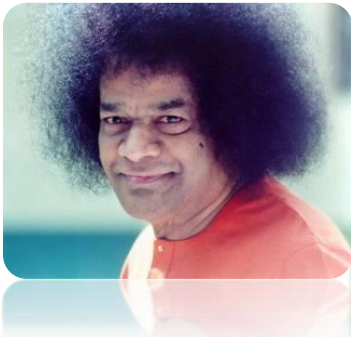




# Sathya Sai School

## Toronto, Canada

Parent Information Letter # 6 | July 30, 2021



A heart with compassion is the temple of God. Develop compassion and you will perceive God in your heart. If we look only outside, we are confused. What we see outside must be seen inside as well. The Vedas say, God is present inside, outside ... everywhere. Creation speaks of the Creator, Divinity is everywhere. In every step, in every breath, there is God. In every syllable you utter, God is present. ~Sathya Sai Baba

### SK Graduation Ceremony 05



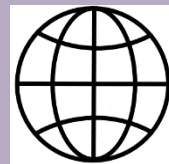
### Grade 8 Graduation Ceremony 10



### Indigenous History Month 03



### Cyber Security Workshop 20



### In the Classroom Science & Empathy 22



**From the Principal's Desk***Revathi Chennabathni*

July 30, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and Well-wishers of Sathya Sai School,

Greetings from the Sathya Sai School of Toronto-Canada. Trust and hope you are enjoying a safe Summer so far. Five more weeks before we start the next school year 2021-2022.

The school year 2021-2022 looks promising and we will hope to have in-person classes. Now that almost all of the school parents had their two doses of vaccination and almost all Sathya Sai School students who are twelve years and above would have had their first dose of vaccination and will be totally immunized prior to school re-opening. We have not yet heard from Toronto Public Health (TPH) about vaccinating children below twelve years. Until that period, we are not out of the woods yet. Therefore, continue practicing health and hygiene as you have been doing since March 13, 2020.

The school will be sending a Parent Survey to get consensus with the next steps that the school would follow based on your feedback as well TPH directives. Kindly note that once you make any commitment on the Survey, your statement will hold true until December, 2021. Your child will not have the flexibility to choose back and forth during the period from September 7, 2021 until December 2021 as was previously allowed. The Pandemic Working Group in conjunction with the Building Management Team will be taking the Parent Survey consensus into account while setting up the classrooms in the next few weeks. Thank you for your cooperation.

Despite the pandemic and online teaching format, our school teachers have all completed grade curricula and awards ceremony for all grades. Both Kindergarten II and Grade Eight graduations virtual graduations were well coordinated by the Home Room teachers – Ms. Merna Claudius, Mrs. Vandana Jhawar and Mrs. Nandini Menon along with their Parent Council Representatives, Mr. Santosh Guduru, Mrs. Neha Choksi and Mrs. Christine Maharaj. The IT Team members – Mr. Manish Rughani and Mr. Arun Maharaj – created the magic in the virtual graduations with a touch of their wands.

The school year 2020-2021 has been successful due to the TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) effort of the

**CONTENTS**

SK Graduation .....	01,05
Grade 8 Graduation .....	01,10
Principal's Message.....	02
June: Indigenous History Month.....	03
'Thank You' .....	04
Cyber Security Workshop .....	20
Classroom Work:	
Grade 4 Science: Rocks and Minerals .....	22
Grade 5 Conservation of Energy & Resources	23
Grade 5 Classbook on Empathy .....	24
Sri Sathya Sai Baba to Students .....	30
Human Value for May/June: Truth .....	30
Multi-Faith Festivals.....	31
Important Dates: Jul/Aug.....	31

**Upcoming Events****School Building Closed: July-Aug**

Summer deep cleaning and sanitization.

**Summer Holidays: July 1 – Sept 6**

**No school.**

**Vaccinations for Students 12+**

During the month of August at clinics.

**School Calendar 2021-2022**

To be emailed in August.

**First Day of School: Sept 7**

First day of school year 2021-2022

Administrative staff, Teaching Staff, BMT staff and above all the School Directors' constant guidance and Well-wishers' prayers. My heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for helping us face and meet the pandemic challenge collectively.

Wishing you all a Safe and Healthy Summer.

Sincerely,

Revathi





## Heritage Months

### June: Indigenous History Month

To recognize the Traditional and Ancestral lands of the Indigenous people of Canada, Sathya Sai School begins its day with the daily **Land Acknowledgement**, as part of the school's morning routine, and at the beginning of all gatherings, to be spoken before 'O Canada':

***"We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and the Inuit peoples."***

- **Indigenous Prayer**, composed by our school's grade 1 student, Jiah Patel:

*Thank you, Indigenous People, for giving us this land,  
even though we hurt you.*

*Thank you, Indigenous People, for giving us this land,  
even though we took away your families.*

*Thank you, Indigenous People, for making all of the  
inventions that we use today.*

*Thank you, Indigenous People, for everything.*

- **Presentation - Orange Shirt Day**, by Jiah Patel:

Orange Shirt Day is on September 30<sup>th</sup> and is a day to think about the many First Nations students who were taken away from their families to be colonized. This means, taking people away from their homes and being placed some place new. As our teacher Ms. Sharanigan explained, First Nations students were taken away from their communities and were placed in residential school. At residential school, they were not allowed to speak their own native language, practice their spiritual beliefs, wear their own culture's clothes, or keep their hair as their ancestors did.



The orange shirt in Orange Shirt Day refers to the new shirt that a First Nations child named Phyllis got from her grandmother on her first day of residential school. When she got to school, they took away all her clothes, including her new shirt. It was never returned. For Phyllis, the colour orange has always reminded her of her experiences at residential school, and as she has said, 'how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared, how all the residential school children were crying and no one did anything about it.' The message that Phyllis wants to pass along on Orange Shirt Day and every day is that **every child matters**. Phyllis started Orange Shirt Day to educate people about residential schools and fighting racism and bullying. My value connection is Empathy. I hope that everybody wears an orange shirt on Orange Shirt Day to remember that **every child matters, especially the First Nations children that have gone through, and are still going through, a lot of trouble**. Thank you for listening.

### Children Helping Children (CHC) Funds

Following the tragic discovery of so many children's graves on the property of Residential Schools in Canada, the Sathya Sai School has decided to donate the funds our students have raised, during the CHC campaign, to the **Indian Residential School Survivors Society**. Their website ([www.irsss.ca](http://www.irsss.ca)) states: "We are a provincial organization with a 20-year history of providing services to Indian Residential School Survivors."





**‘Thank You’  
to the Board of Directors  
of Sathya Sai School of Toronto - Canada**

- Mr. Dayal Mirchandani, President • Dr. Arun Yusuf • Mr. Ken Khosla  
• Mr. Subramaniam Premachandran • Ms. Fiona Macrae • Ms. Sarada Yogeswaran  
• Mr. Lakshman Swaminathan • Ms. Shivani Parshad • Mr. Sudhir Mathur

We offer a sincere Thank You to all of the Directors for working continuously during the pandemic to research and formulate all necessary protection policies in line with (or sometimes exceeding) government regulations. All of these ensured the health and safety of our students, teachers, and parents.

**‘Thank You’  
to the Building Management Team**

- Mr. Chetan Vora • Mr. Pooran Samuel • Mr. Manish Rughani • Mr. Ramesh Kasturi  
• Mr. Arjun Mahadeo • Mr. Ramakrishna Kuntamukkala • Mr. Vetrichelvan Kasinathan

Thank You to members of the Building Management Team for working continuously during the pandemic to implement the Directors’ safety policies, such as air quality control, signage, hand washing stations, social distancing in classrooms, constant sanitizing, etc., which ensured the health and safety of our students and teachers, and members of the school community.

**‘Thank You’  
to the IT Team**

- Mr. Manish Rughani • Mr. Shaikandan Balasingham • Mr. Umesh Solanki • Mr. Arun Maharaj

Thank You to members of the IT Team for helping Sathya Sai School move into the Online world of education, to provide classes, health checks, communications, meetings, surveys, family nights, graduations, and much more.

