

St. Cecilia's Public School(Minority)

(Sr. Sec. Recognised and Affiliated to CBSE)

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Spectacular Achievements of Cecilians – 2021

"Success is the child of hard work, determination and perseverance. It is no accident. It involves the love of what you are doing or learning to do."

We, at St. Cecilia's Public School, put our heart and soul in the fulfilment of the goals for student welfare and upliftment. In the 2021-22 session also, the school management left no stone unturned in the preparation of an effective framework of strategies and long-term vision for the future of students. The entire teaching fraternity had gone through deeply enhanced planning of the innovative methods that were followed in academic as well as co-curricular fields.

With online teaching successfully put in place in the previous session, this year witnessed its growth in the most marvellous ways. It is rightly said, "Small disciplines repeated with consistency every day lead to great achievements gained slowly over time." Hence, consistency is the word that marked the session at St. Cecilia's in 2021-22.

We began this year with fresh hopes and aspirations. 2021 was supposedly the year of change and yet, the change was not welcoming with the Covid 19 pandemic taking an even more severe turn. I pray for the health and well-being of all.

The year strengthened our belief in the words: "The great aim of education is not only knowledge but action." Finding courage in the power of these words, we marched on with enthusiasm to pave the way for more novelties and more challenges to be overcome with the goal to learn something new each day.

We were successful in offering a system of education that catered to the holistic well-being of our beloved students. Beginning from the Orientation Programmes for all the classes to the celebration of festivals and execution of examinations, we managed everything that was significant for the emotional, physical and cognitive development of students' personalities.

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For the first time in the history of the school, a Farewell programme was organized for the students of 2020-21 session online. All the students and teachers met on Google Meet platform. So many anecdotes and memories were shared during the last official meeting. Mementos were warmly given to the students later in the school premises as a token of remembrance to be cherished for lifetime.

The making of the result of Board classes, i.e., X and XII (2020-21) was an unparalleled event. As per the CBSE guidelines, teachers set down to shoulder the massive responsibility of making the result in a balanced manner. This was a major learning curve for numerous teachers who got the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the technical aspects of result-related areas in Board classes.

In Class X, our first three toppers - Harshit Bansal, Sraavya Kochhar and Harkirat Kaur bagged fabulous scores of 98 %, 97.6 % and 96.4 % respectively. Similarly, our Class XII students also passed with flying colours. Our topper from science stream, Aastvik Goel got a fantastic score of 98 %, followed by two students - Kumkum Ghai and Rashi Gupta - achieving 97.8 % each and the third topper, Surbhi Arya scoring a wonderful 97.6 %. Their achievements are highly admired and appreciated. We hope that they have set an example for the students who will be preparing for their Board Examinations in the coming future.

It is also a matter of pride for the school and parents that our students have been admitted into some of the most prestigious colleges and universities like Lady Hardinge Medical College, JSS Mysore, UCMS Delhi, Delhi Technological University, NSUT Dwarka, VIT Vellore, Thapar University Patiala, etc. Moreover, numerous students have secured their seats in reputed colleges of the University of Delhi. Along with this, Science stream students of our school appeared and qualified JEE Mains Examination and two of them cleared the highly sought after JEE Advance Examination. This is a huge feat to be praised in the field of Engineering. Kudos to their persistent efforts!

The highlight of the session was 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', an initiative by the Government of India. CBSE took keen interest in the celebration of the 75th year of Indian independence. St. Cecilia's was buzzing with the festival vibe while organizing activities and competitions, felicitating Indian Freedom fighters and the struggle that led our country to its freedom in 1947. Under this Programme, students enjoyed role plays and Fancy-Dress competitions; enacting the Freedom struggle leaders who contributed in making India reach where it stands today. Students and staff members eagerly participated in the singing of the National Anthem under the aforementioned programme.

Students from all the wings were also given the platform to write a postcard to our Honourable Prime Minister; praising the unsung heroes from the Indian Independence Era. They could also share their vision of India in the coming years. The initiative proved to be a great step in the enrichment of students' knowledge regarding their precious historical background. They exhibited impressive understanding of some of the most critical issues that need to be addressed for the betterment of all.

