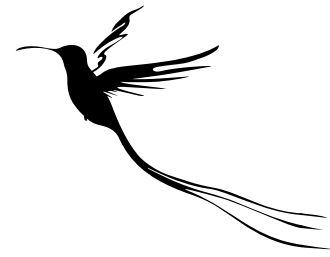




# THE SEQUIN



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## THIS OR THAT ?

- Double evening prep hungry, or clean the whole dorm (yes, that shelf)?
- 10 extra PT rounds, or lead warm-ups in assembly?
- Forgot project at home, or explain one you never made in assembly?
- Test moved up 3 days, or handle lights & sound with zero practice?
- Lose finals by your mistake, or miss it 'cause you overslept?
- Only one unprepared for a surprise test, or only one in formals on casual day?
- Forget lines mid-play, or walk on stage at the wrong time?

## 'Hungary' for AFS!



**"One's destination is never a place, but a way of seeing things"**  
- Henry Miller

Before I boarded the flight to Hungary, I knew almost nothing about the country. I couldn't speak the language, I had no idea what the culture was like, and I didn't even know what to expect from the people. All I knew was that I was going to live there for a month as part of an AFS Exchange Program. I was 17, nervous, excited, and stepping into a completely unfamiliar world. Little did I know, this journey would shape me in ways I never imagined.



The first 10 days were spent sightseeing with other exchange students. Our base was in Budapest, and from the very beginning, I was captivated. We explored some of Hungary's most iconic places – Buda Castle, Fisherman's Bastion, Town Hall Square, Skanzen (an open-air museum), and the beautiful lake Balaton. At Balaton, we touched a statue's feet for good luck – a small tradition, but one I found so magical. We watched street performers, wandered through centuries-old lanes, and learned about Hungary's rich history.

What stood in front of me weren't just the structures and monuments but they were tiny magical moments for me. I was fascinated by things that others walked past every day, seemingly oblivious of their grandeur. I noticed details in architecture, the calmness of people enjoying the streets, the sense of pride in their culture. Every corner made me more curious. I had entered Hungary knowing nothing – but every day, I learned something new, and not just about the place but about myself.

After the initial sightseeing, I moved to Fegyvernek, a quiet town where I stayed with my host family. That's when the real exchange of cultures began. It was no longer about being a tourist- it was about living like a local. My host family welcomed me warmly, and though we spoke different languages, we found ways to communicate- with gestures, laughter and patience.



One of the most heartwarming experiences was visiting my host grandparents. They lived in a lovely home with a peaceful garden, and from the moment I stepped in, they treated me like their own. They didn't know a single word of English, but that didn't stop them from trying to talk to me. They would smile, use hand gestures and would patiently try to explain things through actions.



They also introduced me to traditional Hungarian cuisine. I still remember the taste of Langos – a delicious, deep-fried flatbread topped with sour cream and cheese- and a dessert with cherry and whipped cream, which I later learned was called Meggyes pite. It was rich, slightly sour and completely unlike anything I had ever tried before. What made it even more special was the love with which it was served- seeing their anticipating faces, wondering whether I liked it. After lunch, they took me into their backyard where we picked fresh fruits from the trees. Eating juicy cherries straight from the branch while chatting and laughing with them genuinely made me feel like a part of their family.

I went to school there and even got the chance to present Indian culture to Hungarian students. I talked about our food, clothes festivals, and traditions. At the same time, I observed how their classrooms worked, how teachers interacted with students, and how different yet similar we all were.

What changed me most was the way I started noticing everyday life. Walking to the bus stop and back, I saw solar panels installed on every rooftop, grandparents walking hand-in-hand, families tending to small farms outside their houses. There was such a peaceful rhythm to life in Fegyvernek that it made me slow down and appreciate things I never really paid attention to before.

Being away from home made me truly independent for the first time. I had to manage my own time, be responsible for my actions, and make decisions on my own. Whether it was figuring out directions, handling currency, or making sure I didn't miss the bus, there was no one to do it for me. And slowly, I realised my own capabilities.



There were hard moments too. I missed home and struggled with the language. I sometimes felt out of place. But each of these moments taught me resilience. I learned to be patient, to listen more, and to adapt instead of expecting things to go my way. I began to enjoy the challenge of being in a completely different environment.