**‘Thank You’  
to our Parents**

Thank you to all our Parents for doing your best in the midst of pandemic challenges, by following school health and safety protocols to keep our students and teachers safe all year. Thank You too for helping your children follow teachers’ guidelines and assignments, during online learning periods.

**‘Thank You’  
to our Teachers**

Thank you to our very dedicated and capable Teachers, for inspiring your students and keeping them engaged in their studies throughout the year, thus assisting them in completing the year’s curriculum.





# Senior Kindergarten Graduation

## June 18, 2021



An endearing virtual SK Graduation Ceremony was held on June 18, 2021. Despite the distances, the students were able to convey their developing confidence and unfold their wings, guided by their teachers and the human values. Parents, teachers and community supporters watched with joy and pride, as the SK students displayed the growth they have made – physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual – after completing two years of study and play in the Kindergarten program at the Sathya Sai School.

The Graduation Ceremony Program consisted largely of speeches by the SK students on topics of their choice, filled with warmth, sincerity, liveliness, and eagerness to learn and share. The students were videotaped at home and these were then compiled together into a lovely video by their teacher, Ms. Merna Claudius. With the assistance of Mr. Manish Rughani, IT head, the student videos were put together with curtains, introduction of students one-by-one, and many other features to create the sense of a live ceremony. Interspersed among the student speeches were the addresses (both live and online) of the Guest Speaker, Director Fiona Macrae, the Principal Dr. Revathi, and the graduates' teachers past, present, and future: SK Teacher Merna Claudius, SK ECE Vandana Jhawar, JK Teacher Debra Gabiana, JK ECE Dipika Pandit, and Grade 1 Teacher Shobana Sharanigan. The graduates performed a virtual Finale Song and Dance, followed by the Vote of Thanks delivered by SK Parent Council Rep Santosh Guduru.

Members of the Sathya Sai School community may watch the Senior Kindergarten Graduation video, unlisted on YouTube. Please copy and paste the following link onto your browser:

[https://youtu.be/Ln1z4Vj\\_jvA](https://youtu.be/Ln1z4Vj_jvA)





<b>Ansh:</b>	I enjoy reading because...
<b>Mattao:</b>	How can we help?
<b>Aydin:</b>	How can I make the world a better place?
<b>Arjoon:</b>	How meditation has helped me
<b>Aria:</b>	When I grow up...
<b>Aaryansh:</b>	If I could talk to animals...
<b>Tanvi:</b>	Mother Earth
<b>Athmikha:</b>	What was your favorite part of Kindergarten?
<b>Ananya:</b>	Why do music and art make me happy?
<b>Reema:</b>	My journey in SK
<b>Aradhana:</b>	If I were in charge, the rules I would make would be...
<b>Tejas:</b>	How to build with Lego
<b>Anushka:</b>	Five things I love about my classroom
<b>Pranali:</b>	What will I miss the most about kindergarten?
<b>Sri Lasya:</b>	My friends....
<b>Krishiv:</b>	My Superhero....
<b>Veer:</b>	What makes my School special?
<b>Lukshiya:</b>	Recycling
<b>Aadhav:</b>	How Yoga helps my body and mind
<b>Sajjen:</b>	Care for plants
<b>Varada:</b>	My best memory of Kindergarten
<b>Thanush:</b>	We did it!
<b>Sreya:</b>	My favourite stuffed animal





## Addresses delivered by:



Ms. Merna **Claudius**,  
SK Teacher



Dr. Revathi  
Chennabathni, Principal



Guest Speaker, Director  
Ms. Fiona Macrae



Ms. Sobana Sharanigan,  
Gr1 Teacher



Ms. Debra Gabiana,  
JK Teacher



Ms. Vandana Jhawar,  
SK ECE

### Guest Speaker – Ms. Fiona Macrae, Director

Today is your SK graduation day. And I'm very happy to celebrate this special day. With Sathya Sai Baba and love, we welcome our graduating SK class – parents, teachers, principal and staff, family, friends, school directors, and all those present. On behalf of the Directors of the Sathya Sai School, we wish to share our appreciation of what you accomplished this year. It is an extraordinary year. Congratulations on your graduation!

Sathya Sai Baba says, "Guide the children in the spiritual path. Through simple and moral living, install in the young minds the importance of duty, devotion, and discipline, and help them understand that the five Human Values are what is to practice in their daily lives. Guide them to Love all and Serve all."

We are so blessed to witness you celebrating in the SK class. It is an exciting time; you'll remember it with love and joy. Due to the pandemic, you've had a unique year and experience of school. Yet the five human values of Truth, Peace, Love, Right Conduct and Nonviolence lived in you, supporting and teaching you in class every day.

Values are always  
there, even when you cannot

learn and play with your friends in the usual way.

It is because of the extraordinary dedication and commitment of your teachers and parents, they guided you to succeed in excellence. These values live in everyone and remind us how love can transcend every circumstance. You are all examples of this. Your teachers' love and dedication shines on your faces; it will take you into grade one with a big smile.

Your parents and teachers have given so much care and love to each and every one of you – especially this year! You may not see all that they do, but know that they are very happy to see you graduate today.

You live a triple partnership. The five human values sparkle in your hearts, when you see everyone as love. You become a leader, no matter what your age. Sai Baba says children are the lamps that illumine the path of a nation. Be eager and earnest to know more and more about the art of joyful living. Look for the best in what you've learned in SK and enjoy this learning. Grade one is very exciting and you have so much of your life ahead of you. Sai Baba says pure love is achievement of the station of education. Graduate in Sai love today.

Thank you. May God's blessings be with you always.



### Dr. Revathi Chennabathni, Principal

Good evening Revered Founder Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Directors, Graduands, Parents, Staff members and volunteers. WELCOME to Senior Kindergarten Virtual Graduation Ceremony.

SK Graduation is celebrated virtually this year. I am grateful that each and every one of you and your family members are safe during this unprecedented time. Thanks to your resilience and grit, you all have emerged victorious by staying healthy and by maintaining social distancing and especially by following laws of this land. Today is your Graduation and it is a milestone and a memorable event of your primary education.

You all blossomed into beautiful flowers under the guidance and care of our Founder Sri Sathya Sai Baba and his instruments: Ms. Claudius, Ms. Hassan, Mrs. Jhavar, Ms. Gabiana, Mrs. Bungaroo, Ms. Advani, Mrs. Spaley and Mr. Labrada More, Ms. Recht, Ms. Mohandas and Mr. Maharaj. Gratitude is an attitude and we all should develop that from a young age. You should give thanks and praises to your loving parents who sacrificed a lot over the last 15 months to give you moral and mental support. Your learning has not been faltered by the challenges posed by the pandemic due to your teachers and parents completing their duties diligently. This is the hallmark of triple partnership at our school – parents and teachers working for the social, emotional, spiritual and intellectual well-being of the child.

SK Graduands, each and every one of you is a Value Hero. You are unique with so many talents and the most important being that you all have five values within each of you. You bring them out and make them your shields of protection that will protect you from negative energies. Remember each one of you is MY Value Hero and each one of you has five layers of protection namely: Truth, Right Conduct, Peace, Love and Non-violence that will guide YOU, always.

Yes, you guessed right, these shields are:

*Truth shield* – prompts you to always speak the truth.

*Right conduct shield* – drives you to do the right thing even when no one is watching you.

*Peace shield* – reminds you to meditate every day to develop inner calm, focus and strength.

*Non-violence shield* – motivates you to be nice to everyone and not hurt anyone either with your thoughts, words and/or actions.

*Love shield* – is the most powerful of them all and transcends all the above. This shield inspires you to connect with and cherish your family, friends, flora and fauna and the entire world.

Always remain the beautiful flowers that you are in God's garden. Our Founder Sri Sathya Sai Baba says flowers bring a smile and joy to those who visit the garden. Similarly, He wants each and every one of you to spread joy through your manners and actions and bring a smile on others.

My Value Heroes, this summer I want you to connect with your family, spend less time on your computers, but read plenty of books and do math on paper. Go out and enjoy what summer has to offer.

To conclude, you all started Kindergarten and learnt ABCs. I want you to exit with Sai Baba's ABCs: Always Be Cheerful, Avoid Bad Company, Always Be Careful.

