

LOYOLA ELECTRONIC NEWS SERVICE OCTOBER 2021



LOYOLA SCHOOL
Thiruvananthapuram



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Cover Photo:
The new cataract in Loyola aviary



From the Principal's Desk...

Preparations are on for welcoming those students who are willing to come to school from November 1. We collated data from all parents about their willingness to send children to school. We have 1020 students studying in classes 1 to 7. Only 334 of them opted for offline classes. That makes it 34 %. Teaching 66 % online and 34 % offline is a huge challenge. Right now, I am collecting opinions of various stakeholders about handling these issues.

With the diesel prices shooting up and the restriction on the number of students travelling on a school bus, the bus fee is set to increase drastically.

Right now everyone is used to online classes. The COVID protocols do not allow children to participate in any sports. So the usefulness of physical classes seems to be limited. A slow transition to offline classes seems to be the only solution. In the coming days, parents will have a chance to air their views on how to handle the situation.

Lots of participating activities are being planned for the next few weeks: Family Days for the Junior school, Youth Festivals and a series of online competitions.

I am hoping to see children and teachers coming to school soon.

Fr. P.T. Joseph, S.J.

UPCOMING EVENTS



FAMILY DAY

LKG & UKG: 23 OCTOBER 6 PM

STDS I TO V: 30 OCTOBER 6 PM



LKG & UKG

K I D S
F E S T

SINGING, STORYTELLING, SPEECH & FANCY DRESS
FROM NOVEMBER 11 TO 13





STDS I & II

1. Recitation (English & Malayalam).....3 Minutes
2. Solo Song (English & Malayalam).....3 Minutes
3. Storytelling (English or Malayalam: only for Std I)..4 Minutes
4. Fancy Dress (Participants may speak.).....Maximum 1 Minute

STD III

1. Recitation (English & Malayalam).....4 Minutes
2. Solo Song (English).....4 Minutes
3. Light Music (Malayalam).....4 Minutes
4. Instrumental Music*4 Minutes
5. Declamation* (English).....4 Minutes
6. Solo Dance (Cinematic dance is not allowed.).....5 Minutes

STDS IV & V

1. Recitation (English & Malayalam).....5 Minutes
2. Solo Song (English)5 Minutes
3. Light Music (Malayalam).....5 Minutes
4. Instrumental Music*5 Minutes
5. Declamation* (English).....5 Minutes
6. Solo Dance (Cinematic dance is not allowed.).....5 Minutes

* WIND/STRING/KEYBOARD/PERCUSSION

* Declamation is dramatic reproduction of great speeches delivered by other people.



Shruthi H.

LOBA EXPLORE SESSION X ON

Management & Consulting

"Most people do MBA not because they want it as a career choice but because someone else did it and succeeded. Also, an MBA gets you a higher salary package."

"The study of MBA limits you to Finance, HR, International Business and Marketing."

"MBA might not be the right course for you if you have not studied business or management at the undergraduate level."

"The market is saturated with MBA graduates and the demand for them is declining due to the unavailability of jobs in the market to sustain them."

Rather than being a trendsetter, India has donned the shoes of a trend follower. Indians recognised the vital role of Management in any organisation structure, so MBA gained great popularity as a safe and lucrative course. With such massive numbers in play, many myths have gradually surrounded this most aspired course in this country.

The 10th buzz session of LOBA Explore, comprising peerless panellists Sankar Krishnan (1983 batch), Somnath Kishore (2014 batch), Xavier Sebastian (1994 batch) and Abhilash Jayapal (1997 batch),

busted not only the myths but many more misconceptions related to careers in Management and Consulting. The co-moderator, Master Ryan Jacob Mathew (2022 batch) along with Abhilash steered the session with dexterity.

AJ and RJ (as Abhilash and Ryan addressed each other) started off in the first gear by requesting the panellists to give a sneak peek into *why, when, and how* they decided to pursue a career in Management and Consulting.

