



EXCELSIOR EXPRESS

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From the Chairman's Desk

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”— Martin Luther King, Jr.

The world is going through challenging times due to Covid 19. There is panic, anxiety, fear and sadness everywhere. Many are suffering and many have succumbed to Covid-19.

As they say ‘Nothing lasts forever’ this too shall pass but will leave behind a strong lesson for mankind and that is ‘we are all equal’ regardless of our caste, religion, status in the society. It has brought the families together and taught us to value our relationships be it with our loved ones or nature.

My visit to India this year made me believe in all such notions as when I entered the school in January after 15 months, I was pleasantly surprised to see the vibrant lawns, with lush green grass, colourful flowers blooming all over, spick and span campus, enthusiastic teachers and happy faces of children and parents. I saw true community spirit in everyone and I felt that my purpose of creating Excelsior was fulfilled. This is the power of unity and standing together through thick and thin.

I can not thank my Excelsior Family enough for this beautiful gift of showing solidarity in the tough times. I am sure with your support we will overcome all the challenges coming our way.

“Together we stand, together we fall, together we win”. I am sure Excelsior will continue to grow and make me proud !



**Mr. Hersh Kumar
Chairman**



New Beginnings

Here's to a brand new year! This year, Excelsiorites demonstrated their linguistic skills by creating a video wishing their loved ones a prosperous year ahead in a variety of languages, which included French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Slovakian.



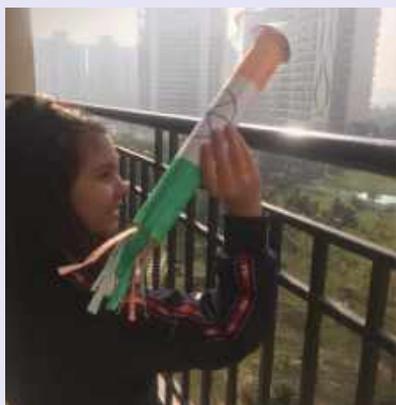
A for Aryan; A for Ace

Congratulations to Aryan Maheshwari of Grade 12 for scoring three A's in his AS Level examinations. Wishing him the best for the years ahead!



Celebrating Family Fun Day

Excelsior American School organised Family Day 2021 for small groups of parents by opening the school's gates. The day brought the parents and children of the primary and middle school together to participate in several fun-filled games and physical activities—all while following COVID-19 guidelines. Musical chairs, hurdles and relay race were just a few engaging activities on the day. The family day provided an excellent opportunity for community interaction for parents, students and teachers in an enjoyable atmosphere.



National Salutations

The young children of Excelsior celebrated India's 72nd **Republic Day** at home by creating marvellous crafts out of paper in the celebrated colours of the Tiranga.

Generation Equality

With the school officially open for high school and middle school students, Excelsiorites were able to celebrate **Women's Day** in a normal fashion. Students presented a two-part play featuring music from the movie *Pink*, acknowledging and celebrating the role of Indian women during the pandemic. The school director, Mrs. Geeta Sachdeva, as well as the vice-principal, Ms. Sarabjeet Kaur, also gave the students important nuggets of wisdom about the meaning and importance of women's liberation.



All for One, One for All

This **International Mother Language Day**, Excelsiorites celebrated languages and cultural identities, taking some time out to reconnect with the language that marked their cultural heritage, whether that be Hindi, Chinese, Slovakian or Rajasthani. At the end of the day, they also acknowledged the common thread of humanity that unites all of us despite our cultural and socio-economic differences.

En français... s'il vous plait! In French, please!

Excelsiorites celebrated French culture this **International Francophonie Day** by immersing themselves completely in French traditions and history—even singing its national song! It was an informative and enjoyable day for all.



Drip drop

Water—the much-revered elixir of all life-forms on Earth. For **World Water Day**, Excelsiorites re-emphasized the absolute importance of saving water as well as the necessity of clean, drinkable water for all by creating a short informative video.





Colors of the Chair

In the wake of recent guidelines about gatherings given by the government, Excelsior decided to forfeit its usual lavish Holi celebrations. Instead, our primary school students presented our chairman, **Mr. Hersh Kumar**, with flowers and card to celebrate and show their appreciation for his work.



Out-think, Outplay, Outlast

With the pandemic preventing large-scale gathering, **Sports Day** at Excelsior this year was celebrated in small groups in several parts with all safety guidelines being followed. Nevertheless, it was a fun event where everyone present enjoyed.

Visual Thinking and Design

Art and Design high school students attended an interactive, informative workshop on Visual Thinking and Design hosted by **OP Jindal University**.

Year of the Ox

2021 marks the Year of the Ox. This year, Excelsiorites learnt about the lunisolar Chinese calendar and the 12 Zodiacs.



Pi ZiXuan from Grade 5, also engaged his peers in Chinese traditions and culture by presenting a gorgeous presentation on the Lunar New Year.