See you all in September. God bless. Enjoy a safe and happy ABC Summer.

### Ms. Merna Claudius, SK Teacher

Welcome everyone to the Senior Kindergarten Graduation. First, I would like to thank Dr. Revathi and Ms. Fiona Macrae for their well-articulated speeches. Thank you to all the Directors, Principal Dr. Revathi, and Parents for the outstanding experience and teamwork shown in teaching Senior Kindergarten this year, and to my wonderful SK students:

The school year now is over. Our classes soon will end.

You've grown so much and learned a lot.

I'm proud of all of you.

Your pencils may be broken and your markers are dried out.

But you have something that you won't lose. Of this I have no doubt.

The knowledge that you've gained this year, you'll never break or lose.

So keep it safe, inside your head, and use it when you choose.

Although you move and change your grade,

You won't forget the friends you've made.

New friends will enter when you go,

But I have a secret you should all know.

When you come back to visit, the room won't look the same.

But I will always have a hug for you and be glad you came.

A teacher's heart is magical, this I know is true.

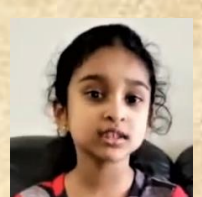
It has a very special place, for each and every student's face.

And now that...includes you! Congratulations Class of 2021!





## SK CLASS OF 2021



## Grade 8 Graduation – Class of 2021

### June 25



A wonderful virtual Grade 8 Graduation Ceremony was held on June 25, 2021 for the Class of 2021. It was replete with a drum roll march, warm memories, addresses by graduates and significant people in their lives, awards, and a display of talent. Spirits were high as we sat before our screens, though we almost felt as though we were sitting in an auditorium with the graduates onstage. The theme for the class of 2021 is 'Spirit of Warriors' and all the words spoken during the program demonstrated that these graduates truly lived up to this name.

Members of the Sathya Sai School community may view the Grade 8 Graduation video, unlisted on YouTube. Please copy and paste the following link onto your browser:

<https://youtu.be/KI53VzUHLcs>





## Graduation Ceremony Program

*Procession of Graduands entering gym & onto the stage*

*School Prayer – Dr. Revathi Chennabathni, Principal*

*National Anthem – School Alumni*

*Welcome Address – Dr. Revathi*

*Director's Address – Mr. Lakshman Swaminathan*

*Special Guest – Mr. T.R. Pillay, Founding Principal*

*Down Memory Lane*

*Address by Students' Former Teachers*

*Speech by Current Grade 8 Teacher – Mrs. Nandini Menon*

*Announcement of Certificate Awards*

*Announcement of Year Book Publication*

*Valedictorians' Speeches*

*Musical / Play by Grade 8*

*Vote of Thanks – Mrs. Neha Choksi, PC Chair and Grade 8 Rep*



copyright by devtaneja99@yahoo.com



Sathya Sai School of Canada

www.sathyasaischool.ca

## Welcome Address – Dr. Revathi Chennabathni, Principal <sup>1</sup>



This is the second time Sathya Sai School is hosting virtually the Grade 8 Graduation. We know you faced many challenges during the pandemic, having to do most of your learning at home, sitting in front of your computers, yet you have emerged as warriors.

Your parents and teachers have been role models for you, supporting you and inspiring you to keep up with your studies. All the teachers who have taught you this year have modeled professionalism and taught with both love and law. Despite the pandemic, you have put together the Year Book. You have truly emerged with the Spirit of Warriors. Selflessness is one of the best qualities you have developed.

Going forward, take with you the three L's: Life skills, Leadership, and Love for learning and humanity.

Life skills develop from the five Human Values you carry within.

Leadership – I want you to be leaders who are like lions. As Founder Sri Sathya Sai Baba has said, students should be lions among people: self-reliant, courageous, majestic, and just. Become men and women of character.

Love for learning and humanity should inform all your actions.

**Class of 2021 – become tomorrow's leaders!**

## Director's Address – Mr. Lakshman Swaminathan



Dear Class of 2021!

It is nice to see you all virtually. Your graduation is a special day, full of meaning, hope, pride and joy. It brings a mixture of delight and sadness – full of your accom-

plishments, together with leaving your school, friends and teachers. You are ready for the next chapter.

You are a class like no other. You are great students who love your school and classmates. You are ready to take on the world.

Despite challenges brought by Covid-19, you have navigated through these challenges. You would have felt scared and frustrated, but you got on with work. You loved each other, took care of each other. You were supported by the people around you: friends, teachers, principal, and especially your parents. Please be sure to honour the past teachers, coaches, mentors, friends and parents.

You are moving on to a greater scale of freedom. 2022 will bring a set of new challenges. You can move on with courage, as the road ahead is well-paved for you. Your hard work will enable you to move forward successfully. From JK to Grade 6, your life and schooling were normal. They were full of lessons, drama, sports, and field trips. However, In Grade 7 and 8, the pandemic disrupted all of these aspects of school life.

Congratulations to the Principal, Teachers, and Parents for helping you navigate through these challenges. You had the strength to be persistent. I hope you believe in yourself.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we wish you a brilliant future – full of hope, love, success and happiness.

<sup>1</sup> Notes from the speeches and addresses.





## Special Guest – Mr. T.R. Pillay, Founding Principal



Yesterday was my 59<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. For six of these 59 years, I spent a most satisfying time in Toronto at the Sathya Sai School of Toronto – Canada. I can honestly say this was

most gratifying because it was the first school to dedicate itself to balance of academic excellence with character education. Sri Sathya Sai Baba is the advocate of this system of education, declaring that *“the end of education is character.”* What will survive us is the good deeds we have done.

All of us are inherently good. It is in a positive environment that our innate goodness and qualities will blossom. We are all aspects of our personality, comprising the physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual. With this fragrance we can live a balanced life, caring for others. This was the first school in Canada that started meditation and yoga.

In spite of all the difficulties presented by this virus, students have been supported by their parents and teachers, who delivered first class education. In spite of all the challenges, we have emerged again among the top 10 schools in Ontario. Congratulations!

This graduation is special to me. I had the good fortune to drop in on a class given by Mrs. Nandini Menon. It was a pleasure to listen, there was such positive responses. Your teacher enabled you to participate freely in discussions, which were so insightful and engaging. Thank you, Mrs. Menon, for inviting me to give this message. I could not attend live, as my granddaughter will be graduating at the same time.

Students, I want to commend you for your eagerness to learn, in spite of the challenges. You demonstrated tremendous resilience, focus and hard work to maintain the balance we expect from you. It is a singular achievement, supported by your parents and teachers.

As you go about your tasks, we hope the connection we established with you will stay as strong as you. As I said to the first graduating class in 2006, I hoped that they

would continue to use the tools provided by their dedicated teachers. I hoped the bond will continue over distance and time. I hoped that the five friends that connected all of us – Truth, Peace, Love, Nonviolence, Right Conduct – would continue to connect us. I am connected with all the alumni that graduated in 2006, and I am happy to say that all of them have been successful. They are studying to be doctors, aspiring lawyers, qualified accountants, one student won the spelling bee and became an aerospace engineer and now works for Google developing AI. Our most recent alumni is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Murali (our school volunteer). That son has won an award to complete his M.A. in Mechanical Engineering, at the prestigious University of Waterloo. I am convinced Grade 8s that you will do even better. Among you are articulate, eloquent speakers who will be great public speakers.

I end my message, hoping that you will continue to serve not only yourselves, but your parents and your community, with the awareness of the Oneness of God.

## Addresses by Former Teachers

Former teachers were invited, who pioneered and taught and moulded these lovely students over the years.

Mr. Divij Chuttoorgoon, French Teacher, spoke of this class' creativity, cheerfulness, kindness, and smiles. Keep embracing change through sharing and caring.

Mr. Christopher Buccella, JK Teacher, asked the graduates to focus upon the road they travel. He thanked them for the good times they had together in class and wished them a safe future.

Ms. Theeba Ratnarajah, Grade 1 & Grade 5 Teacher, remembers this class as her little bumble bees – “how kind, loving, and respectful you are. You will continue showing the world how much love and light you have.”