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Adding another feather to the cap, our institution not only thought and planned but eventually hosted a virtual Inter-school Competition – ‘Atulya Bharat’ in the second half of August, 2021. The competition successfully conveyed the message of ‘Ek Bharat, Sreshtha Bharat’. The grand event included competitions like Mime-O-Mania, Jhankar, Go Swadesi, etc. It saw the participation of twenty-seven schools with more than two hundred talented students coming forward to showcase their love for the country in pioneering ways. Vivid and picturesque performances enthralled our hearts with elation. It saw the commitment, dedication and passion of so many teachers and students in one way or the other. It was certainly an attempt to bring back the core values of patriotism and love for the country in the hearts of the young. It culminated with an online Felicitation Ceremony where the results of the competitions were announced to the participating schools.

Meanwhile, the zonal competitions were also held in the offline mode after a hiatus. We hosted the West Zone Folk Song Competition (both boys and girls’ category). Approximately fifteen to twenty schools participated in it. They had worn the regional costumes and made good use of the musical instruments. It was a pleasing sight to watch the students perform offline with a lot of excitement. The entire event was organised wherein special care was taken to follow Covid 19 SOPs. Extra precautions were ensured while arranging space for the participants to sit and perform.

Our school also bagged some prizes in competitions like English Essay Writing and Recitation and Hindi debate and recitation. Inter-school prize winning competitions include Video Editing, Animated Video on BioMimicry, Cinema Prodigy, etc.

Not to forget to mention Rudrani of Class XI who is doing wonders in the sports field. She is a talenhouse in the domain of Archery. She participated and won the gold medal in the Khelo India Archery Tournament. She has also been qualified for the National Archery Championship to be held in the month of April. Our hearts are brimming with delight at this magnificent achievement.

Heartiest congratulations to all those who participated and won prizes. May they become sources of inspiration for other students to follow suit!

Moreover, the motivational sessions by teacher educators are constantly proving to be a huge success. Many interesting topics were undertaken during this enterprise such as – Positive mindset for success, Self Help is the best help, Importance of Civic sense, Friends and Mentors for life – Parents, etc. Teachers shared their valuable life lessons on such topics through the medium of powerpoint presentations and audio recordings.

Here, the teachers as well as students have always worked in tandem to integrate art in the learning process. Countless small projects were undertaken throughout the year related to the regional specialities and cultural backdrop of Sikkim as CBSE has associated Delhi with Sikkim for the same. Hence, students received a fortunate stage to learn about a new place, its people, lifestyle, home, and music, etc. They presented their work through scrapbooks, sketches, project files, powerpoint presentations, speeches and so on.

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Kindergarten level and the primary wing of the school exhibited an infinite level of energy and interest in celebrating various important days and festivals. Activities like 'Express Yourself', 'Speak few Lines', 'Poetry Recitation', etc added colours to the overall education of the budding minds. These kinds of activities involve the maximum participation of students from all the classes. They are easily able to shed their inhibitions and develop confidence in the beginning stage of their educational ladder.

Other kinds of activities in the yearly planner of kindergarten included – 'Show and Tell', 'Doha Vaachan', 'Hindi Kavita Sammelan', 'Sports Day' 'Mother's Day', 'Father's Day', etc. To engage students in a more fun and light-hearted way, some party activities were also a part of the session such as Lemonade and Christmas parties and Class parties. Students could look at school life from an enjoyable perspective. They were introduced to the values of sharing, caring and togetherness with the help of such mesmerizing sessions.

We also came up with interesting concepts like Digital nature walks in the primary section. Students enjoyed the scenes from Mother Nature. This was also done to inculcate the values of compassion and admiration towards nature so that the youth of tomorrow shows a sensible approach for the planet. Eco Club of the school heralded many steps to achieve a sense of responsibility towards clean and green Earth by saying no to crackers and spreading the message of sustainability.

Ganga Utsav – a river festival 2021 was a part of the celebrations as well. It was meant to bring about the need to clean the river Ganga and to understand its cultural, mythological, historical and geographical importance.

India is the land of Yoga and spirituality. Yoga Week was celebrated by the school from 17 June 2021 onwards. Various yoga sessions were organised in the mornings for all the teachers and students for a calm and balanced mind. The program saw active involvement of students doing Surya Namaskar and various other Asanas under the guidance of a yoga trainer. They were encouraged to make yoga an integral part of life and avail its benefits while performing day-to-day tasks. Geekoz IT Club came forth with a very innovative activity according to which, students had to make pamphlets and/or animated movies on the topic 'Yoga promising good health for all'. Students unleashed their creative side and showed great work in response to this.