Over the course of that one month, I changed. I became more confident, more curious, and more open to new ideas. I learned that 'growing-up' doesn't happen when things are easy. It happens when you're pushed to figure things out on your own. It happens when you are in a new environment, surrounded by new people, learning to understand a world outside your comfort zone.

This program wasn't just an exchange- it felt almost unreal at times. I would wake up in this peaceful Hungarian town, thousands of kilometres away from my home in India, eating different food, hearing a different language, and somehow, feeling at home. It made me realise how beautifully connected the world can be, even across cultures, even without words.

**To travel young is to grow with the world, not just in it.**  
-Anonymous

**-Ariyala Imchen**

## Just A Minute Competition

What a fun afternoon at SelaQui International School! On the 12th of July, students from all four houses competed in an exciting 'Just a Minute' (JAM) contest. The goal was to talk about a subject for one full minute. But there was a catch! Speakers had to do it without stopping, repeating words, talking about something else and answer challenges raised by the Headmaster, the judge for the day.



It was a real test of quick thinking and good speaking. The competition was full of energy. Speakers talked about all kinds of topics while the audience cheered for their houses. The Headmaster listened carefully to everyone and made sure the game was fair.

In the senior category, Ishanth from Akash secured first place, followed by Aarav Mittal from Prithvi and Arissa Sur from Jal.

In the junior division, Reanne Lyonette from Prithvi claimed the top spot, with Jigmit Yangzin from Akash and Krishna Chaturvedi from Agni finishing second and third respectively. Overall, Akash and Prithvi tied for first place, while Agni and Jal shared third.

In the end, the event was a big success. It wasn't just about winning, but about speaking bravely and thinking fast. A big round of applause was shared for all the participants for their amazing effort! It was a great day celebrating the smart and talented students of our school.



**-Piyush Agarwal**

# Eric Weiner: The Writer-Explorer

Eric Weiner is a renowned author who is famous for a plethora of books including ‘The Geography of Bliss’, ‘Man Seeks God’, ‘The Geography of Genius’ and ‘The Socrates Express’. On the 6th of May, the Sequins were blessed to have an exchange of views and get to learn a lot about life, philosophy, and of course writing from him. He shared with the students his life experiences and also inspired them to be philosophical travellers and have a place in their hearts for the skill, and more importantly, art of writing.

**Anush:** Does using tools like AI enhance the writer's creativity or restrict it?

**Mr. Eric:** Yeah, I was ready for this question.

I mean, I worry about AI — to be honest. The only way I use it is through a program that lets me, say, during an interview... I can turn on my iPhone, it records the conversation, transcribes it, maybe even summarizes it.

In the old days, I'd have to use a tape recorder, listen back, and manually type everything out. So, sure, it saves me a little time. A little bit.

But here's my concern with AI.

Remember what I said about the right to surprise ourselves — and to surprise the reader? That's key.

What is AI, really? It's a massive tape recorder. It's capturing everything that's already been written — including my books. They're part of the database, the large language model.

So, when you ask AI to write something, it pulls from what's been written before — in some form. It only knows the past.

But every creative genius, every great writer, makes a leap into the unexpected. That's what good writing is: unexpected, but true.

AI, on the other hand, is expected, but true. It repeats patterns. It can't make that same creative leap.

That's my worry — that it might diminish our creativity, because it doesn't allow for that bold, surprising jump. It won't put words together in a way no one's ever done before. It's not built for that.

So I use AI only in the most limited way — strictly for research, never for writing.

Someone once said: “Why should I bother to read an article that the person couldn't be bothered to write?”

Exactly. I don't want to read what a machine says. I want to read what a person says.

Thank you for the question.

**Aarunya:** Do you live to write or write to live?

**Mr. Eric:** In this case, I'm going to say both, to be honest.

Before I was a journalist — and I've worked in India and many other countries — I had what I used to call the almost perfect job.

Now, that's a dangerous phrase.

If you have a bad job — one you hate — it's easy. You'll want to quit, you'll be motivated to find something else. But the almost perfect job is tricky. You're comfortable, things seem good on the surface — so you stay, even if something's missing.

I was travelling, reporting on India, having great experiences... but I wasn't able to do what a writer truly can: be personal. Go deep.

My books take two, three, sometimes four years to write. I dive deep into my work. So in that sense, I have the perfect job now — and I live to write.

But I also write to live. Because, as I said earlier, writing helps you articulate what you're feeling — even things you didn't fully understand yourself until you wrote them.