Mrs. Revathy Mohan, Grade 3 Teacher – Let all the values you have learned at Sathya Sai School guide all your actions through life. Do your best in everything.

Ms. Amala Regisanth, Grade 4 Teacher – I remember you in JK, and can't believe you have grown up so quickly. Continue to do your best – you have so much talent and capability.



Mr. Sam Nankivell, Grade 7 Teacher – this class did a very good job. You taught me a lot about Sri Sathya Sai Baba and helped create an interesting class culture – with fencing, debating, playwrighting, and more, you created a little more advanced culture. You were critical, magical and loving. When you go from this school, do well and do good.

### Speech by Grade 6 & Grade 8 Teacher, Mrs. Nandini Menon



To all my dear students, colleagues, volunteers and parents – to all who are listening – I am going to speak from the heart. With joy that is surpassing, so much so that I am almost on the verge of tears. Today,

the 25th of June is a day of fulfilled dreams and particularly for the graduating students. As a teacher, I am really proud to tell the world that at the age of 13 and 14, they showed us all that hard work, determination, and dedication can override disasters. They have proved that obstacles of any nature are just bubbles in the air. You are fortunate to have been in the family of dedicated individuals, my dear children. Under the loving guidance of their teachers, who just talked now, they are watching you, they are showering you with blessings: these are moments to be cherished throughout your life, volunteers who are watching you, knew you when you were young people, and your parents – you have attained this impressive milestone in your life, with honour and integrity. I especially mention honour and integrity because for the past 10 months, you have been writing tests, quizzes, finishing assignments, without your teacher walking around, looking over your shoulders, and whatever it is, nothing had been really smooth. There were occasions of technological rifts, and we were all learning and experiencing a virtual chapter of our life, which somebody said, Are you going to write that in your book? Then I said, yes, one time if it comes out, you will find that chapter there, if it happens.

My dear students, despite everything that the unexpected nature of the world and its workings

brought us, we stood together to finish any challenging task, while being miles apart, and through the digital medium. That microscopic, deadly organism, which wreaked havoc in the world...to you, you 14 resilient, determined students, you have beat the virus.

You will be meeting greater challenges ahead, but the strong foundation that has built you up in this alma mater, is going to hold you together, in every level. Today I am proud, I am honoured to say that your many achievements over the years, your various accomplishments in almost all curricular and extracurricular activities will be rewarded soon. Everyone is going to acknowledge you for your uncommon zeal, the passion that you showed in your learning, and the love that you showed towards your studies, in your relationships with your teachers, management, all your peers, your parents, and also everyone in the world. Whenever we had SSEHV, the thought process in every single discussion of Thought for the Day and how you analysed it, showed your kind heart and your ability, that you can reach out to the people in the world is phenomenal.

In the history of Sathya Sai School, this year of 2020-2021 has another golden milestone. My dear students, as you leave your alma mater, expect that some more challenges are waiting for you, which of course I strongly believe, will be another learning experience that you will take to your heart. You have conducted yourself really well. As you wait at the threshold of leaving your dear alma mater, I want to appeal to you about a great responsibility. Always see yourselves as ambassadors of the Sathya Sai School, and never allow any selfish interest to stain the integrity you have nurtured here through the years in this great school. You are the warriors in every sense. Like someone said, a true warrior understands and captures that moment by giving an effort so intense and so intuitive, that it can only be called one from the heart. Each one of you, in every sense, has proved that you are warriors.

Be kind and be good to people, as you meet on your way up. Remember the teachings of our Founder Sri Sathya Sai Baba, and let the essence of love, peace, right conduct, truth and nonviolence guide you, as you journey to greatness. Think big and try to be optimistic, in whatever you are doing. Let the divine power shower blessings and hold you in the hands of success all the time. Thank you very much. Have a wonderful evening.





## Awards Ceremony

Mrs. Menon stated that the awards are the result of a very important year and it did not stop the students from achieving what they had set their minds to. They are very skilled, knowledgeable, accomplished and indomitable in their comprehension of all the subjects.

DUX Awards were given to students who excelled in a subject with between 95% and 100%. Honour Awards were given for students who have achieved 85% to 95% in a subject. Special Awards were for Dance, Yoga, Drama, Music, Visual Arts, Attendance, Character Achievement, Volunteerism, Educational Achievement, Leadership, Lifers Award, and Most Improved Student.

Mrs. Menon announced the name of each student and listed all the awards each had won, in both the academic and character divisions. The lists were impressive, demonstrating the truth of their teachers' words.

We mention here the three most coveted awards:

**Academic Excellence:** Aadhya Anand, Inaya Ghazi

**M.O.D.E.L3:** Pranaya Shanmuga Naveen

**Founder's Cup of Human Excellence:** Aathitiya Prabakaran

## Valedictorians' Speeches

**Pia Choksi** Our journey started in September 2010 with a class of small children, with minds as fresh as a blank canvas, and ended on June 25, 2021 with a virtual graduation. As a small child, I couldn't wait to join the school. I dreamed of becoming a valedictorian, as my sister was a valedictorian. And my dreams came true. That's the beautiful thing about Sathya Sai School. They motivate you with so many blessings and so much love, that your dreams are destined to become true. From the first day we have stepped into the building, we have made so many memories that we will never forget and we will carry with us for the rest of our days. The love, care, and compassion the school has given us is priceless. Everyone in the school, right from the volunteers, the teachers and the whole student body have given us so much love, that we have always felt like a family. Over the last 10 years here at Sathya Sai School, we have learned a lot. From Mr. Buccella we

learned a lot of delicious recipes and how to find positivity in any situation. From Mrs. Roshan we gained the confidence to speak on any topic through Show and Tell. Ms. Ratnarajah helped us to channel a creative mindset. From Ms. Patel we learned the importance of education and its applications in day-to-day life. Mrs. Mohan helped us understand the importance of exercising respect. Mrs. Regisanth introduced us to a whole new world of literature and writing through our weekly newsletters. We learned the importance of finding a balance between fun and learning. Mrs. Menon taught us the joy of life and the true impact our values make on the world around us. Mr. Chuttoorgoon, Mr. Kpodjie and Mr. Macdonald all taught us to be Francophones in their own unique ways. Mrs. Taneja, Mrs. Ganga Persad, Mrs. Spaley, and Mrs. Sukumar all taught us to find inner peace through Yoga and Meditation. Mr. Black challenged us to push ourselves through fitness. Mr. More taught us to express our feelings through Music. All in all, we have taken away at least one thing from each of the teachers. We are walking away with such precious life lessons that can only be learned as a student of Sathya Sai School; but the most important thing that we learned was friendship, and how to create and maintain strong bonds.

I would like to take a moment, on behalf of myself and my fellow graduates, to say Thank You for all that has brought us here today. I would like to mention someone who is a vital part of our class and this school, and that is Dr. Revathi. I would like to thank you for all the things you have done for us, the respect you have given us and your motherly love and care. You appreciate and acknowledge every little thing that we do. It makes us feel good and motivates us to go further. Thank you Dr. Revathi. Ms. Recht is also a vital part of this school. Without her, the school starts to face chaos, as she manages and organizes all things, big or small. We would like to thank all the teachers because they have taught us so many different things. They all care for us like a family. Even if they don't admit it, they will all miss us when we leave, just as we will them. The teachers have all pushed us to the best we can do, and I thank them all today. Same with all the volunteers. They have been with us for the whole journey of 10 years, helping us in every way they can. A major thanks go to our parents, as they are an integral part of this school. Without their help, who would take us to school,



help us with homework, care for us when we come home from school tired, take us to school events, pay for our field trips, and be there for everything, just to make us happy? Lastly, we would all like to thank our homeroom teacher for this year, Mrs. Menon, for giving us such a memorable and entertaining year. In a time when everything is virtual, and we did not get a chance to experience this most important year of our intermediate school lives, you did your absolute best and gave us the most special year we could ask for. You touched our hearts through the screens of our computers. You helped us grow and prepared us for adversity, as we step into the real world. Thank you everyone, for all you have done.

