

E-CHATTER ARTICLES - SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2024

SHRIMATHI SHANTHA RAJAGOPAL BY Ms. M. MEENAKSHI (A TRIBUTE TO OUR BELOVED FOUNDER SHANTHA MADAM - READ OUT IN THE MORNING ASSEMBLY BY MISS ANAGHA.P. (114418) - CLASS 12B

Good morning everybody. Today, we have gathered here to honour the indomitable spirit of Shrimathi Shantha Rajagopal, fondly known as “Madam” by all those who had the privilege of knowing her. Born on 29 April 1936, in a time when dreams of education for all were just budding, Madam was a woman who made this school her life, crafting a sanctuary of learning, where every child could thrive.

In the year 1969, when La Chatelaine first opened its doors, it became a beacon of hope—a residential school in a bustling city, a novelty that captured the imagination of many. With a peculiar name “La Chatelaine” that always sparked curiosity, that people always wanted us to repeat it whenever we utter, Madam’s vision for this brainchild of hers was always clear: to provide a nurturing environment for children. She was the guardian of this haven, fiercely protective, ensuring that only those teachers with good intentions could enter its gates and outsiders could never enter.

Her Innovative spirit shone brightly as she revolutionized education, easing the burden of textbooks long before it became a conversation in our state government schools and much before CBSE talked of “no bag day”. She led with foresight, proving that her ideas were not merely ahead of their time, but essential for the well-being of our students. When schools were just starting to build or expand computer labs, Madam educated every subject to every child in grade 1 and 5 through computers and higher class through smart boards, something that schools wouldn’t have imagined.

Shantha Madam was a staunch believer of the principles of Gandhi ji and Swami Vivekananda. Her love for music resonated deeply; Madam believed wholeheartedly in the holistic development of her students. Cultural celebrations at La Chatelaine were distinct. When other school speakers blared with typical filmy music which was banned at La Chatelaine by Madam, the melodies of carols in one corner and the mellifluous Thiruppavai in the other echoed through our halls, a celebration of our rich heritage.

Her affinity for nature was known by all. The lush campus that we cherish today shows her love for flowers and greenery. Students and teachers recall how she mourned the loss of trees during Vardah cyclone and sobbed for many days,

reminding us of her profound connection to the world around her. It was through this love that she encouraged creativity, nurturing a spirit of innovation among students with competitions like Ikebana. In addition to that, she introduced skill-based classes such as cooking, electronics, tailoring, dramatics, typewriting and so on empowering students with practical knowledge—an education that went beyond the confines of traditional academia.

The silence of the campus during her fierce yet graceful morning rounds spoke volumes, laden with tales of supervision and attention to detail. Birthday gifts and Christmas surprises were not mere tokens; they were manifestations of her love for each child, and in so doing, Madam has not left any stone unturned.

But this great soul breathed her last on October 1, Though she has left us physically, her spirit endures in every brick she laid, every tree she planted in this campus and every child's life she had touched. Her legacy is now entrusted to our dedicated leaders, Mrs. Sujatha Viswanathan, Trustee Academics and Mr. Viswanathan, Chief Coordinator, who embody her vision and commitment to excellence, who work tirelessly for the betterment of the students.

As we stand here today, let us take comfort in knowing that the passion for education lit up by Madam continues to burn brightly. It is indeed in good hands, and together, with Madam's blessings we shall ensure that her dream lives on in the hearts and minds of every student who walks through these gates.

AVOID UNHEALTHY HABITS (MORNING ASSEMBLY SPEECH GIVEN BY MISS K.PIRAKAVI - 145922 CLASS 9 C)

Good Morning everyone. Today I am going to speak on the topic : Avoid Unhealthy Habits. First let me speak on habits. We all have habits, and these habits can either help us or hold us back from evolving into better individuals.