To be perfectly honest, some of the most satisfying writing I've done has come from pain — whether emotional, physical, or something else I was struggling with.

When I write about those things, it feels good — just to put them down on the page.

But even more meaningful is when someone comes up to me after a talk like this and says:

“Thank you for writing about your struggles. I'm going through something similar, and seeing that you wrote about it gave me permission to talk about it.”

That's the power of writing. And that's why I do it.

**-Krishna Chaturvedi**

## INTER HOUSE SHOOTING

SelaQui International School's Inter-House Shooting Competition was an excellent mix of focus, discipline, and house spirit. Conducted in the school shooting range, the competition saw keen shooters from three sections— Juniors (Classes 6 to 8), Seniors (Classes 9 to 12), and the Open Girls' category. From the first shot itself, the atmosphere was electric.



The juniors surprised everyone with their steady hands, the seniors with precision and composure, and the girls' with confident and composed demeanors. Each shot wasn't just about points—it was about pride, practice, and pressure. Coaches observed intently, houses mouthed their cheers, and rivals put everything on the line. The final results were close, each house racking up precious points through consistency and control.

In the junior division, Harkyaan Singh (Agni) and Vaanya Jain (Jal) claimed top spots among boys and girls respectively. Among seniors, Deepika Rai (Prithvi) and Daksh Jain (Agni) delivered outstanding scores to secure first place. With strong performances across both junior and senior categories, Prithvi House emerged overall champions, followed by Agni, Akash, and Jal.

Above medals or rankings, the competition was about overcoming boundaries and honoring quiet resolve. The young shooters demonstrated that genuine strength is in remaining unperturbed under fire—and they struck more than only targets. They struck a new standard of greatness

**-Kartik Jalan**



## CHORAL RECITATION

The Art Block AV room came alive with synchrony, rhyme, and rhythm during the much-awaited Inter-House Poem and Choral Recitation Competition. Many SeQuins from the junior classes participated in this exciting event to showcase their courage and talent.

The competition was divided into two categories: Solo Recitation, and Choral Recitation. The judgement was based on emotion, expression, body language,



gestures, synchronisation, and overall performance. Participants of both the categories mesmerized the audience by their delivery, confidence, and expression. In the Choral event, a clear demonstration of teamwork by the participants of all the houses was showcased, highlighting the importance of synchronization.

The participants of solo recitation accentuated the significance of individual confidence while captivating the audience

with their pieces. Voice modulation, facial expressions, and pauses were skilfully used to enhance the impact of every word. The atmosphere was filled with anticipation and excitement. More than a competition, the Poem and Choral Recitation event turned into a celebration of language, rhythm, and human emotion. It reminded everyone that poetry is not confined to textbooks or exams — it's a living art, meant to be heard, felt, and shared.

The Inter-House Recitation Competition on 12th July featured both choral and solo performances. In Choral Recitation, Prithvi House secured first place, followed by Akash House in second and Agni House in third. In Solo Recitation, Prithvi House took the top spot, with Akash House in second and Jal House in third. With consistent wins in both categories, Prithvi House emerged as the overall winner of the event.

**-Vedansh Kothari**



## All India IPSC U-17 Girls Football

Dehradun, July 3

SelaQui International School hosted the All India IPSC U-17 Girls Football Tournament 2025 in Dehradun from June 28 to July 3. It was a great show of teamwork and skill. Vidya Devi Jindal School (VDJS), Hisar, won the championship title with a whopping 5-0 win over Birla Balika Vidyapeeth (BBVP), Pilani, in the final match of the week-long event.



The tournament was held on the school's main football field and featured five of the best IPSC schools: VDJS, BBVP, Mayo College Girls' School (Ajmer), Pinegrove School (Dharampur), and Kittur Rani Channamma Residential Sainik School for Girls (Karnataka). The young players showed both skill and good sportsmanship in a league-cum-knockout format, which got everyone excited and had spirits running high. VDJS showed their strength early on by finishing the tournament without losing a game and scoring an impressive 38 goals without letting any in.