So, now we are elementary school graduates and soon we are going to be waving at the screen and saying goodbye. There will be lots of virtual hugs and I am sure there will be some tears, but we will do our best to stay in touch, as we live our lives and do our best. As a final thought going forward, I would like to leave you with a quote by Asha Tyson. She said, "Your journey has moulded you for the greater good and it is exactly what it needed to be. Don't think you 've lost time. There is no short-cutting to life. It took each and every situation you have encountered to bring you to the now. And now is right on time." I believe it is not the end for us, because the end is just the beginning of a new chapter. Thank you to all.

**Aathitiya Prabakaran** Choo, Choo, all aboard the Sathya Sai School train, on 10 long stops with different people, experiences and memories. This train is about to make its final stop, folks. But before we end off, let's take a look back at all we've encountered in this journey, and see what this train has brought us to. Though graduation means conferring an academic degree or diploma, and all might seem sad or a gloomy occasion, it's actually the path to a large series of successes and possibilities that await for us.

Good evening Dr. Revathi, Directors, Staff, Teachers, Volunteers, Parents, Respected Elders and the Spirit of Warriors – my fellow graduates. My name is Aathitiya Prabakaran, one of the Valedictorians, a lucky graduate who has been here since JK. I will take you through our train-ride journey to the one and only Sathya Sai School. When we were in JK and SK, times were simple. Our biggest worries were, who are we going to play with during recess? We were only stressed when our moms

packed us blueberry yogurt instead of strawberry. Times were great, I mean we got to sleep during the day...but everything changed after that. Math formulas, Science diagrams, perpetual essays, in-depth Social Studies, Science Fairs, Public Speaking, and the list just continues. However, we enjoyed everything during our Primary and Junior years, with flying colours. And personally, I can undoubtedly say that the Five Human Values – Truth, Right Conduct, Peace, Love and Nonviolence – fuelled this experience, which had been impressed in our minds from day one.

Our teeny little bodies sang at the Walk for Values, danced at year-end concerts, and made Christmas cards for Senior Homes, and so much more in just our Primary years. Then came a big change. Our train had just arrived at the Junior years in our new school, making us the senior grades for the preceding grades to look up to, and inspire them to be as intelligent, values-based and fun-going, as those we had looked up to when we were younger. Finally, for our two intermediate years, a little pesky virus stole it from us. However, we stayed strong and positive during these turbulent times, and look how far it got us. Even though we were away from each other, we had the same amount of fun, from the comfort of our own home – watching Netflix during lunch break, wearing whatever we want, not having to drive for an hour during a winter storm, hot meals prepared, and also Google. If you think about it, we did our entire school year online through a device, and funny enough, we are graduating through the same device. Though it seems like a small and trivial matter, if you would have told anyone two years ago that we would graduate through a laptop, we would have laughed, but with our perseverance and righteousness, we proved that we can do it. And with these same qualities we can confidently arrive at the next destination in our life, high school, where we should realize the values that we learned at this school.

Our entire class is made up of numerous individuals with different stories and unique ways to contribute to our happiness. Some mesmerized us with their talents, some whisked us away with their eloquent words, some make us laugh with their corny jokes and hilarious songs. From Bargav to Aadhya to Jeevan, to Pia, to Netra to Shiya, to Ishwara, to Lakshana, to Tharmik, to Aathitiya, to Pranaya, to Vanishri and to Abhinna. Every single person made what seemed to be a humdrum, lackadaisical year into one that we'll always remember.





Now, after 10 long years on this train ride, we would like to give a big Thank You to the conductors in our train: Dr. Revathi, Ms. Recht, the staff, all the many volunteers, and our spectacular teachers. In fact, we are a very lucky batch, as we received the best teachers each year. We would also like to send our gratitude to our loving parents who put us before themselves, and spent countless hours to make this graduation dream come true. Fun fact: we got our first dose of Mrs. Menon in Grade 6 and then we got our second dose this year, and now we are fully vaccinated...sorry, fully knowledgeable...to ride our next train ride to high school. Sathya Sai School has helped us all to be exemplary individuals and even if we branch off to our old past, we will always appreciate the wonderful lessons that we learned at this school. Most importantly, after 10 long years on this train, we hope...no scratch that... we KNOW that we have made the most spectacular friends for the rest of our lives. [French interlude] It's time to say goodbye, but I think goodbyes are sad, I would much rather say hello, hello to a new adventure! Thank you.

## Graduates' Speeches

Each of the graduates shared fondest memories and words of gratitude for their time at the Sathya Sai School. Here are some comments:

"Thank you for the opportunity to study at this unique school, providing warm and caring classmates, in depth learning, strict but caring teachers, who pushed us to go beyond our expectations."

"The five human values will guide us through the difficulties of high school."

"Thank you Dr. Revathi, Ms. Recht and to all of our teachers who contributed to the people we are today. Most importantly, for having grown along the way, by changing our attitude and learning to think before acting."

"I learned how to practice self-confidence and organization, which played a big role in my life at the school. I learned to think more clearly. My teacher's energy and enthusiasm helped me get through the pandemic."

"I wish to come back to the school next year to help or volunteer at the school in any way possible. I thank our Founder Sathya Sai Baba for helping me learn the

human values, which I will cherish for many years to come."

"Every nook and cranny of our school has a special and mystical air. Then the school got transformed into my tiny laptop and I only saw about 20 people each day. It was a big change. But the teachers here, especially Mr. Nankivell and Mrs. Menon have helped us to get through it. They made the transition through this awful period enjoyable. All the huge piles of homework were given with a smile by Mrs. Menon. Thank you for preparing us for this next step and lifting our spirits so we could have the Spirit of Warriors."

"I have begun to appreciate life and to live and enjoy the present, not just visions of the future or memories of the past. Thank you for educating us on the five human values, for promoting humanity and kindness."

"I want to thank Sri Sathya Sai Baba for this priceless opportunity to begin in 4th grade at the Sathya Sai School. My teacher, the students and staff made me comfortable. I pray that God protects us all. Thanks to my awesome parents, they have sacrificed a lot for me. Let us all pray that Sathya Sai Baba guides us in every step of our lives, to do what's best for each one of us."

"This was my first experience of a school that was not just focused on education, but also on how to become people in the real world. On top of finishing the curriculum and helping students reach their potential and go beyond, it helped us learn how to be people and treat others in the outside world. SSEHV classes have helped me understand why we should take care of ourselves and others. I was a very competitive person and could not stand losing even by the smallest margins. Now I understand it isn't all about winning and that hard work will always pay off, and I definitely thank my teachers for that. I must thank the Sathya Sai School for my growth in the past few years."

"I truly wish from the bottom of my heart that we had a Sathya Sai high school as well, so this marvellous journey could have continued."

"I am also lucky to have had the opportunity to go to India and be in Sai Baba's ashram and participate in the school's play, dedicated to our Founder."

"Here at Sathya Sai School we all have received a great education and it is all thanks to the teamwork and engagement of the parents, students and teachers, and



our peers encouraging us. Everyone's contribution I am very grateful for, as it is an advantage offered at very few schools. As a child, I would always seek inspiration from fictional superheroes in cartoons and stories; I admired the way they faced life-threatening challenges. However, now I do not need to look outside for the heroes to seek inspiration from. I receive it right here among us. With the values and principles we exemplify, we are able to stride forward successfully. We all have the potential to make a difference in the world, because within all of us there is a Spirit of a Warrior. Moving forward, though this may mark the end of our journey at Sathya Sai School, it also unlocks a new chapter in our lives. Now, as we transition from middle schoolers to high schoolers, we will still continue to ensure Sai Baba's awe-inspiring legacy – the principles and values we model every single day."

### Musical / Play

An entertaining offering of music, drama, and dance was offered by the grade 8s, who happily shared their talents on guitar, keyboard, voice, and dance. The talent was threaded together by three emcees, with added class pictures captured during the year of the students and their teacher, Mrs. Menon.

### Year Book

Mrs. Menon announced that the Year Book had been completed. She spoke of the encouraging, inspirational and loving hearts of the students, parents, and alumna Ria Choksi who all helped to make the book. This accomplishment took place in the last weeks of school.