Sankar, the key speaker of the day, set the session rolling by enumerating his

THE PANELLISTS



Sankar Krishnan



Xavier Sebastian



Somnath Kishore



Abhilash Jaypal



Ryan Jacob Mathew
(Co-moderator)

internship stints and stressing the importance of tucking as many internships as possible under one's belt and using them as a launchpad for a career in Management. The experience he amassed helped him to gain key positions in top-ranking management companies. He was a former partner of the world's leading management consultancy firm, McKinsey & Co, the global Dean of McKinsey's leadership training programme and he has also led McKinsey India's recruiting team. He is currently the Chairperson of Simprints Technologies, Cambridge, the Chief Strategic Advisor to the Ramco Group, and Director on the Board of four fast-growing tech and non-profit ventures. Xavier, who was ignorant about MBA until his 12th grade, joined IIT Madras.

He talked about how his participation in the various extracurricular activities on and outside the campus proved to be fruitful for his career later on. Xavier is currently the Chief Strategy Officer at TAFE (Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited). He worked with the Boston Consulting Group across two stints (2000- 2005 and 2010-2018). He was a Managing Director and Partner, leading the BCG Chennai office in 2018 when he left it to join TAFE. From 2005 to 2010 he took a break from BCG for an entrepreneurial stint in the retail sector. Somnath, like many of his peers, embarked on the engineering bus. Mentored by Sankar, he built an exemplar portfolio for his placement interviews. He then went on to complete his MBA from IIM A in 2020, having done his summer

internship at Boston Consulting Group. During his B. Tech days, Somnath was the department topper, actively involved in technical and cultural activities, both at the state and national levels. He is currently a Management Consultant with McKinsey & Co based in India.

Having set the wagon into motion, AJ made a smooth transition to the second gear, *Getting to know*, by pairing Sankar separately with Somnath and Xavier and establishing the advantage of having a magnanimous mentor like Sankar to launch them into their respective career paths. Also, in response to a query from

Sankar, being a seasoned player in this field, accentuated the importance of Ikigai and urged the aspirants to identify and build upon their strengths and at the same time keep on honing their skill set rather than being overly concerned about hefty pay packets and perks.

RJ, Somnath walked the audience through a typical day of a Management Consultant.

Just when the audience was enjoying a smooth ride, an exciting revelation was made by AJ about the chance for the audience to win gift vouchers sponsored by the panellists if they took part in a quiz.

Thrusting the session into top gear the panellists took turns to offer their advice and recommend various career paths for an MBA graduate, namely Sales, Marketing, Operations, Strategy, Banking and digital industries in response to few queries from the present higher secondary students at Loyola School. Responding to two of the

questions, Xavier remarked that a management consultant to a company is what a doctor is to a patient and explained why novices can be on a par with others with years of experience. Sankar, being a seasoned player in this field, accentuated the importance of Ikigai and urged the aspirants to identify and build upon their strengths and at the same time keep on honing their skill set rather than being overly concerned about hefty pay packets and perks. The panellists also put forward a plethora of Indian and overseas B-schools one could choose from.

Putting the wagon into the reverse gear, AJ and RJ appealed to the panellists to walk the audience through the various setbacks they encountered in their respective career paths. At the end of this section every Loyolite was reinforced with the motto Magis. The one-and-a-half-hour journey culminated with the declaration of the winners of the gift vouchers.

Six of the lucky seven were Loyolites: Navaneeth V. Sankar, Jeremei Vivek Sam, Prenav Dinesh Nair, Joash Jobby Jacob, Sanjay George, and Isht Agarwal. The seventh one was guest participant Amrita M. Pillai from Lecole Chempaka.

The session was well-received as it not only ignited the aspirations of the parents as well as children who were undecided about a career in Management and Consulting but also reinforced the choice of those children who had already decided to pursue an MBA programme. The amiable exchange of the vast experience the eminent panellists acquired over the years will surely inspire many to pursue a career in Management and Consulting.