We all know that it is quite easy to get caught up in unhealthy habits - like indulging in excessive screen time, or having poor eating habits or even lack of exercise. These habits can affect our mental and physical health, relationships and even mar our future.

So, how can we break the cycle .

First, let us become more aware of our habits and their impacts.

Second, let us start small. Replace one unhealthy habit with a healthier one each week.

Third, let us find healthy ways to cope with stress and emotions, like physical exercise, mindfulness or some creative pursuits.

And lastly, let us support each other. Let us create a community that encourages healthy habits and self-care.

Remember, our habits shape who we are and who we become. Let us choose habits that help us grow and thrive.

In the words of Mr. Mark Zuckerberg, “ The biggest risk is not taking any risk “. Let us take the beneficial risk and choose healthy habits. By this we can take control of our habits and so, of our lives too.

SCHOOL LIFE BY MISS S.P.AKSHYA (114730) CLASS 12D

Most of us have been taught to read and write at our school. It is mainly the school which teaches us the right moral values. These values are inculcated from an early age. They help us to have the right attitude in order to lead our lives.

To me, school life serves as a period that makes up most of my childhood memories. I have learnt to laugh, cry, share and support, by my interaction with my classmates. To me, schools stand as the framework that builds character and serve as the pathway to achieve our dreams and goals.

The initial years at school pass like a breeze and are probably the best years of school life, but the advanced grades teach us that life is not always easy. We do badly in tests, stay awake at nights to finish assignments, get chided by our teachers, but most importantly, we learn to cope with the hardships that life throws at us.

Schools have the great responsibility in shaping the young minds which, in my opinion, are like soft clay waiting to be moulded. Our teachers are the potters who shape our psyche and carve out the resultant figure that is ready to bear the brunt of

life without cracking. Even if the later stages of school life feel like a burden, we must remember that our school life is undoubtedly the happiest time of our lives.

INVISIBLE STARS BY MISS SIVATHMIGA (125123) CLASS 11A

You found me beneath the moonlit day
with thoughts as deep as oceans wide
Lost in a dream,
enchanted by your grace
In a world where time just fades away.

And, oh, this reflective melody
takes me back to a moment that
wasn't meant to be
But I'm grateful for the lessons learned
from my friends,
they've been my guiding words.

Invisible stars, they guide my way
Through ups and downs,
keeping hope at bay
In a thoughtful mind, memories reside
As I find solace in this
reflective stride.

Invisible stars, lighting up the sky,
guiding us through life,
as time goes by.
Thoughtful minds, full of dreams so bright
Reflecting on the past, but
looking towards the light.

SIMPLICITY BY MASTER S.SUDARSHAN (135374) CLASS 9A

The dictionary meaning of the word simplicity, is the quality of being simple.

I would like to narrate a short story on the quality of Simplicity

Once upon a time, there was a rich father who wanted to teach his son a valuable lesson about life. He decided to take his son on a trip to a simple village far away from their luxurious home. As they journeyed to the village the dad explained to his son that they were going to see how some people lived with very few material possessions. When they arrived at the village they spent time on a farm with a humble family. The dad pointed out their simple lifestyle and asked the son to look at their home. He pointed out that their house was not as fanciful as their own. But he persisted that they could still learn something from them. The son observed the differences and noticed that they themselves had one dog while the simple family had four of them. The dad smiled and said that they had a swimming pool, but the simple family had rivers nearby where they could swim. The father went on to say that their nights were lit by lanterns but the simple family had beautiful stars that lit up their evenings. The dad continued that, they in the city, went to the store to buy their food, whereas the villagers grew theirs. The father observed that while they had walls around their house for protection, the villagers had their friends and a close knit community to support them. The son being an obedient one, thanked the father for teaching him this most valuable lesson on Simplicity.

I would like to reiterate that real wealth is not material wealth but the wealth of being simple yet contented. This in my opinion is real wealth.

“It is not money which makes us rich: but,

It is about being simple and doing good that makes us rich”.