### The Most Supportive and Cooperative Parent Award

This award was presented to two important people:

- ♦ Mrs. Neha Choksi, a very hard working and dedicated parent who was a driving force throughout the year;
- ♦ Mrs. Christine Maharaj, who was always there and helping us.

### Vote of Thanks



Mrs. Neha Choksi, Grade 8 Parent Council Rep, thanked everyone for attending virtually. Thanks were given to the following people: Guest Speakers, Mr. Lakshman Swaminathan and Mr. T.R. Pillay for their inspiring words of wisdom; the IT team of Mr. Manish

Rughani and Mr. Arun Maharaj for helping to make this virtual graduation and creating such a meaningful graduation experience, despite it being online.

Dr. Revathi was thanked for her ever-positive attitude and constant blessings that are the reason for everyone's success. Mrs. Menon "for being our rock and handling everything so flawlessly. It was truly an honour to have you be their teacher in their final year because no one could have handled this online class better than you and made it so special for the students."

"This school has instilled in our children the best of values and they shine like stars no matter where they go...and sets them up for success."

"We cannot thank everyone enough for their preparation for this event and willingness to take on tasks beyond their comfort zone. We are deeply appreciative of everyone's support and it has been completed by the grace of our Founder, Sathya Sai Baba."

The Graduation Ceremony ended with a video of the students standing on the steps of the Sathya Sai School and throwing their graduation caps in the air (filmed prior to the Graduation Ceremony).





## GRADUATES - CLASS OF 2021



# Cyber Security Workshop

On June 11, Cognizant Outreach presented a virtual Cyber Security Workshop for all parents and for students in grades 5 to 8. The presenters were Ms. Anusha Kumar and Mr. Naveen Krishnamoorthy.<sup>2</sup>

Since we have been spending most of our time online, students need to learn how to think more responsibly as Internet users. Therefore, Cyber Safety is most important.

## 1. How can I use the Internet safely?

**APPS – Are the apps we get onto and use to chat with our friends, are they safe?** Mr. Krishnamoorthy gave an example of an email he received, asking him to buy a \$200 gift card and give it to a friend. The person who sent it was a friend, but who never sends an email like this. Later, this person sent an email to all her contacts explaining that her app and password were hacked.

**Is your password strong enough?** 1) It should be longer, at least 12 characters. 2) Mix upper and lower case letters. 3) Add symbols. Hackers try to create passwords using your name and other obvious words.

**Phishing is a fraudulent attempt to obtain sensitive information or data, such as username, passwords, credit card number, etc. e.g. “Get a cool offer, wireless headset for \$1.** Be careful – no one gives anything for free. Mistake: A girl ordered this by creating her profile and paying through her credit card. Important: don’t provide any such personal information

**Misuse of downloading software.** If you download something that is streaming, without legal

authorization, the company can send you a message that you have infringed on copyright information and charge you. If it is wrong, don’t do it.

**Geotagging.** When you take a selfie, each picture leaves a trail. When you post it on the Internet and if it has geotags, anyone can find your location. Important: turn off the GPS.

**Selfie Awareness Organization.** If strangers are trying to get you to identify yourself, do not give out any personal information. Be careful when posting pictures – everything in the chat gets recorded.

**Games.** – Keep chats relevant to the game.

- Never provide personal, private, or secure information.
- Try to set up private chats with known friends only.
- Never spend real currency in a game without getting permission.
- Respect age requirements on games. Don’t change your age, name, etc.

**Secure your computer and personal information.**

- Download/stream from reputable sites.
- Get proper antivirus and keep it updated.
- Use strong passwords.
- Question what you see in pop-ups, emails, attachments.

**Surfing the Internet.**

- Attend to warnings about a site’s safety or expired certificate.
- Look for HTTPS !
- Your browser and website should be updated regularly.

virtually and are available live to help provide targeted guidance and assistance to the participants.

**About the Presenters.** Ms. Anusha Kumar leads the Outreach Canada chapter. She is an HR manager based out of Whitby and lives with her husband and a 6-year-old dinosaur-lover son. Mr. Naveen Krishnamoorthy is core Outreach Canada team member. He works as an Engagement Manager. He lives in North York with his family and spends his time with his 10-year-old son. Technology and creativity are his key strengths. He has conducted Virtual Minds sessions for children across Canada.

<sup>2</sup> Cognizant and its flagship community initiative – the Outreach program. Cognizant is one of the world’s leading professional services companies, transforming clients’ business, operating and technology models for the digital era. And Cognizant Outreach is the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of Cognizant. Since its inception, 200,000 Outreach volunteers in 29 countries have clocked over 3.4 million hours of volunteering, impacting 700,000 lives across the globe.

In line with Cognizant Outreach’s overall objective, employees at Cognizant Canada have initiated Virtual Minds. Virtual Minds sessions present awesome topics and explore new avenues. Cognizant’s volunteers deliver lessons





## 2. What can I do if something happens?

**Cyber Bullying.** When someone is intentionally and repeatedly mean to someone through technology. This can be done through texts, apps, online media, etc. If you are being bullied: **STOP – BLOCK – TELL**

- 1) Never respond to these messages
- 2) Block the messages
- 3) Tell a parent, adult, or teacher immediately

### **True / False**

- Chatting with school friends and family online is a great way to communicate. **True**, but be very careful in what you share. The communication can be tapped by the public.
- Agreeing to meet up with someone you met online is a good idea and totally safe. **False**
- It is rude to block someone online, even if they are asking weird and uncomfortable questions. **False**
- If you send pictures to someone online, you can't control what happens to them. **True**, be very careful what you send and to whom. Get permission from parents.

### **Tips to remember.**

- It is a public place. It is easy to lose control of your data here.
- It is an uncensored site. Avoid sites with this warning.
- Trust your instincts. Block anyone who seems weird.
- It is illegal to threaten someone. Tell a safe adult if being threatened.

## 3. Where can I go for help? Examples:

**RCMP** – they have good resources for cyber bullying

**Kids Help Phone**

**Need Help Now**

**Public Safety Canada**

### **Recap**

- Respect yourself and others.
- Use privacy settings. Read through these.
- Online friends are still strangers.
- Don't share personal information/pictures online.
- Don't post your location.
- Use up-to-date anti-virus protection.
- Only download from respectable sites.
- Create strong passwords.

## **Freedom comes with responsibility**

- Keep yourself safe.
- Keep your stuff safe.
- Be responsible for what you do and say online.

### **Q & A**

Q: What is a secure site?

A: https – a secure site.

http – not a secure site.

Q: What is defined as personal information?

A: Name, date of birth, home address, phone number, parents number, etc.

Q: What if a weird question is meant as a joke?

A: Don't answer it.

Q: Is it OK to have a spam email?

A: These often have malicious links. Remove all spams.

Q: When someone creates a fake account, can hackers find your information?

A: Be ethical in the virtual world.

Q: What are ways of identifying phishing emails?

A: When shopping, these emails often include ads and links that lead to phishing. If you read the emails closely, you will see:

- mistakes in the message
- at the end the person is pushing you to do something
- check the domain name and email ID – it may be suspicious.

Q: What should you do if you are hacked?

A: Change all the security information:

- Change passwords
- Change security settings.

Q: Is it safe when children are uploading videos?

A: Students, make sure you are creating with parent control. Make sure the comments section is blocked.

**Don't store credit card information on sites.** We don't have control over any information that goes out.

**Research websites that ask you to create an account.**

Students, talk to your parents and teachers to make sure before you create profiles.

**You need a proper anti-virus software and keep it updated.** Paid versions have more updates, e.g.

McAfee, Kaspersky, Norton, etc.

*The school offers many thanks to Ms. Kumar and Mr. Krishnamoorthy for a very informative workshop. Thanks also to Mr. Rughani and Mr. Maharaj for hosting the workshop on Zoom.*



# Classroom Work

## Grade 4 Science: Rocks and Minerals

**By Mrs. Foram Vora and Grade 4 Students**

Visual Arts was integrated with the unit on rocks and minerals. Students used paints to decorate the smooth, flat rocks that they collected from their backyard and neighbourhood. After washing and cleaning the rocks, students put their creative minds at work and made beautiful decorative pieces that are perfect for displaying on shelves, in gardens, or can be used as a vase filler.