Loyolite in the limelight

ADV. BASANT BALAJI SWORN IS AS ADDITIONAL JUDGE OF KERALA HIGH COURT



Adv. Basant Balaji of the SSLC batch of 1988 is in the limelight for becoming the Additional Judge of the Kerala High Court. Chief Justice S. Manikumar administered the oath of office to the new judge on 8 October 2021.

Justice Basant Balaji did his graduate studies at Kerala Law Academy and obtained a Master's in Business Law from Kerala University and practised under Adv. G.S. Raghunath first at the District and subordinate courts in Thiruvananthapuram and then at the High Court, Ennakulam. He served as Senior Government Pleader from 2006 to 2011. He had also been a standing counsel for KFC and a panel advocate for LIC.

While at Loyola, Justice Basant Balaji had been an avid cricketer who captained the school team and also got into the Trivandrum District team.

In Memoriam

Joseph Jacob of the 1968 ISC batch, the first batch of the school, passed away suddenly on 24 Sept at Changanacherry. He had no history of ill health.



Joseph Jacob (ISC 1969)

A soft spoken person, he was gentle and kind but a tiger on the sports field. An excellent athlete and sports person, he captained the school's basketball team that won the district championship for the first time under his captaincy.

He was a boarder and a very popular one at that. He had a large circle of friends and well-wishers. Jacob worked with the Federal Bank and retired as a Senior Manager. He was also the first President of LOBA and continued to take great interest in its activities even after his term.

I had never met him after 1968. A few months back he called me, introduced himself and we had a long conversation. I mentioned that I remembered the name and the person but could not put a face to the name. He promptly sent me the photograph which forms part of

this obituary note. Everything came back instantly. Like all of us he had aged but that genial look was still there.

I promised to catch up with him before long, little realising that the end was so near.

His passing away has created a deep void for all of us who knew him. We pray that he is happy and at peace where he is. He leaves behind his wife Alfy and daughter Anna. Our condolences to his family.

We will miss him, but his smile, warmth and memories will live with us forever.

Goodbye Dear Friend

Wg Cdr NR Kanthy (Retd)

On behalf of the Loyola Community



In Fond Memory of the Gentle, Lovable Giant



Charles Chacko (Class of 1984)
16 September 1968 – 19 September 2021



“Gimme a sip, Gimme a sip, Don’t forget me!” —20 to 25 of us sweaty boys, sardine-packed in the canteen, would be reaching out in a frenzied clamour, pushing and shoving to get their one sip from that single bottle of Torino that Charles alone was gracious enough to not only buy, but also share every lunch break after football. That epitomized the generous, gregarious and lovable soul he was even during those adrenalin-filled teenage days. In fact his generosity was legendary, extending to letting folks ride his brand new motorbike or sharing his coveted *phoren* toys at home with us or even our juniors. Known for his goalie prowess both in football and hockey, he was an iconic sight to behold, resplendent in bright yellow and

red protective gear much to the delight and envy of the faithful junior followers who would often hover around to behold this towering hero who always delivered with spectacular dives and flying punch saves with his albatross like arms. As a wicketkeeper too he was known to shake up the opposition merely by his presence. Often the butt of our incessant leg pulling and jokes, he would coolly brush it off with his signature smile, whether it was during the school days or many get-togethers and especially on our recent UK trip together. Never one to be ruffled easily, but always ready to take us on with his sportsmanship shining through, whether it was being dunked in the pool at our first reunion or regaling us with his moment-appropriate *shayaris* or stubbornly battling it out in the L84 WhatsApp group which he created, bringing us all instantly closer, Charlie was very much a larger than life presence for us classmates, then and now. His college

heroics only added to the already inimitable legend that he had become. Many were content just to be hangers on in his reflected glory during those heydays with the tales becoming taller by the telling and tellers, as the days and years passed. Indeed Charlie, as the ancient

Greeks would say, lived a life worth living! Dear Charlie, even though our shock and sorrow pales in comparison to your mother's life torn asunder, being the sole source of support, as much as your wife Ann's or your beloved son, Colin's (who now is all of ours too), know that you will be sorely and surely missed dear buddy as much as your loud guffaws, endless banter and late nights of card playing and *kunuks*! May your soul soar like the free spirit that you were and attain eternal peace, contentment and joy. As you were wont to sing: "*Chalte chalte mere yeh geet yaad rakhna, kabhi alvida na kehna kabhi alvida na kehna...*"