Middle wing of the school can boast of the celebration of various days like National Youth Day, Makar Sankranti Special Assembly and Earth Day. Students could virtually understand the significance of certain festivals celebrated with huge gusto and zeal in several regions of India. Public Outreach Day was also given a significant turn where students took an e-pledge against drugs – the ultimate menace in the society. The aim was to strengthen the resolve to make India a drugs free nation.

To help students recognize their compassionate side when the world was suffering due to the second wave of the pandemic, extremely thought-provoking activities were organised such as 'Card making activity' wherein students were to make cards with little notes for the well-being of their near and dear ones. 'Ink Slinger' was another innovative exercise planned by the Editorial Club that helped students deal with their emotions during troubling times. Students wrote and illustrated realistic anecdotes on any one special day during the lockdown.

Quiz Club of the school has always remained active during all the celebrations. It conducted a number of quizzes on days such as Independence Day, Republic Day, etc. Students learnt new things about these historical days with these activities. Furthermore, Scientia Club was equally lively with their activities. They arranged a platform for students to create powerpoint presentations on innovative ideas to safeguard the country in the present (Covid 19) scenario. With such mindful planning of activities, students were highly benefitted in the co-curricular field.

Our meritorious students showed energetic involvement in several online tests and Science Olympiads such as KAMP – NASTA that assess students’ reasoning and logical abilities. Such events prove extremely fruitful for students at this stage to build the skills needed to create a prosperous future for themselves.

Keeping the old saying in our minds alive that says – ‘A child who reads will be an adult who thinks’ – we always lay prime emphasis on Reading activities in the classes. Speaking and Listening skills assessments were also planned at regular intervals to help students develop their language learning in all aspects to be better able to shine in the outside world.

Online Model United Nations (MUN) was held on 3rd and 4th July 2021. Students took part in the adventurous programme with eagerness and earnest preparation. It is a programme that offers immense exposure to the students who come from different walks of life. They get the golden opportunity to learn from their peers and listen to multiple perspectives on matters of global importance.

A notable workshop was conducted for the pre-primary and primary wing of our school on ‘Safe Touch and Unsafe Touch’. Knowledge about such sensitive issues should be given from the beginning stages itself so that students can voice their opinion whenever needed. It saw positive response from the little ones who tried to understand the purpose of the workshop.

Daily Class Teacher sessions, extra classes and remedial classes were designed to help students look at their weaknesses as challenges. They were motivated to work harder in areas that needed more effort. O Labs were put to very effective use even in this year as students had to study from home. They could perform practical in science subjects to take care of their project works.

We firmly believe that teachers and parents have to collaborate to influence children’s personalities positively. Parent Teacher Meetings formed a regular feature of the session. Both online and offline PTMs were conducted so as to keep the parents aware of their ward’s academic and co-curricular performance, attendance, engagement in classes, etc. Parents’ queries and concerns were also well taken care of through this medium.

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2021 was definitely the year of changes. Schools were re-opened in the month of September and Class IX and XI students began coming to school on parents' consent while X and XII class students appeared for their Term 1 Pre-board examination as well as Board practical followed by the Board examination in December. Term 1 Board Examination procedure was followed with utmost seriousness and composure. Right from the arranging of rooms to the exams being conducted as per the rules, everything went off smoothly. Once again, we were reminded of the pre-Covid times with a lot of commotion in the corridors, classrooms and at the school gates during arrival and dispersal of students.

To our happy surprise, even the Primary & Middle section students were allowed to come to school as per the parents' consent from February 2022 onwards. The smiles and glee from the innocent faces on coming to school after a long period immediately transferred on to our faces. We welcomed them with delight.

In the middle of all this, we were extremely cautious of the Covid-19 protocols. With continuous use of sanitisers, temperature checks and face masks, we are glad that we are functioning like before with new norms.

At the end, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the parents and students for being tremendously patient and supportive in our endeavours that aim to bring about promising changes in the latter's knowledge and wisdom about life and the world. With parents as our partners, we help students to gain a confident outlook on life. Continued team work, perseverance and the right action taken towards the fulfilment of noble ambitions will always bring success at our doorstep.

With this, I wish the students of Class X and XII good luck for their upcoming Board Examination. I believe that you are preparing with dedication and quality work. May you all achieve what you truly deserve! I also extend my good wishes to all the other students for their future ventures in the new session.

Our prayers and wishes are with you all.

With Kind Regards,

Principal