Thinking like scientists

Science! That marvel of humanity which has brought us so far today. Excelsior's young scientists tried out several different experiments at home throughout the month and discovered fascinating scientific phenomena.



IGCSE / IBDP / AS-A Level Orientation '21

As the school year draws to a close, the parents of **Grade 8 and 10** students attended orientations to understand the IGCSE and IBDP/A Level curriculum respectively. These interactive sessions aim to help students in selecting their IGCSE/IBDP/A Level subjects. These orientations also make parents aware of the nuances of these curricula and help them guide their ward suitably.



Egging Easter On!

One of the last events to happen in the school before the lockdown, Easter was a fun experience for Excelsior's tiny tots, who had fun doing a range of colourful, egg-related activities alongside their teachers – these included hunting for Easter eggs all over campus and designing their own!



On Substances & Their Excess

April started on a sombre note for our high schoolers, who attended a session on substance abuse. The school counsellor, Ms. Shanu Thapar, engaged with them in a frank, open discussion about the physiological impacts of abusing substances such as cigarettes and alcohol, and also worked to destigmatize addiction by humanizing the people who may fall into its trap. She did this skillfully by providing the students with a variety of witty anecdotes that highlighted a range of potential reasons for dependence on substances, leaving students informed and thoughtful by the end of the workshop.

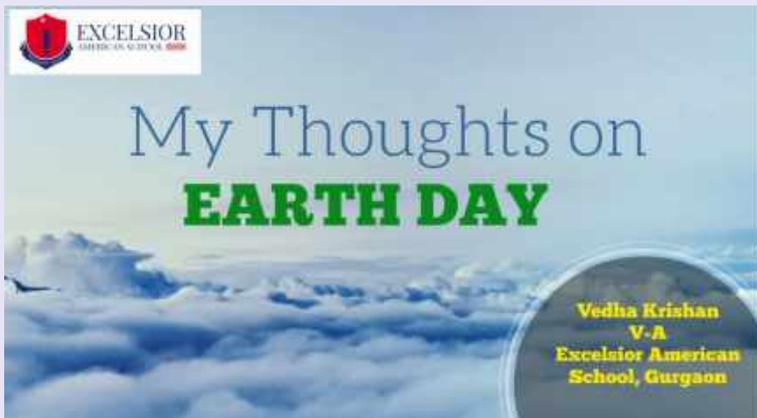


Middle School Orientation '2021

As the academic year drew to a close, the parents of grade 5 students attended an orientation that sought to inform and educate them about the trials and tribulations of middle school for their children. We at Excelsior wish the very best to the graduating grade 5 batch!

No Planet B

April 22 marks World Earth Day, an important day that seeks to celebrate Mother Earth - she who houses all kinds of awe-inspired phenomena, including the most brilliant of all - life! Earth Day is a reminder to preserve instead of destroying, saving instead of killing. Vedha Krishan, from Grade 5, sought to drive forth this message with a video (made by her, no less!) that informed its viewers on ways to help maintain our relationship with the planet.





To Know And To Be

Theory of Knowledge—it is that study that strives to understand what it means to 'know'. Knowledge is interpretative, informed by both personal and cultural bias, and students of IB DP Year One demonstrated this understanding through an informative and brilliant virtual exhibition that connected the theory of their study with the realities of the physical realm. It was a highly successful event. Colour us impressed!

Eid Mubarak

Eid! A time of prosperity, divinity and holy worship for Muslims all over the globe. The tiny tots at Excelsior celebrated by designing gorgeous cards at home.



The session ended with a bittersweet feeling of looking forward to a rejuvenating break, but at the same time, the feeling of missing each other is soon registered. Last year has become an indelible fragment of History and the journey has been what I can only call as surreal! We learned to appreciate things we otherwise took for granted. I am proud of our students and educators for holding each other in tough times, appreciating little big gestures of everyone around us and above all standing brave and together during all the ups and downs. We treasure the understanding exhibited by our parents' fraternity amidst all the changes.



Ms. Sarabjeet Kaur
Vice Principal

High school is an experience both loved and hated in equal measure—and who better to understand this dichotomy than the graduating batch of '2021, who spent their final year together isolated from each other in a pandemic? This is a tragedy, indeed, but glorious times await in the future ahead. We at Excelsior wish our graduating students the best of luck on the journey to follow. May they make it through the deepest lows and revel in the grandest victories. You shall be missed!

I look forward to the upcoming session with us coming forward stronger, better prepared, sanguine, rejuvenated and re-energized after the much-needed summer break. Soak yourself in the things you love, spend mindful time with yourself and your loved ones and above all, stay safe and don't forget to give yourself a daily dose of self-care.

Credits for the Newsletter-
Soumya Ruchy Saral - Grade 12 (A - Level)