Nishita Dewli led this great performance with 13 goals, making her the tournament's top scorer and winning the Golden Boot Award. BBVP also did well on their way to the finals, and Unnati Singh Chandel was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Karma Norkit led Pinegrove School to a 7-0 win over Mayo College, which put them in third place. Kittur Rani Channamma School didn't make it past the league stage, but they made a strong impression in their first tournament and were recognized for their spirit by winning the Fair Play Trophy. Lieutenant Colonel Ankur Agarwal, a renowned Indian Army officer and ardent sports fan, spoke at the closing ceremony. In his inspirational speech, Lt Col Agarwal praised the players' dedication and urged them to pursue integrity and excellence in their athletic journey ahead. The IPSC U-17 Girls Football Team, which will represent IPSC schools at the SGFI National School Games, was announced at the end of the event.



Individual Brilliance Recognized  
The tournament acknowledged remarkable individual performances:

- Golden Glove: Drishti Bansal (BBVP) – for excellent goalkeeping
- Emerging Player: Karma Norkit (Pinegrove School)
- Golden Boot: Nishita Dewli (VDJS) – 13 goals
- Most Valuable Player: Unnati Singh Chandel (BBVP)



Final Standings:

1. First Place: Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hisar
2. Second Place: Birla Balika Vidyapeeth, Pilani
3. Third Place: Pinegrove School, Dharampur
4. Fourth Place: Mayo College Girls' School, Ajmer
5. Fair Play: Kittur Rani Channamma Residential Sainik School, Karnataka

The tournament celebrated football talent while fostering friendship and discipline, creating lasting memories for players and spectators. As the national anthem played to end the event, SelaQui International School showcased its ability to promote overall excellence through sport.

**Ms. Nikita Mishra**

## शायरी लाइसीयम: शब्दों का सफर

13 जुलाई, 2025, को आयोजित "शब्दों का सफर" एक ऐसा अद्भुत लाइसीयम था, जिसने उर्दू शायरी के रंगों को दिलों तक पहुँचा दिया। यह केवल एक कार्यक्रम नहीं, बल्कि मिर्ज़ा ग़ालिब, फैज़ अहमद फैज़ और अमृता प्रीतम जैसे शायरों की रूहानी दुनिया में डूब जाने का अनुभव था। गुल चौधरी, मान्या अरोरा, कृष्णा चतुर्वेदी और आद्या सिन्हा ने मंच पर शायरी की विविधता और भावनाओं को जीवंत कर दिया।

उनके लफ़्ज़ों में कभी राहत इंदौरी की बुलंदी थी, तो कभी बशीर बद्र की नज़ाकत। हर शेर, हर मिसरा, दिलों को छू गया। कार्यक्रम के एक विशेष हिस्से में वीडियो के माध्यम से शायरी की अदायगी, लहज़ा और जज़्बात को समझाया गया — जिसमें निदा फ़ाज़ली और जावेद अख़्तर जैसे दिग्गजों के अंदाज़ की झलक देखने को मिली। इससे शायरी को केवल सुनना नहीं, उसे महसूस करना संभव हो सका।

अंत में आयोजित इंटरएक्टिव सेगमेंट ने सभी को मंच पर आने और अपनी भावनाएँ बाँटने का मौका दिया। कई प्रतिभागियों ने अपने मूल लेखन से सभी को चौंका दिया। यह शाम सिर्फ़ शब्दों की नहीं थी — यह उन रूहों की थी जो शायरी के ज़रिये बोल उठीं। यह अनुभव एक सांस्कृतिक जागृति की शुरुआत थी, जिसने सबके दिलों में शायरी के लिए एक नया लगाव जगा दिया।

On July 13, 2025, a truly extraordinary Lyceum unfolded—an evening unlike any other. The audience had never seen or heard anything like it before. Gul Chaudhary, Manya Arora, Krishna Chaturvedi, and Adhya Sinha delivered powerful performances that invited listeners into the vibrant, emotionally rich world of Urdu Shayari.

With echoes of Ghalib's wit, Faiz's resistance, their verses stirred quiet contemplation and awakened something timeless in every heart. The nuances of tone, rhythm, and emotion in each couplet reminded the audience that Shayari is not merely spoken—it is felt.

A special video presentation brought the soul of Shayari to life, showcasing the art of delivery—andaaz, lehja, and jazbaat—inspired by legends like Javed Akhtar and Rahat Indori. This segment deepened the immersive experience, making the poetry not just heard, but lived. Toward the end, an interactive segment gave audience members the chance to express themselves through their own verses. From shy whispers to confident couplets, the room turned into a mehfil of emotion, beauty, and honest expression.

