twice, an exam incharge and many more such roles. Each of my nine years offered me nine different roles to play.

**Krithika:** Do you have any other achievements that you are proud of?

**Vijayata Ma'am:** I am happy that I cleared my CTET (Central Teachers Eligibility Test).

**Ayesha:** Thank you for your time, Ma'am.

**Vijayata Ma'am:** You're most welcome.

Interview Team: Priyamvada, Ayesha, Krithika, Niyati and Anika (7A)

## STORY TIME - LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

"I'll give you another chance," the old man said

Tick... Tick... Tick .A sound rung in my head. It sounded like a clock but louder much louder. I tried opening my eyes but couldn't. Color filled my imagination. The environment seemed completely cheerful and beautiful but then everything turned to darkness. A beam of light made its way and a figure was visible. It was a young boy about my age. He surprisingly looked like me but with manly features. "Hey!" he started "Remember me?" I looked at him confused. "I am one of the deceased, you ended my life, remember?" he continued "we were downstairs, you were eleven, Alexis, I was sixteen" "You are not real, how do you know me?" I blurt out and look around for an escape route. I follow the source of light, from a far lit room. I ran and ran keeping my pace. It felt like hours until I finally gave up. Suddenly a flashback hit me.



" Alexis, don't trouble your brother," A motherly voice said "I'll be back soon." I thought I had no one but now I know I had a mother. "Lukas don't forget to finish your homework alright." mother yelled. Before anyone else could speak... Tick... Tick... Tick. A loud voice rang ... I knew that voice. Everything else was a blur but I could make out that I was the reason my mother died. I was too shocked to move but I kept staring at her now lifeless body. "What happened?" a boy ran downstairs. Nothing came out of my mouth. The boy, supposedly Lukas looked exactly like. Like the boy I saw earlier. Tick... Tick... Tick the voice rang again and a blur is all I got. He was dead as well. It was the end. It was the truth.

I opened my eyes to see a large white room. I tried recovering from what I saw but in vain. I looked up and saw an old man. "I'll give you another chance," the old man said. "I didn't have a family," I replied "What chance?" "You see they wiped your memory,"

He said "A chance to protect your family."

He snapped his fingers and the room changed. A recording was played in my head over and over. Filing my memories with facts I missed, training me. After long months I was finally ready, more than just ready. It was my last chance. I made my way through the city. It felt weird seeing my younger self. It was time. The same repeated and I couldn't change a thing. I soon realized I was a contaminant, a person or a character that could change personalities more like get easily manipulated, without the self knowing or noticing.

I was nothing but an abduction being experimented on. Those people who brought me here wanted something I had to find before they did. But most importantly I wouldn't get my family back. "Then what happened?" said a small voice. A boy about six spoke up.

"Let me finish," the grandma said ", so where was I?" And she continued.

I thought it was the end until a boy who looked like my late brother showed up into the blue. He looked so much like Lukas. He finally started "It's not the end" he said

And well-

"Then what grandma" said the curious boy "And well it is bed time." replied the grandma. The child complained but obeyed anyways. The lights went out and for once all was quiet.



-Aakriti 7B

## ENGLISH RESONART

Last Saturday, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February, grades 6 – 8 put for their artistic skills and we had our annual Resonart. Grade 7 had a lot going on, but a showcase in the English department, left all the parents thinking about the greatest of geniuses, William Shakespeare. Representing Grade 7 in the English Resonart, we put up our own version of Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice.



Our various characters were Portia played by Ayesha of 7A, Bassanio played by Niyati of 7A, Antonio played by Vedarth of 7B, Shylock played by Anindita of 7B, Gratiano played by Saam of 7B, Nerissa played by Mahi of 7C and our amazing Narrator, Sri Lakshmi of 7C. Costumes were put on, girls were impersonating guys and a lot of other crazy things!

Our play told the story of how Bassanio approached a money – lender by the name of Antonio, who so happened to be one of his greatest friends, to borrow some money. However, Antonio was unable to do so as all his money was tied up with his ships which were currently at sea. The two then approached Shylock. Shlock was also a money – lender but was also an enemy of Antonio. They then convinced Shylock to lend them a sum of 3000 Aducats on the condition that Antonio would sign an agreement which stated that he would part with a pound of flesh from his body if he failed to return the money by a certain day. Antonio agreed and they set of with the money. Bassanio then set out to woo the love of his life, Portia and they were soon married along with the marriage of Nerissa and Gratiano.



The day to return the money to Shlock had come but sadly Antonio's ships were still at sea! He now had to part with a pound of flesh from his body! It was then that Portia decided to take matters into her own hands and disguised as a lawyer of the name Balthasar, she set out to save her husband's friends life. Dressed as a a lawyer, Portia then found a loop – hole in Shylock's statement and told him that he could readily take the flesh from Antonio's body but not a single drop of blood was to fall from Antnio's body. Shylock had been outsmarted and they all lived their lives happily from then on, all except Shlock, of course!

We all enjoyed putting up the play and couldn't have done so without the help of our english teacher, Baljeet ma'am.

Along with the play we also had some fun games conducted by Aria and Ananya of 7D and Anusree of 7E, where parents put their inner linguist to the test!

This experience was a brilliant one indeed and we all look forward to doing it again next year!

-Anindita Saha 7B