



# THE SEQUIN



Sr. No. 63

"Good health, loads of wealth, prosperity in abundance  
are the things I am wishing you on this Festival Season "

MMXX / November/ Issue.1

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## Welcome Back!



The Headmaster addressed the parents and the school this week, while the world is busy containing and fighting the virus, "our brave SeQuins came back to school after eight months of unprecedented hardship and perverse times" the Headmaster said. This comes after fifty SeQuins arrived on the campus after getting tested from their respective homes this week. They were immediately quarantined. With all the measures and regulations in place to contain the virus outbreak in a school, the authorities did a considerable job in enforcing all steps with perfection, be it the quality or the quantity of the food served or regular health and temperature checkups, or sanitizing and cleansing the luggage, classrooms and the dormitories. The support staff at school has done an outstanding job in maintaining quietude and equilibrium on the campus. Amid these menacing times, the school has been in its social bubble maintaining its distance from the outside. But we continue to wait for the RT-PCR results of testing conducted by the school and all of us hope that we get some encouraging news and begin this new phase of social quarantine in this beautiful and press-potential campus.

-Roneet Khattar

7 months and 12 days; Remember being a kid and on the bus ride to school in the wee hours, you'd make up scenarios in your head like an alien invasion or a hostile terrorist attack or a cloudburst, etc. So you won't have to go to school for a while. Well, it felt like one of my childhood fantasies came to life when a global pandemic plagued our kind, but the irony was that I wanted to be in school, it took 7 months and 12 days for me to stand again amidst the football field on campus, and yet when I stared at the cherry blue evening sky with the slight breeze on my cheeks it felt like the past few months never happened. It felt so familiar and yet absurd for there was so much missing at that moment completed only by the faintest memory of frolicky children, tossed ball, shoe sounds, the smell of grass, sounds of bicker and laughter, subtle aroma of evening snacks and sweat... It took 7 months and 12 days to realize SelaQui isn't just a verdant 52 acres, SelaQui is all about the people that reside on these 52 acres, I say people and not students because that'd be unfair to the wonderful artisans, the ones that craft our mind and the ones who groom the land. I won't dig deep into my life back home, it was rather plain and monotonous given I was quarantined in a small religious town of Madhya Pradesh, Maihar, in case you've ever heard of it; we've been on campus for two weeks now, and visualizing what the future holds for us.

-Srishti Singh



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# A Home Away From Home —The Glitzy Affair

Diwali, the festival for which we leave no stone unturned. It celebrates the victory of light over darkness. (I know, I know. You must be thinking 'we already know that!'). But I think this year's Diwali is more symbolic than any other Diwali celebrated before.

Before Covid hit, my ideal Diwali would have had an amazing terrace party with friends and family. Laughter, music, and the sound of distant fireworks would be ringing in the air. Perhaps we could have added a little rangoli fest the same morning.

Then came the quarantine and the lockdown which reeked almost the entire country's plans. From a party, we went to a small pooja. From rangoli fest to a small creation made with immediate family members within the safety and confines of our home.

But SelaQui toughed it out. With flawless precautions and safety measures, the doors of our school opened to us and here we are now. We may have been a bit put off due to not celebrating Diwali with our families, but had our own SelaQui family present here.

Diwali in school was also not what we had initially expected. We were grouped together according to our boarding houses. These groups made rangolis across the campus early in the morning. Later, in the evening, we went to the field beside the tennis courts. With tons of memories attached to that area, it was indeed quite nostalgic as it was the first time, we all visited the field since March. Moving further, within minutes of our arrival, we watched in awe a display of fireworks. Now I know they are not eco-friendly, but I have to admit, it was beautiful and a lovely change from the monotonous routine we had been habitual to. Dinner was an absolute feast. Pizzas and burgers, it was a dream come true. This meal would not have been half as special if we had been at home. But in school, it was a feast.