Students also made fossils in rocks by making a dough using salt, flour and water. They used a variety of toys to create an imprint of their fossils. After drying them for days, students painted the fossilized rocks to create the final product.

Rock candies in Science is often referred to as the most fun subject in school mainly because... it is! It can be a most delicious subject, too. Students explored the crystal structure of minerals by making rock candies. They thoroughly enjoyed the kitchen chemistry that turns a solution of sugar and water into a tasty treat.





## Grade 5 Conservation of Energy & Resources

***By Mrs. Seema Sharma and Grade 5 Students***

During the science unit on Conservation of Energy and Resources, the students learned about how energy transforms from one form to another. They also learned how it is important to save and not waste energy.

We then integrated this concept into SSEHV by taking an example of a bicycle; in order to ride it and reach a destination, one needs a lot of patience and energy. Energy transforms from the chemical energy (from the food we eat) into mechanical energy. If we waste our energy, we may not be able to push our limits to reach the destination while riding the bicycle. We need to preserve energy and patiently work our way through the uphill climb in order to enjoy the downhill joyride. We then tied this up with an art activity of making paper bicycles. This activity required them to make 50 paper straws which needed a lot of patience. Furthermore, they also got an insight into how paper that has already been printed on can be reused for crafting, such as making paper baskets, pencil/pen holders, photo frames and bicycles. They were amazed to know that paper which is so fragile can turn into something that strong. Here are pictures of one of the projects that they all worked on... paper bicycles.

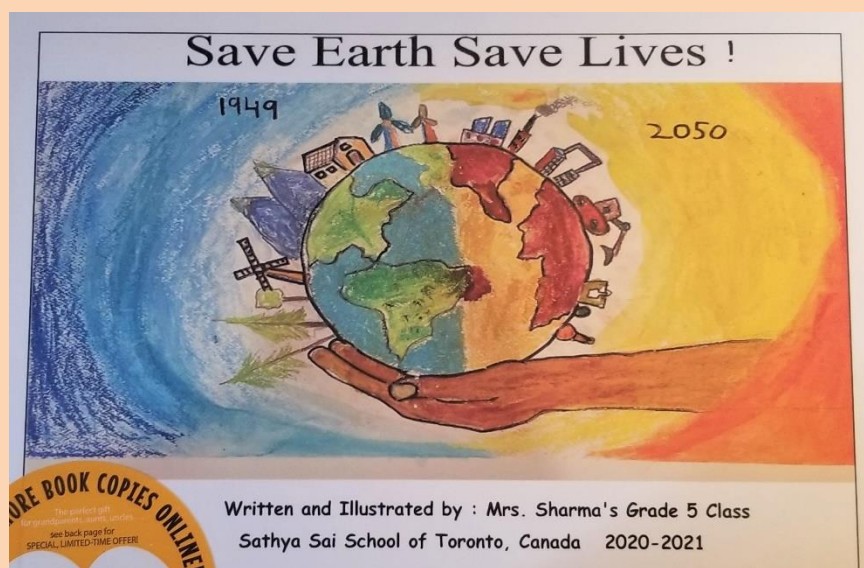




## Grade 5 Classbook on Empathy

**By Mrs. Seema Sharma and Grade 5 Students**

It all started during our Empathy week in the school. As the class was discussing and learning how to empathize with their classmates, I thought of taking it a step further this time: To facilitate students to dive even deeper into empathy by engaging in story telling from the perspective of a non-human element of the natural world. Students got to create their own illustration and a narrative, which could be a story or a poem about living or non-living components found on earth. The intention was to foster environmental empathy and scientific understanding in the students. When they got to read each other's story, it was interesting to see that the students were alarmed with the potential disruptions to the earth and its climate change. In order to let this memory stay in their minds forever, I decided to turn them into little publishers with their own stories. Coincidentally, the published copies arrived in the month of April when we were celebrating Earth Day! *Some sample pages follow.*



A note to the reader:



This book is a small effort from the grade 5 students to create awareness through their stories and poems. A request to take care of mother earth, it's beautiful nature and animals. A strong urge to take action right now, to save the earth and the lives on it from getting destroyed!







### THE MELTING OF THE NORTH POLE

The Arctic and the snowy mountains were better than ever. The animals were safe in their natural habitat and healthy, and everything was peaceful. One hundred years had passed, and though the arctic was still happy, the mountains and the animals suddenly felt a bit warmer. Nothing much had changed there so the animals continued on normally.

The next day, the glacier and mountains started to melt, not completely, but quite a lot! The polar bears started to sweat in their big fluffy coats and saw their homes melting! There were still some spots that were still partly frozen, but there weren't many of these spots.

Almost a month passed and there was barely any ice left! There were patches of grass that were left by the melting snow, and ice was replaced by frigid water. Polar bears cried for food, had nowhere to stay, and there was oil and junk galore. They were starving, miserable, and had turned into skinny animals that could not be recognized as polar bears! While all this was happening, humans were unaffected and unaware of it!

Mr. Cooper, a man living in Sunny city, was very interested in the Arctic and wanted to visit it as there were no humans there. He planned on making a documentary on the nature and wonders of the arctic. He spent almost two months preparing to go, and now he finally could go! He had watched movies and documentaries made a long time ago to get a glimpse of what the arctic looked like, and he thought it would be the best experience ever to go there by himself.

Mr. Cooper got there by boat and watched the animals from a distance, he expected to see polar bears, but instead, he saw skinny white dogs. At least he thought.

He got up and wondered aloud to himself, "Huh? Where did all the icebergs go?"

That's probably why there are no polar bears here, I will find some mountains and glaciers first. He thought to himself.

He searched and he searched but found no ice at all. He found dirt, water, oil, and trash. Mr. Cooper realized that those skinny dogs, trying to swim, were polar bears! Too many thoughts rushed through his mind at once. He was so confused! Mr. Cooper began to ask the polar bears what happened, and they told him everything with a feeble voice. He imagined what he would do, and how he would feel if that had happened to him. In his head, he pictured having the ground below him crumble into the water, and the food and home he had were crumbling too. With nothing he could do. He told the polar bears he would help them and headed back home.

He gave a speech about how human habits were killing the arctic and made everybody empathize with the polar bears. The people realized what they were doing, and decided to put an end to the global warming! **They pledged to save energy, save earth, save polar bears and save lives!**

By: Aadya





### The Fish Net Fiasco!

Hi Everyone, I am Daniella the Dolphin! I live in the ocean and all I see around me are nets that are thrown into the ocean by fishermen. Currently, my home in the ocean isn't very clean. Imagine if your home was filled with dirt and trash, it wouldn't be pleasant at all. Well, that's what is happening to us marine life and you probably didn't even know it. People throw nets into the ocean to catch fish, however sometimes most sea creatures get stuck in them and injure themselves instead.

One time, I went swimming in the ocean and I suddenly got stuck in a plastic net. I started yelling and trying to get some attention from other sea creatures. Eventually a marine life rescue team came to save me from getting hurt. They took the net off me but it still left a huge scar on my fin, which resulted in not being able to swim like other dolphins anymore.

We need to stop tossing a numerous amount of nets into any water bodies! When going fishing, be mindful because some sea animals can get stuck in nets and others have to swim with nets wrapped around their body. Those that escape may be left with small or big injuries. If every single person can follow these rules, our entire ocean will become a better place.

**Save Earth, Save Dolphins!**

By: Abisha





### The Unfortunate Turtle

Flippy was a sea turtle who was swimming in the warm stream of the deep sea water. He just ate his scrumptious jellyfish. but he got hungry again and decided he wanted to eat something. He swam for hours, yet he couldn't find anything to eat. He wanted to find something fun to eat and take it back for his parents to try. When Flippy started his travel in search of food, he bumped into his friend, Shelly! "Oh, what a small world" said Flippy. Can you imagine Flippy finding out that Shelly was hungry as well? Shelly said, "Let's go find some lunch". Flippy nodded and off they went. "What do you feel like eating today Shelly?" asked Flippy. "Don't know, something different." "Me too" answered Flippy.

