

From the Head's desk - February 2021



Dear parent,

Have you noticed the print advertisements of LG Electronics, Lenovo, Haier, Apple, Kenwood, Samsung, Philips and some other electronics companies? Their tag lines specifically; it ranges from 'Life's Good' to 'Innovation & You' to 'Imagine' to 'Inspire the Next' to 'For Those Who Do' and so on. I have always found these taglines of companies very interesting and intriguing. What makes a company choose such taglines? What does it do to their customers? How does it impact their work as an organization?

These thoughts were running through my mind, yet again, recently, during our AAIS Team meet. This weekly virtual ritual is when, across programmes and campuses, the pedagogical leaders share updates on various happenings in the programmes, seek clarifications, answer questions raised, offer suggestions, make decisions and so on.

Many of the developments and events that have happened in the past several weeks (and in some cases, months) were very inspiring and refreshing to hear.

The virtual mode has opened up and helped renew several contacts. During a workshop a while ago, I had met an enthusiastic teacher-leader from Mumbai. We were in touch occasionally. A few months ago, when she came to Chennai, she visited us at the School. A conversation with her opened up opportunities for our High School students to engage in what is now called the 'Global CAS Programme'. As you know, CAS : *Creativity, Activity, Service* is a core component of the IB Diploma Programme and our students engage in various Service Learning Projects. As a School we have always looked for projects that our Students can engage in hands-on. The pandemic and lack of physical mobility did pose a challenge and Ms Saraswathi, our CAS Coordinator and her team have been looking for various opportunities and ideas to keep our students engaged and motivated.

This opportunity, that my colleague from Mumbai shared, was lapped up by the AAIS community. Now, we have students engaging with other students from cities across India, Lebanon, New Zealand and Pakistan on projects they strongly care about. As a parent, you must have received a message about one of the student's projects on raising awareness and funds for prosthetic limbs.

There was not simply an appeal on email and social media. These students mobilised like-minded young students, from their neighborhood and cycled from Nandanam to VGP, ECR on a Saturday morning to reach out to the general public. I happened to bump into them that early morning and invited them over to my home for a refreshing drink before they went ahead to complete their cycling rally.



The other project spearheaded by another group of High School Students is '*Green Revolution: a #workfromhome, growing a plant project*'. This mail also has reached your inboxes. This Service Learning project not only raises and emphasises awareness on climatic changes, or building commitment and responsibility in self by growing and caring for plants at home, but also indirectly exposes young adults to use social media productively.

One of the team members shared how her son, a middle Schooler at AAIS has been working on setting up experiments at home on his own to explore the concept of Photosynthesis, after the lesson was completed by his teacher.

Sometime last week, I received a call from the *Namma Ooru* Foundation's Mr Natarajan. You will recollect that students of AAIS had actively participated in the '*Trash it Right*' challenge in December. He was excited to share that one of our young participants had now become a Volunteer with their organization.

There were several other updates and anecdotes that was shared. Each of them was truly inspiring to listen to. At that moment, I was yet again reminded of our tagline: *nurturing young minds*.

Warm Regards,
Priya S Dixit



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