Loyola Class of 1984

Afterglow

*I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done.
I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun;
Of happy memories that I leave when life is done.*

Helen Lowrie Marshall

*ONLINE CELEBRATIONS OF
Gandhi Jayanti
On 2 October 2021*



Message: Dr Saji P. Jacob



Joaquin Jo Emmanuel



Adam Chris Nazarethil



Dhan Krishna



Ridhan Muhammad



Nandakishore, VI C



Anton Biju, VII C



Thomas Biju, VI C



Advaith Sudeep Nandan, UKG C



Laxman Sankar, UKG B



Advik Arun Nair, UKG C



Daniel George Joseph, UKG B

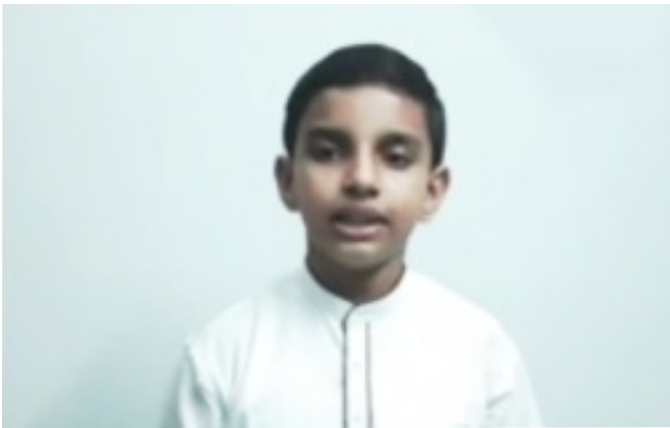
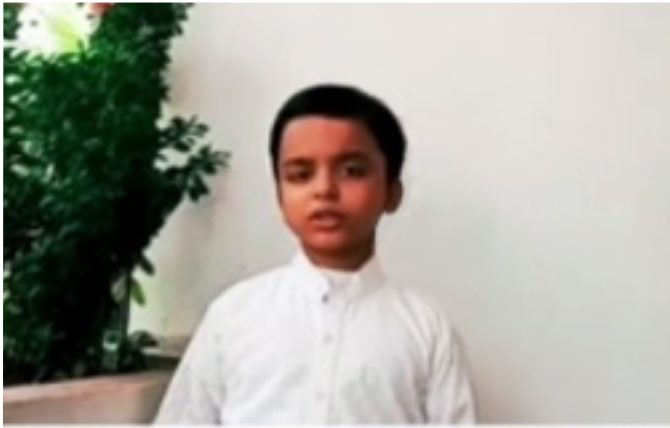


Aayush S. Sunil, UKG B



Ahad Ibrahim, UKG C

Musical Interludes by Loyola Choristers



WINNERS IN GANDHI JAYANTI QUIZ

CATEGORY I: CLASSES V TO VII



FIRST
Ishaan Sajay VII B



SECOND
Anish Bandyopadhyay, VII B



THIRD
Advaith Manoj, VII A



THIRD
Jonathan Edwards N., VI D



THIRD
Kiran U. Nar, VI B

CATEGORY II: CLASSES VIII TO XII



FIRST
Sravan V., VIII B



SECOND
Krishna Kumar Singh A., IX A



THIRD
Gautham Krishna K., XII A

My life is my message



We are what we are, only because we have life. We live our lives the way we like to live. Age, gender, nationality or status in society might differ but we have only one life. Life is a gift; everyone receives it as a birth right. Words or numbers cannot describe the sheer beauty of life and its hardships. Yet, life is seen and felt differently. What makes the life of a person different from others is summed up by the phrase: "Actions speak louder than words."