As they walked up and down the beach shoreline they saw something in the distance on the beach, something different, more like they were searching. "Look!" Shouted Flippy, "It is my favourite kind of jellyfish. The spicy ones!!". "Me too, fantastic "Let's go and try some of that delicious food," said Shelly to Flippy. "Look!" said Flippy, bursting out with happiness, "There are thousands of jellyfish, maybe even a million". "Let's eat some and bring the rest back home to our parents!" exclaimed Flippy. "Yeah" Shelly agreed and nodded.

They went and ate a few bites of goodies and started to bring some of the things they devoured, back for their parents. All of a sudden Flippy started choking severely and half a heartbeat later Shelly choked hardly too!

At their homes, the parents started worrying and came out to search for them. They eventually found Flippy and Shelly at the bottom of the sea. They tried to wake them up but to no avail. Both the parents started to sob loudly.

Flippy and Shelly had died! They had suffocated on the plastic bags they ate mistaking them for jellyfish!!!! The parents thought that their child had to pay the price for the mistakes that humans make by overusing plastic bags and then littering them everywhere. Alas! only if humans use reusable bags, containers, and bottles as the earth and many animals will not die. Plastic not only kills animals but also impacts the environment.

**Save earth, save turtles! Reduce, Reuse, Refuse, and Recycle Plastic Bags.**

By: Ajay

*Save Earth, Save Pine Trees*



## My Life

"Hi, I am Lucia Leafly. I have been through many near deaths. I once got cut near my trunk. I was living by myself at the park. Before I lived with thousands of trees, but then the man came with an axe every month chopping down one friend at a time.

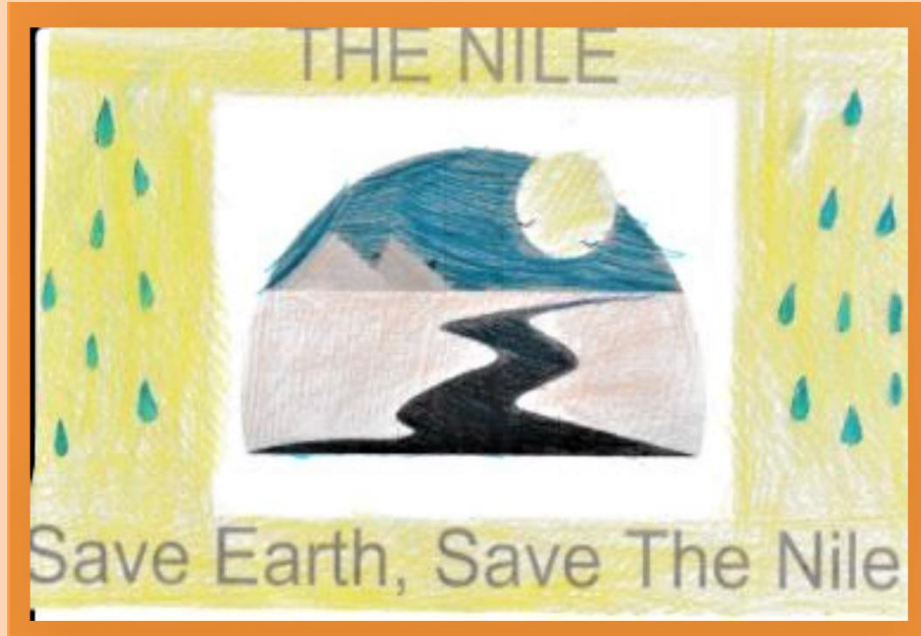
Four years ago they cut down my best friend. She was my big sister. Her name was Lisa Leafy. Her death was the most brutal because they cut her down slowly one branch at a time. I survived those years, but before I got cut down, I was lonely! Watching my pine cones leave and make a forest. It is like watching those mini humans grow up. Don't tell anybody this but my favourite pine cone was Lucifer. He was so quirky and cute. He was the oldest and the first one that left me. I still had a few more pine cones to leave before I was going to be cut. Then I thought I could live a fulfilled life because I made a new forest. The next day came. The man came back after one month. He sharpens his axe and he hews me down. At least most of my pine cones had made a forest. I hope my pine cones tell my story and live a long life in their own forest."

Trees get cut down all the time, let us all make a change to that. We can do this by not wasting paper and tissues. We can save thousands of trees doing this.  
**Save earth, Save Trees!**

By: Ishani







“First of all, the Nile is very important and you can’t keep misusing it by keeping on throwing out the sewage from your insane filtration system. Do you know what the freshwater from the Nile does? It’s the only reason we survive in this heated, sandy, place. And here you fools are! Throwing waste into our only way of survival!” Ezra burst out angrily, his face turning bright red. He continued, “Second of all, we won’t be able to grow any crops that most of us live on because the water in the Nile will become toxic and it will be bad for plants, animals, and most of the humans in Egypt And you want to do this all for appreciation with the Pharaoh!? This is just outrageous!?” And lastly, there are also a number of other things that threaten the Nile and with your new way of destroying the river, you can say goodbye to the Nile because it is as good as gone!” Ezra finished.

“Ok, I agree with you, kid. I will not construct the mega-dam.” said the man.

“Really?” asked Ezra.

“Really.” exclaimed the now-nice man.

“Stop the work! We are not installing the mega-dam!”

“Thank you for changing my mind young man.” Said the boss, while the workers went back to their cabins. When Ezra grew up, he became a businessman and he owned the filtration company and he made it into a company that helps save the Nile. Remember, Save Earth, Save life, just like Ezra!!!

By: Shreyansh

## Founder Chancellor Sri Sathya Sai Baba to Students

### Be human first, then progress towards Divinity

A happy life and good reputation depend on your actions, nothing else. To scale the heights of greatness, one must engage in sacred deeds. Human life is indeed very valuable. The first student speaker today told you: "Men are more valuable than all the wealth of the world." Who gives value to gold and diamonds? Man alone. Why do you pay a huge amount of money for a tiny plot of land in the city? Only because that's the value given to it by man. Unfortunately, the man who values everything does not value himself today! This is because human values are disregarded. Realize that the body has no value. Everyone has a body composed of the five elements. The body becomes meaningful only when sanctified with noble actions and ideals... Embodiments of Love! Make your hearts pure with selfless actions and serve society. Don't indulge in wasteful deeds and pollute your mind. First understand what it means to be human and then progress towards Divinity.... "Who am I?" Self-inquiry is very essential. It makes everything else easy to understand.

- **Sathya Sai Baba, Summer Showers in Brindavan 1995, pp.31,35**



## Human Value for May/Jun

### TRUTH

#### TRUTH

Courage

Discernment

Self-Inquiry

Fairness

**At the center of the universe dwells the Great Spirit. And that center is really everywhere. It is within each of us.**

**- BLACK ELK  
Lakota (Sioux) of North America**





## Multi-Faith Festivals around the world

July 20-23

Eid al Adha (Islamic)



July 23

Guru Purnima (Hindu)



July 24

Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)



Aug 3

Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)



Aug 10

Hijira (Islamic)



Aug 17

Tish'a B'Av (Jewish)



Aug 22

Raksha Bandan (Hindu)



Sep 6

Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)



Sep 11

Paryushana Parva (Jain)



## Report Cards Sent Home on June 29

Congratulations to all teachers and students! All classes completed the Ontario Ministry's curriculum for their grade, despite the challenges of hybrid delivery from September to March and then full online teaching from March 23 to June 29, 2021. The school is very proud of our teachers and students accomplishments, especially in light of the difficulties so many schools faced in the 2020-2021 academic year with completing curriculum requirements and with student learning.

## Important Dates: July to Sept 2021

Jul-Aug	School Closed for Cleaning
Jul 1-Sep 6	Summer Holiday
Aug month	Vaccinations for 12+
Aug month	School Calendar emailed
Sep 7	First Day of School Year

**HAVE  
A SAFE  
& HEALTHY  
SUMMER!**

Yours truly,  
Ms. Recht, Office Admin.  
Dr. Revathi, Principal