-Raina Bhatia





## Remember Saturday-double trouble

Every child is celebrated all over India on 14th November every year. 2020 was made special as the day of Diwali coincided with Children's Day. One thing we know for sure, it was indeed celebrated with a lot of zest. SeQuins woke up in the morning with a festive buzz of excitement to be with their friends and teachers, wished each other, and started to select their outfit for the day. The cherry on the top was that we were catered with delicious brunch. It brought euphoria to our stomachs. While we all devoured this treat, our afternoon surprise was waiting for us. Where we were given colours to beautify our house with rangoli. It is considered auspicious to draw rangoli in Hindu Dharma during special occasions and religious ceremonies. With all heart, students brought their inner Hussain to life and made beautiful rangolis (I found myself in no time grabbing colours and drawing rangoli). With all the creativity and laughter the sun brought the promise of dawn, as the setting sun gleamed goldenly, we lit diyas. Lighting diyas helped to dispel the darkness of this night and radiate light. We all went to dress in the more festive and ethnic outfits. Everyone took their Diwali pictures for social media and where some were getting calls from their relatives, few were posing and clicking pictures. We were then taken to see light shatter into thousands of sparks changing colours and falling like a glittering silver shower. To end the event we had a mouth watering surprise waiting for us as we relished Domino's pizza and Burger King whopper. This Diwali was the first Diwali which students and teachers got to celebrate together, I thank the Headmaster with regards from all the students present on campus for making this COVID Diwali a very special and joyous festival for us.

-Vasu sharma

## Durga-The Goddess of Fortitude

Durga puja, the biggest and most marvellous festival celebrated in West Bengal marks the arrival of the Goddess Durga, hence the victory of good over evil. During the festival people all across the state visit, various 'pandals' to marvel at its creativity and worship the Goddess. This year, however, the majority of the 'pandals' were left deserted. Some of them to the South of the city had hardly any people visiting. It was reported that only one-fifth of the population had come out of their homes to celebrate, also next week the virus had spread threefold. Local authorities said it was due to a lack of social distancing of people during the festival.



Although Diwali was celebrated on 14th November fireworks are banned till 30th November. There is a fine of 1 lakh or a sentence of 5 years in prison for

violating the laws of the Environmental act. Lock-down is long over but the public is advised not to socialize out of bounds. In spite of such instructions, a large number of people were reportedly buying crackers. People have also been seen without masks or face shields innumerable times. I wonder what will happen next?

-Neehanshu Gupta

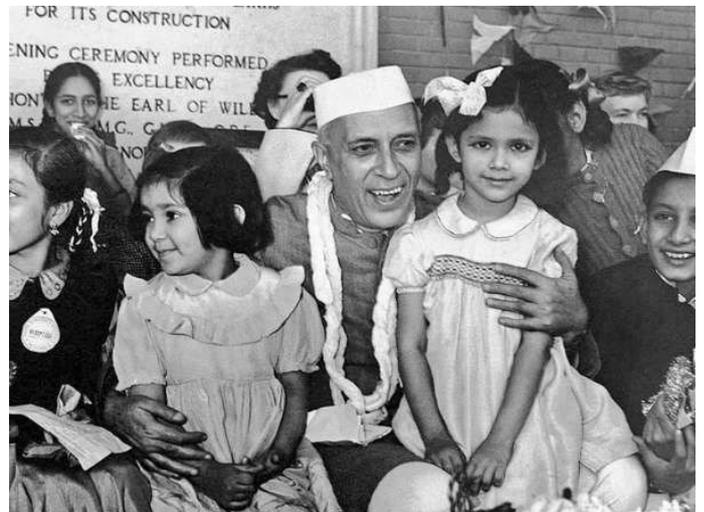
## Scholarly Winter Fall Quiz 2020

Scholarly is an international organization that believes in promoting education. For quite a few months it has been in collaboration with schools in India and abroad. Over 300 kids around the world participated in this competition and only 5 made it to the finals of the scholarly winter fall quiz 2020. Daksh Seth made it to the finals and emerged as a winner and received a cash prize of \$3000. One of the strong competitors of Daksh was Saumay Jaiswal, a SeQuin but he got eliminated in the Prelims. Our heartiest congratulations rest with Daksh and Saumay, as they braved their way through the competition. Also, we would like to encourage everyone to participate in Scholarly Championships as it has become a euphoria for SeQuins.