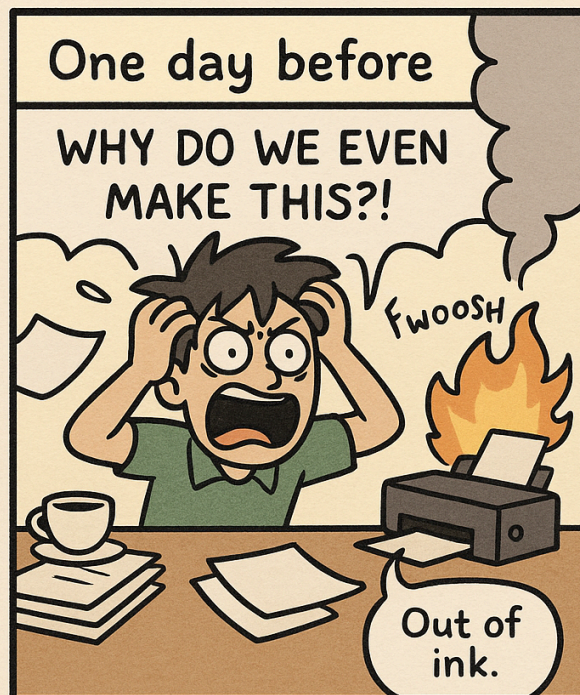
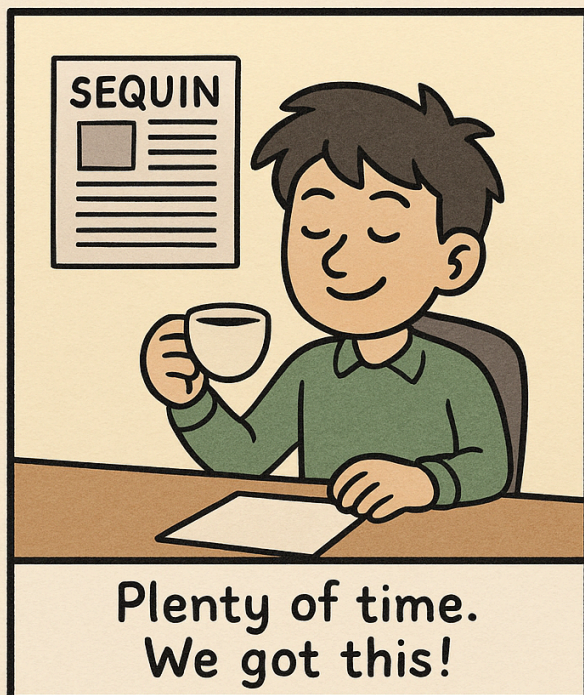
More than a cultural event, this Lyceum was a movement—a poetic spark that lit minds and hearts alike, marking the dawn of a renewed love for the art of Shayari.

-गुल चौधरी

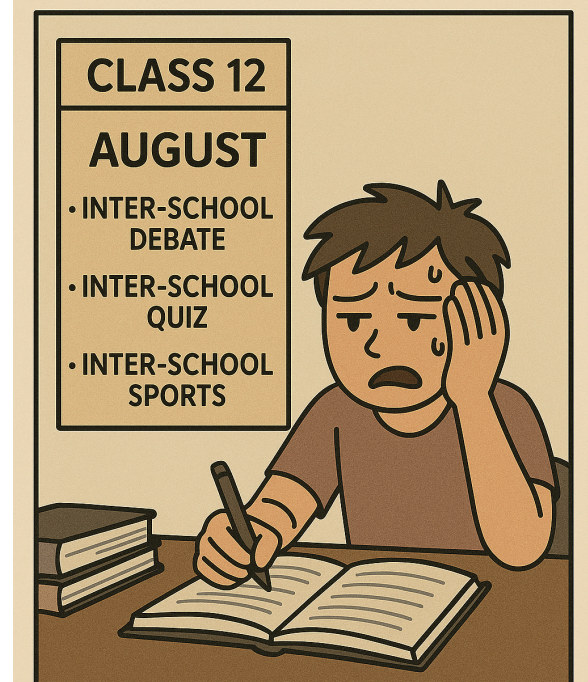
## Creative Corner – Where Ideas Come to Play!

-Piyush Agrawal

### MAKING SEQUIN



### NOW IN AUGUST...



# BACK TO SCHOOL!!



# NOW IT'S TUESDAY...



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