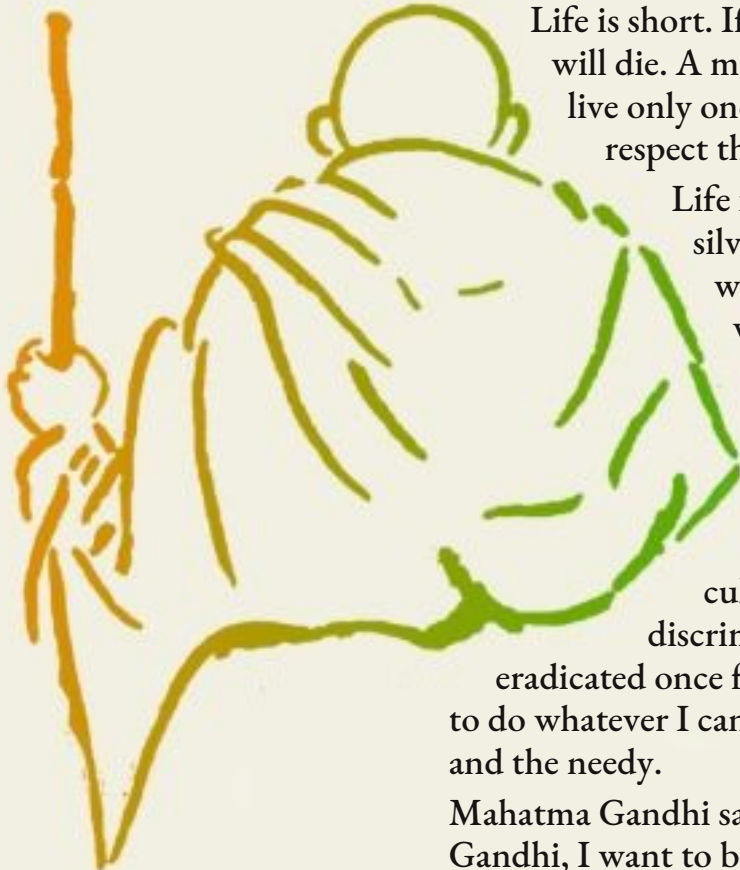
Life is short. If born in this world, for sure one day we will die. A meaningful life gives happiness to us. We live only once, so we should chase our dreams and respect the emotions of others.

Life is hard as not many are born with a silver spoon in the mouth. We need to take wise decisions to fulfil our dreams. But, we cannot foresee all the factors. Yet, we should not give up our fight to live a successful life. We should live and let others live. My ambition is that my life should be remembered by others.

I want to see that racial tension, corrupt culture, violence of all kinds, and discrimination on whatever basis are eradicated once for all. I know my limits, but still I want to do whatever I can to put an end to the misery of the poor and the needy.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "My life is my message". Like Gandhi, I want to be firm on principles and fight against discrimination, harassment, and highhandedness of the unruly people. Ever since I was a little boy, this quote got stuck in my head and I will never let it go.

Amogh Deepak, VIII A



Relevance of the UN today



“Our world has reached a heart-wrenching milestone: COVID-19 has claimed two million lives”, said António Guterres, UN Secretary General, on 15 January 2021. The pandemic has taken many more lives since then and cast a dark shadow across our future.

The pandemic has not only affected people's health but also caused a socio-economic,

comprehensive health response guided by the World Health Organization (WHO) and its Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, which aims to mobilize all sectors and communities in the control and suppression of the transmission of the virus, and to reduce mortality by providing care for those who are affected.



humanitarian and human rights crisis. It will impact those who are not yet born.

The UN's active role is needed to coordinate how the countries of the world cooperate for a common good. Its response to COVID-19 and its impact has three overarching components:

1. Delivery of a big scale coordinated and

2. Safeguarding lives and livelihoods by addressing the devastating near-term socio-economic, humanitarian and human rights aspects of the crises with attention to those hit hardest.

3. Ensuring a healthier post COVID-19 world by remedying fragilities and promoting transformative change towards more just, equal and resilient societies and economies.