-Rushaan Shah

## Nehru's Love for Children

Children's day is celebrated every year on 14th November since 1956 to increase awareness of the rights and education of children. It was celebrated on 20th November but after the death of Jawaharlal Nehru, in 1956 the date was shifted to his birthday as a symbol of his love for children. Fondly known as Chacha Nehru amongst kids, he believed that children were the future of India and advocated for their rights and education. He was also the vision behind some of India's finest educational institutions. His love was evident from the innumerable letters that he would write and receive from children. The book "*Letters from a Father to His Daughter*" reflected the love with which he wrote to his 10-year-old daughter Indira and taught her values.



He spent a great deal of time replying to letters personally, especially when the senders were children. One special letter was written to him by children in Japan. In that letter, they asked for a strange present from Nehru. The children said to him that they wanted an Indian Elephant in their zoo. They said two of the elephants that they had in the zoo died during World War 2 and requested Nehru for one. He soon found a 15-year-old elephant named Indira and said to the children; "treat Indira as a gift not from me, but from the children of India to the children of Japan. The elephant is a noble animal, much loved in India. It is wise, patient, strong, and gentle. I hope all of us will develop these qualities."

-Neelanjana Gupta Chaudhary

## “दीपावली अर्थात दीपों की आवली”

भारत का प्रमुख त्योहार दीपावली ‘दीपों का त्योहार’ है। अँधेरा जिसे बुराई का प्रतीक माना जाता है और रोशनी/उजाला जिसे अच्छाई का प्रतीक माना जाता है। भारतीय संस्कृति में माना जाता है की आज के दिन भगवान श्री राम चन्द्र चौदह वर्ष के वनवास के बाद अयोध्या वापस लोटे थे और अयोध्या वासियों ने इस खुशी को मनाने के लिए पूरी अयोध्या को दीपों से सजा दिया था और अँधेरा मिटा दिया था। इसलिए इस त्योहार पर सभी लोग अपने घरों को दीपों/दीयों से सजाते हैं। ‘तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय’ अर्थात् ‘अंधेरे से ज्योति अर्थात प्रकाश की ओर जाइए। कई सप्ताह पहले से ही दीपावली की तैयारी शुरू कर दी जाती है। सभी अपने घरों, दुकानों को साफ़ करना शुरू कर देते हैं और साफ़ सुधरा रखते हैं। मोहल्ले को सुन्दर झंडियों से सजा देते हैं। दीपावली पर विभिन्न स्थानों पर मेले लगाये जाते हैं। दशहरे पर रावण दहन का आयोजन आयोजित किया जाता है। कई जगहों पर नाटक किये जाते जिसके द्वारा लोगों को राम-रावण की कहानी बताई जाती है। स्थान-स्थान पर पटाखों की दूकानें होती हैं। सुबह से ही लोग अपने रिश्तेदारों, मित्रों के घर मिठाइयाँ व उपहार बाँटने लगते हैं। दोपहर के वक़्त गोवर्धन की पूजा की जाती है। दीपावली की शाम लक्ष्मी और गणेश जी की पूजा की जाती है। पूजा के बाद लोग अपने-अपने घरों के बाहर दीपक व मोमबतियाँ जलाकर रखते हैं। पूजा करने के बाद सभी पटाखे जलाते हैं और मस्ती मौज करते हैं। कोरोना को ध्यान में रखकर दीपावली बनाएं। पटाखें कम जलाये और प्रदूषण न करे। मैं प्रार्थना करता हूँ की यह दिवाली सब के परिवार में अनंत खुशियाँ लाये।



-देवानंद शुक्ला

## पर्यावरण के अनुकूल

दीवाली, रोशनी का त्योहार है व अब दुनिया भर से कई लोगों द्वारा मनाया जाता है। इस भारतीय पारंपरिक त्योहार का अपना महत्व है। लोग दीया जलाकर और पटाखे जलाकर खुशी बाटते हैं व प्रकाश करते हैं। लेकिन, हर कोई इसके कारण होने वाले प्रदूषण के बारे में नहीं सोचता है! पर्यावरण-अनुकूल दीवाली मनाना एक ऐसा तरीका है जिससे हमारे पर्यावरण को कोई नुकसान नहीं होता है। एक व्यक्ति सिर्फ दीयों को जलाकर व रंगोली बनाकर यह त्योहार बना सकता है। उससे ज्यादा आवाज व धुं से भरे पटाखों से बचना चाहिए। एक पर्यावरण-अनुकूल दीवाली बहुत ही जरूरी व महत्वपूर्ण है। पर्यावरण-अनुकूल दीवाली ध्वनि और वायु प्रदूषण को कम करने में मदद करती है। ऑर्गेनिक रंगों का चयन किसी भी तरह की त्वचा की जलन से बचने में मदद करता है। मिट्टी के दीये बहुत अच्छे हैं और हमारे वातावरण को नुकसान पहुंचाए बिना आसानी से फेंके जा सकते हैं। पर्यावरण-अनुकूल दीवाली का पालन करके आप किसी भी दुर्घटना को कम कर सकते हैं। हमें पर्यावरण-अनुकूल उपहार चुनने चाहिए और अपने प्रियजनों को एक पौधा अवश्य उपहार में देना चाहिए। इस तरह से आप वास्तव में पर्यावरण-अनुकूलता का समर्थन कर रहे हैं। तो, अगली बार एक पर्यावरण-अनुकूल दीवाली की योजना बनाएं।



-कुशाग्र अग्रवाल

# Mere Sawaalo Ka Jawab Do.....

With Dr. Parneet Kaur



**Ques1. Please tell us something about yourself.**

**Ans1.** Thank you very much for the welcome..!

I am a teacher and counseling psychologist both by passion. Observing and understanding people has always fascinated me. Reading, spending time with dogs, exploring new places without much planning, learning new words excite me a lot...! I am a firm believer in letting things go with the flow and that universe conspires things for a bigger, unseen cause.

**Ques2. Since you are a counselor tell us your opinion about trust and confidentiality.**

**Ans2.** Both of them are the foundation of any Counsellor- Counselee relationship. In fact, these are the first two ethics taught in Guidance and Counselling. Besides Counselling, I believe any relation stands firm on these principles. So learn to value and respect without intruding and being too inquisitive.

**Ques3. Due to Covid19, everything went topsy turvy, how was your experience of virtual counseling? How is it different from your usual counseling sessions?**

**Ans3.** Like everyone else, life in virtual mode was a great learning experience. In fact, the learning continues ...The essence of human touch and physical presence was definitely missed a lot...but it fills me with gratitude that I could be a silver lining for people who wanted any assistance...!

**Ques4. If you weren't a counselor, what would you be?**

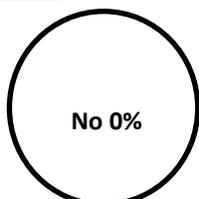
**Ans4.** I am grateful to the almighty that I pursued what I loved and what I wanted to be..! If I wouldn't have been a Counsellor ...I would have been into writing and literary stuff. With canines by my side and ventured out to places unknown and unseen.

**Ques5. Give us some tips for accentuating the positive mindset?**

**Ans5.** Sadly, the word "positive" has been the most dreaded and negative word in 2020.

The media (digital and paper) is flooded with tips from experts. But what most of us lack is the ability to follow and imbibe those suggestions which might look very trivial but if followed rigorously ..can actually bring a significant change...I urge everyone reading this to consider staying positive as the only option and alternative to no matter what life throws at you...! Sun will shine ..one day for sure...!

## POLL



**Should Mobile phones be allowed to students on weekends for few hours?**

Number of Students asked– 40

Number of teachers asked –8

## Editorial Board

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