The UN is playing a pivotal role in maintaining peace, security and cooperative relations among countries. In order to fight against the present pandemic situation, WHO and the United Nations are playing a positive role and have helped to fight the health crisis thereby saving the world from collapsing, even though there is a lot of criticism against the role played by the UN and the WHO.

Anant Aravind Pillai, IX A

Respecting the elderly



“Those who respect the elderly pave their road towards success.”

Elders have plenty of experience in life and they can teach us how to handle the challenges we face in life. They are knowledgeable enough to teach us how to avoid mistakes and improve the quality of our life.

Very often elders who try to impart knowledge to us are ignored and even ridiculed. If we have the patience to listen to their pieces of advice, it will help us to widen our horizon of wisdom. In addition to sharing their achievements, elders also share their experiences of failures in life. This helps us to avoid the same mistakes in the future. Our elders are experts in different fields. The areas of their expertise are vast; they include

cooking, financial planning, farming, tailoring, and many such fields that may not look very glamorous. My grandmother is passionate about cooking. She spent countless hours in the kitchen perfecting her recipes. To help others master their culinary skills, she provides helpful tips. She finds happiness in sharing her recipes.

As we grow older we start ignoring our elders. We disregard their advice and life lessons. As our elders find it difficult to adapt themselves to the fast-moving society, we should change our behaviour pattern in such a way that they feel included. We should rearrange our schedules so that we can spend more time with them. This is what our society needs in the present century.

Adved Krishna A. S., X C

Back to the House of Bliss



Aryan A., VIII A

Nothing beats the feeling of the wind blowing on your face while travelling on the yellow buses of Loyola. Nothing beats the sight of the school crest fixed gloriously on the school gate. Nothing beats hearing the cheers of Loyolites on the playground. We have not been able to experience these for two years. It was unexpected! But, here we are, getting ready to feel all these again, getting ready to go back to our House of Bliss.

When asked to pen down my feelings about going back to school, I smiled remembering how two years ago I had jumped around my house with joy hearing that schools were shutting down and long holidays were ahead.

But once I realised that it was not a vacation and as I edged more into the new experience of online learning, I started realising the value of my second home.

How much I missed my buddies, my

teachers, uncles, aunties, the classrooms, our playgrounds and many more! Now, I am overwhelmed with joy to know we are finally going to be back at school. I am sure for each and every Loyolite, November 2021 will be the best month of the year.

In UKG, I looked forward to joining the 1st standard so that I could wear the uniform for the first time. In the 5th grade I looked forward to getting to wear watches to school. While in class 8 I looked forward to wearing trousers to school. I am sure lots of Loyolites missed all these during the past two years. But now, I feel glad that all these are coming back.

We, the Loyolites, stood together and faced the challenges thrown to us by the pandemic. Now let us wait eagerly for our House of Bliss to reopen .

Cheer Loyola's Sons!

Magis!



Reopening of Schools: The Prospects and Pitfalls

Keshav Balachandran, V B
(Junior School Leader)

I was very happy and excited when the government announced that schools would re-open in November. On the one hand, the thought of meeting my friends excited me, but on the other hand, the daily reports of COVID cases in our state frightened me. How do we deal with reopening of schools amidst the not-so-great TPR in Kerala? Are we ready for this? Do we have enough knowledge or experience in case something goes terribly wrong in this situation?

The questions and concerns are many and they need to be addressed so that parents can be sure that their kids are taken care of. It is a very difficult situation that we are in now. Reopening of schools has its pros and cons. Opening of schools will help the children improve their social skills and boost their confidence level as they get to be around their friends and teachers. The learning process will also become more structured and efficient. This is also a welcoming move for the underprivileged students who were dependent on government schools for food and books. They have suffered a lot due to the closure of schools. But the atmosphere is also slightly grim because we have heard that a third wave of the pandemic may hit.

Unvaccinated children will definitely be a concern for their near and dear ones.

What we should do on our part is ensuring that COVID-appropriate protocol issued by competent authorities is strictly followed. This is easier said than done because, on return to school after a long interval, excited students are most likely to forget all guidelines on physical distancing. As the focus should be on protecting students, staff, and their families, some of the practical measures that Loyola School can take are:

- Staggering the start and close of the school day
- Staggering mealtimes
- Moving classes to temporary spaces or conducting them outdoors
- Holding classes on shift basis to reduce the strength of each class

The psychological, developmental and educational costs of this prolonged closure are being felt by everyone in this country. The decision to open schools in various States may seem to be right at this point of time, but given our experience with the sudden emergence of the second wave in India, the need is for a cautious and calibrated reopening and constant monitoring of the situation on a daily basis for at least a month or two.

Limping back to **NORMALCY**



Smitha Stephen

I felt a sudden rush of nostalgia when I heard the news of the reopening of my school. A sweet memory mixed with colours, celebrations, new clothes and fresh scent. To be candid, the present times are very uncertain and it is tough to explain the looming concern I have for my little ones.

Kids have been alienated from the heaven of games, laughter, birds and friends for more than a year. During an informal conversation, I enquired about their views on the reopening of schools. With no wonder, I got to know more about my overexcited kids. The answers I received were filled with great excitement and the gleam in their eyes was noticeable. The answers also shed light on the massive stress that the little ones had knowingly or unknowingly gone through. While it might be difficult for them to enjoy a normal school experience, coming to school, for them, will be a great relief from the four walls of their makeshift classroom at home.

In the current system of hybrid teaching, there are a lot of new things to learn and unlearn in order to be effective. We, teachers, have never been completely satisfied with educating children through

online platforms. Each of us started our online classes with the anxiety of not being able to effectively reach out to our students from far and wide though they have been brought together in a sort of virtual classroom.

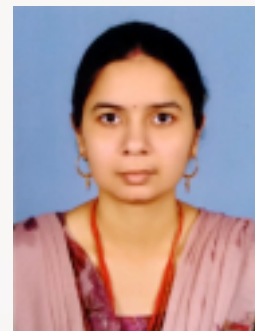
Safety is essential and is the priority for the parents, the teachers and most importantly, the students. However, if we can give the children their much deserved 'school days' in a convincingly safe manner, the possibility of reopening schools should not be pushed aside. Many children have dangerously fallen behind on their socio-emotional development. In-person instruction is vital when it comes to their mental and value-oriented development. Although the government guarantees the complete safety of children, we must also be prepared to overcome all the hurdles that we may come across, with ample preparation and prayer.

Let us welcome them this time with sanitisers instead of flowers. Let us walk with them from the world of isolation to a future together and give them a ray of hope for the Golden Days awaiting them.

As Percy Bysshe Shelley puts it in his 'Ode to the West Wind':

'If winter comes, can spring be far behind?'

On reopening of schools



Nupur Choudhary

The news that Kerala schools would reopen in November made me elated, anxious, and confused at the same time. Gradually the excitement subsided and I realized that I have to be more cautious because, whatever role I play in the education system, there would be manifold increase in my responsibilities.

The pandemic disproportionately impacted the education of the most vulnerable students who were already behind their peers during the pre-pandemic days. It is true that in-person school environment helps the children in mental and physical health. That teacher-pupil contact is indispensable for the better grasping of the subject is beyond a shadow of doubt. Still, we are not out of woods yet and we have to keep using science-based prevention strategies to maintain a safe environment for ourselves. We cannot let mask fatigue, pride or politics get in the way of doing what is right for our children's health, safety and education. Parallel to reopening schools we should research how to communicate more efficiently in online classes because the future is quite unpredictable and capricious.

Even though a layered approach to risk mitigation will be adopted by schools, if there will be lower infection rate in the community, other less stringent risk mitigation measures need to be applied. If the community prioritises the suppression of the viral spread in other social gatherings, then children can go to school.

Lockdown was also a temporary solution to the problem in the past, but continuation of it is not suitable for all. "Life is all about the next step" and this is the next step. We are not going back to the exactly same scenario as it was before the pandemic; we are trying to find a solution for the problem of the present. Science and our behaviour are the only hope to make this step effective and conclusive.